

# Alien Invaders Alert!

## Yellow Perch, Smallmouth Bass, Pumpkinseed Sunfish

### Do Not Move Fish!

- Alien species compete for food and habitat resources with resident species
- Alien species predate on native species
- Alien species often flourish because they have no natural enemies
- Moving fish or aquatic organisms can result in the movement of bacteria and disease

### Wild Trout and Salmon at Risk

Help us stop the person(s) responsible for illegally introducing alien fish to Shuswap area lakes. Due to the legendary fighting ability of Kamloops rainbow trout on the end of a fishing line, the Thompson Nicola Region is the most popular freshwater fishing destination in the province. The Adams and Shuswap drainages are important spawning and rearing grounds for wild trout and salmon. Alien fish put our native fish stocks at risk!

### Identify the Invaders

#### Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*)

- Yellow sides with 6 to 8 vertical bars.
- 2 well separated dorsal fins: the first spiny-rayed and the second soft-rayed.
- Seldom exceed a length of 30 cm (12 inches).
- Diet typically shifts from plankton to benthic invertebrates to fish as perch mature.

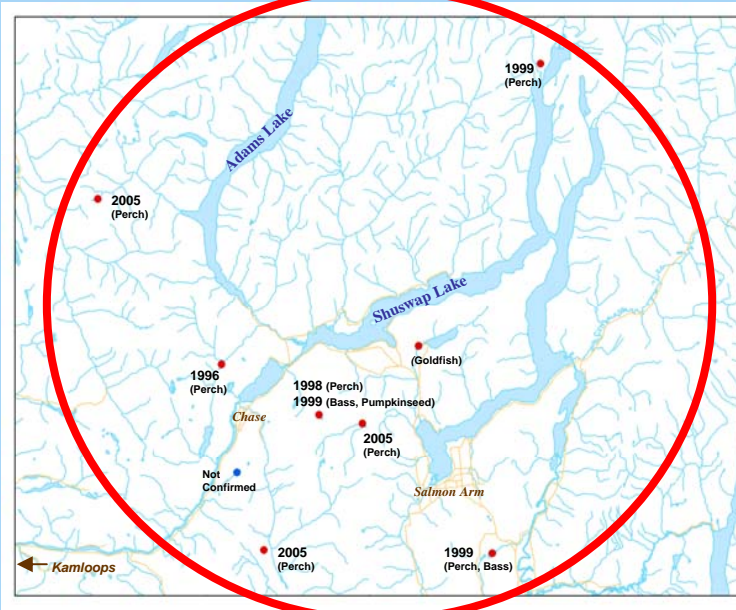
#### Pumpkinseed sunfish (*Lepomis gibbosus*)

- Very colourful, deep-bodied, fish with a small mouth.
- Gill cover is black with an orange-red spot on the border.
- Rarely larger than 12 to 18 cm (5 to 7 inches).
- Diet consists of larval insects, some adult insects, and occasionally larval fish.

#### Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*)

- 2 dorsal fins: the first spiny-rayed and the second soft-rayed.
- Unlike the largemouth bass, the upper jaw doesn't extend past the eye.
- Typical length is 20 to 38 cm (8 to 15 inches).
- Diet shifts from plankton to insects to fish as bass mature.

### Location of lakes with illegally introduced perch, and/or smallmouth bass, and/or pumpkinseed and the year the introduction was confirmed.



### What We're Doing

1. Prevention – Education and Reward
2. Early Detection
3. Monitoring
4. Exploring the Options for Eradication or Containment



### Did you know?

- In the absence of natural predators, perch reach extremely high densities - so high that they deplete their own food resources and become stunted.
- Perch, sunfish and bass don't use streams to spawn, but spawn in lake shallows. Male sunfish and bass build a nest and guard it until the juvenile fish emerge. Perch produce a long tubular egg mass, which can contain up to **90,000 eggs**.
- It is unlawful to possess or move live fish in BC without a permit. It is illegal to use live fish for bait or put fish in a "live well" in your boat.

### What You Can Do

- Do not move fish or aquatic organisms
- Report any suspicious or illegal activities to the Conservation Officer Service
- Within the Thompson Nicola Region, report any suspicious or illegal activities to the Fisheries Hotline 1-800-388-1606

**The BCWF is offering a reward to anyone who provides information leading to the conviction of the person(s) responsible for the introduction of exotic fish species.**