

HELP KEEP NONNATIVE FISH OUT OF LAKE TAHOE: DO NOT MOVE ANY LIVE FISH – IT IS ILLEGAL

Nonnative Fish Currently Present:



Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)

Identification: Very large mouth, upper jaw extends beyond eye. Broad black stripe along the lateral line and onto snout. To 38 in (97 cm).

Preferred Habitat: Clear, vegetated, shallow and warm area.

Photo Credit: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region



Black Crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)

Identification: Long predorsal region arched with sharp dip over eye.

Wavy black blotches, green flecks on silver blue side. To 19 in (49 cm).

Preferred Habitat: Clear, vegetated area over mud and sand.

Photo Credit: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region



Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*)

Identification: Red belly in mature fish. Large black spot at rear of dorsal fin. Ear flap black at the edge. To 16 in (41 cm).

Preferred Habitat: Adaptable to almost any habitat, but prominent in clear streams and lakes with increased vegetation.



Brown Bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*)

Identification: Scaleless, smooth skin. Brown or black mottling on body. 5-8 large sawlike teeth on rear of pectoral spine. To 21 in (50 cm).

Preferred Habitat: Typically found at bottoms and in productive areas over soft substrates.



Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)

Identification: Large scales. Long dorsal fin (15-21 rays). Stout, sawtoothed spine at front of dorsal and anal fins. To 16 in (41 cm).

Preferred Habitat: Common in warm turbid or vegetated water; more tolerant than most fishes of some forms of pollution.

Photo Credit: Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Invasive species cause serious economic and ecological damage to aquatic ecosystems.

How you can help?

- REMOVE ALL aquatic plants and animals from boats and transported gear.
- DO NOT RELEASE aquarium pets, plants or live bait into aquatic ecosystems.
- DO NOT MOVE live fish and other aquatic organisms from one water body to another. IT IS ILLEGAL!
- REPORT a nonnative species, call the Aquatic Nuisance Species hotline: 1-888-TAHO-ANS

¹Unless otherwise cited, all pictures are credited to Sarah Adler, UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center

²Reference: Page, LM and BM Burr (1991) A Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of North America North of Mexico. The Peterson Field Guide Series, Houghton Mifflin Company, N.Y.

Lake Tahoe's Native Fish:



Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (*Onchorynchus clarki henshawi*)

Identification: Red colored fins and opercula. Dark spots on body, dorsal and caudal fins. To 39 in (99 cm).

Preferred Habitat: Lakes and rivers. Can be found at depths up to 1000ft/300 m.

*No longer found in Lake Tahoe naturally because of introduction of Lake trout, overharvest.



Mountain Whitefish (*Proposium williamsoni*)

Identification: Uniformly silver in color with adipose fin. To 22 in (57 cm).

Preferred Habitat: Lakes (to depth of at least 30 ft/10 m).



Lahontan Redside (*Rhinichthys egregious*)

Identification: Distinctive streak along side; red in breeding males; rosy colored in females. To 6 in (17 cm).

Preferred Habitat: Nearshore habitats in mountain lakes and rivers.



Lahontan Speckled Dace (*Rhinichthys osculus robustus*)

Identification: Covered with dark speckles and splotches. A frenum (flap of skin) attaching snout to upper lip. To 4 in (11 cm).

Preferred Habitat: Rocky shoreline.



Tahoe Sucker (*Catostomus tahoensis*)

Identification: Native to the Lahontan Basin. Deep medium lower lip notch. Breeding males have bright red stripe along side. To 24 in (61 cm).

Preferred Habitat: Variable but commonly in large lakes .



Paiute Sculpin (*Cottus beldingi*)

Identification: Drab coloration with a brindled pattern. Dorsal fins separate to base. To 5 in (13 cm).

Preferred Habitat: Rock riffle streams where flowing water is ample.



Tui Chub (*Gila bicolor*)

Identification: Small round fins. Small terminal/slightly subterminal mouth. To 17 in (45 cm).

Preferred Habitat: Quiet, vegetated area.

Naturalized Fish*:

* Nonnative species established outside of their native range that reproduce without human assistance.



Kokanee Salmon (*Onchorynchus nerka*)

- Bright red body and green head when spawning



Rainbow Trout (*Onchorynchus mykiss*)

- Pink to red stripe on side



Lake Trout/ Mackinaw (*Salvelinus namaycush*)

- Cream spots on dark green to grey head, body, dorsal and caudal fin



Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

- Blue halos around pink or red spots on side



Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)

- Red and black spots on head and body

For more information about invasive species at Lake Tahoe, please contact:

Dr. Sudeep Chandra, limnologist, professor and research at the University of Nevada, Reno's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science. Office: (775) 784-622, Email: sudeep@cabnr.unr.edu, Website: www.cabnr.unr.edu/chandra

University of California Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center. Tel : (775) 881-7566, Email: tercinfo@ucdavis.edu, Website: <http://terc.ucdavis.edu/>