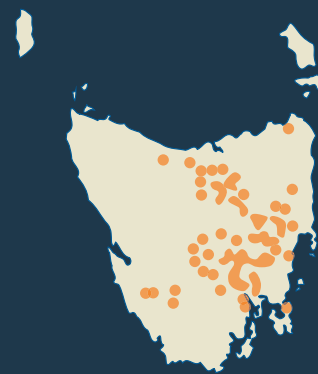


# Redfin perch

*Perca fluviatilis*



Locally abundant in eastern, central and southern Tasmania. There are some isolated populations in the North.

**Description:** A deep bodied fish that has two distinct dorsal fins. The medium sized scales are thick and feel rough to touch. They have the distinctive perch like notch on the outside of their operculum (gill plate or cover).

**Colour:** Body is pale greenish-brown to greyish, paler below, with 5-6 broad dark tapering bands along the sides. The pelvic, anal and outer parts of the caudal fins are bright red to reddish-orange. The dark bars along the sides are more pronounced in younger fish.

**Size:** Can reach 450 mm in length and weights of 2 kg in Tasmanian waters, but rarely greater than 200 mm in length.

**Habitat:** They are at home in rivers and lakes but prefer slower or still water. They often school and can be found around sunken trees and logs. In Tasmania they frequently form populations of small (less than 200 mm) but mature fish.

**Diet:** They feed on a wide variety of animals including crustaceans, molluscs, aquatic and terrestrial insects, and small fishes.

**Life Cycle:** Spawns at night during late Winter to early Spring, when water temperatures reach 11°C. Females shed all their eggs amongst aquatic vegetation or onto submerged timber in long gelatinous ribbons or strands. Females lay up to 200,000 eggs each. Eggs about 2.0 to 2.5 mm in diameter and are surrounded by thick mucous membrane.

Larvae hatch after seven days at 14 to 19°C but may take up to three weeks to hatch at temperatures less than 10°C. At a length of 15 mm, the young perch usually gather in large schools in shallow water near the shore. Redfin usually mature after two to three years.

**Distribution status:** Introduced mid 1800s.

**Original range:** Native to most of Europe and North Asia.

**Reasons for change to distribution:** This invasive species was stocked in the 1850s. It has spread through systems naturally but is impeded by barriers. In some cases it has been illegally stocked or transferred through fishing gear.

**Legal status:** Angling/pest.

**Can it be taken?** An inland recreational Angling Licence is needed to take redfin perch but there are no bag limits or minimum size. Anglers are encouraged not to release redfin back into water after capture.

**Other names:** English perch.



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