



Stop the spread Tilapia

Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossamicus* or *Tilapia mariae*):

- are established throughout most lower altitude areas of Queensland
- survive in waters native fish find difficult
- reduce local native fish populations by aggressively competing for food and space
- can survive highly saline waters during drought periods, unlike many native fish species
- can rapidly outnumber native fish and dominate aquatic communities
- prey upon smaller native fish species and their young
- degrade and disturb native fish habitat
- introduce exotic diseases and parasites.

Legislative requirements

Tilapia are a category 3, 5, 6 and 7 restricted invasive fish under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. They must not be kept, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive fish under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation.

What can you do?

Don't

- Keep, eat, use as bait, or transport from one location to another: penalties apply.
- Return them to the water when caught.

Do

- Dispatch humanely and dispose of by burying above the high-water mark or by wrapping securely and placing in the nearest serviced rubbish bin.
- Join your local native fish stocking association.
- Get involved in local government and natural resource management activities that improve riverine and aquatic habitat for native fish.
- Report sightings of tilapia to your local government or Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or scan the QR code to access our reporting web page.



**Queensland
Government**