

AMERICAN BULLFROG

Lithobates catesbeianus
Ranidae, the true frog family

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- The American Bullfrog has been identified as one of the world's 100 worst invasive alien species by the World Conservation Union (IUCN).
- *R. catesbeiana* is prone to migration, highly adaptable to new environments, and extremely prolific.
- A voracious and indiscriminate predator, the American Bullfrog can come to dominate the margins of lakes and ponds and outcompete (and prey upon) native species.

Diagnostic Characteristics

- Largest frog in North America; adults reach 3.5 - 7 inches long
- Have three life stages: egg, larva (tadpole), adult
- Egg mass is anchors in aquatic vegetation and floats; has appearance of clear gelatin covered poppy seeds
- Adults are dull green or olive brown in color with dark blotches on their back and legs; underside is cream to yellow colored
- Inhabits lakes, reservoirs, rivers, ponds, canals, and wetland areas
- Tadpoles feed on aquatic plants, suspended matter, organic debris, plant tissue, and small aquatic invertebrates
- Adults are carnivorous and will eat any animal that can be swallowed

Introduction and Movement

- Native to eastern North America. All occurrences west of the Rocky Mountains are the result of translocation and release during the late 19th century and throughout the 20th.
- It has been transported around the world primarily with the intention of cultivating for human consumption.
- Other commercial interests include biological supply houses, fish bait suppliers, the pet trade, and pond landscapers.
- In the early 20th century it was released outside of its natural range by wildlife agencies with the intent of introducing a new game species.

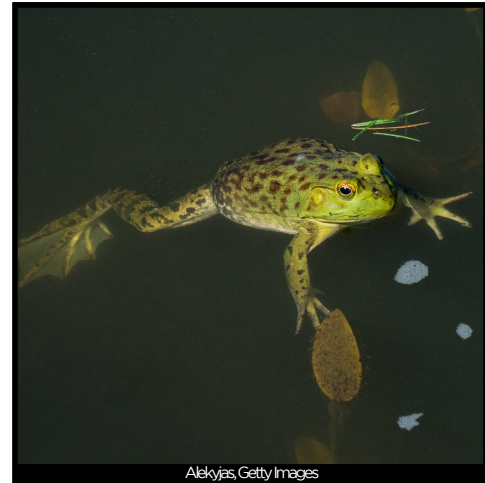
Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, ensure that all watercraft, wading gear, and other water related equipment are clean, drained, and dry between use in each waterbody..
- Use of live bait is prohibited in Idaho.
- Never release any animal or plant into the wild.
- Be aware that bullfrogs will travel over land and may easily escape ponds and water gardens.
- Always Remember: **DON'T LET IT LOOSE**

CLEAN & DRAIN & DRY

Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/66618>.



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TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES IN IDAHO, PLEASE CALL 1-877-336-8676.