

# Koi carp

## Cyprinidae - Cyprinus carpio



### What does it look like?

Koi carp are a freshwater fish that resemble goldfish except they grow to larger sizes, in New Zealand/Aotearoa up to 10kg and 75cm long. They have two pairs of whisker-like feelers also called barbels, at the corner of their mouth. They are highly variable in colour, often accompanied with irregular blotching of black, red, gold, orange or pearly white.

### Why is it a problem?

When feeding, koi carp suck up and expel material from the bottom like a vacuum, filtering out edible material, which in the process disturbs the substrate (bottom) of a lake or river. Because of their fast breeding and large size, this usually results in constant 'muddying' of the water, with no chance for this mud to settle. As a result, the light levels are reduced, which negatively impacts plant life and other native fish and invertebrates. This also makes for unpleasant swimming at recreational freshwater water sites.

### Control methods

Please contact Council's biosecurity team if you believe you have encountered this species.

### More information

**Similar species:** Goldfish, however, there are no native fish species in New Zealand/ Aotearoa with similar features.

### Management programme

- Exclusion

### Rules

- Not known to be present within the Gisborne/Tairāwhiti region, however, if this species were to become established this will be a priority for Council's Biosecurity. For more information about this Rule, refer to our Regional Pest Management Plan page 17, under Related Links.
- No person will transport or have possession of this unwanted organism into or around the East Coast/Tairāwhiti Region.