



State Government agencies are working to prevent the further spread of the Speckled Livebearer. It is important that people know and understand what this pest fish is so that it is not transferred to other waterways or returned to the water.

What do I do if I find one?

Speckled Livebearers are an exotic species. If you find this fish, **you are not permitted to return it to the water or leave it on the bank; bag it, freeze it, bin it.**

Biosecurity SA is monitoring the spread of this species and is asking that all individuals found be reported. You can report your sighting too:

FISHWATCH on 1800 065 522 (free call)

or

www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa

Further information on aquatic pests can also be found on this website.



Speckled Livebearer

(Phalloceros caudimaculatus)

For further information please visit the Biosecurity South Australia website at www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa or contact Biosecurity SA on (08) 8207 7900

Photos courtesy of Dr. Dale McNeil; SARDI Aquatic Science Centre.



Government of South Australia
Biosecurity SA

The Speckled Livebearer



The Speckled Livebearer (*Phalloceros caudimaculatus*) is a freshwater fish native to eastern South America. This species was imported into Australia for the aquarium trade and is thought to have been introduced into natural waterways as a result of improper disposal of aquarium fish.

Populations of Speckled Livebearers have existed in Western Australia, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, and Lake Eyre Region for some time.

Speckled Livebearer in South Australia

In 2008 the species was found in Willunga Creek, South Australia (SA).

Due to this being the first record of Speckled Livebearers in South Australia, a significant eradication program using an organic chemical, rotenone, has been conducted.

The eradication program has been highly effective and this pest fish is not considered established in the wild in South Australia.

The species is highly adaptive and presents a significant risk for infestation of waterways.



Impacts

Speckled Livebearers have the potential to degrade water quality and displace native species. They have similar preferences to many native fish (eg. latitude, elevation and water conditions) and their wide temperature tolerance and prolonged breeding season enable rapid colonization.

They may impact native species through aggressive behavior and competition for resources. They also have the potential to cause a decline in native fish species as a result of disease.

What does it look like?

- are small, stocky fish generally 20–25mm in length, with the exception of some individuals reaching 34mm
- have large eyes
- are brightly coloured, generally yellow, green or silver
- covered with a profusion of dark black-brown patches

What it is not!

Mosquito Fish (*Gambusia holdbrooki*) are also a pest fish species however, *Gambusia* are a well established and wide spread species in South Australia. They can be found in most waterways and it is important that people do not assume that Speckled Livebearers are *Gambusia*!



Speckled Livebearers and Mosquito Fish are often confused due to their similar size and appearance. But *Gambusia* do not have mottled patches and these 'speckles' are a key difference.

Speckled Livebearer
(*Phalloceros caudimaculatus*)