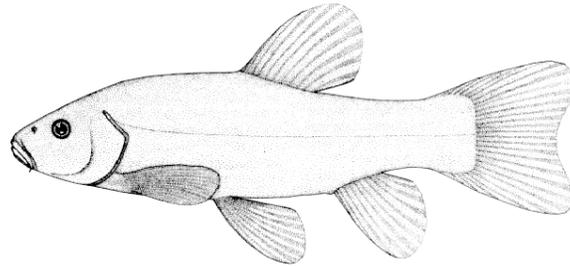


CAUTION!

Commercial fishermen and baitfish dealers



A new fish specie in Québec

In October 1999, the presence in Québec of the tench was confirmed by the identification of a first specimen brought to us by a commercial fisherman of the Upper Richelieu. Finding its origin in Europe and Asia, this cyprinid (family of the carps and minnows) comes from a stock imported directly from Germany. Specimens raised in a private pond escaped toward the Richelieu River at the start of 1990's. In November of 1999, an inquiry conducted with three commercial fishermen of this sector revealed that the first tench captures go back to 1994. The number of captures increased year after year to reach a maximum last fall. Around sixty adult specimens measuring up to 45 cm (18 inches) and 1,3 kg (almost 3 pounds) have since been examined.

Caution!

Because of its fertility, its capacity to adapt to all kinds of environmental conditions, even severe ones, its leaning to scouge the bottom and its feeding habits for aquatic invertebrates, the tench could become a nuisance to our indigenous species. Its ability to support our aquatic winter conditions could also lead to another threat, that is, its migration into the St. Lawrence River and the Lake Champlain basins. Furthermore, the Richelieu River being an important fishing site for baitfish could lead to involuntary transfers within lakes and rivers of other watersheds.

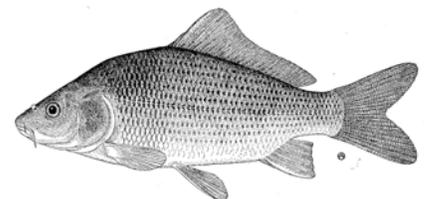
How can you help?

- **Carefully** verify your harvest for tench.
- **Kill** the captured specimen, do not sell them.
- **Keep in touch**, tell us about the captured specimens (if possible, freeze them, we will pick them up).

Who to contact?

Société de la faune et parcs Québec
Direction de l'aménagement de la faune de la Montérégie
201, place Charles-Le Moyne, 2nd floor
Longueuil (Québec) J4K 2T5
Tel. : 450-928-7607
Pierre Dumont, ext. 308 or Jean Leclerc,

The tench is easily identifiable, it resembles the **carp**, has its general shape, flattened and stocky and the



barbels situated at the lip's commissure. It distinguishes itself by :

- ◆ very numerous small scales,
- ◆ the presence of one pair of barbels instead of two,
- ◆ its dark colored rounded fins,
- ◆ its thick skin, covered by abundant mucus.

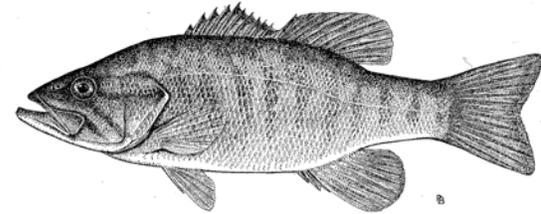
At first glance, it can also resemble **smallmouth bass**, by its robustness and olive green colour with golden highlights on its sides. But it differs by the presence of :

- only one dorsal fin without spines
- and a smaller mouth.

Smaller specimens can also be mistaken for the **central mudminnow**, because of its coloration, it's general appearance and it's rounded fins. It distinguishes itself by :

- a flatter shape,
- smaller eyes, yellow, golden or orange instead of black,
- dorsal fin in the center of its body instead of the latter part.

(these three fish illustrations were reproduced with the permission of the authors of : W. B. Scott and E. J. Crossman. 1973. Freshwater fishes of Canada, Bulletin 184, Fisheries Research Board of Canada).



Picture of two tench captured in November 1999 in the Upper Richelieu. The female (above) measures 34,5 cm (about 14 inches) and the male (below) 32 cm (about 13 inches).

(Photo : Nathalie Dubuc)

Thank you for your collaboration! It's important!