

# *Tilapia margaritacea*

## Ecological Risk Screening Summary

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, June 2015

Photo not available.

### 1 Native Range, and Status in the United States

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#### Native Range

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Africa: known only from the Nyong basin in Cameroon [Stiassny et al. 2008].”

#### Status in the United States

This species has not been reported in the U.S.

#### Means of Introductions in the United States

This species has not been reported in the U.S.

### 2 Biology and Ecology

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#### Taxonomic Hierarchy and Taxonomic Standing

From ITIS (2015):

“Kingdom Animalia  
Subkingdom Bilateria  
Infrakingdom Deuterostomia  
Phylum Chordata  
Subphylum Vertebrata  
Infraphylum Gnathostomata  
Superclass Osteichthyes  
Class Actinopterygii  
Subclass Neopterygii  
Infraclass Teleostei  
Superorder Acanthopterygii  
Order Perciformes  
Suborder Labroidei  
Family Cichlidae  
Genus *Tilapia*  
Species *Tilapia margaritacea* Boulenger, 1916”

“Taxonomic Status: valid”

## **Size, Weight, and Age Range**

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Max length : 17.5 cm TL male/unsexed; [Teugels and Thys van den Audenaerde 1991]”

## **Environment**

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Freshwater; benthopelagic.”

## **Climate/Range**

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Tropical; 6°N - 3°N”

## **Distribution Outside the United States**

Native

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Africa: known only from the Nyong basin in Cameroon [Stiassny et al. 2008].”

Introduced

No introductions of this species have been reported.

## **Means of Introduction Outside the United States**

No introductions of this species have been reported.

## **Short description**

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Dorsal spines (total): 13 - 15; Dorsal soft rays (total): 10-13; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 8 - 10. Diagnosis: 9 or fewer rakers on lower limb of first arch; pearly spots on cheek and opercle; bluish pearly oblique band across dorsal fin from base of first spine to posterior border of soft rays; outer row jaw teeth slender and rather pointed; 2 scale rows on cheek (rarely 3); dorsal fin with 13-15 spines and 10-13 soft rays (total of 25-27 fin rays) [Stiassny et al. 2008].”

## **Biology**

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Substrate brooder [Stiassny et al. 2008].”

## **Human uses**

No information available.

## Diseases

No OIE-notifiable diseases have been reported for this species.

## Threat to humans

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Harmless”

## 3 Impacts of Introductions

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No introductions of this species have been reported.

## 4 Global Distribution

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**Figure 1.** Global distribution of *T. margaritacea*. Map from GBIF (2015).

## 5 Distribution within the United States

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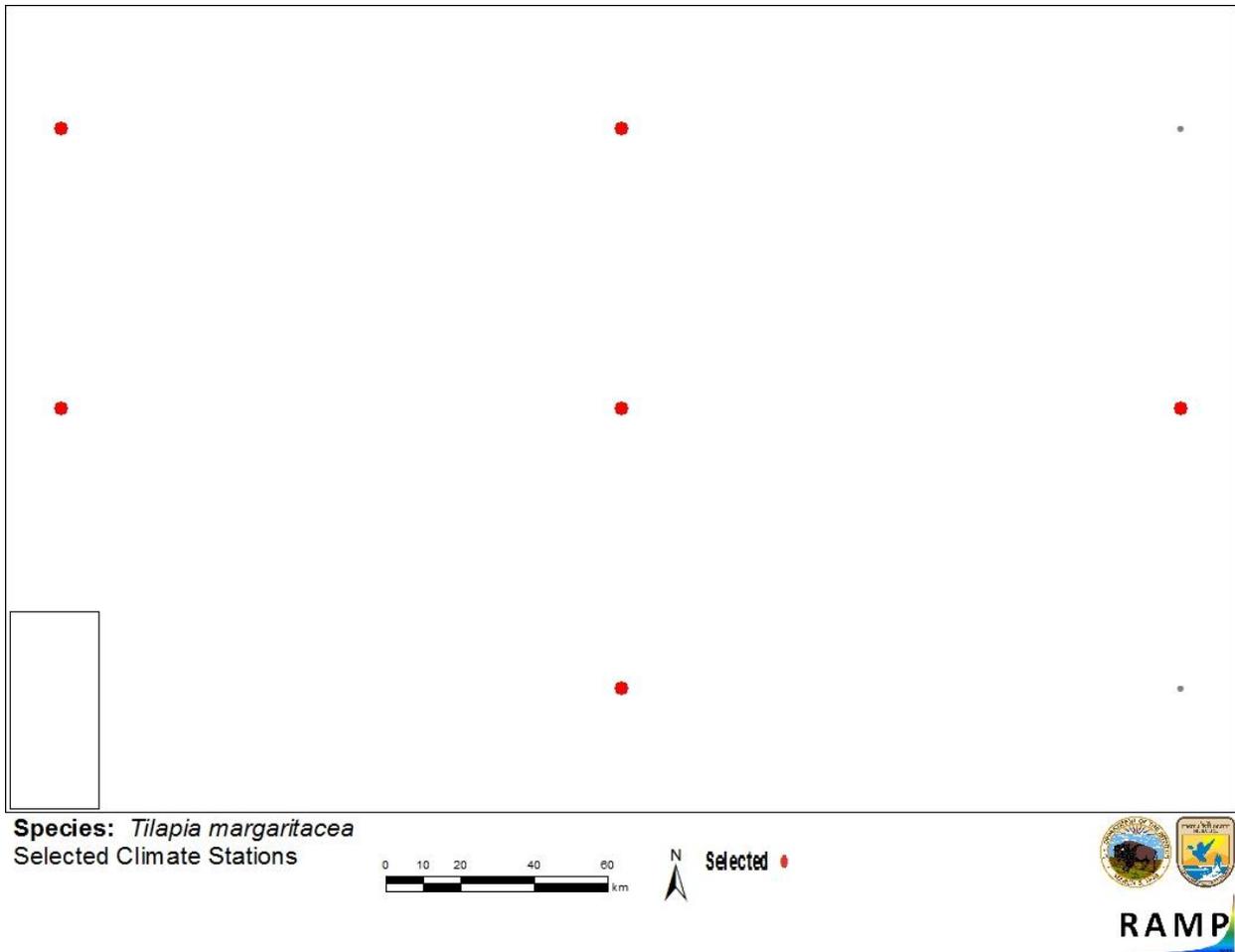
This species has not been reported in the U.S.

## 6 Climate Matching

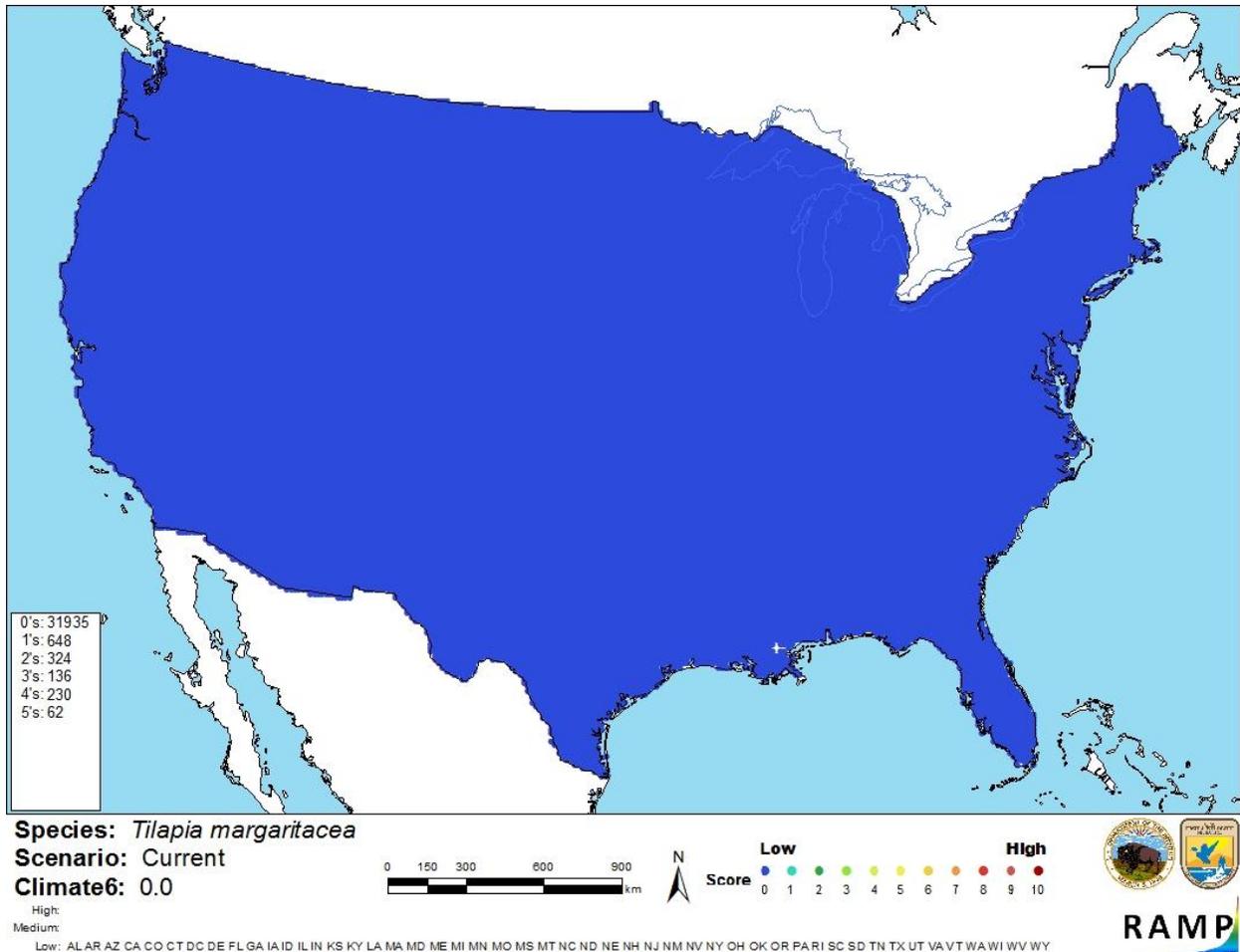
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### Summary of Climate Matching Analysis

The climate match (Sanders et al. 2014; 16 climate variables; Euclidean Distance) was low throughout the contiguous U.S., reflected in a Climate 6 proportion of 0.0. The range for a low climate match is 0.000 to 0.005.



**Figure 2.** RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) source map showing weather stations selected as source locations (red) and non-source locations (gray) for *T. margaritacea* climate matching. Source locations from GBIF (2015). All source locations are in Cameroon.



**Figure 3.** Map of RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) climate matches for *T. margaritacea* in the continental United States based on source locations reported by GBIF (2015). 0= Lowest match, 10=Highest match. Counts of climate match scores are tabulated on the left.

## 7 Certainty of Assessment

Little information is available on the biology of *T. margaritacea* and it has not become established outside its native range. The certainty of this assessment is high because the lack of information about this species precludes any assessment other than “uncertain” risk.

## 8 Risk Assessment

### Summary of Risk to the Continental United States

*Tilapia margaritacea* is a benthopelagic cichlid known from a single river basin in Cameroon. The species has not been reported as introduced outside of this location. Because *T. margaritacea* has no history of invasiveness, it is currently impossible to know what impacts *T. margaritacea* might have if introduced to the U.S. Climate match to the contiguous U.S. is low. Overall risk of this species is uncertain.

## **Assessment Elements**

- **History of Invasiveness (Sec. 3):** Uncertain
- **Climate Match (Sec.6):** Low
- **Certainty of Assessment (Sec. 7):** High
- **Overall Risk Assessment Category: Uncertain**

DRAFT

## 9 References

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**Note: The following references were accessed for this ERSS. References cited within quoted text but not accessed are included below in Section 10.**

- Froese, R., and D. Pauly, editors. 2015. *Tilapia margaritacea* Boulenger, 1916. FishBase. Available: <http://www.fishbase.org/summary/Tilapia-margaritacea.html>. (June 2015).
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). 2015. GBIF backbone taxonomy: *Tilapia margaritacea* Boulenger, 1916. Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Copenhagen. Available: <http://www.gbif.org/species/2370661>. (June 2015).
- Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS). 2015. *Tilapia margaritacea* Boulenger, 1916. Integrated Taxonomic Information System, Reston, Virginia. Available: [http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search\\_topic=TSN&search\\_value=648977](http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=648977). (June 2015).
- Sanders, S., C. Castiglione, and M. Hoff. 2014. Risk Assessment Mapping Program: RAMP. US Fish and Wildlife Service.

## 10 References Quoted But Not Accessed

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**Note: The following references are cited within quoted text within this ERSS, but were not accessed for its preparation. They are included here to provide the reader with more information.**

- Stiassny, M. L. J., A. Lamboj, D. De Weirtdt, and G. G. Teugels. 2008. Cichlidae. Pages 269-403 in M. L. J. Stiassny, G. G. Teugels, and C. D. Hopkins, editors. The fresh and brackish water fishes of Lower Guinea, West-Central Africa, volume 2. Coll. faune et flore tropicales 42. Institut de recherche de développement, Paris, France, Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris, France and Musée royal de l'Afrique Central, Tervuren, Belgium.
- Teugels, G. G., and D. F. E. Thys van den Audenaerde. 1991. *Tilapia*. Pages 482-508 in J. Daget, J.-P. Gosse, G. G. Teugels, and D. F. E. Thys van den Audenaerde, editors. Check-list of the freshwater fishes of Africa (CLOFFA), volume 4. ISNB, Brussels; MRAC, Tervuren, Belgium; and ORSTOM, Paris.