

Tilapia spongotroktis

Ecological Risk Screening Summary

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, June 2015

Photo not available.

1 Native Range, and Status in the United States

Native Range

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Africa: endemic to Lake Bermin, 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.

Remarks

From Moelants (2010):

“Critically Endangered ... The species is endemic to the crater Lake Bermin. The species is currently major threat is from oil plantations and slash and burn agriculture leading to sedimentation and pollution in the lake (one location). There is also a potential threat from the lake 'burping' - CO₂ (as in Lake Nyos and Lake Barombi-Mbo). In addition deforestation of the surroundings of the crater may cause more wind which could lead to the lake 'turning', as the lake is stratified, lower layer being very low in oxygen and high in organic matter. Higher winds may cause currents in the lake which could cause this lower layer to mix with the upper layer where the fish live. This would cause a massive decrease in oxygen in the water and kills the fish.”

2 Biology and Ecology

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 spongotroktis* Stiassny, Schlieuwen and Dominey,
1992”

“Taxonomic Status: valid”

Size, Weight, and Age Range

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Max length : 13.7 cm SL male/unsexed; [Stiassny et al. 2008]”

Environment

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Freshwater; benthopelagic.”

Climate/Range

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Tropical”

Distribution Outside the United States

Native

From Froese and Pauly (2015):

“Africa: endemic to Lake Bermin, 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): 15 - 16; Dorsal soft rays (total): 10-11; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 8. Diagnosis: lower pharyngeal jaw robust, with a large, non-heart-shaped but triangular dentigerous plate, covered with stout, sparsely arrayed teeth; oral dentition coarse; outer row teeth stout bicuspid; anterior gill rakers not markedly reduced in size [Stiassny et al. 1992, 2008]. Snout acute [Stiassny et al. 2008]. Ventral margin of lower lip smooth; gill rakers (12-14) stout and fleshy with a crenulate median membrane connecting outer and inner row rakers [Stiassny et al. 1992, 2008]. Ratio of lower jaw length to lower jaw width usually < 1 [Stiassny et al. 2008]. Upper jaw with 2-4, in lower jaw with 2-3 inner tooth rows [Stiassny et al. 1992, 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

No introductions of this species have been reported.

4 Global Distribution

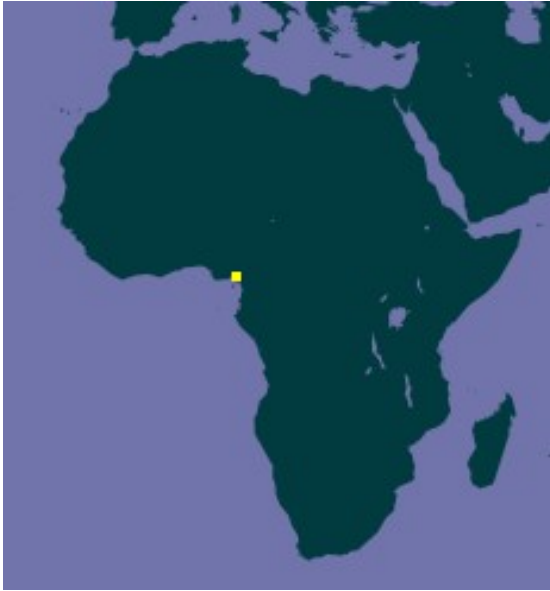


Figure 1. Global distribution of *T. spongotroktis*. Map from GBIF (2015).

5 Distribution within the United States

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

6 Climate Matching

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.

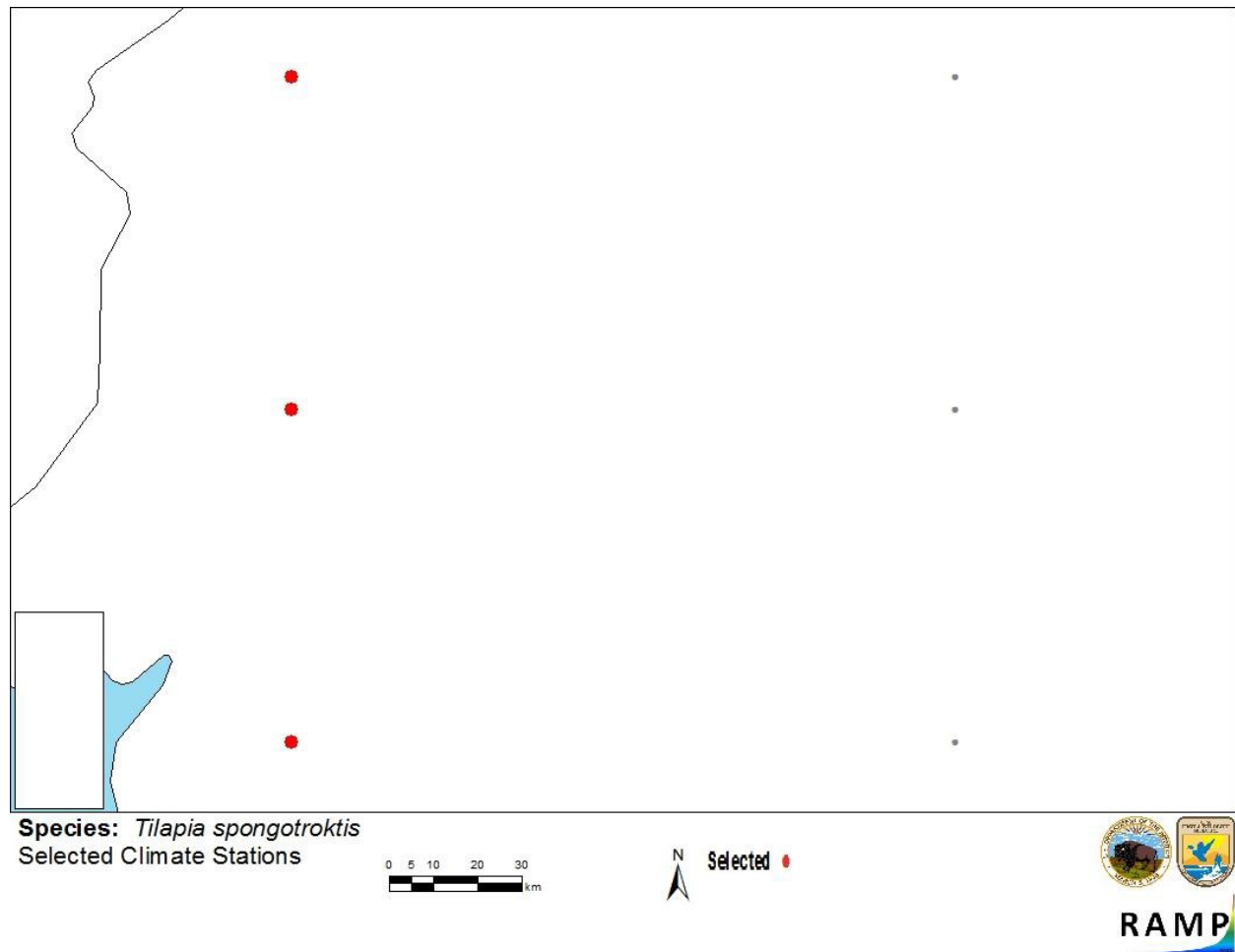


Figure 2. RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) source map showing weather stations selected as source locations (red) and non-source locations (gray) for *T. spongotroktis* climate matching. Source locations from GBIF (2015). All source locations are in Cameroon.

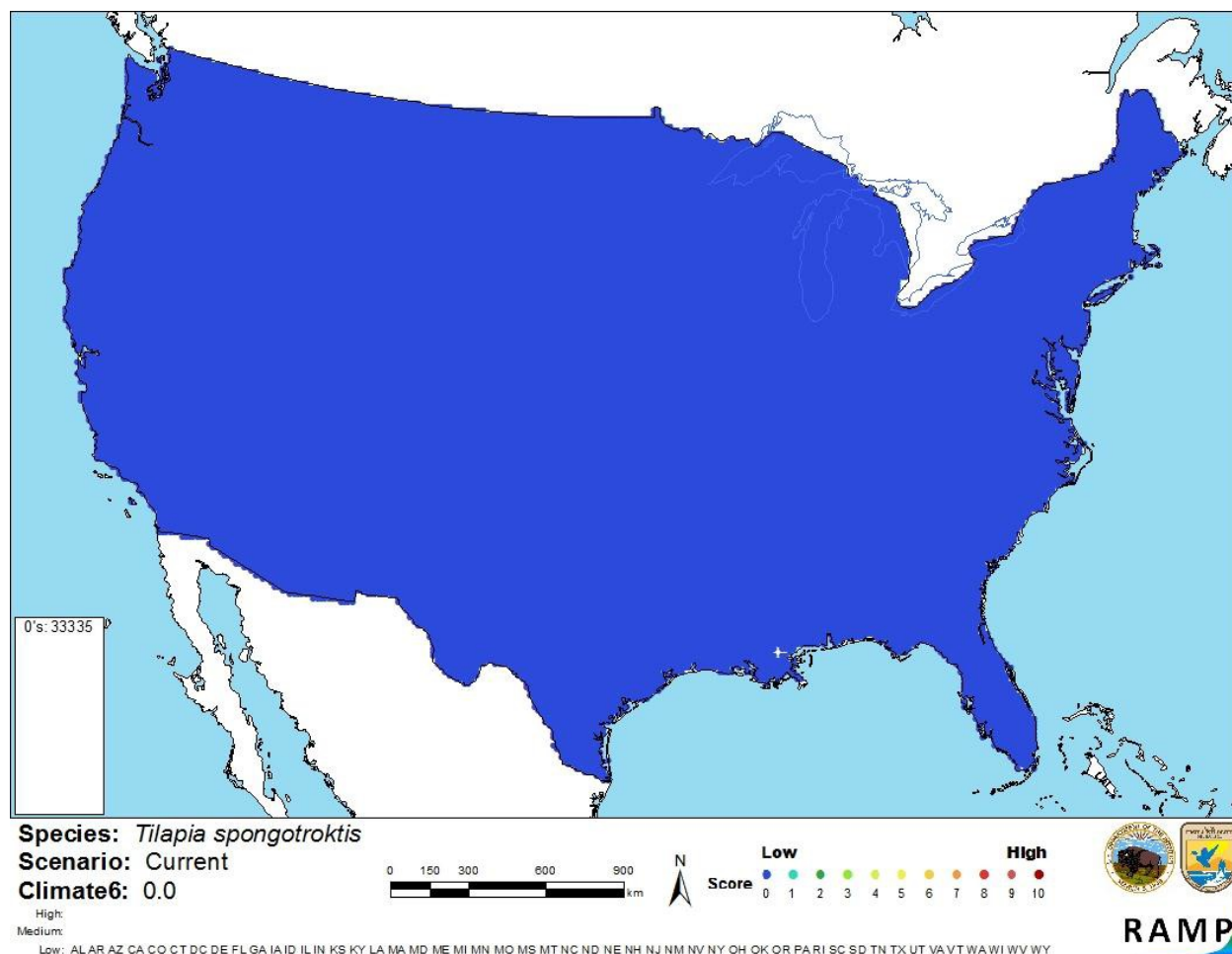


Figure 3. Map of RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) climate matches for *T. spongotroktis* in the continental United States based on source locations reported by GBIF (2015). 0= Lowest match, 10=Highest match. Counts of climate match scores are tabulated on the left.

7 Certainty of Assessment

Little information is available on the biology of *T. spongotroktis* 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 spongotroktis is endemic to Lake Bermin in Cameroon, and has not been reported as introduced outside of this location. The species is, in fact, critically endangered in its native range due to deforestation and agriculture. Because *T. spongotroktis* has no history of invasiveness, it is currently impossible to know what impacts *T. spongotroktis* might have if introduced to the U.S. Climate match to the contiguous U.S. is low, but this may be an underestimate because environmental factors other than climate tolerance may be responsible for

the restriction of the species to a single lake. Tropical and sub-tropical areas of the U.S. may be suitable habitat for this tropical species. 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

9 References

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 spongotroktis* Stiassny, Schliewen & Dominey, 1992. FishBase. Available: <http://www.fishbase.org/summary/10679>. (June 2015).

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). 2015. GBIF backbone taxonomy: *Tilapia spongotroktis* Stiassny, Schliewen & Dominey, 1992. Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Copenhagen. Available: <http://www.gbif.org/species/2370684>. (June 2015).

Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS). 2015. *Tilapia spongotroktis* Stiassny, Schliewen and Dominey, 1992. Integrated Taxonomic Information System, Reston, Virginia. Available: http://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=648983. (June 2015).

Moelants, T. 2010. *Tilapia spongotroktis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, version 2015.2. Available: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/21895/0>. (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

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., U. K. Schliewen, and W. J. Dominey. 1992. A new species flock of cichlid fishes from Lake Bermin, Cameroon with a description of eight new species of *Tilapia* (Labroidei: Cichlidae). *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters* 3(4):311-346.

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.