

## SLELO PRISM Partners Share These Goals:

### PREVENTION

Prevent the introduction of invasive species into the SLELO PRISM region.

### EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE

Detect new and recent invaders and rapidly respond to eliminate all individuals within a specific area.

### COOPERATION

Share resources, expertise, personnel, equipment, and information.

### INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Collect, utilize, and share information regarding surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring, and research.

### CONTROL

Control invasive species infestations by using best management practices, methods and techniques to include:

ERADICATION - Eliminate all individuals and the seed bank from an area.

CONTAINMENT - Reduce the spread of established infestations.

SUPPRESSION - Reduce the density but not necessarily the total infested area.

### RESTORATION

Develop and implement effective restoration methods for areas that have been degraded by invasive species and where suppression or control has taken place.

### EDUCATION / OUTREACH

Increase public awareness and understanding of invasive species issues through volunteer monitoring, citizen science and community outreach.

## SLELO PRISM

*This QR code will link  
to more resources.*



## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE:

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario  
Partnership for Regional  
Invasive Species Management  
**SLELO PRISM**

*C/O The Nature Conservancy*

**(315) 387-3600 x 7724**

[www.sleloinvasives.org](http://www.sleloinvasives.org)

### Get Involved

Help find invasive species  
of interest in your region.

For details, contact

[megan.pistolese@tnc.org](mailto:megan.pistolese@tnc.org)

**Stay informed, join our listserv  
Follow these steps to join:**

1. Email [cce-slelo-1-request@cornell.edu](mailto:cce-slelo-1-request@cornell.edu)
2. Type “join” in subject space
3. Leave email body blank and send

**Photo Credits:** Cover photo: Midwest Invasive Species Information Network, <https://www.misin.msu.edu/facts/detail/?project=&id=340&cname=Tench>. Tench ID photo credit: [http://www.hlasek.com/tinca\\_tinca1de.html](http://www.hlasek.com/tinca_tinca1de.html). Tench sightings map Sunci Avlijas, McGill University, Canada. **Cited Resources:** (1) NPR News WBFO 88.7, <https://news.wbfo.org/post/will-tench-be-next-great-lakes-invasive-species-problem> (2) Great Lakes Connection, <http://ijc.org/greatlakesconnection/en/tag/tench/>.

## What you Should Know About Tench



St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

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*“Teaming up to stop  
the spread of  
invasive species”*

## What is Tench?

**Tench** (*Tinca tinca*) are an invasive fish native to Europe and Western Asia. They are a member of the minnow/carp family *Cyprinidae*. Tench was introduced to the U.S. as a food and sport fish, and have been reported in U.S. waterways dating as far back as the 1870's<sup>(1)</sup>.

Tench was illegally introduced to the Richelieu River, a tributary of the St. Lawrence River, by an unlicensed fish farm in 1991<sup>(1)</sup>. Since this introduction, tench has been found in commercial catches located mostly within the northern portions of the St. Lawrence Seaway near Sorel, Canada. However, in 2018, the fish was found near Cornwall, and the first Lake Ontario sighting was made in the Bay of Quinete near Belleville, Ontario in Canada<sup>(1)</sup>. These sightings challenge the belief that massive hydroelectric dams will act as barriers against the southward spread of tench through the St. Lawrence River system. There is concern as to how far the fish will spread and to the potential impacts tench may have on the aquatic ecosystems unique to the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario region.

Tench inhabit weedy/muddy water bottoms, and have high reproductive rates, long lifespans and can survive in low-oxygen environments. They are generalist predators whose diet includes fish eggs, snails, molluscs and other benthic invertebrates which puts them in direct competition with rare fishes like the River Redhorse. Trout, bass and many other native fish species are also threatened. In addition, Tench have the ability introduce non-native parasites into the Great Lakes <sup>(2)</sup>.

## You can Stop the Spread:

**You can help reduce Tench's spread potential by learning how to recognize the fish and reporting your sightings.** In New York state, search for Tench along the St. Lawrence River between Massena and Cape Vincent, NY. Pay special attention to waterbodies near farming ponds. Golden colored Tench varieties are popular aquarium species. Do not use Tench as bait. **Never release un-wanted pets or dump unused bait** into water-ways, *doing so may spread invasive species.*

### **Known Tench sightings found in the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario.**



## If You Find Tench:

- Note your location.
- **Don't** release the specimen, put it on ice.
- Take close-up photos of the specimen.
- Notify SLELO PRISM at 315-387-3600 (x 7725) [rwilliams@tnc.org](mailto:rwilliams@tnc.org)

## Tench Identification:

**Size:** Tench can grow up to 27 inches in length and weight up to 12 pounds. The fish has a slimy eel texture & tiny scales.



**Color/Description:** Tench have dark rounded fins with olive to pale golden coloring and a white bronzy belly and bright red/orange eyes. They have a terminal mouth with a single barbel on each side.



Below is a photo of a juvenile Tench. **Do not use Tench as bait.**

