

Topic: Monster Goldfish Found in Lake Tahoe

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Summary

In this article, scientists are astonished to find a 4.2 pound goldfish in Lake Tahoe in winter of 2013 during a routine survey for invasive species. The common pet goldfish is indeed an invasive species because their being there could affect Lake Tahoe's entire ecosystem. The goldfish were released by owners into the water and now, they have begun invading the lake. They consume native species and create waste that cause algae blooms, which can turn the clear waters muddy. This could potentially be a huge problem because native species would die and the food web of the Lake would start to fall apart. They could possibly kill off some native species and kill many fishes main food source by making the water muddy.

Reflection

Goldfish do more harm than good to Lake Tahoe's ecosystem. They are an invasive species, meaning they are not native and can create many problems if they are left there. I find it amazing that a normally tiny creature like a goldfish can turn in a giant. 4 pound monster that is destroying the lakes food web. All organisms in the lake depend on each other and by the goldfish being there, the web gets broken. Native species will die out leaving no food source for larger fish. Eventually, Lake Tahoe will go from being a beautiful tourist attraction to a muddy and undesirable place.

I find it extremely interesting that between 20-69 percent of the fish keepers in western Texas have admitted to dumping fish. I would've guessed that number would be around 5-10 percent. This could potentially pose a bigger problem if a more aggressive fish is released. I believe that Lake Tahoe and all large bodies of water should attempt to eradicate all invasive species currently living in them and to enforce stricter laws when it comes to dumping fish.