Mosquitofish and Mozambique mouthbrooders are local to Townsville waterways and are declared noxious fish under the Fisheries Act 1994 (QLD). It is illegal to possess, sell or buy these fish and an offence to release them into Queensland waterways or use them as bait, live or dead. If you catch these fish, it is expected that you will humanely kill them. DO NOT re-release them to the water.

**Gambusia / Mosquitofish**

*(Gambusia holbrooki)*

- Mosquitofish were introduced in Australia as a mosquito control agent, but are actually less efficient as a control agent than native fish.
- They grow to less than 7cm and are usually dark grey or olive on the head and back, becoming lighter on the belly.
- They feed on insects, plants, frogs eggs and small fish.
- Gambusia dominate many habitats as they can withstand conditions that many native fish cannot.
- Gambusia are aggressive and nip fins of other fish as well as eat their eggs.
- They are hardy survivors and breeders.
- Their presence negatively impacts the survival of native, Townsville species.
- Gambusia is widely prevalent in Townsville’s waterways and throughout Queensland.

**Tilapia – Mozambique Mouthbrooder**

*(Oreochromis mossambicus)*

- These fish can grow to more than 36cm and are pale olive to silver-grey with dark blotches on their bodies.
- They feed on plankton, insects and weeds.
- The mouthbrooders are hardy and can survive both high and low temperatures, high salinity and low oxygen.
- They have an efficient reproductive strategy that ensures high juvenile survival.
- These fish can be aggressive and will compete for habitat and food.
- Mouthbrooders are commonly found in Ross River, Aplins Weir, Louisa Creek, Bohle River and Rowes Bay.

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Get in touch:

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