



Photo from www.fs.fed.us



Photo from www.frogpictures.net

SPECIES INFORMATION

The Columbia Spotted Frog was recently recognized as a distinct species from *R. pretiosa* (Oregon Spotted Frog) based primarily on genetic differences. No subspecies are currently recognized. Spotted Frogs on Mitkof Island near Petersburg may exhibit a distinct phenotype of heavy dusky gray coloring ventrally.

Spotted Frogs are disappearing from many areas in their range, but are still considered common in British Columbia. The current status of Alaska populations is unknown.

Symbiotic algae was observed present in most Spotted Frog egg masses examined in the Stikine River region.

(Information cited: www.alaskaherps.info / S. O. MacDonald)



Photo from www.savethefrogs.com

ALASKA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Alaska Herpetological Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the field of Herpetology in the State of Alaska. Our mission is to promote sound research and management of amphibians and reptiles in the North and to provide opportunities in outreach, education, and citizen science for individuals who are interested in these species.

WEB:

WWW.AKHERPSOCIETY.ORG

FACEBOOK:

ALASKA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

COLUMBIA SPOTTED FROG

Rana luteiventris

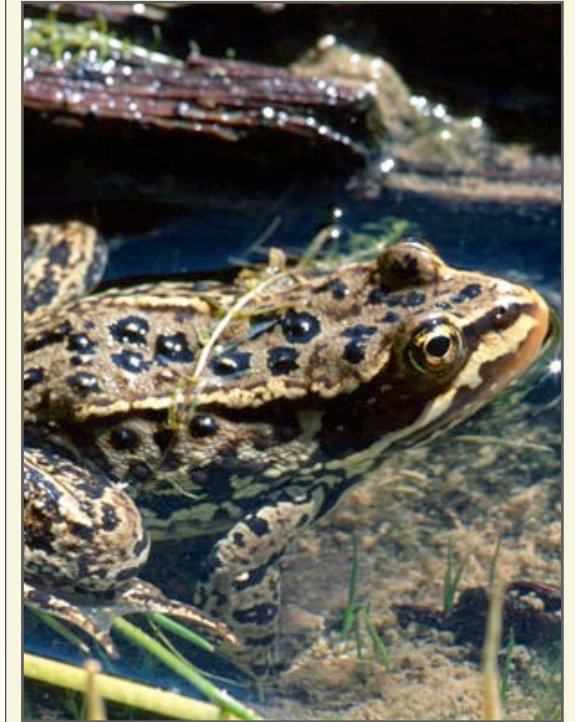


Photo from www.wildherps.com

INFORMATION

This information on the Columbia Spotted Frog (*Rana luteiventris*) has been provided by the Alaska Herpetological Society.

You can help locate this species on our website, via a voucher or via the epicollect app. See www.akherpsociety.org for more information.

Columbia Spotted Frog Information

ADULT

Adults are 4.4cm (1.75-4in) long from snout to vent. They are larger than the Wood Frog, lack the mask and have a salmon or red color on their undersides. have somewhat bumpy skin, relatively short hind legs and vary from light to dark brown above with a scattering of large black spots often with light centers. There is a light stripe on the upper jaw and the eyes are upturned.

EGGS

Eggs are laid in masses of 7.5-20cm (2-8in) diameter containing 150-2000 eggs, usually in shallow water floating freely on surface among vegetation. Eggs usually deposited immediately after ice melt (mid-April along the Stikine River).

FACTS

Columbia Spotted Frogs are seldom found away from permanent rivers, lakes, ponds, muskegs, or streams; often in vegetation surrounding bodies of water and coastal forests.

Males call on warm, clear days from above and rarely under water. Their voice is a short series of low pitched, quiet grunts and drones.

Distinguished from the introduced Red-legged Frog by its shorter legs, greater toe webbing, rougher skin, upturned rather than out-turned eyes, shorter jaw stripe, and lack of mottling on the groin. Male Spotted Frogs from the Unuk River are somewhat larger than males from other mainland rivers.

They have been found 100 miles above the valley floor of the Stikine River in a muskeg pond. They commonly overwinter underwater in mud and under stream banks.

HANDLING AMPHIBIANS

It is actually illegal in the State of Alaska to handle or remove Native amphibians from their habitat without a scientific collection permit.

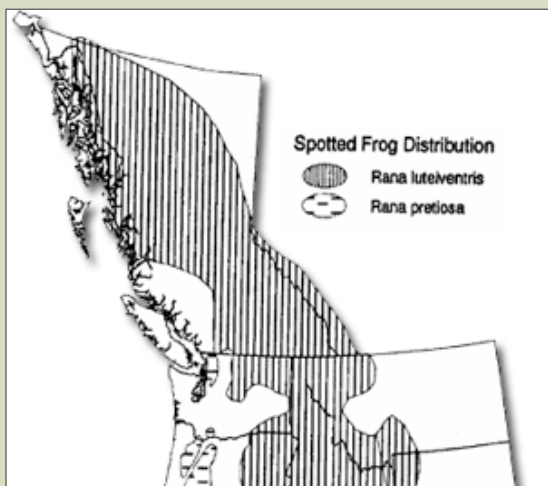
Handling them can increase the spread of disease and allows deadly chemicals like bug spray and sunscreen to easily penetrate their permeable skin. Removing them can hurt populations and change their genetic structure. Never move amphibians from place to place.

When possible, scrub boots, waders, nets and other equipment with a 5% bleach solution between sites or when you return home. This helps to stop the spread of diseases like chytrid fungus which has been identified in Alaska and can cause mass amphibian mortality.

Also, never release a pet amphibian into the wild!



Photo from www.blm.gov



Map from www.fws.gov

DID YOU KNOW...

Columbia Spotted Frogs have often been mistaken as Bullfrogs in Southeast Alaska? For those that are familiar with Bullfrogs farther south, the Columbia Spotted Frog may appear similar. Bull Frogs are not however native to Alaska and we would like to keep it that way. They can be very aggressive and have been known to eat Columbia Spotted Frogs! Spotted Frogs too have been known to eat their smaller counterparts. It's a frog eat frog world out there!



Photo from www.fws.gov