

Pennsylvania's Threatened and Endangered Fishes

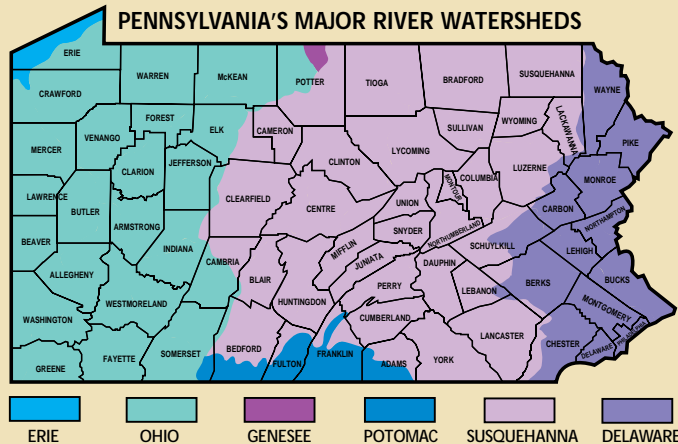
TERMS OF ENDANGERMENT

■ **Endangered:** Species in imminent danger of extinction or extirpation throughout its range in Pennsylvania.

■ **Threatened:** Species that may become endangered throughout its range in Pennsylvania.

■ **Extirpated:** Species that has disappeared from Pennsylvania but still exists elsewhere.

■ **Extinct:** Species that occurred in Pennsylvania but no longer exists across its entire range.



LAMPREYS

Family Petromyzontidae

Northern brook lamprey

Ichthyomyzon fossor ■

Erie and Ohio watersheds

Lacks scales and paired fins. Rounded, jawless mouth. Small, blunt disc teeth and dark-gray or brown coloration on the dorsal part of its body. Non-parasitic. Reaches a length of six inches.

Mountain brook lamprey

Ichthyomyzon greeleyi ■

Ohio watershed

Well-developed disc teeth. Dorsal fin notched slightly. Sides of the body flecked with tiny dark spots. Reaches 10 inches in length.

STURGEONS

Family Acipenseridae

Shortnose sturgeon

Acipenser brevirostrum ■

Delaware watershed

Smallest of Pennsylvania's sturgeons, seldom exceeding three feet. Short, blunt snout and dark-brown to black coloration on top with lighter brown to yellowish below. Scales along each side are lighter than the body color. Paired fins outlined in white. Anal fin origin is beneath the dorsal fin origin. Anal fin has 19 to 20 rays. Snout is not turned down.

Lake sturgeon

Acipenser fulvescens ■

Erie watershed

Reaches a length of seven feet. Olive-brown to gray coloration on the back, sides, fins and bony scales, and white below. Anal fin origin is behind the dorsal fin origin.

Atlantic sturgeon

Acipenser oxyrinchus ■

Delaware watershed

Largest Pennsylvania fish, reaching a length of 12 feet. Two rows of smaller bony plates anterior to the anal fin and a long, sharply shaped snout. Uprturned snout. Dark-gray to blue-black upper body. White on the front margin of the paired fins, lower tail fin lobe and spines.

GARS

Family: Lepisosteidae

Spotted Gar

Lepisosteus oculatus ■

Erie watershed

Long, cylindrical body with large, thick diamond-shaped scales. Long snout filled with fine sharp teeth. Olive-green back, silvery-white belly. Large round spots on the top and sides of the head and upper body. Grows to four feet long.

MOONEYES

Family Hiodontidae

Goldeye

Hiodon alosoides ■

Ohio watershed

Large mouth with blunt, round snout. Visible teeth on jaws and tongue. Fleshy keel on belly from pectoral fin to anal fin.

Mooneye (not pictured on poster)

Hiodon tergisus ■

Ohio watershed

Similar to goldeye, except has a deeper body. Visible teeth on jaws and tongue. Keel on belly runs from pelvic fin to anal fin. Body is more silver than goldeye.

HERRINGS

Family: Clupeidae

Hickory shad (not pictured on poster)

Alosa mediocris ■

Susquehanna and

Delaware watersheds

Shorter than its cousin the American shad. Commonly 12 to 15 inches. Tip of the lower jaw and dorsal and caudal fins darker. Lower jaw extends beyond upper jaw.

Skipjack herring

Alosa chrysochloris ■

Ohio watershed

Looks like a hickory shad. Occurs only in western PA. Lacks spots behind gill cover. Blue-green coloration on back ends abruptly, not gradually like hickory shad and other herring. Conspicuous teeth on jaws. Other herrings and shad lack visible teeth.

TROUT AND SALMON

Family Salmonidae

Cisco, or lake herring

(not pictured on poster)

Coregonus artedii ■

Erie watershed

Similar in shape to herring, except has small adipose fin. Long body with round cross section. Dark-green to blue on top, silver sides.

MINNOWS

Family: Cyprinidae

Gravel chub (not pictured on poster)

Erimystax x-punctatus ■

Ohio watershed

Large eye on upper half of head. Long, slender body, flattened below. Many dark "X" marks on sides. Blue-sheened to silver-colored sides. Can reach four inches in length.

Redfin shiner

Lythrurus umbratilis ■

Erie and Ohio watersheds

Dark blotch at beginning of dorsal fin. Steel-blue to olive coloration. Breeding males have bright red-orange fins. Dark stripe along sides, black specks along sides.

Silver chub (not pictured on poster)

Macrhybopsis storeriana ■

Erie and Ohio watersheds

Short, rounded snout, barbel in corner of mouth. Light-olive on top, bright silver-white sides.

Bridle shiner

Notropis bifrenatus ■

Delaware watershed

Black spot at the base of the caudal fin. Spot usually joins brown-black stripe. Stripe runs length of sides and snout. Scales on back have a dark outline.

River shiner (not pictured on poster)

Notropis blennioides ■

Ohio and Erie watersheds

Slender body. Mouth extends below eye. Has uniform dark stripe along the back. Stripe surrounds dorsal fin base. Snout is pointed.

Ghost shiner (not pictured on poster)

Notropis buchmanii ■

Ohio watershed

Milky white, translucent color. Large pointed fins. Large eye and rounded snout.

Ironcolor shiner

Notropis chalybaeus ■

Delaware watershed

Well-defined black stripe along sides and around snout. Inside of mouth is black. Eye is large, longer than snout. Pointed snout. Scales above lateral line are darkly outlined.

Blackchin shiner

Notropis heterodon ■

Ohio watershed

Short, pointed snout. Black stripe on sides and snout. Stripe often has zig-zag appearance. Black lips and chin. Lateral line usually incomplete.

PA's Threatened and



Northern brook lamprey ■



Mountain brook lamprey ■



Shortnose sturgeon ■



Goldeye ■



Skipjack herring ■



Redfin shiner ■



Bigmouth shiner ■



Southern redbelly dace ■



Longnose sucker ■



Black bullhead ■



Mountain madtom ■



Tadpole madtom ■



Threespine stickleback ■



Banded sunfish ■



Warmouth ■



Spotted darter ■



Eastern sand darter ■



Tippecanoe darter ■

Endangered Fishes



Lake sturgeon ■



Atlantic sturgeon ■



Spotted gar ■



Bridle shiner ■



Ironcolor shiner ■



Blackchin shiner ■



Smallmouth buffalo ■



Bigmouth buffalo ■



Spotted sucker ■



Brindled madtom ■



Northern madtom ■



Burbot (inland populations only) ■



Longear sunfish ■



Bluebreast darter ■



Iowa darter ■



Channel darter ■



Gilt darter ■



Longhead darter ■

■ = THREATENED ■ = ENDANGERED

Pennsylvania's Threatened and Endangered Fishes

MINNOWS (continued)

Bigmouth shiner

Notropis dorsalis ■

Erie watershed

Long snout, large mouth. Head flattened below, with eyes directed above. Light tan in coloration. Has x-shaped patterns on scales along lateral line.

Southern redbelly dace

Phoxinus erythrogaster ■

Ohio watershed

Two black stripes on sides. Top stripe is thin and broken. Bottom stripe is wide, thinning near the tail. Small spots on side, above top line. Lateral line incomplete. Moderately pointed snout, longer than the eye is wide.

SUCKERS

Family: Catostomidae

Longnose sucker

Catostomus catostomus ■

Ohio watershed

Long snout. Dark-olive or gray coloration on its dorsal side and white or cream on the ventral side. Distinguished from other suckers by a deep lower-lip notch. Reaches length of 25 inches.

Smallmouth buffalo

Ictiobus bubalus ■

Ohio watershed

Has a small conical head, large eyes, deep body and keeled nape. Colors vary from gray or bronze on top, black to olive-yellow on the sides and white to yellow below.

Bigmouth buffalo

Ictiobus cyprinellus ■

Erie watershed

Very robust body with a large, ovoid head. Terminal, sharply oblique mouth. Gray to olive-bronze above, black to olive-yellow on the sides, white to pale-yellow below. Grows to 40 inches.

Spotted sucker

Minytrema melanops ■

Ohio watershed

Parallel rows of dark spots on its back and sides. Also has noticeable black edge on its dorsal fin and lower lobe of the caudal fin. Reaches length of 19 inches.

CATFISHES

Family: Ictaluridae

Black bullhead

Ameiurus melas ■

Ohio watershed

Black to dusky gray barbels. Short, rounded anal fin. Notched edge of caudal fin. Usually lacks sawlike teeth on pectoral fin spine, unlike the brown bullhead, which has five or more.

Mountain madtom

Noturus eleutherus ■

Ohio watershed

Long pectoral spine with six to 10 sawlike teeth. Dark-brown bar at base of caudal fin (caudal peduncle). Dark band at base of adipose fin. Caudal fin rear edge straight. No dark spots, bands or speckles on belly, unlike northern madtom. Northern madtom has dark specks on belly.

Tadpole madtom

Noturus gyrinus ■

Ohio, Susquehanna

and Delaware watersheds
Chubby body. Lacks sawlike teeth on front edge of pectoral spine. Dark veinlike stripe running along sides. Caudal fin rear edge rounded. Uniform color (no spots or speckles), tan to light-brown body, light below. Fins gray or brown.

Brindled madtom

Noturus miurus ■

Erie and Ohio watersheds

Caudal fin rounded, with dark band along edge. Black blotch on outer and upper dorsal fin. Four vague saddle spots across back and sides.

Northern madtom

Noturus stigmosus ■

Erie and Ohio watersheds

Two light-colored spots in front of dorsal fin base. Brown or black band on adipose fin upper half. Two crescent-shaped bands on tail. Large pectoral spine with five to 10 sawlike teeth on front edge. Caudal fin rear edge straight or slightly rounded.

BURBOT

Family Gadidae

Burbot, *Lota lota*

■—inland populations only

Erie and Ohio watersheds

Only freshwater member of the ocean-dwelling cod family. Abundant in Lake Erie, but inland

populations endangered. Long, equal-length anal and dorsal fins, rounded tail and a single barbel extending from the lower lip.

STICKLEBACKS

Family Gasterosteidae

Threespine stickleback

Gasterosteus aculeatus ■

Delaware watershed

Bony plates along its sides instead of scales. Three obvious and separate dorsal spines atop a compressed body. Brown or green on the upper side, which fades to silvery along the belly.

SUNFISHES

Family Centrarchidae

Banded sunfish

Enneacanthus obesus ■

Delaware watershed

Colorful little sunfish reaches lengths to 3 3/4 inches. Named for dark bars on sides. Rows of purple-gold spots along the sides.

Warmouth

Lepomis gulosus ■

Ohio watershed

Robust sunfish with a thick body and large mouth. Dark red-brown lines that radiate from its red eyes. Short, rounded pectoral fin. Wavy blue lines on fins. Grows to 12 inches.

Longear sunfish

Lepomis megalotis ■

Ohio, Susquehanna

and Delaware watersheds

Named for its long ear flap extending from its gill plate. Dark-red above, bright-orange below and marbled and spotted with blue. Upper jaw extends back beyond pupil. Wavy blue lines on cheek and opercula. Reaches length of nine inches.

PERCHES

Family Percidae

Bluebreast darter

Etheostoma camurum ■

Ohio watershed

Named for the distinguishing blue coloration on its breast. Male has bright-red spots on sides. Female has brown spots on sides. Black edge on second dorsal fin. Reaches length of 3 3/4 inches.

Iowa darter

Etheostoma exile ■

Erie and Ohio watersheds

Slender body and distinctly long caudal peduncle. Lateral line in-

complete and arched. Male colorful with alternating blue and brick-red bars on sides. Reaches length of 2 3/4 inches.

Spotted darter

Etheostoma maculatum ■

Ohio watershed

Not as colorful as some of the other darters. Extremely compressed body and narrow, pointed snout. Male has black halos around red spots on sides. Female has black mottling on the sides. Reaches length of 3 1/2 inches.

Eastern sand darter

Etheostoma pellucida ■

Erie and Ohio watersheds

Well-camouflaged with 10 to 19 horizontal dark-green blotches along its sides. Lacks black bands on dorsal fins. Grows to length of 3 1/4 inches.

Tippecanoe darter

Etheostoma tippecanoe ■

Ohio watershed

Colorful darter never reaches length over 1 1/2 inches. Blue-black bars on sides with the darkest color at the rear. Large last bar encircles the caudal peduncle. Two spots on caudal fin base.

Channel darter

Percina copelandi ■

Erie and Ohio watersheds

Blunt snout and nine to 10 horizontally oblong black blotches along sides. One medial black caudal spot. Black "X" and "W" marks on sides. First dorsal fin has black along base and edge.

Gilt darter

Percina evides ■

Ohio watershed

Wide, dusky green bars on sides, yellow to bright-orange underside. First dorsal fin has orange band. Grows to length of 3 3/4 inches.

Longhead darter

Percina macrocephala ■

Ohio watershed

Named for its long snout. Distinct sickle-shaped "teardrop" curves down from eye to underside of head. Dark bar below the medial black caudal spot. One of PA's larger darters, reaching a length of 4 3/4 inches.