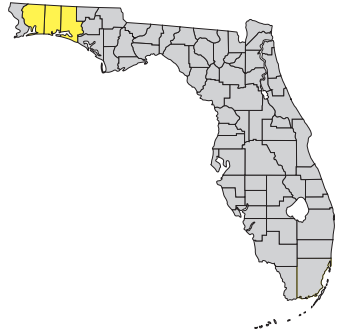


BLACKMOUTH SHINER

Notropis melanostomus

Order: Cypriniformes
Family: Cyprinidae
FNAI Ranks: G2/S1
U.S. Status: None
FL Status: Endangered



© Gray Bass
courtesy of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Description: Minnow-sized fish, up to 1 - 1.5 in. (25 - 38 mm), with large eyes, strongly upturned mouth, and nearly transparent fins; edges of dorsal scales black, dorsolateral pale grey area; black stripe along the midside that passes through the eye and onto snout; ventral surface silver; peritoneum black.

Similar Species: Blackmouth shiners are fairly nondescript and can be mistaken for other superficially similar minnows and young shiners; golden shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*) has fleshy keel that extends from between the pelvic fins to the anal fin; pugnose minnow (*Opsopoeodus emiliae*) also has an upturned mouth, but the mouth shape has a peculiar “puckered” appearance.

Habitat: Calm, shallow backwaters of blackwater streams below steep, vegetated banks; usually found in schools.

Seasonal Occurrence: Present in all seasons. However, may be absent from sites for years, only to reappear.

BLACKMOUTH SHINER

Notropis melanostomus

Florida Distribution: Pond Creek, lower Blackwater River drainage, and possibly Yellow River system (recent work has been unable to relocate Shoal River occurrence).

Range-wide Distribution: Pascagoula River system in Mississippi and above-mentioned Florida sites.

Conservation Status: Urban and industrial development of the Milton, Florida, region is rapidly degrading habitat; extirpation of Florida populations is likely in foreseeable future.

Protection and Management: Monitor water quality and ameliorate sources of degradation.

Selected References: Bortone 1989, Bortone 1993, Gilbert (ed.) 1992, Hoehn 1998, Page and Burr 1998.



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