

Summary

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***Ctenopharyngodon idella*** - (Valenciennes, 1844)  
 Grass Carp  
 Unique Identifier: AFCJB07010  
 Informal Taxonomy: Animals, Vertebrates - Fishes  
 - Bony Fishes - Minnows and Carps



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Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus
Animalia	Craniata	Actinopterygii	Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	<i>Ctenopharyngodon</i>

**Genus Size:** A - Monotypic genus**Concept Reference:** Robins, C. R., et al. 1991. Common and scientific names of fishes from the United States and Canada. American Fisheries Society, Special Publishing 20. 183 pp.**Concept Reference Code:** B91ROB01NAUS**Name Used in Concept Reference:** *Ctenopharyngodon idella*

## Conservation Status

### NatureServe Status

**Global Status:** G5**Global Status Last Reviewed:** 13Sep1996**Global Status Last Changed:** 13Sep1996**Rounded Global Status:** G5**Nation:** United States**National Status:**

NNA

**Nation:** Canada**National Status:**

NNA

### U.S. & Canada State/Province Status

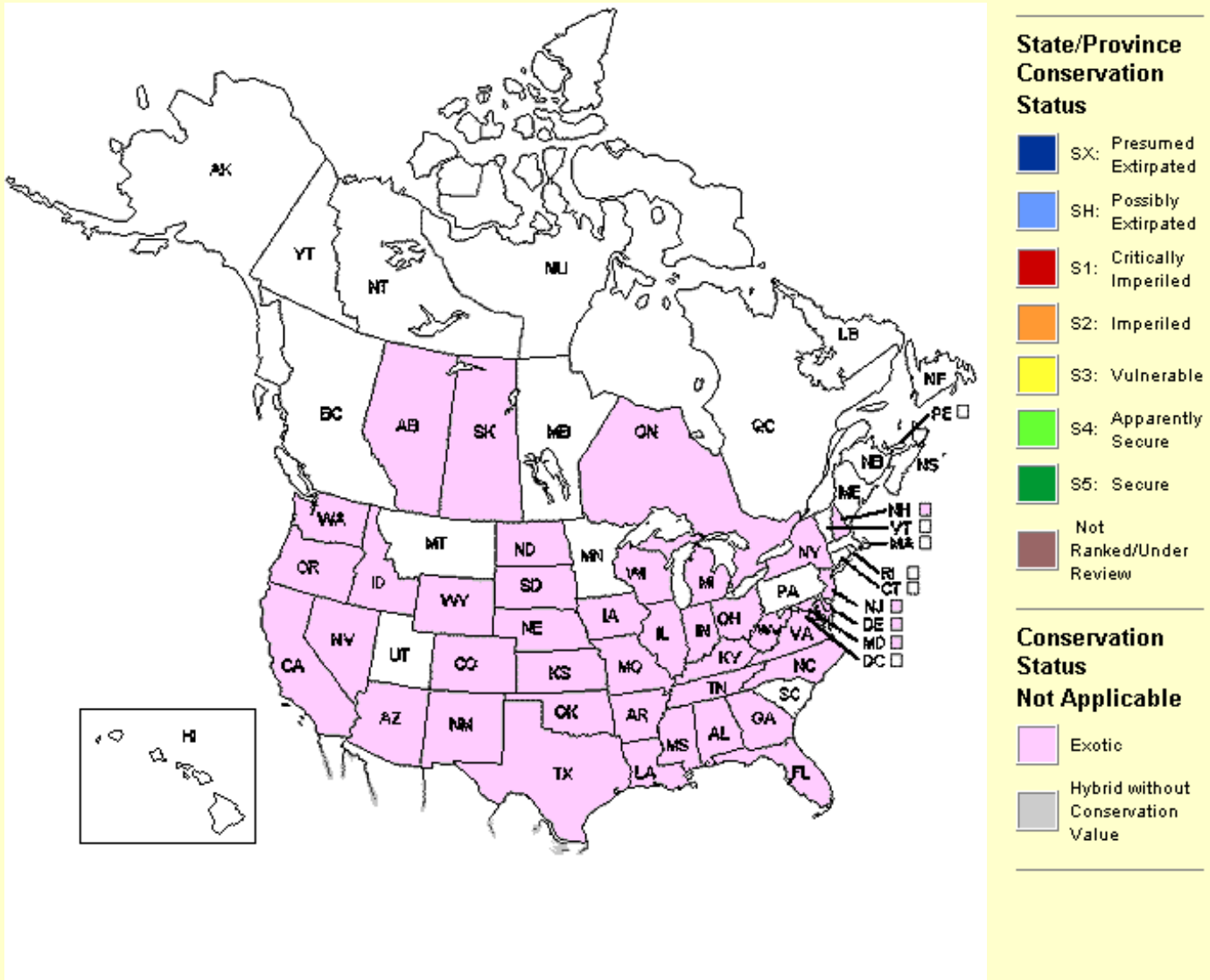
United States	Alabama (SNA), Arizona (SNA), Arkansas (SNA), California (SNA), Colorado (SNA), Delaware (SNA), Florida (SNA), Georgia (SNA), Idaho (SNA), Illinois (SNA), Indiana (SNA), Iowa (SNA), Kansas (SNA), Kentucky (SNA), Louisiana (SNA), Maryland (SNA), Michigan (SNA), Mississippi (SNA), Missouri (SNA), Navajo Nation (SNA), Nebraska (SNA), Nevada (SNA), New Hampshire (SNA), New Jersey (SNA), New Mexico (SNA), New York (SNA), North Carolina (SNA), North Dakota (SNA), Ohio (SNA), Oklahoma (SNA), Oregon (SNA), South Dakota (SNA), Tennessee (SNA), Texas (SNA), Virginia (SNA), Washington (SNA), West Virginia (SNA), Wisconsin (SNA), Wyoming (SNA)
Canada	Alberta (SNA), Ontario (SNA), Saskatchewan (SNA)

**Other Statuses**

**NatureServe Conservation Status Factors**

**Distribution**

**U.S. States and Canadian Provinces**



**Endemism:** occurs (regularly, as a native taxon) in multiple nations

U.S. & Canada State/Province Distribution	
United States	AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, MI, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NN, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, SD, TN, TX, VA, WA, WI, WV, WY
Canada	AB, ON, SK

### Range Map

No map available.

**Global Range Comments:** Native to Amur basin and flatland rivers of eastern Asia. Introduced in many localities in U.S. for control of aquatic vegetation. Widespread and increasing in lower and middle Mississippi Valley, spotty elsewhere.

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## Economic Attributes

**Economic Comments:** Has been extensively stocked as effective biological control agent for aquatic plants; some states prohibit importation of this species, though several states have experimented with and allow stocking of functionally sterile triploids (Sublette et al. 1990).

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## Management Summary

**Species Impacts:** Triploid grass carp may degrade habitat for wildlife dependent upon aquatic vegetation; can eradicate submersed vegetation; difficult to attain intermediate levels of aquatic plant control (Bonar et al. 2002).

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## Ecology & Life History

**Reproduction Comments:** May spawn in spring and summer. Eggs hatch in 16-60 hours at 17-30 C. Sexually mature in 4-5 years in temperate areas. May live 15-20 years or more.

### Ecology Comments

Strong schooling tendency. May cause increase in turbidity and alkalinity in waters where introduced; may compete with and prey upon native and exotic fishes (Sublette et al. 1990). In Arizona, biomass of largemouth bass increased in direct proportion to biomass of grass carp, perhaps because removal of vegetation by carp increased vulnerability of forage fishes to bass predation (see Sublette et al. 1990).

**Habitat Type:** Freshwater

**Non-Migrant:** Y

**Locally Migrant:** N

**Long Distance Migrant:** N

**Riverine Habitat(s):** BIG RIVER, CREEK, Low gradient, MEDIUM RIVER, Pool

**Lacustrine Habitat(s):** Shallow water

**Special Habitat Factors:** Benthic

**Habitat Comments:** Lakes, reservoirs, ponds, pools, and backwaters of large rivers. Tolerant of diverse conditions of temperature, oxygen level, and salinity. Eggs float until hatching.

**Adult Food Habits:** Herbivore

**Immature Food Habits:** Herbivore

**Food Comments:** Eats mainly vegetation. Young first feed on plankton, then switch to macrophytes. Adults seek fibrous plants. May also eat invertebrates and small fishes, especially in devegetated ponds. Intensive feeding occurs only when temperature at least 20 C.

**Length:** 125 centimeters

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## Population/Occurrence Delineation

**Group Name:** LARGE CYPRINIDS

**Use Class:** Not applicable

**Minimum Criteria for an Occurrence:** Occurrences are based on evidence of historical presence, or current and likely recurring presence, at a given location. Such evidence minimally includes collection or reliable observation and documentation of one or more individuals (including eggs and larvae) in appropriate habitat.

**Separation Barriers:** Dam lacking a suitable fishway; high waterfall; upland habitat.

**Separation Distance for Unsuitable Habitat:** 20 km

**Separation Distance for Suitable Habitat:** 20 km

**Separation Justification:** Data on dispersal and other movements generally are not available. In some species, individuals may migrate variable distances between spawning areas and nonspawning habitats.

Separation distances (in aquatic kilometers) for cyprinids are arbitrary but reflect the presumption that movements and appropriate separation distances generally should increase with fish size. Hence small, medium, and large cyprinids, respectively, have increasingly large separation distances. Separation distance reflects the likely low probability that two occupied locations separated by less than many kilometers of aquatic habitat would represent truly independent populations over the long term.

Because of the difficulty in defining suitable versus unsuitable habitat, especially with respect to dispersal, and to simplify the delineation of occurrences, a single separation distance is used regardless of habitat quality.

Occupied locations that are separated by a gap of 10 km or more of any aquatic habitat that is not known to be occupied represent different occurrences. However, it is important to evaluate seasonal changes in habitat to ensure that an occupied habitat occurrence for a particular population does not artificially separate spawning areas and nonspawning areas as different occurrences simply because there have been no collections/observations in an intervening area that may exceed the separation distance.

**Date:** 21Sep2004

**Author:** Hammerson, G.

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## Population/Occurrence Viability

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## Authors/Contributors

**Management Information Edition Date:** 13Feb2003

**Element Ecology & Life History Edition Date:** 05May1993

**Element Ecology & Life History Author(s):** Hammerson, G.

Zoological data developed by NatureServe and its network of natural heritage programs (see [Local Programs](#)) and other contributors and cooperators (see [Sources](#)).

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**Note:** This report was printed on **May 18, 2005** .

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**Citation for data on website including Watershed and State Distribution maps:**

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**Citation for Bird Range Maps of North America:**

Ridgely, R.S., T.F. Allnutt, T. Brooks, D.K. McNicol, D.W. Mehlman, B.E. Young, and J.R. Zook. 2003. Digital Distribution Maps of the Birds of the Western Hemisphere, version 1.0. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia, USA.

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"Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Robert Ridgely, James Zook, The Nature Conservancy - Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International - CABS, World Wildlife Fund - US,

and Environment Canada - WILDSPACE."

**Citation for Mammal Range Maps of North America:**

Patterson, B.D., G. Ceballos, W. Sechrest, M.F. Tognelli, T. Brooks, L. Luna, P. Ortega, I. Salazar, and B. E. Young. 2003. Digital Distribution Maps of the Mammals of the Western Hemisphere, version 1.0. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia, USA.

**Acknowledgement Statement for Mammal Range Maps of North America:**

"Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Bruce Patterson, Wes Sechrest, Marcelo Tognelli, Gerardo Ceballos, The Nature Conservancy-Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International-CABS, World Wildlife Fund-US, and Environment Canada-WILDSPACE."

NOTE: Full metadata for the Bird Range Maps of North America is available at:

<http://www.natureserve.org/library/birdDistributionmapsmetadatav1.pdf>.

Full metadata for the Mammal Range Maps of North America is available at:

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