

Summary

Conservation Status

Distribution

Image

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Green Sunfish

Unique Identifier: AFCQB11020

Informal Taxonomy: Animals, Vertebrates - Fishes

- Bony Fishes - Sunfishes and Freshwater Basses



© Noel Burkhead & Virginia Dept of Game and Inland Fisheries (Fishes of Virginia)

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus
Animalia	Craniata	Actinopterygii	Perciformes	Centrarchidae	Lepomis

Genus Size: C - Small genus (6-20 species)**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:** *Lepomis cyanellus***Taxonomic Comments:** Reported to hybridize with LEPOMIS GULOSUS, L. MACROCHIRUS, and L. MEGALOTIS. Though the gender of the name LEPOMIS is feminine (see Bailey and Robins, 1988, Bull. Zool. Nomencl. 45(2):100), the 1991 AFS checklist (Robins et al. 1991) retained the masculine ending for CYANELLUS and other species, pending a vote by the ICZN on a petition (by Etnier and Warren) to treat LEPOMIS as masculine for nomenclatural purposes.**Conservation Status****NatureServe Status****Global Status:** G5**Global Status Last Reviewed:** 23Sep1996**Global Status Last Changed:** 23Sep1996**Rounded Global Status:** G5**Nation:** United States**National Status:**

N5

Nation: Canada**National Status:**

N3N4

U.S. & Canada State/Province Status

United States	Alabama (S5), Arizona (SNA), Arkansas (S4), California (SNA), Colorado (S5), Connecticut (SNA), Delaware (SNA), District of Columbia (SNA), Florida (SNR), Georgia (S5), Idaho (SNA), Illinois (S5), Indiana (S4), Iowa (S5), Kansas (S5), Kentucky (S4S5), Louisiana (S5), Maine (SNR), Maryland (SNA), Massachusetts (SNA), Michigan (S5), Minnesota (SNR), Mississippi (S5), Missouri (SNR), Montana (SNA), Navajo Nation (SNA), Nebraska (S5), Nevada (SNA), New Jersey (SNA), New Mexico (SNA), New York (S3), North Carolina (SNA), North Dakota (SNR), Ohio (SNR), Oklahoma (S5), Oregon (SNA), Pennsylvania (S5), South Carolina (SNR), South Dakota (S5), Tennessee (S5), Texas (S5), Utah (SNA), Virginia (S5), Washington (SNA), West Virginia (S5), Wisconsin (S5), Wyoming (SNA)
Canada	Ontario (S4)

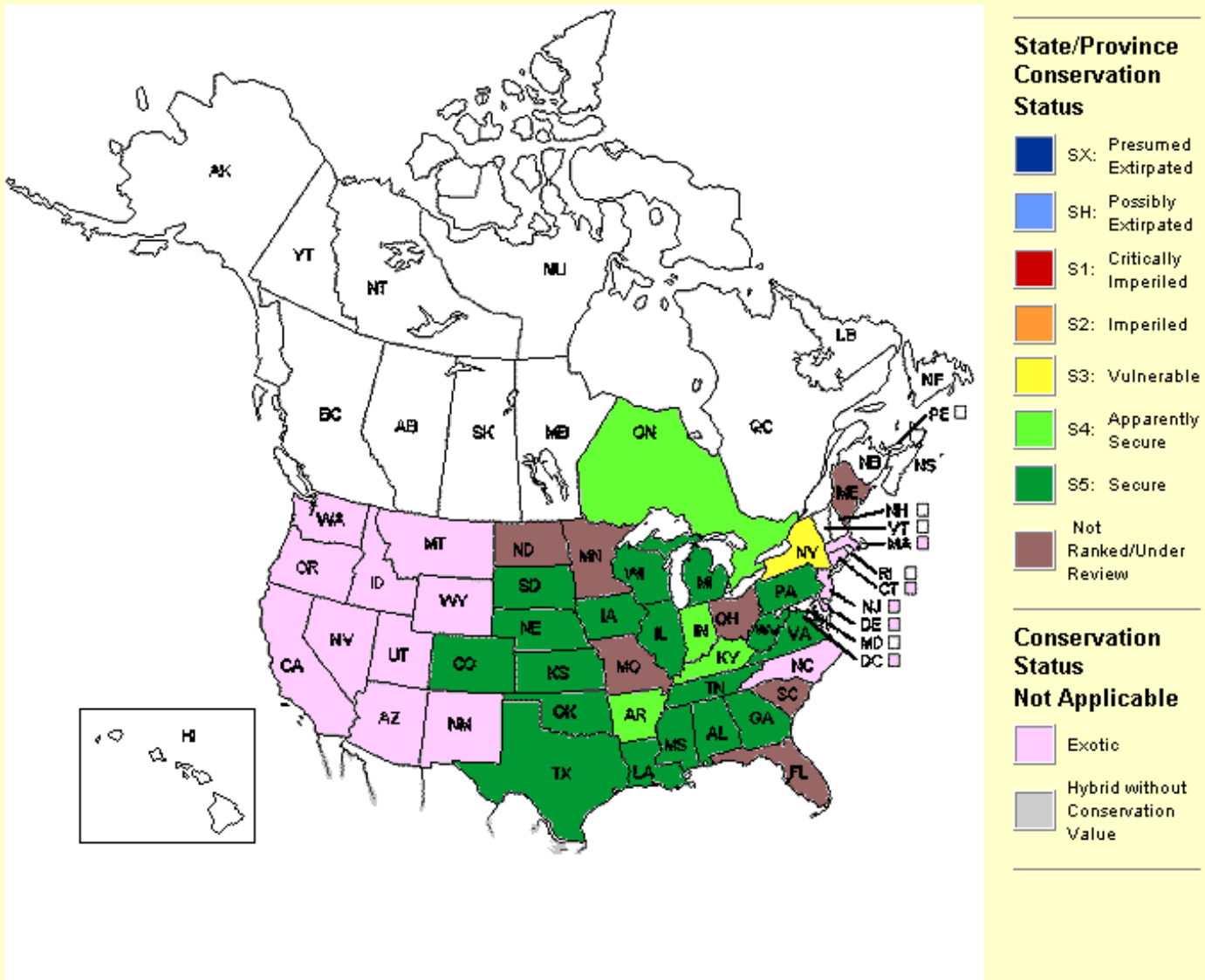
Other Statuses

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Not at Risk (01Jan1987)

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

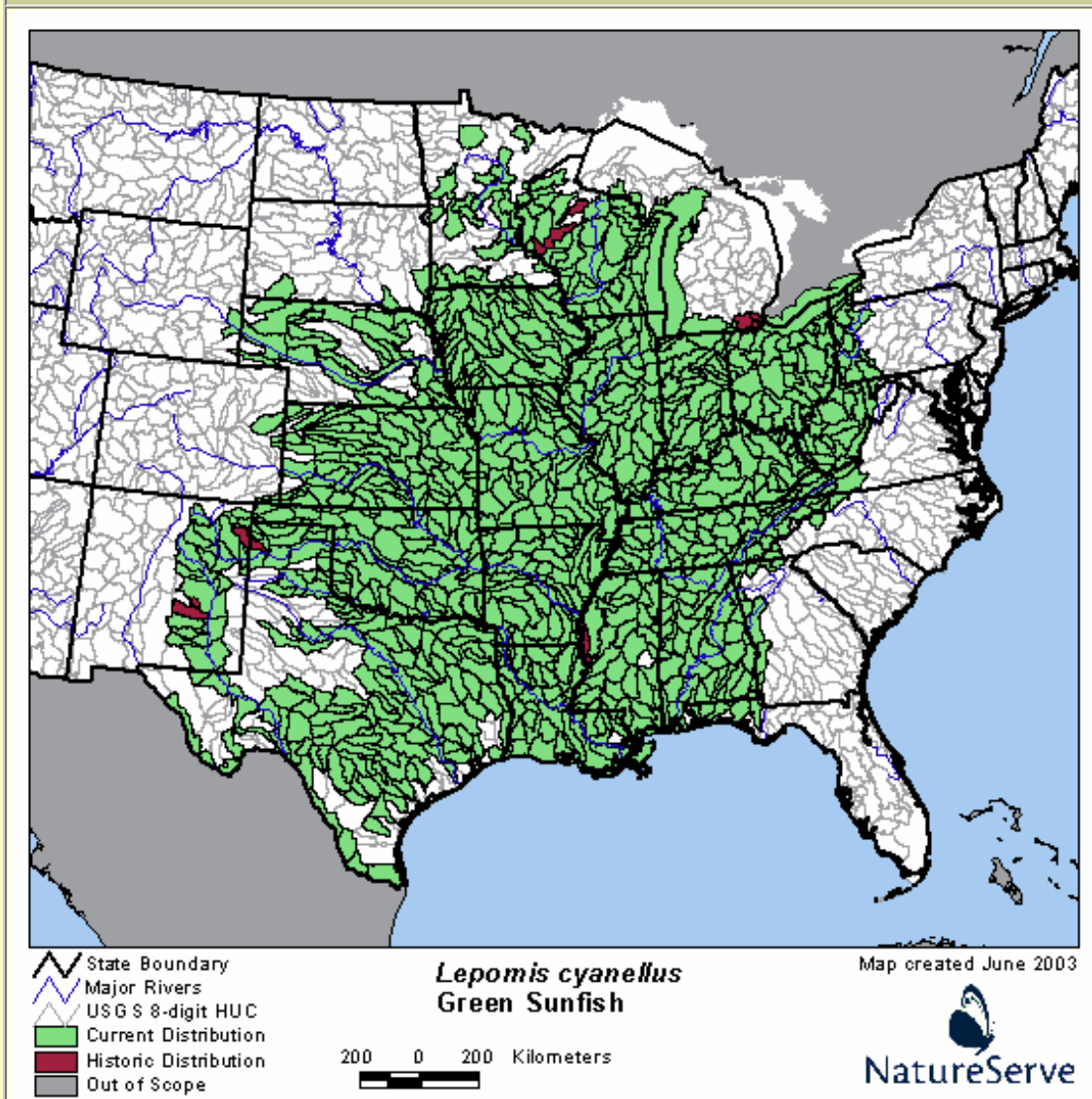
United States	AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NM, NN, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, WV, WY
Canada	ON

Range Map

No map available.

Global Range Comments: Native to most of central and eastern U.S. west of Appalachians, east of Continental Divide, from Great Lakes region (including Great Lakes, Hudson Bay, and Mississippi River basins) south to Gulf Coast states and northeastern Mexico (Gulf Slope drainages from Escambia River, Florida, and Mobile Bay, Georgia and Alabama, to Rio Grande, Texas; introduced widely elsewhere in U.S. and in Germany. Generally common to abundant.

U.S. Distribution by Watershed (based on multiple information sources)



Economic Attributes

Management Summary

Ecology & Life History

Reproduction Comments: Spawns in spring and summer; eggs hatch in about 2 days; male generally guards nest for about 5-7 days; usually sexually mature at beginning of 3rd year; may nest in colony or singly (Moyle 1976, Becker 1983).

Ecology Comments

Relatively sedentary; may return to same home range in successive years (Becker 1983).

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: Sluggish warm streams, ponds, and shallow weedy margins of lakes. Usually in vicinity of weed beds. Tolerates both clear and turbid water. Characteristic of, and one the last survivors in, residual pools in intermittent streams in Great Plains region. Eggs are deposited in a single or colonial nest made by the male, often on fine gravel or sandy silt near cover in shallow water 4-355 cm deep (Moyle 1976, Sublette et al. 1990).

Adult Food Habits: Invertivore, Piscivore

Immature Food Habits: Invertivore, Piscivore

Food Comments: Feeds opportunistically on the larger, more active invertebrates that occur with them, and on small fishes. Young feed mostly on crustaceans (zooplankton) and aquatic insect larvae. Adults eat more large aquatic and terrestrial insects, crayfish, and fishes.

Length: 25 centimeters

Population/Occurrence Delineation

Group Name: SUNFISHES (CENTRARCHIDS)

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: 10 km

Separation Distance for Suitable Habitat: 10 km

Separation Justification: Separation distance is arbitrary. Although members of this group vary in size and probably in typical movement distances, it is likely that even the smallest centrarchids occasionally disperse as far as do large centrarchids. Hence a single separation distance is used for all members of the family. 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.

Date: 25Jun2001

Author: Hammerson, G.

Notes: Note that some species some species may at time be hard to detect. For example, nowhere is the Carolina pygmy sunfish known to be abundant. In addition, it is essentially an annual species, with adults dying soon after spawning, at an age of 12-15 months. In addition, young are so small that, for a several months, documentation of the species' presence at a particular locality might be almost impossible, at least without preserving specimens. Therefore, negative data at a known locality should be carefully interpreted (P. Shute).

Population/Occurrence Viability

Authors/Contributors

Element Ecology & Life History Edition Date: 03Aug1993

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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Acknowledgement Statement for Bird Range Maps of North America:

"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:

<http://www.natureserve.org/library/mammalsDistributionmetadatav1.pdf>.

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