Lepomis punctatus - (Valenciennes, 1831)
Spotted Sunfish
Unique Identifier: ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.100708
Element Code: AFCQB11100
Informal Taxonomy: Animals, Vertebrates - Fishes - Bony Fishes - Sunfishes and Freshwater Basses

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

Genus Size: C - Small genus (6-20 species)

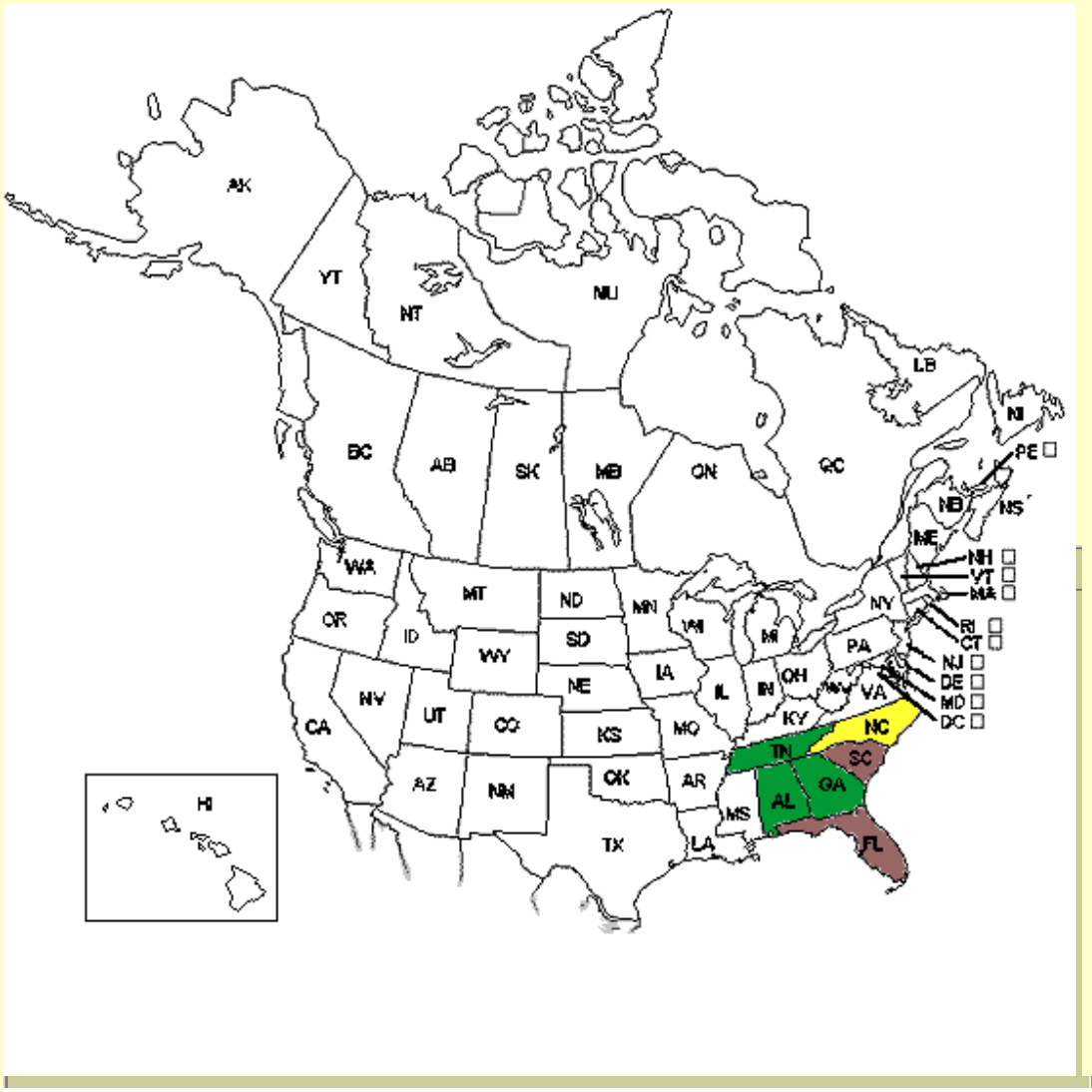
Check this box to expand all report sections: ☐

Concept Reference

Conservation Status

Distribution

U.S. States and Canadian Provinces



State/Province Conservation Status

- SX: Presumed Extirpated
- SH: Possibly Extirpated
- S1: Critically Imperiled
- S2: Imperiled
- S3: Vulnerable
- S4: Apparently Secure
- S5: Secure
- Not Ranked/Under Review (SNR/SU)

Conservation Status Not Applicable (SNA)

- Exotic
- Hybrid without Conservation Value

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

U.S. & Canada State/Province Distribution

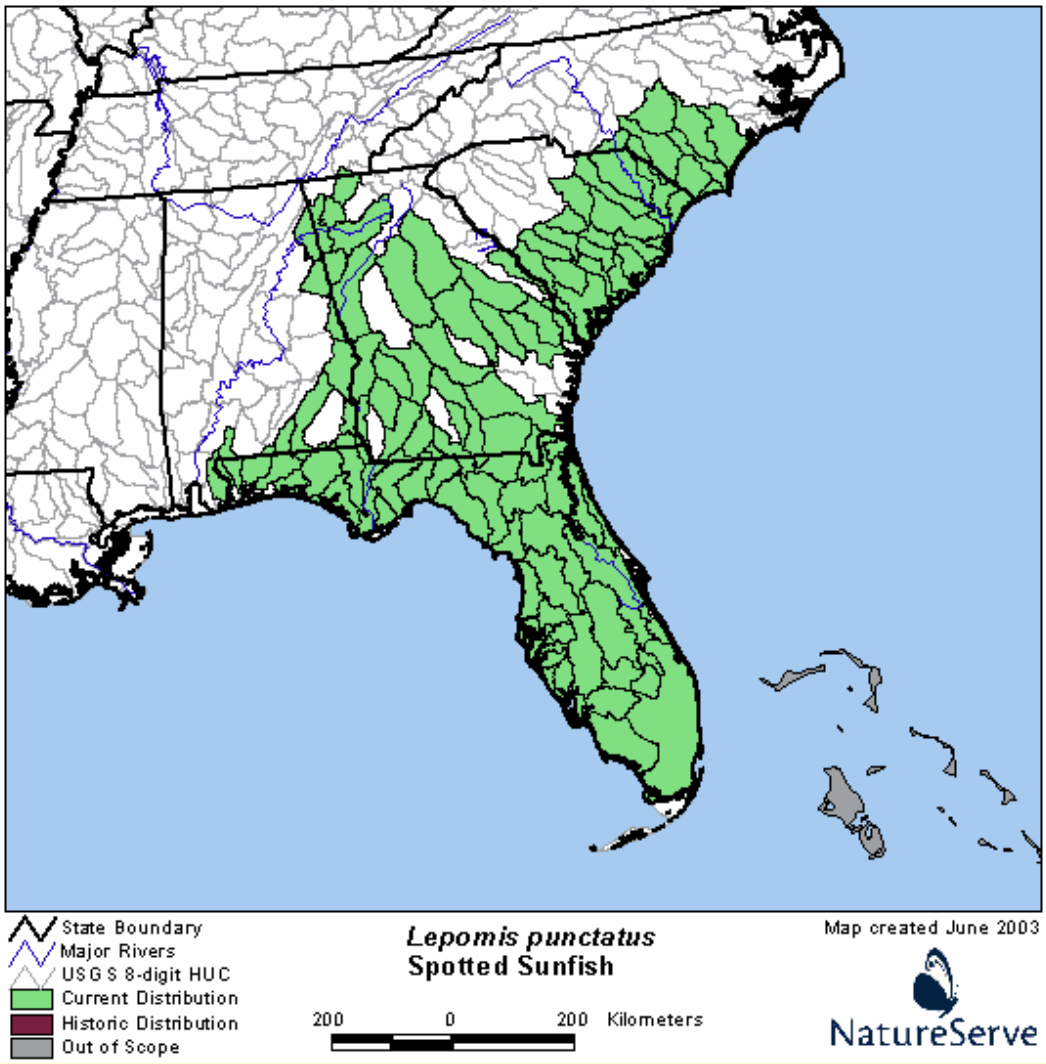
United States AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

Range Map

No map available.

Global Range Comments: Atlantic and Gulf Slope drainages east of about the Apalachicola River system; North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, most of Florida, Alabama, and southeastern Tennessee. More common in the south than in the north.

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



Ecology & Life History

Basic Description: A fish (sunfish) not more than 20 cm long.

Reproduction Comments: Spawns from early spring to November in Florida; peak during May-August; male guards eggs; sexually mature at 2 years old or older (Manooch 1984, Lee et al. 1980, Etnier and Starnes 1993).

Habitat Type: Freshwater

Non-Migrant: Y

Locally Migrant: N

Long Distance Migrant: N

Collapse

Estuarine Habitat(s): River mouth/tidal river

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

Lacustrine Habitat(s): Shallow water

Palustrine Habitat(s): FORESTED WETLAND

Special Habitat Factors: Benthic

Habitat Comments: Swamps, sloughs, bottomland lakes, pools of creeks and small to medium rivers, less brackish portions of coastal estuaries; common in quiet or moderately flowing waters with heavy vegetation or other cover and bottom of mud or sand. Eggs are laid in a nest made on the bottom in shallow water near cover by the male.

Adult Food Habits: Invertivore

Immature Food Habits: Invertivore

Food Comments: Feeds mainly on benthic insects and crustaceans; sometimes eats terrestrial insects that enter the water.

Length: 20 centimeters

Economic Attributes

Management Summary

Population/Occurrence Delineation

Not yet assessed

Type Name: SUNFISHES (CENTRARCHIDS)

Not yet assessed

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

U.S. Invasive Species Impact Rank (I-Rank)

Not yet assessed

Not yet assessed