Ironcolor Shiner (*Notropis chalybaeus*)

Historical Presence	Abundance	Life History	Management
Native	Rare	Freshwater	Conservation

General Information

Once historically widespread, abundance of this tiny minnow species has greatly decreased in NJ and is Endangered in 3 neighboring states. It has been classified as Vulnerable by the American Fisheries Society. In 2016, the NJ Endangered and Nongame Advisory Committee recommended an Endangered status for this species, but no formal rule proposal has been filed to date. This species is very similar in overall appearance, habitat, and life history to the Bridle Shiner.

Geographic Range	Atlantic coast from cen. FL to s. NY; Gulf of Mexico as far west as LA, northward along the Mississippi R., and some tributaries as far north as IL. Additional isolated populations in TX, IL, IN, and WI. Scattered records for this species occur within NJ's Atlantic, Delaware R., and Delaware Bay drainages, but most are from the southern portion of the State.

Habitat Description

Found in warm, low-gradient, usually clear creeks and streams. Preference to vegetated pools with sandy bottoms as well as slow runs. Occupy waters as acidic as 4.2 but typical prefers more neutral conditions. Rarely observed in lakes and other standing waters but could potentially inhabit the inlet or outlet.

Optimum Habitat Requirements	
Dissolved Oxygen	
Temperature	
pH	6.2 – 6.9
Turbidity	Low
Current	Low

Diet	
Fry	Zooplankton
Juveniles	Small aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates
Adults	Small aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates
Notes: Stomachless fish with toothless jaws. Food is chewed by pharyngeal teeth.	

Reproduction

Time of Year	May – July	**Age Males Mature**	1
Temperature Range	15 – 25 °C	**Age Females Mature**	1
Water Depth	1 m	**Nest**	None
Substrate	Sand	**Egg Type**	Demersal
Time of Day	Daylight	**Parental Care**	None
Critical pH	~ 7	**Days to Hatching**	2 – 2.5
Velocity Range	Low	**Oxygen Level**	
Notes:			

Size and Growth

Adults typically 24-40 mm up to a maximum of 65 mm. Short lived species with lifespan of ~ 2 years.

References

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