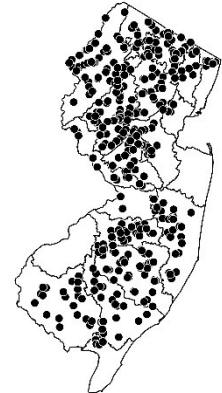


# Yellow Bullhead (*Amerius natalis*)

Historical Presence	Abundance	Life History	Management
Native	Common	Freshwater	Sportfish/Pinelands

## General Information

One of NJ's native catfish species, it is widely distributed throughout the State in ponds and low-gradient streams, including the Pinelands region. Yellow Bullhead are distinguished from the similar in appearance Brown Bullhead by the presence of pale white or yellow chin barbels. Yellow Bullhead are tolerant of low dissolved oxygen and warm water temperatures but are intolerant of silt and turbidity. They are also more tolerant of acidic conditions than Brown Bullhead.



## Geographic Range

Native to Atlantic and Gulf Slope drainages from NY to n. Mexico; St Lawrence-Great Lakes and Mississippi R. Basins from s. QC west to cen. ND and south to Gulf. Widely introduced.

## Habitat Description

Pools, backwaters and sluggish current over soft substrate in creeks and small to large rivers; oxbows, ponds and shallow impoundments. Often associate with aquatic vegetation.

## Optimum Habitat Requirements

Dissolved Oxygen	> 0.1 – 0.3 mg/L (tolerance)
Temperature	27 – 29 °C
pH	Tolerates acidic waters
Turbidity	Clear
Current	Calm/slow

## Diet

Fry	Microcrustaceans, insect larvae
Juveniles	Insect larvae, crayfish, mollusks, small fish, plant material
Adults	

**Notes:** Nocturnal omnivorous feeder

## Reproduction

Time of Year	April – June	Age Males Mature	2 – 3
Temperature Range	23 – 28 °C	Age Females Mature	2 – 3
Water Depth		Nest	Burrow/depression near cover
Substrate		Egg Type	Demersal (adhesive)
Time of Day		Parental Care	Male and female guard
Critical pH		Days to Hatching	5 – 10
Velocity Range	Calm	Oxygen Level	

**Notes:** Parents guard nest and compact school of young until they are about 50 mm long.

## Size and Growth

Adults typically 120-300 mm up to a maximum 470 mm. Typical longevity is 4-7 years of age up to a maximum of 12 years.

## References

(Cooper and Washburn 1949; Lagler and Smith 1964; Reynolds and Casterlin 1978; Murie et al. 2009)

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