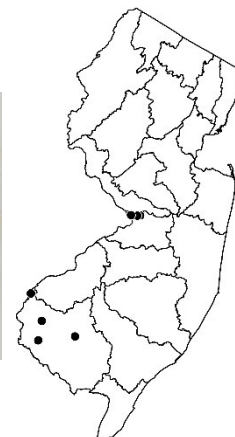


Warmmouth (*Lepomis gulosus*)

Historical Presence	Abundance	Life History	Management
Non-Native	Rare	Freshwater	Invasive

General Information

A moderate sized sunfish, they are considered invasive in NJ. They are locally common in select waters but are not widely found throughout the State. Warmmouth appear to look like a hybrid between multiple sunfish species. Most similar in appearance to Green Sunfish, Warmouth can be distinguished by the presence of dark bars on its cheek radiating from its eye. It can also be confused with Rock Bass, from which Warmouth differ in having 3 rather than 5-6 anal spines. The Warmouth's large mouth allows it to feed on a wide variety of prey items.



Geographic Range

Native to Great Lakes and Mississippi R. basins from ON and PA to MN, and south to Gulf; Atlantic and Gulf drainages from James R., VA, to Rio Grande, TX. Introduced to Pacific drainages in w. U.S.

Habitat Description

Pools and backwaters of low gradient creeks, streams, and rivers; as well as swamps, lakes and ponds. They frequently associate with dense aquatic vegetation and other cover, usually over soft substrate. Known to inhabit highly acidic waters.

Optimum Habitat Requirements

Dissolved Oxygen	> 3.6 mg/L
Temperature	25 – 30 °C
pH	4 – 9.5
Turbidity	Variable
Current	Calm/slow

Diet

Fry	Plankton, small insects
Juveniles	Crayfish, fish, insects, snails
Adults	
Notes:	

Reproduction

Time of Year	April – August	Age Males Mature	1 – 2
Temperature Range	21 – 27 °C	Age Females Mature	1 – 2
Water Depth	0.05 – 1.5 m	Nest	Oval-depressions
Substrate	Sand/gravel/silt/mud	Egg Type	Demersal (adhesive)
Time of Day		Parental Care	Male guards
Critical pH		Days to Hatching	~ 1.5
Velocity Range	Calm/slow	Oxygen Level	> 6 mg/L

Notes: Nests are built near cover in shallow, protected areas over a variety of substrates. Potential to hybridize with other sunfishes. Nests may or may not be in close proximity to others.

Size and Growth

Adults typically 85-200 mm up to a maximum 310 mm. Maximum longevity is ~ 8 years of age.

References

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