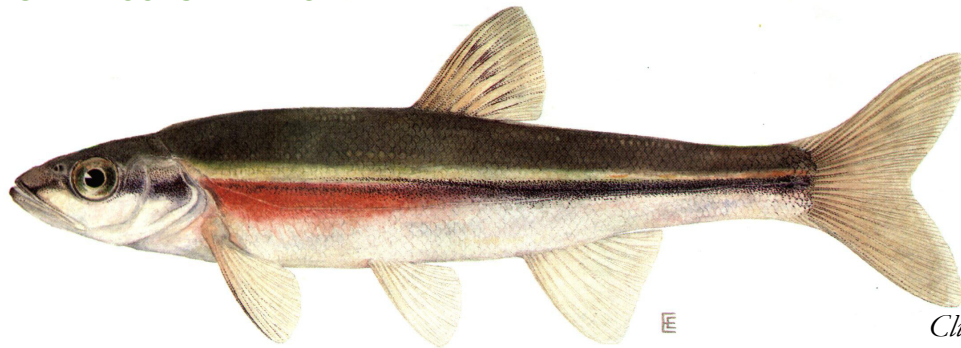


Aquatic Species at Risk



The Redside Dace... a Species at Risk in Canada

COSEWIC Status - ENDANGERED, April 2007
SARA Status - UNDER CONSIDERATION



Clinostomus elongatus
Illustration © Ellen Edmondson, NYSDEC

This species has been assessed as Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). It is currently being considered for listing under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. If listed as Endangered under

the Act, it will be afforded additional protection and a recovery strategy will be developed for this species. Additional protection for this species and its habitat is also afforded under Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007*.

General description

The Redside Dace (*Clinostomus elongatus*) is a very colourful fish in the carp and minnow family (Cyprinidae). Small and brightly coloured, the Redside Dace has the following features:

- wide, bright red stripe along the front half of the body (adults), with a longer, bright yellow stripe above it;
- large mouth with a protruding lower jaw;
- relatively small scales;
- coloured stripes that brighten during spring spawning and fade during late summer;
- males are more brightly coloured than females and have larger pectoral fins (the pair of fins behind the head);
- prior to spawning, males develop tubercles (small, rounded bumps) on the pectoral fins and top of the head; and
- maximum length of 12 cm.



Distribution

The Redside Dace has a discontinuous range in North America; it is currently found in isolated populations in the southern Great Lakes basin, the upper Mississippi drainage, and the upper Susquehanna River drainage. In Canada, the Redside Dace is found only in Ontario. Most populations are found in streams flowing into western Lake Ontario, although other populations are known from the Holland River system (Lake Simcoe drainage), Irvine Creek (Lake Erie drainage) and the gully creeks and Saugeen River (Lake Huron drainage). The Canadian distribution of the Redside Dace accounts for less than 10 per cent of its global range and populations of this minnow have declined from historical numbers in many areas throughout its range.

Habitat and life history

The Redside Dace is a coolwater minnow found in pools and slow-flowing areas of small and clear headwater streams over substrates (stream bottoms) of silt, gravel or boulders. Overhanging grasses and shrubs, as well as undercut banks, are an important part of their habitat, as are in-stream boulders and large woody debris. In May, spawning occurs in shallow riffle areas and eggs are often deposited in the gravel nests of other minnows. There is no parental care; however, the nest-guarding male and the nest itself may provide some protection to the eggs. Fish grow quickly and mature at around two years of age. The lifespan of the Redside Dace is generally four years or less.

Diet

The Redside Dace is a visual, surface feeder. Its large, upturned mouth is well suited to catching insects, such as adult flies, at the water surface or from overhanging vegetation. Sometimes, the Redside Dace will even jump several centimetres into the air to catch its insect prey.

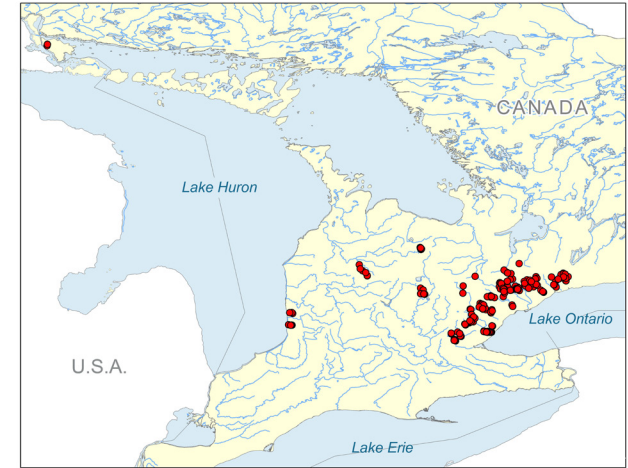
Threats

More than 80 per cent of the Redside Dace found in Canada occurs in the Greater Toronto Area of southern Ontario, making urban development its most serious threat. Habitat degradation and loss may result from changes in stream structure, such as channel widening, reservoir construction and decreased pool depth. As well, the removal of stream bank vegetation reduces food sources, bank stability and overhead cover, leading to impacts to water temperature and siltation. Similarly, intensive agricultural practices, such as row cropping, grazing, and use of pesticides and herbicides, threaten the water quality and habitat of the Redside Dace.

Similar species

A number of other minnows such as the Northern Redbelly Dace (*Chrosomus eos*), Finescale Dace (*Chrosomus neogaeus*), Blacknose Dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*), and Pearl Dace (*Margariscus margarita*) also develop a red stripe in adulthood; however, it extends back past the dorsal fin in these species, and their lower jaws do not protrude.

Distribution of Redside Dace in Canada



Text Sources: COSEWIC Assessment and Status report on the Redside Dace, *Clinostomus elongatus*, in Canada. 2007; Holm, E., N.E., Mandrak and M. Burridge. The ROM Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Ontario. Royal Ontario Museum. 2010; Recovery Strategy for Redside Dace (*Clinostomus elongatus*) in Ontario. Ontario Recovery Strategy Series. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. 2010.

For more information, visit the SARA Registry at www.SARAreistry.gc.ca or the website below.

Cette publication est également disponible en français.

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www.aquaticspeciesatrisk.gc.ca

Section 32 (1) of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) states that “no person shall kill, harm or harass, capture or take an individual of a wildlife species that is listed as an extirpated species, an endangered species or a threatened species.”