



Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Creek Chub *Semotilus atromaculatus*

State Status: **None**
Federal Status: **None**

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: The Creek Chub is similar to the Fallfish, which also has a leaf-like fleshy barbel in the groove behind the upper jaw. Care must be taken in looking for the barbels; they may rarely be absent from either or both sides. The species displays a distinctive, small spot near the anterior base of the dorsal fin and more than 50 lateral line scales. Young Creek Chub have a lateral band from the snout to the caudal base that often ends in a basi-caudal spot. Breeding males darken dorsally and have a yellow to rosy wash along the body. Adults from Massachusetts are usually 4 to 5 inches in length, but have the potential to reach twice that length. They live for four years or more. The Creek Chub is opportunistic, feeding at all depths in the stream, most intensively in the evening. The diet includes a wide range of aquatic insect larvae and pupae, fishes, and mollusks. Burrowing bottom organisms are taken to a lesser extent because the Creek Chub seems to rely on sight to find food.

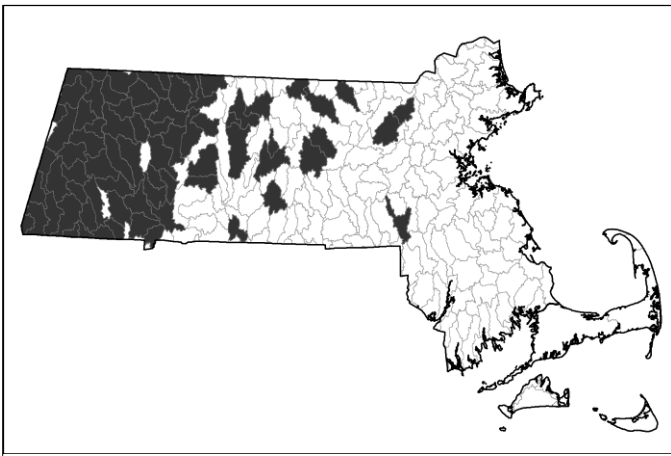
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HABITAT DESCRIPTION: In Massachusetts, this species is most often found in small streams with gravel bottoms.

THREATS: Water pollution and activities which increase turbidity are potential threats to this species.

REFERENCE:

This species description was adapted, with permission, from: Karsten E. Hartel, David B. Halliwell, and Alan E. Launer. 2002. *Inland Fishes of Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Massachusetts.



Data from DFW Fisheries Surveys and Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE: The Creek Chub is similar to the Fallfish, which also has a leaf-like fleshy barbel in the groove behind the upper jaw. Care must be taken in looking for the barbels; they may rarely be absent from either or both sides. The species displays

Updated 2015

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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