



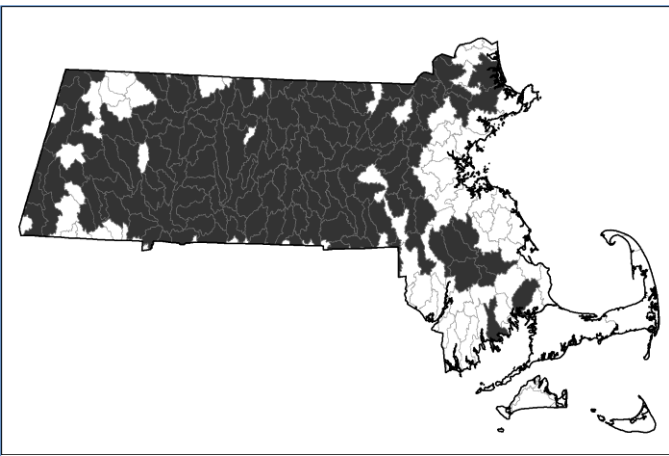
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Fallfish *Semotilus corporalis*

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

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: The Fallfish is similar in appearance to the Creek Chub, which also has a leaf-like, fleshy barbel in the groove behind the upper jaw, but adult Fallfish have diagnostic dark marks at the base of each scale and fewer than 50 lateral-line scales. Fallfish are silvery with a dark olive-brown to almost black dorsal area. Young Fallfish have a pronounced lateral band. This species is Massachusetts' largest native minnow. Adults just under a foot long are common. The largest recorded Massachusetts specimen measured 19 inches. Fallfish are omnivorous, eating plankton until they are about 1.5 inches long, and gradually switching to larger foods such as algae, insects, crayfish, and fishes. It takes five years for a Fallfish to reach about 8 inches, and almost 10 years to reach maximum size.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE: In Massachusetts, Fallfish are common in the Connecticut River Basin but rare in the eastern part of the state, where some populations have apparently disappeared in the last century.



Data from DFW Fisheries Surveys and Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: In Massachusetts, Fallfish are most often found in rivers and streams with rock and gravel substrates, but some populations occur in larger ponds and reservoirs. Adults migrate to areas with rock and gravel substrate in the spring.

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.

Updated 2015

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

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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