

Northern redbelly dace (*Phoxinus eos*)

Freshwater Fish Extirpated

Global Rank: G5 (secure)

State Rank: SX (presumed extirpated)

Description

The northern redbelly dace is a small fish, 40-55 mm in length. It has a black, olive to dark brown back. A dark lateral band extends from the snout to the caudal fin. The lower sides have a cream to silver color. Breeding males display a brilliant red belly and yellow fins (npwrc.usgs.gov).



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Behavior

The northern redbelly dace reaches maturity in the second summer of life and some individuals live at least 4 years. In Michigan, it will spawn throughout most of the summer. A single female will pair with one or more males and deposit non-adhesive eggs in masses of filamentous algae. It commonly hybridizes with the finescale dace, making identification difficult (Cooper 1983).

Diet

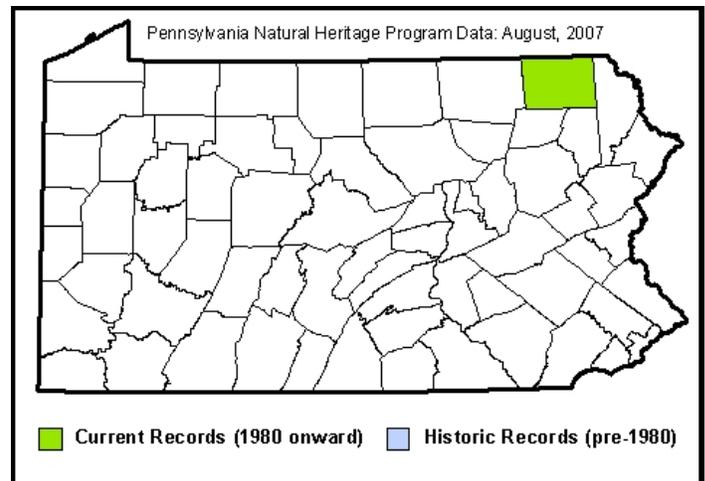
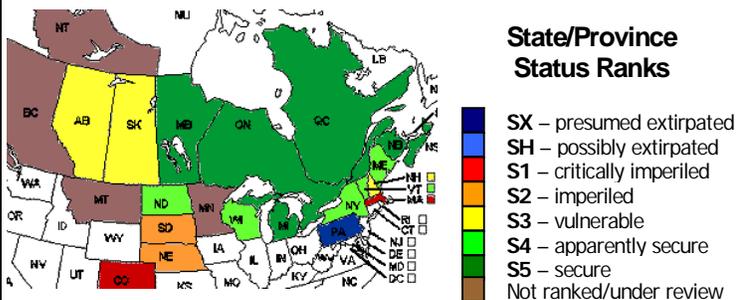
This dace species is one of a few fishes which eat large amounts of plant material. Filamentous algae are a very important component to the diet as well as a few zooplankton and small aquatic insects which have been found in stomach samples (Cooper 1983).

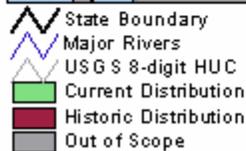
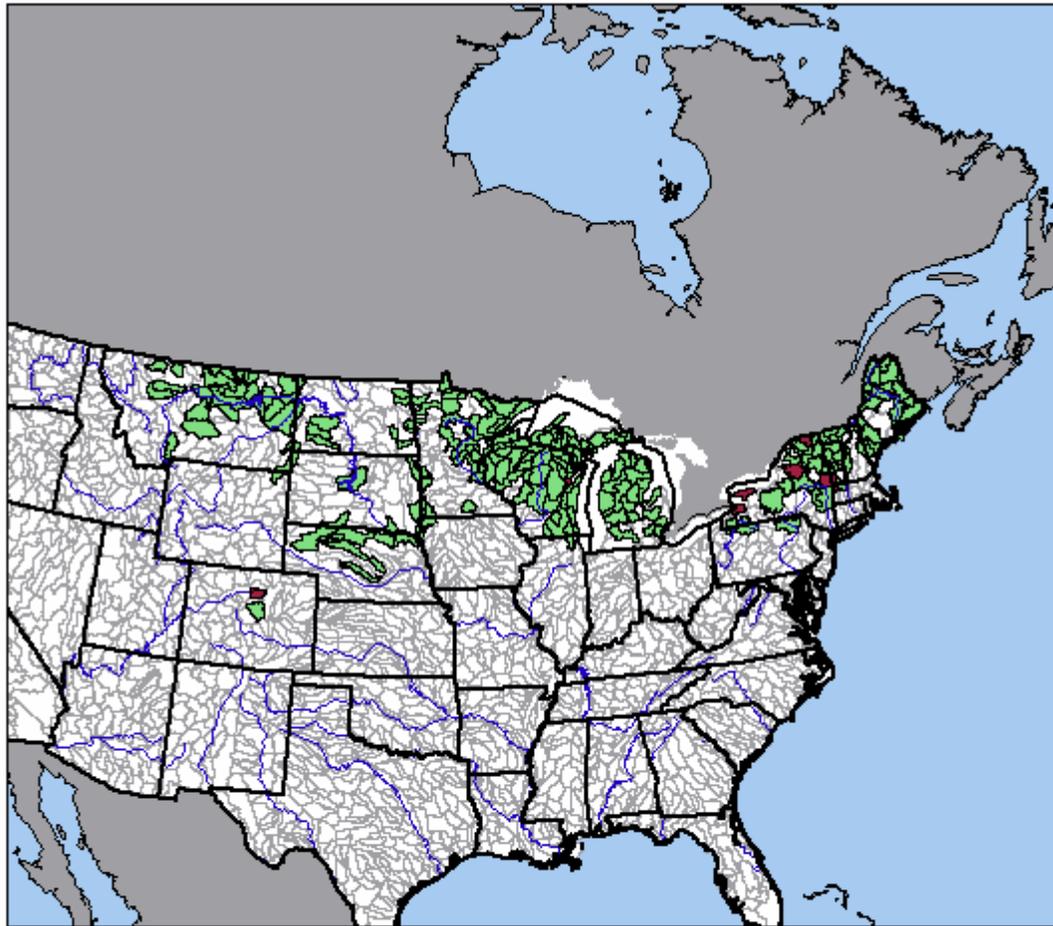
Threats and Protection Needs

The northern redbelly dace is globally secure but considered extirpated in Pennsylvania (naturalheritage.state.pa.us). According to Cooper, this dace species was only found in the Susquehanna drainage in Meshoppen Creek by Cope in 1862. It has not been subsequently found and it was not found in the 1935 New York survey of the Susquehanna or Delaware watersheds (Cooper 1983). The Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center for the USGS in South Dakota (2004) states that the fish is threatened by any activity adversely affecting the spring-fed streams it inhabits.

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (September 2007)





Phoxinus eos
Northern Redbelly Dace

Map created June 2003

200 0 200 Kilometers



Habitat

This species is found in boggy lakes, ponds, pools of headwaters and creeks. It is often in tea colored water over fine detritus or silt, usually near vegetation. It is a northern species, found in the Atlantic, Great Lakes, Hudson Bay, upper Mississippi and Missouri. It is found across the Canadian provinces from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, south to northern Pennsylvania and in Colorado (natureserve.org)

References



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

- Cooper, Edwin L. Fishes of Pennsylvania and the Northeastern United States. The Pennsylvania State University Press and University Park and London. 1983
- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: September 4, 2007).
- USGS. Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center. Fragile Legacy: Endangered, Threatened, and rare Animals of South Dakota. 2004 http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/wildlife/sdrare/species/phoxeos_.htm, Accessed: 9/15/2005.