

Canada's Aquatic Species at Risk

**You might find this small fish living near you.
It needs good quality water and habitat.
Learn how to recognize it and help protect it.**

The **Species at Risk Act** (SARA) was created in order to prevent wildlife species in Canada from becoming extinct, to provide for the recovery of species at risk and to manage species of special concern.

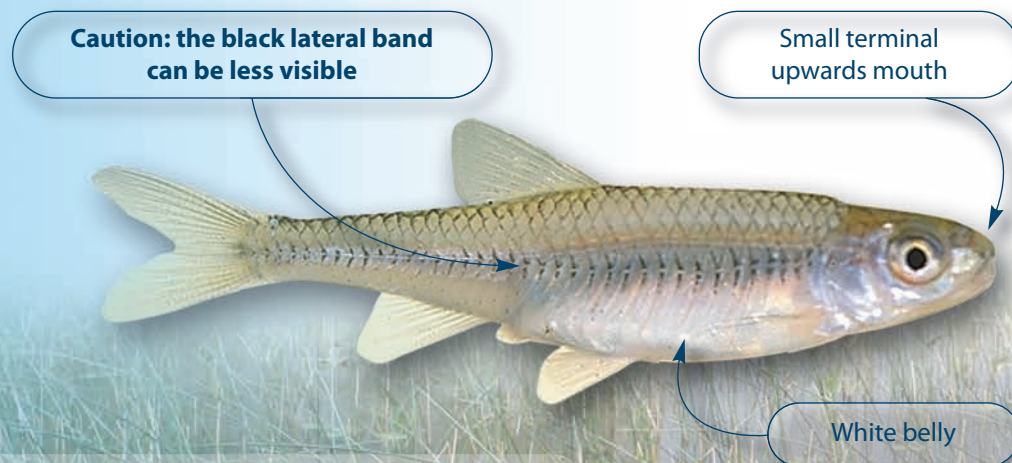
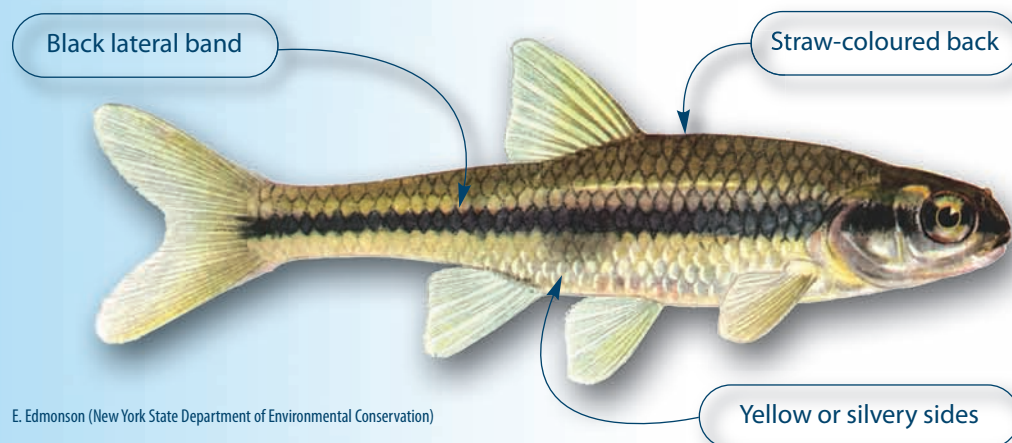
A management plan must be developed for species of concern such as the bridle shiner. The plan includes the measures required to conserve the species and its habitat.

The BRIDLE SHINER — a SPECIES of SPECIAL CONCERN



Adulte size: up to 60 mm

How to recognize it: identifying the bridle shiner can be difficult because it is similar to several shiner species.



Where to find them:

Bridle shiners live in areas of streams and lakes where there is plenty of aquatic vegetation. There they can feed, hide from predators and spawn. They prefer waterbeds of sand, silt or organic debris, and thrive in water that is relatively warm and clear.



Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P. Nilo



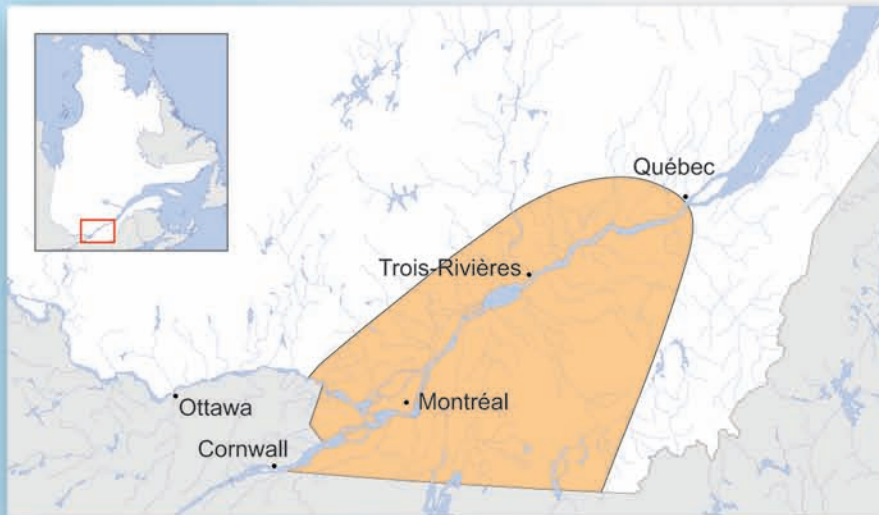
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You Have a Role to Play

Quebec Distribution



Bridle shiners live in the St. Lawrence River upstream of Québec and in the lakes and streams of the St. Lawrence River lowlands.

Threats

A number of human activities (farming, urban, forestry and recreational) can cause loss or degradation of the habitat of bridge shiners. Some of the main threats to the habitat of this species at risk are:

- reduced water quality due to chemicals, sediments and fertilizers,
- the removal or degradation of aquatic or shoreline vegetation,
- fluctuating water levels, and
- the disruption of natural water flow patterns, or barriers to the free passage of fish.

In addition, the use of the bridge shiner as a baitfish by recreational fishers can also constitute a threat to this species and hinder its conservation.

What is being done to support recovery?

The Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk and the Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk help fund recovery and awareness projects. For example, shorelines have been planted with vegetation to stabilize them and to restore the aquatic habitat.

A management plan for the bridge shiner has also been developed. It makes a synthesis of current knowledge, identifies threats to the species and its habitat and recommends measures to maintain and increase bridge shiner populations.

How can you take part in the recovery effort?

Waterfront residents: avoid disturbing the habitat of this species

- Preserve or restore natural aquatic and shoreline vegetation.
- Avoid driving vehicles on streambeds or shorelines.
- Avoid spreading fertilizer or pesticides.

Fishers: do not use these species as baitfish

- Learn how to recognize this species of special concern.
- If you catch an bridge shiner by accident, return the fish to the water immediately to give it the best possible chance of surviving.



Fisheries and Oceans Canada, C. Tremblay

A natural shoreline is key to a healthy stream or lake, because it keeps the temperature cool and oxygen levels up, and it provides food and cover. It also serves as a protective barrier to pollutants and a natural protection against shoreline erosion.

To find out more: Visit the Species at Risk Public Registry: www.sararegistry.gc.ca.