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Esox americanus - Gmelin, 1789

Redfin Pickerel

Other English Common Names: Grass Pickerel

Unique Identifier: ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.103671

Element Code: AFCHD01010

Informal Taxonomy: Animals, Vertebrates - Fishes - Bony Fishes - Other Bony Fishes

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Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus
Animalia	Craniata	Actinopterygii	Esociformes	Esocidae	Esox

Genus Size: B - Very small genus (2-5 species)

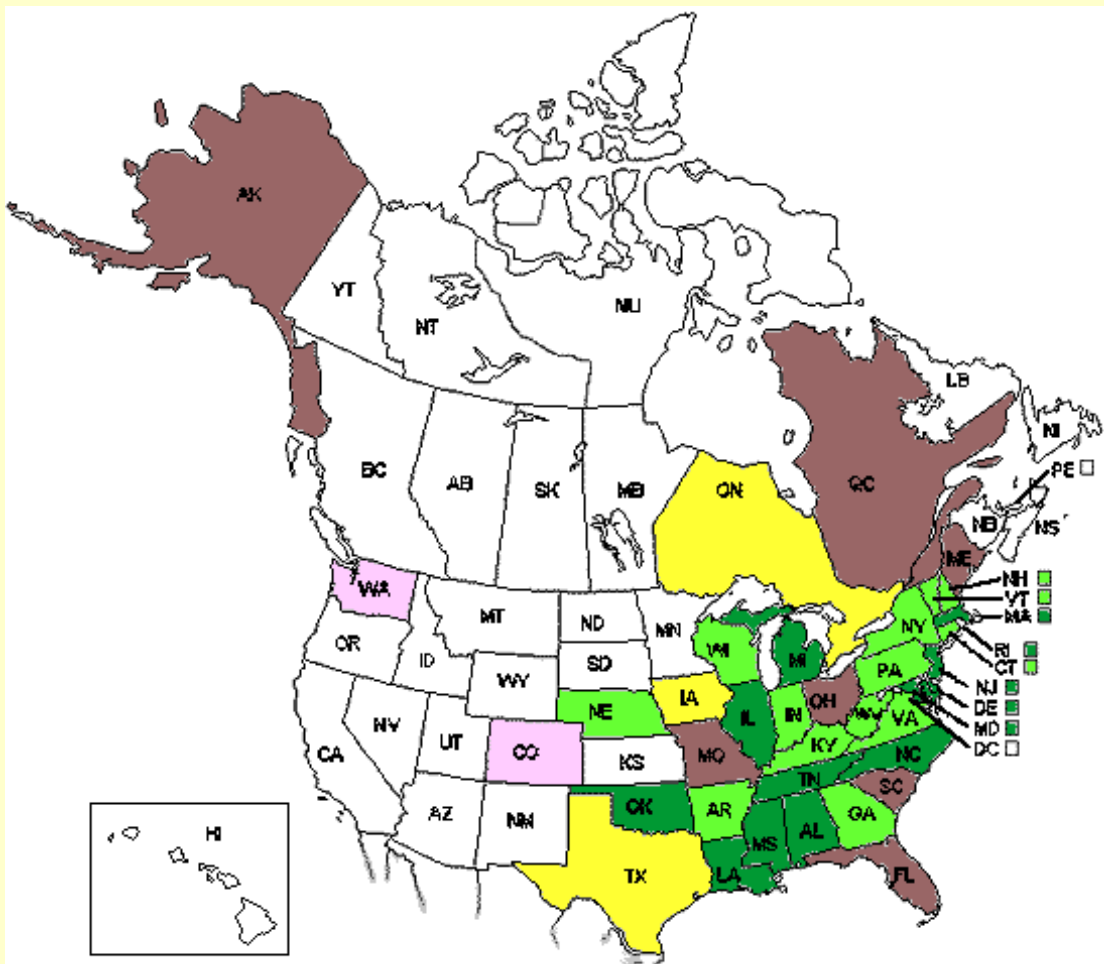
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Concept Reference 

Conservation Status 

Distribution

U.S. States and Canadian Provinces



State/Province Conservation Status

- SX: Presumed Extirpated
- SH: Possibly Extirpated
- S1: Critically Imperiled
- S2: Imperiled
- S3: Vulnerable
- S4: Apparently Secure
- S5: Secure
- Not Ranked/Under Review (SNR/SU)

Conservation Status Not Applicable (SNA)

- Exotic
- Hybrid without Conservation Value

Endemism: occurs (regularly, as a native taxon) in multiple nations

U.S. & Canada State/Province Distribution

United States AK, AL, AR, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, MS, NC, NE, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV
 Canada ON, QC

Range Map

No map available.

Global Range Comments: Atlantic Slope from the St. Lawrence River drainage, Quebec, to Lake Okeechobee, Florida; Gulf drainages west to the Brazos River, Texas; Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins north to Nebraska, Wisconsin, Michigan, and southern Ontario; absent in Appalachian uplands; common (Page and Burr 1991). Introduced in various localities in the western U. S. (e.g., Washington, California, Colorado) and eastern U.S. Subspecies *AMERICANUS*: Atlantic Slope drainages south to southern Georgia. Subspecies *VERMICULATUS*: remainder of range, with intergradation in most of Florida and in Gulf Slope drainages west to the Pascagoula River.

U.S. Distribution by County (based on available natural heritage records) ?

State County Name (FIPS Code)

IA Des Moines (19057), Louisa (19115), Muscatine (19139)
 NE Cherry (31031), Holt (31089), Sioux (31165)

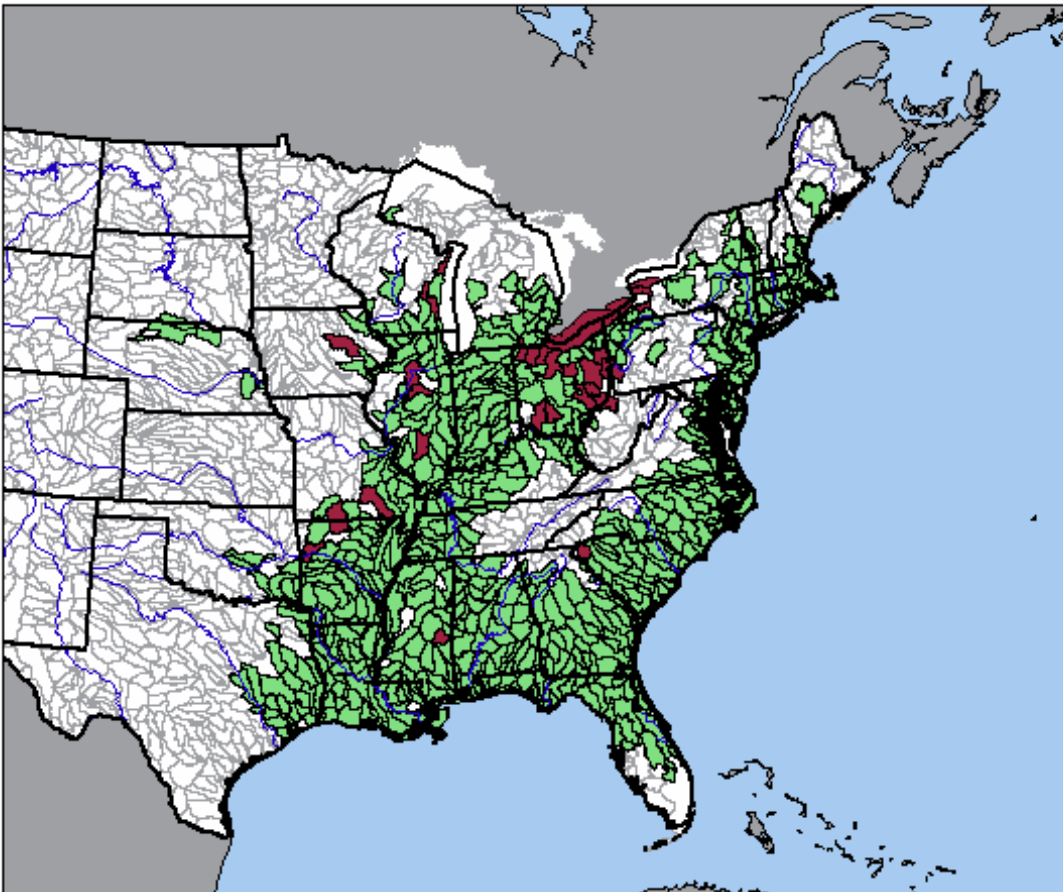
U.S. Distribution by Watershed (based on available natural heritage records) ?

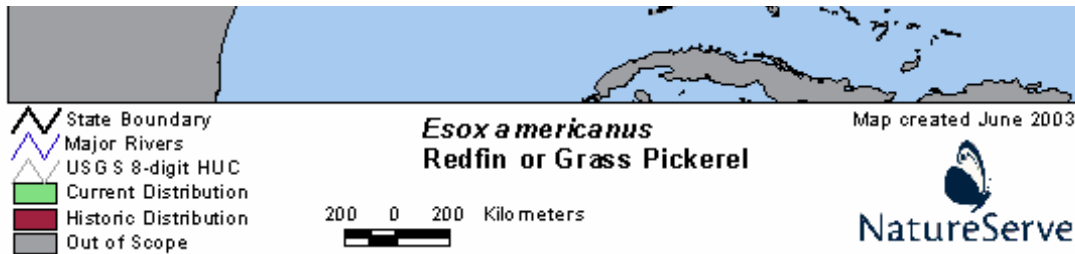
Watershed Region

Watershed Name (Watershed Code)

? -
 07 Copperas-Duck (07080101), Flint-Henderson (07080104), Lower Cedar (07080206), Lower Iowa (07080209)
 10 Niobrara Headwaters (10150002), Middle Niobrara (10150004), Upper Elkhorn (10220001)

U.S. Distribution by Watershed (based on multiple information sources) ?





Ecology & Life History

Reproduction Comments: Spawns mainly in spring but also sometimes in fall. Eggs hatch in about 11-15 days. Sexually mature by age 2.

Ecology Comments

Not territorial (Lee et al. 1980).

Habitat Type: Freshwater

Non-Migrant: N

Locally Migrant: N

[Collapse](#)

Long Distance Migrant: N

Riverine Habitat(s): CREEK, Low gradient, MEDIUM RIVER, Pool

Lacustrine Habitat(s): Shallow water

Palustrine Habitat(s): HERBACEOUS WETLAND

Habitat Comments: Small quiet heavily vegetated waters: pools and backwaters of streams, canals, ponds, and bays of small lakes; more often in streams than in lakes. Eggs sink and stick to bottom and vegetation. May move upstream to spawn in flooded stream margins or marshes where vegetation is abundant (Scott and Crossman 1973).

Adult Food Habits: Invertivore, Piscivore

Immature Food Habits: Invertivore, Piscivore

Food Comments: Young-of-year eat small crustaceans and immature insects, larger fishes mainly piscivorous but also eat crayfish and other invertebrates (Lee et al. 1980).

Length: 38 centimeters

Economic Attributes

Management Summary

Population/Occurrence Delineation

Not yet assessed
Name: PIKES AND PICKERELS

Not yet assessed
Use Class: Not applicable

Not yet assessed
Minimum Criteria for an Occurrence: Occurrences are based on evidence of historical presence, or current and likely recurring presence, at a given location. Such evidence minimally includes collection or reliable observation and documentation of one or

more individuals (including larvae or eggs) in appropriate habitat where the species is presumed to be established and breeding.

Separation Barriers: Dam; high waterfall; upland habitat.

Separation Distance for Unsuitable Habitat: 10 km

Separation Distance for Suitable Habitat: 10 km

Separation Justification: Data on dispersal and other movements generally are not available. However, individual muskellunge may migrate up to at least 40 km between spawning areas and nonspawning areas (Becker 1983), so occurrences may be large. It is important to evaluate seasonal changes in habitat to ensure that an occupied habitat occurrence for a particular population does not artificially separate spawning areas and nonspawning areas as different occurrences.

Separation distances (in stream kilometers) are arbitrary but reflect the probability that these relatively large fishes move large distances and so warrant a large separation distance. Because of the difficulty in defining suitable versus unsuitable habitat, especially with respect to dispersal, and to simplify the delineation of occurrences, a single separation distance is used regardless of habitat quality. A gap of 10 km or more of any apparently unoccupied aquatic habitat separates occurrences.

Date: 21May2001

Author: Hammerson, G.

Population/Occurrence Viability



U.S. Invasive Species Impact Rank (I-Rank)

Not yet
assessed
Not yet
assessed

