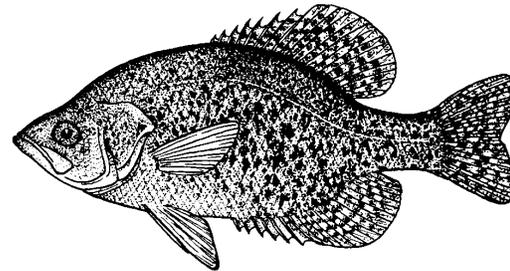


Black Crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)



General Information

These large sunfish are popular among anglers. They are found in loosely formed schools within the larger waterbodies of the state. Crappie prefer clear waters with a high percentage of structure.

Native Range

Native to the Great Lakes south to the Gulf of Mexico and southern Atlantic states, north to North Dakota & eastern Montana and east to Appalachians. (Edwards and Krieger 1982)

Habitat Description

Lake: clear, large ponds & reservoirs and small to medium natural lakes with extensive shallow areas (25 - 80% of surface area in littoral zone) and abundant cover preferably aquatic vegetation. Travel in loose, moderately sized schools. (Edwards and Krieger 1982, Scott and Crossman 1973)

River: clear, quiet, low gradient rivers (< 0.5 m/km) with a number of pools, will not tolerate stream velocities > 60cm/sec, can tolerate salinities no greater than 2 ppt (Edwards and Krieger 1982)

Optimum Habitat Requirements

Dissolved Oxygen	> 5 mg/l
Temperature	23° - 32° C
pH	6.5 - 8.5
Turbidity	< 50 JTU
Current	< 10 cm/sec

Diet

Fry	microcrustaceans, plank. insects
Juveniles	microcrustaceans, plank. insects
Adults	fish, planktonic insects

Notes: forage in open water over deeper areas, early morning & between midnight & 2 AM

Growth (mm)

Age	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
	108	124	196	210	265		

Notes: Limiting factor for growth and population size is food availability in particular the availability of small forage fish. Growth data is taken from a summary of lake inventories from 1990 - 1995.

Reproduction

Time of Year	Late March - May	Age Males Mature	II - III
Temperature Range	17.8° - 20.0° C	Age Females Mature	II - III
Water Depth	0.2 - 0.6 m	Nest	built by male
Substrate	mud, sand, gravel	Egg Type	adhesive
Time of Day		Parental Care	Male
Critical pH		Days to Hatching	3 - 5
Vegetation	prefer nests near veg	Stable Water Level	stable to rising

Notes: Can hybridize with white crappie (Edwards and Krieger 1982, Scott and Crossman 1973)