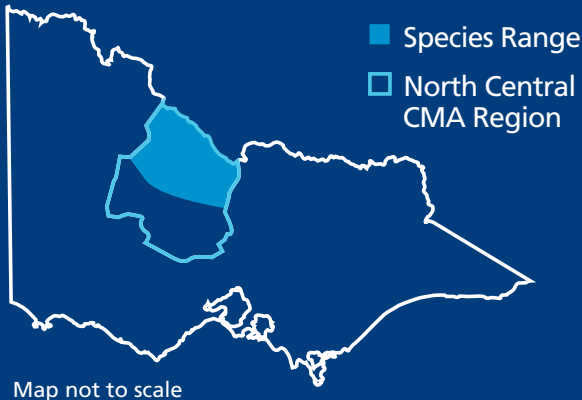


Bony Bream (*Nematalosa erebi*)

Tail fin shape



Family: Clupeidae

Other common names: Bony Herring, Hairback Herring, Pyberry

Description: The Bony Bream is a small to medium-sized fish with a small head. The body is deep and laterally compressed. It has large eyes and a blunt snout. The back is greenish, sides are bright silver, and the underbelly is silvery-white. Adult size is about 120-200 mm (maximum size is 320 mm).

Fins: The dorsal, pelvic, anal and pectoral fins are present. The tail is large and deeply forked.

Habitat: Shallow or still flowing streams and rivers in particularly turbid conditions. Also found in saline lakes and desert bores.

Conservation status & distribution: Widespread and abundant. The Bony Bream is most commonly found in lowland freshwater rivers in Victoria and New South Wales and is commercially farmed in South Australia.

Breeding: Spawning occurs during late spring to summer. Females mature at two years of age.

Eggs: 33,000 to 880,000 small (0.83 mm in diameter) eggs are produced. The eggs are released into still, shallow waters.

Diet: Feed on detritus, microalgae and microcrustaceans.

Threats: River regulation, barriers to migration and cold water pollution are thought to have resulted in reduced abundance of the species.

Interesting facts and features: The Bony Bream is consumed by other native fish, including Murray Cod and Golden Perch. The Bony Bream is also tolerant of relatively saline conditions.

Spawning time

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

The North Central Catchment Management Authority acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners within the region, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country. We also recognise and acknowledge the contribution and interest of Aboriginal people and organisations in land and natural resource management.

The information on this Fact Sheet is extracted from the North Central Waterwatch Fish Field Guide. Please visit the North Central Catchment Management Authority website, www.nccma.vic.gov.au for more information.

