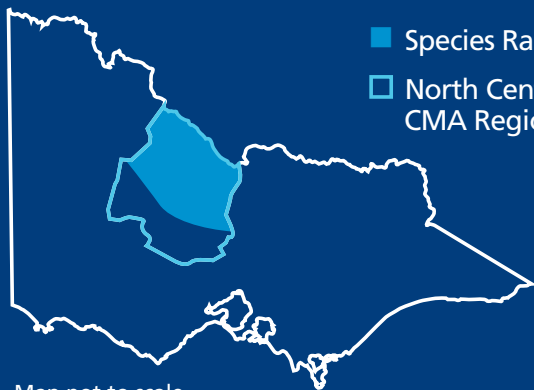


Flathead Gudgeon (*Philypnodon grandiceps*)

Tail fin shape



- Species Range
- North Central CMA Region

Map not to scale



Photo Gunther Schmida

Family: Eleotridae

Other common names: Big Headed Gudgeon

Description: The Flathead Gudgeon is a small fish with a broad, flat head and large mouth. Black, brown, grey or reddish to greenish-brown overall, becoming yellowish on its belly. Irregular faint brown markings on its sides and several dark bands radiating from the eye. The adult can grow to 80 mm (maximum size is about 115 mm).

Fins: Anal, pelvic and dorsal fins are present. The tail is slightly convex.

Habitat: Prefers lakes, reservoirs and brackish estuaries, over mud and sandy substrates. Often found among aquatic vegetation. Less commonly they can also occur in gently flowing streams.

Conservation status & distribution: Widespread and common. Extends inland throughout the Murray-Darling Basin and is also widespread in the Southeast Coast Draining Division between the Burdekin River in Queensland and the Murray River mouth in South Australia.

Breeding: Spawning occurs in spring and summer when temperatures reach 18-27°C. Hatching occurs after four to six days.

Eggs: Females lay a clutch of elongated eggs on hard surfaces such as rocks or pieces of wood. The male guards the eggs and fans them with his pectoral fins.

Diet: The diet consists of small fish, molluscs, crustaceans, insects and tadpoles.

Threats: No known threats.

Interesting facts and features: The Flathead Gudgeon is readily distinguished from the Dwarf Flat-head Gudgeon by its larger size, the presence of gill openings on the underside of the head that extend forward to, or below the eye, and a larger number of pectoral fin rays.

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.

