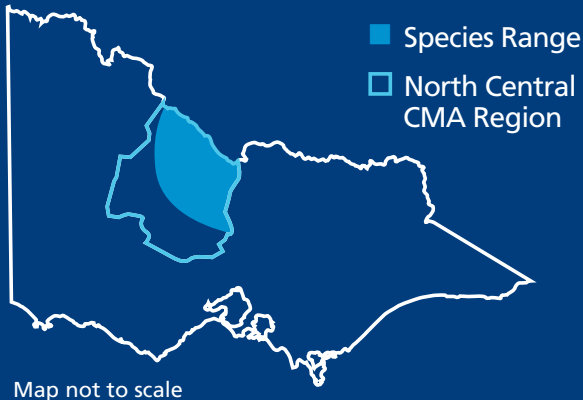


Macquarie Perch (*Macquaria australasica*)

Tail fin shape



Map not to scale



Family: Perchichthyidae

Other common names: Mountain Perch, White Eye, Black Bream

Description: The Macquarie Perch is a medium-sized fish. Its body is laterally compressed. The mouth and eyes are large. Adults are black-grey or bluish grey, while juveniles may be distinctly mottled. The adult size is about 350 mm (maximum size is about 465 mm).

Finns: Dorsal, pectoral, pelvic and anal fins present. The tail is rounded.

Habitat: This species prefers slow flowing deep rocky pools in upper reaches of rivers, and cool clear lakes and reservoirs.

Conservation status & distribution: The species is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and is endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Found in the Murray-Darling Basin in Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. In Victoria it can be found in the Goulburn, Broken, Ovens and Mitta Mitta catchments. The species has in addition been stocked outside its natural range into the Coliban and the Yarra rivers. It is likely to have historically occurred in the Loddon River basin, with recent fish stocking attempts to re-establish populations within the area.

Breeding: Spawning occurs during late spring to early summer. Fish in lakes migrate into tributaries to spawn. Males reach maturity at two years, females at three years.

Eggs: Eggs drift downstream and are lodged amongst sand and cobbles in riffles. Hatching occurs after 11 days when temperatures reach 15-17°C.

Diet: Feeds on shrimps and benthic aquatic insects, particularly mayflies, caddisflies and midges.

Threats: Numbers have decreased in recent decades due to overfishing. Siltation and viral disease carried by alien species such as Redfin Perch are also thought to have led to a decrease in numbers. Other threats include barriers to migration such as dams and weirs, the removal of riparian vegetation and predation of juveniles by introduced species, such as Brown Trout and Redfin Perch.

Interesting facts and features: The Macquarie Perch is a docile species. Some individuals may reach more than 20 years of age.

Spawning time

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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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.

