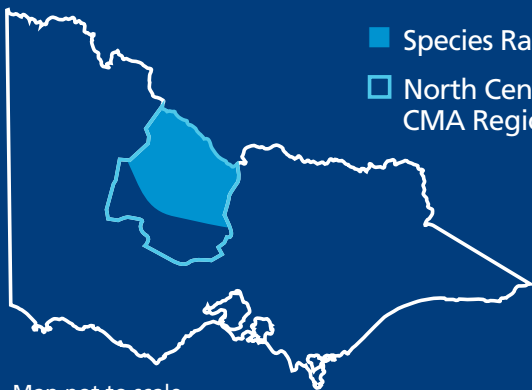


# Silver Perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*)

Tail fin shape



Map not to scale

- Species Range
- North Central CMA Region



Photo Gunther Schmida

**Family:** Terapontidae

**Other common names:** Silver Bream, Black Bream, Bidyan

**Description:** The Silver Perch is a medium-sized fish. It has a small head and a beak like snout. The colour varies from silvery-grey with dark scale margins, but can appear as olive-greenish or brown overall. Its belly is whitish. The adult can grow to 350 mm (maximum is about 500 mm).

**Habitat:** Found in similar habitats to the Murray Cod and Golden Perch. Silver Perch prefers lowland, turbid and slow-flowing rivers.

**Fins:** Dorsal, pectoral, pelvic and anal fins present. The tail is moderately forked.

**Conservation status & distribution:** This species is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and is listed as vulnerable under the *International Union for Conservation of Nature red list 2012*. The species was once common throughout the Murray-Darling Basin, except in the upper reaches. It is still locally abundant in areas of the mid-Murray however its distribution is patchy.

**Breeding:** Spawning occurs during spring after upstream migration. It is believed that spawning activity is increased during floods. Individuals mature at three to five years.

**Eggs:** It is believed spawning possibly occurs just after dusk.

**Diet:** An omnivorous species eating mainly aquatic plants, snails, shrimps and aquatic insect larvae.

**Threats:** River regulation has disrupted migration. Competition with and predation by alien species are suspected threats in the decline of Silver Perch.

**Interesting facts and features:** A good angling and food fish, it has been utilised as a species in farm dams. The Silver Perch can only be taken from impoundments north of the Great Dividing Range, excluding the Wimmera Basin.

## 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](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au) for more information.

