



## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program

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### *Phenacobius mirabilis* Suckermouth minnow

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Photo courtesy of [www.nativefish.org](http://www.nativefish.org)

**Identification:** Easily identified by fleshy lips that form a sucker-like mouth, small eyes; prominent lateral line down both sides of body; dark rectangular spot at base of lateral line; olive or yellow color above lateral line, silver below lateral line; no pigmentation on fins.

**Measurements:** Commonly 2 to 3.5 inches in length, maximum recorded length is 4.5 inches.

**Taxonomic comments:** No recognized subspecies.

**Status:** Global rank is **G5** and state rank is **S1**.

**Habitat:** Prefers shallow areas with gravel and rubble in small to medium rivers.

**Range:** Throughout the Mississippi and Lake Erie drainages. In Louisiana this species is found only in the Sabine River drainage.

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**Food habits:** A bottom feeder that consumes fly and caddisfly larvae, detritus, and plant material.

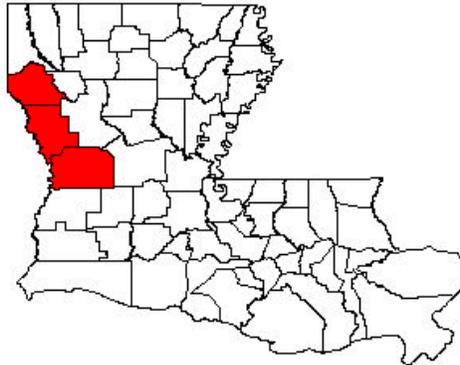
**Life expectancy:** The maximum reported age is 3 years

**Reproduction:** Individuals reach sexual maturity at 2 years of age. Spawning occurs in the spring and summer over gravel riffles.

**Reason for decline:** 1) Sensible to pollution and siltation of habitat. 2) There are few studies on the natural history of this species, making it difficult to find ways to manage for it.

**Interesting facts:** Current efforts to conserve this species include the establishment of a facility at the Tamarack State Wildlife Area in Colorado to create brood stocks that will be released into the wild.

**Known distribution in Louisiana:**



**Dates of documented observations are:** 1966, 1971, and 1983

**References**

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