

FISHES OF THE FRESHWATER POTOMAC  
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Always DRAFT - Version 02/21/2013

The following list of one-hundred and eighteen fish species known to be present in the freshwater portions of the Potomac River basin. Included, but not numbered, are fish that once were in the Potomac but are no longer present; eight extirpated fish species (only one of which, the log perch, was perhaps a native to the Potomac) and three with uncertain presences. The list was originally (1995) compiled through a combination of personal field experience, a search of the literature, and input from regional fisheries biologists Ed Enamait (MD), Gerald Lewis (WV), Ed Stienkoenig (VA), and Jon Siemiens (DC). However, I attempt to keep the list updated when new information becomes available, thus the list is always draft.

The distribution of these fishes within the Potomac is highly variable. Many are year-round residents and are fairly wide-spread, while some, such as the torrent shiner, are only found in very limited habitats/areas. Eleven are migratory species which typically come into the river system to spawn, and nine represent occasional visitors in freshwater-tidal areas. The native or introduced status of most of these species are generally accepted, but for some species this status is an object of continued research and therefore caution should be used in interpreting this designation, especially when noted with a “?” mark. Of the 118 species currently found in the river, approximately 80 (68%) are considered native, 23 (19%) are considered introduced, and the rest (15, or 13%) are uncertain in origin.

<u>Taxonomic Order</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Native Status</u>
		(N = Native, I = Introduced)
O. Petromyzontiformes		
F. Petromyzontidae - lampreys		
1.	<u>Lampetra appendix</u>	(American Brook Lamprey) N
2.	<u>Lampetra aepyptera</u>	(Least Brook Lamprey) N
3.	<u>Petromyzon marinus</u>	(Sea Lamprey) N
O. Acipenseriformes		
F. Acipenseridae- sturgeons		
4.	<u>Acipenser brevirostrum</u>	(Shortnose Sturgeon) N
5.	<u>Acipenser oxyrinchus</u>	(Atlantic Sturgeon) N
O. Semionotiformes		
F. Lepisosteidae - gars		
6.	<u>Lepisosteus osseus</u>	(Longnose Gar) N
O. Amiiformes		
F. Amiidae - bowfins		
7.	<u>Amia calva</u>	(Bowfin) N?
O. Anguilliformes		
F. Anguillidae - freshwater eels		
8.	<u>Anguilla rostrata</u>	(American Eel) N
O. Clupeiformes		
F. Clupeidae - herrings		
9.	<u>Alosa pseudoharengus</u>	(Alewife Herring) N
10.	<u>Alosa aestivalis</u>	(Blueback Herring) N
11.	<u>Alosa mediocris</u>	(Hickory Shad) N
12.	<u>Alosa sapidissima</u>	(American Shad) N
13.	<u>Dorosoma cepedianum</u>	(Gizzard Shad) N

14.	<u>Dorosoma pretenense</u>	(Threadfin Shad)	I
15.	<u>Brevoortia tyrannus</u>	(Atlantic Menhaden, tidal only)	N
	F. Engraulidae - anchovies		
16.	<u>Anchoa mitchilli</u>	(Bay Anchovy, tidal only)	N
	O. Salmoniformes		
	F. Salmonidae - trouts		
17.	<u>Salmo trutta</u>	(Brown Trout)	I
18.	<u>Oncorhynchus mykiss</u>	(Rainbow Trout)	I
	<u>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</u>	(California Chinook Salmon)	I -Extirpated
	<u>Oncorhynchus kisutch</u>	(Coho Salmon)	I -Extirpated
	<u>Oncorhynchus nerka</u>	(Sockeye Salmon)	I -Extirpated
?	<u>Salvelinus namaycush</u>	(Lake Trout)	I - (Jennings Randolph Dam, uncertain status)
19.	<u>Salvelinus fontinalis</u>	(Brook Trout)	N
20.	<u>Salmo clarki</u>	(Cutthroat Trout)	I
	F. Umbridae - mudminnows		
21.	<u>Umbra pygmaea</u>	(Eastern Mudminnow)	N
	F. Esocidae - pikes		
22.	<u>Esox americanus</u>	(Redfin Pickerel)	N
23.	<u>Esox niger</u>	(Chain Pickerel)	N
24.	<u>Esox lucius</u>	(Northern Pike)	I
25.	<u>Esox masquinongy</u>	(Muskellunge)	I
	O. Cypriniformes		
	F. Cyprinidae - carps and minnows		
26.	<u>Campostoma anomalum</u>	(Central Stoneroller)	N
27.	<u>Cyprinus carpio</u>	(Common Carp)	I
28.	<u>Carassius auratus</u>	(Goldfish)	I
29.	<u>Ctenopharyngodon idella</u>	(Grass Carp)	I
30.	<u>Ericymba buccata</u>	(Silverjaw Minnow)	N?
31.	<u>Exoglossum maxillina</u>	(Cutlips Minnow)	N
32.	<u>Nocomis micropogon</u>	(River Chub)	N
33.	<u>Nocomis leptocephalus</u>	(Bluehead Chub)	N
34.	<u>Notemigonus crysoleucas</u>	(Golden Shiner)	N
35.	<u>Clinostomus funduloides</u>	(Rosyside Dace)	N
36.	<u>Notropis chalybaeus</u>	(Ironcolor Shiner)	N
37.	<u>Notropis bifrenatus</u>	(Bridle Shiner)	N
38.	<u>Notropis procne</u>	(Swallowtail Shiner)	N
39.	<u>Notropis amoenus</u>	(Comely Shiner)	N
40.	<u>Notropis rubellus</u>	(Rosyface Shiner)	N
41.	<u>Notropis volucellus</u>	(Mimic Shiner)	N
42.	<u>Notropis hudsonius</u>	(Spottailed Shiner)	N
43.	<u>Notropis atherinoides</u>	(Emerald Shiner)	I-(Jennings Randolph)
44.	<u>Cyprinella analostanus</u>	(Satinfin Shiner)	N
45.	<u>Cyprinella spilopterus</u>	(Spotfin Shiner)	N
46.	<u>Luxilus cornutus</u>	(Common Shiner)	N
47.	<u>Luxilus chrysocephalus</u>	(Striped Shiner)	I
48.	<u>Hybognathus regius</u>	(Eastern Silvery Minnow)	N
	<u>Leuciscus idus</u>	(Ide)	I-Extirpated
49.	<u>Pimephales promelas</u>	(Fathead Minnow)	I
50.	<u>Pimephales notatus</u>	(Bluntnose Minnow)	I?

51.	<u>Rhinichthys atratulus</u>	(Blacknose Dace)	N
52.	<u>Rhinichthys cataractae</u>	(Longnose Dace)	N
53.	<u>Semotilus atromaculatus</u>	(Creek Chub)	N
54.	<u>Semotilus corporalis</u>	(Fallfish)	N
55.	<u>Margariscus margarita</u>	(Pearl Dace)	N
	F. Catostomidae - suckers		
56.	<u>Carpoides cyprinus</u>	(Quillback Sucker)	N
57.	<u>Erimyzon oblongus</u>	(Creek Chubsucker)	N
58.	<u>Catostomus commersoni</u>	(White Sucker)	N
59.	<u>Hypentelium nigricans</u>	(Northern Hog Sucker)	N
60.	<u>Moxostoma erythrurum</u>	(Golden Redhorse)	I?
61.	<u>Moxostoma macrolepidotum</u>	(Shorthead Redhorse)	N
62.	<u>Thoburnia rhothoeca</u>	(Torrent Sucker)	N?
	O. Siluriformes		
	F. Ictaluridae - bullhead catfishes		
63.	<u>Ameiurus natalis</u>	(Yellow Bullhead Catfish)	N
64.	<u>Ameiurus nebulosus</u>	(Brown Bullhead Catfish)	N
65.	<u>Ameiurus catus</u>	(White Catfish, tidal only)	N
66.	<u>Ictalurus punctatus</u>	(Channel Catfish)	I
67.	<u>Ictalurus furcatus</u>	(Blue Catfish)	I
68.	<u>Phylodictus olivarius</u>	(Flathead Catfish)	I
69.	<u>Noturus gyrinus</u>	(Tadpole Madtom)	N
70.	<u>Noturus insignis</u>	(Margined Madtom)	N
	O. Percopsiformes		
	F. Percopsidae - trout perches		
	<u>Percopsis omiscomaycus</u>	(Trout Perch)	I-Extirpated
	F. Aphredoderidae - pirate perches		
	<u>Aphredoderus sayanus</u>	(Pirate Perch)	N-Coastal Plain
	O. Antheriniformes		
	F. Belonidae - needlefishes		
71.	<u>Strongylura marina</u>	(Atlantic Needlefish, tidal only)	N
	F. Antherinidae - silversides		
72.	<u>Menidia beryllina</u>	(Inland Silversides)	N
	<u>Labidesthes sicculus</u>	(Brook Silversides)	I-Extirpated
	F. Poeciliidae - livebearers		
73.	<u>Gambusia holbrooki</u>	(Eastern Mosquitofish)	N
74.	<u>Poecilia reticulata</u>	(Guppy)	I
	F. Cyprinodontidae - killifishes		
75.	<u>Cyprinodon variegatus</u>	(Sheepshead Minnow)	N
76.	<u>Fundulus heteroclistus</u>	(Mummichog Killifish)	N
77.	<u>Fundulus diaphanus</u>	(Banded Killifish)	N
78.	<u>Fundulus luciae</u>	(Spotfin Killifish)	N
79.	<u>Fundulus parva</u>	(Rainwater Killifish)	N
	O. Perciformes		
	F. Centrarchidae - sunfishes		
80.	<u>Acantharchus pomotis</u>	(Mud Sunfish)	N
81.	<u>Enneacanthus gloriosus</u>	(Bluespotted Sunfish)	N
82.	<u>Enneacanthus obesus</u>	(Banded Sunfish)	N
83.	<u>Centrarchus macropterus</u>	(Flier Sunfish)	N?
84.	<u>Ambloplites rupestris</u>	(Rock Bass)	I

85.	<u>Chaenobryttus gulosus</u>	(Warmouth Sunfish)	I?
86.	<u>Lepomis cyanellus</u>	(Green Sunfish)	I?
87.	<u>Lepomis macrochirus</u>	(Bluegill Sunfish)	I
88.	<u>Lepomis auritus</u>	(Redbreast Sunfish)	N
89.	<u>Lepomis megalotis</u>	(Longear Sunfish)	I
90.	<u>Lepomis microlotis</u>	(Redear Sunfish)	I
91.	<u>Lepomis gibbosus</u>	(Pumpkinseed Sunfish)	N
92.	<u>Micropterus salmoides</u>	(Largemouth Bass)	I
93.	<u>Micropterus dolomieu</u>	(Smallmouth Bass)	I
94.	<u>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</u>	(Black Crappie)	I?
95.	<u>Pomoxis annularis</u>	(White Crappie)	I
	F. Percidae - perches		
96.	<u>Etheostoma blennioides</u>	(Greensided Darter)	I?
97.	<u>Etheostoma flabellare</u>	(Fantailed Darter)	N
98.	<u>Etheostoma olmstedi</u>	(Tesselated Darter)	N
99.	<u>Etheostoma caeruleum</u>	(Rainbow Darter)	I?
100.	<u>Etheostoma vitreum</u>	(Glassy Darter)	N?
101.	<u>Etheostoma fusiforme</u>	(Swamp Darter)	N
102.	<u>Percina peltata</u>	(Shield Darter)	N
103.	<u>Percina notogramma</u>	(Striped Back Darter)	N
	<u>Percina caprodes</u>	(Log Perch)	N?-Extirpated
104.	<u>Perca flavescens</u>	(Yellow Perch)	N
105.	<u>Sander vitreus</u>	(Walleye)	I?
	F. Cottidae - sculpins		
106.	<u>Cottus caeruleomentum</u>	(Blue Ridge Sculpin)	N
107.	<u>Cottus cognatus</u>	(Slimy Sculpin)	N
108.	<u>Cottus bairdi</u>	(Mottled Sculpin)	N
109.	<u>Cottus girardi</u>	(Potomac Sculpin)	N
	F. Percichthyidae - temperate basses		
110.	<u>Morone americanus</u>	(White Perch)	N
111.	<u>Morone saxatilis</u>	(Striped Bass)	N
	F. Channidae - Snakeheads		
112.	<u>Channa argus</u>	(Northern Snakehead)	I

The following can also be found in tidal freshwater portions of the Potomac River:

	F. Mugulidae - mullets		
113.	<u>Mugil cephalus</u>	(Striped Mullet)	N
	F. Sciaenidae - drums		
114.	<u>Leiostomus xanthurus</u>	(Spot)	N
115.	<u>Cynoscion nebulosus</u>	(Spotted Seatrout)	N
116.	<u>Micropogonias undulatus</u>	(Atlantic Croaker)	N
117.	<u>Sciaenops ocellata</u>	(Red Drum)	N
	Order Pleuronectiformes		
	F. Soleidae - soles		
118.	<u>Trinectes maculatus</u>	(Hogchoker)	N

Principal Literature Used:

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5. Current diversity, historical analysis, and biotic integrity of fishes in the lower Potomac basin in the vicinity of Plummers Island, Maryland—Contributions to the natural history of Plummers Island, Maryland XVII. Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 115:273-320. By Wayne C. Starnes. 12/05/2000
6. History, Management, and Status of Introduced Fishes in the Chesapeake Bay Basin. By John Christmas, Richard Eades, Daniel Cincotta, Andrew Shiels, Roy Miller, Jon Siemien, Tim Sinnott, and Pamela Fuller.
7. 5<sup>th</sup> Report of the Commissioners of Fisheries of Maryland. January, 1880