



Native Fish: Freshwater Catfish

(*Tandanus tandanus*)

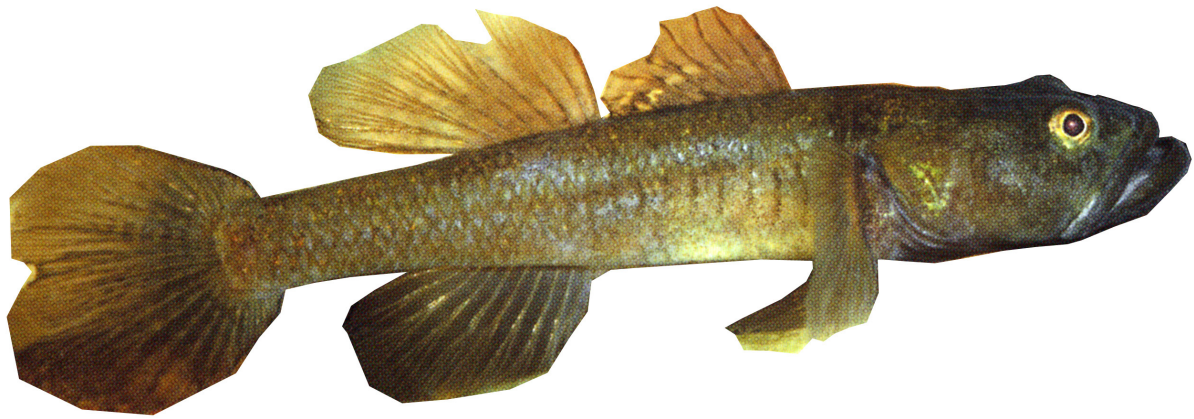


- Has an eel-like tail!
- Commonly 45cm and up to 90cm
- Mottled Grey-brown, reddish brown
- Numbers have declined (some think due to Carp as they have similar feeding habits)
- Swims close to sandy, or gravel bottoms and more abundant in lakes than in flowing water
- Eats snails, crustaceans and anything along the bottom of the waterway
- Breeding occurs in Spring when temperatures reach above 20 degrees



Native Fish: Flatheaded Gudgeon

(Philypnodon grandiceps)



- Broad, flat head!
- Up to 12cm long but more commonly under 8cm
- Large fins
- Varied colours: Black, brown, grey or reddish to greenish brown
- During breeding the males darken and display more vivid colours
- Females lay eggs in a clutch on hard surface like rocks
- Eggs hatch after 4-6 days
- Live amongst vegetation or muddy bottoms
- Eat small fish, crustaceans, insects and tadpoles



Native Fish:

Murray Hardyhead

(*Craterocephalus fluviatilis*)



- Originally found all throughout the River but not many left in our area now - where it used to be found is now dominated by Carp and Mosquito Fish
- Up to 7cm
- Long smooth slender body
- Silvery to golden colour
- Lives in lakes and billabongs around aquatic plants
- Eats algae, insects and tiny crustaceans
- Not too much known about life history and breeding



Native Fish: Western Carp Gudgeon

(*Hypseleotris klunzingeri*)



- Don't be fooled by the name this IS a native small-bodied fish!
- Up to 5cm
- Sometimes mistaken for Mosquito Fish - does not have the flat head!
- Pale grey, silvery belly
- Lives around vegetation in slow-flowing rivers and streams, billabongs and dams
- Eggs hatch in 2 days
- Breeding in spring/summer when temperatures rise above 22 degrees



Native Fish: Murray River Rainbow (*Melanotaenia fluviatilis*)



- Up to 11cm more commonly less than 8cm
- Rainbow colours all over body
- Lives near grassy banks or aquatic vegetation
- Makes a good aquarium fish and sold in many pet stores



Native Fish: Golden Perch (*Macquaria ambigua*)



- Also called Yellowbelly or Callop
- Up to 23kg and commonly 40-50cm long
- Protruding Jaw
- Olive, Bronze and yellowy with grey to blackish fins
- Occurs throughout the River and flooded lakes
- Eggs float near the surface and hatch in 24-36 Hrs
- Likes to lay eggs in flooded backwaters
- Very good to eat!
- Tagged fish have been seen to swim over 200km



Native Fish: Australian Smelt

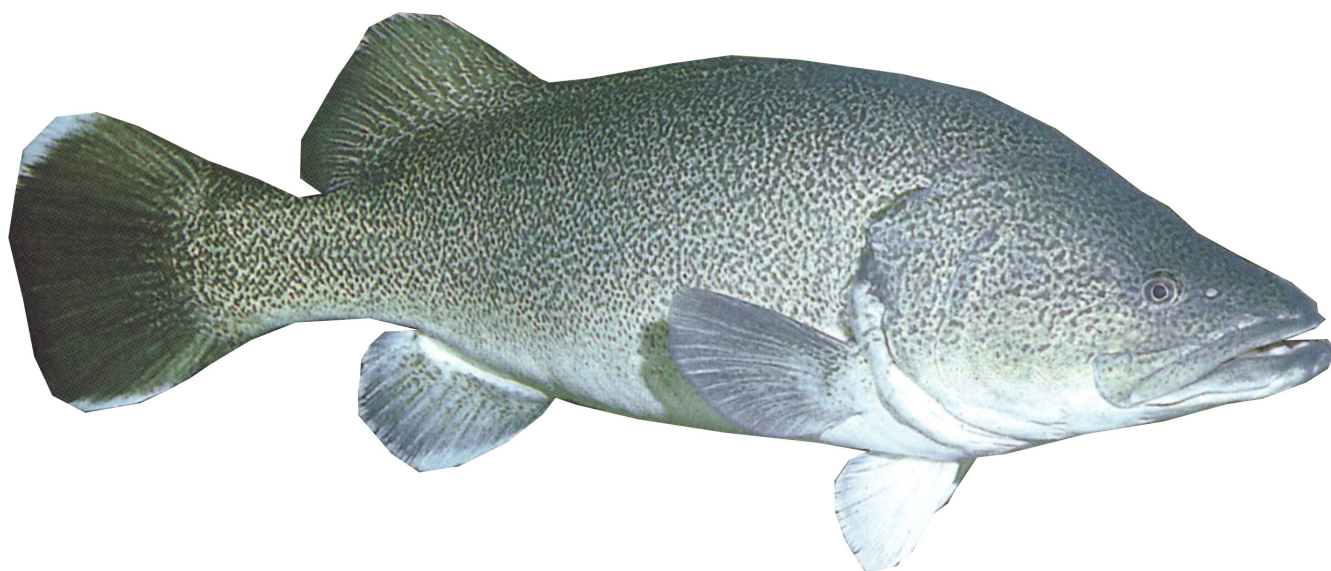
(*Retropinna semoni*)



- Smells like CUCUMBER!
- Up to 10cm
- No scales on head, and the scales on it's body are thin and delicate
- Very long slender body shape
- Likes to live in slow-flowing streams under weedy plants and logs
- Eggs hatch in about 10 days, laid amongst plants
- Eats insects and algae



Native Fish: Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*)



- River Murray's largest fish
- Largest recorded weight 113.5kg and more than one metre long!
- Enormous mouth
- Cream to olive green, spotty in colour
- Can live to 60 years old
- Favours deep water near boulders and rocks or logs
- Eggs hatch in 1-2 weeks and are guarded by the male
- Breeding normally coincides with flooding
- Numbers have declined due to over fishing before the 1930's



Native Fish: Silver Perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*)



- Also called Silver Bream or Grunter
- Commonly 41 to 60cm
- Listed as vulnerable - this is a protected species
- Schools in large numbers and prefers warmer waters
- Migrate upstream to spawn in spring
- Eats shrimps, yabbies and aquatic insects



Alien/Introduced Fish:

Mosquito Fish (*Gambusia holbrooki*)



- Also called Gambusia
- Native to South East USA and Mexico
- Less than 7cm
- Surface of head flat
- Usually has blue-ish sheen on sides and silvery belly
- Can live to 3 years old
- Very aggressive and eats lots of small native fish, frog eggs and macroinvertebrates
- Very tolerant to poor water quality
- Produce 40-60 live young several times a year
- They can nip the fins off other small fish and tadpoles



Alien/Introduced Fish:

Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)



- Native to Asia & Introduced to Europe
- 40cm - 120cm and up to 60kg
- Forked tail & big spiny dorsal fin
- Small eyes, thick lips and large scales
- Can live to 17 years old
- They eat everything! Sucking up mud and spitting it out as they go
- Can lay 1.5million eggs per kilogram of body weight!
- Eggs hatch in 2-6 DAYS
- Can contribute to bad water quality



Alien/Introduced Fish:

Redfin (*Perca fluviatilis*)



- Native to Europe
- 20-45cm - up to 10kg
- Large Mouth extending to below middle of the eye
- 5-9 black bands on the side
- Can live to 22 years old
- Adults eat many small native fish
- Can lay thousands of eggs that our native fish do not eat - so they are always protected!
- Eggs hatch in 1-3 weeks
- Redfin are really YUMMY to eat!



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