

Red Shiner

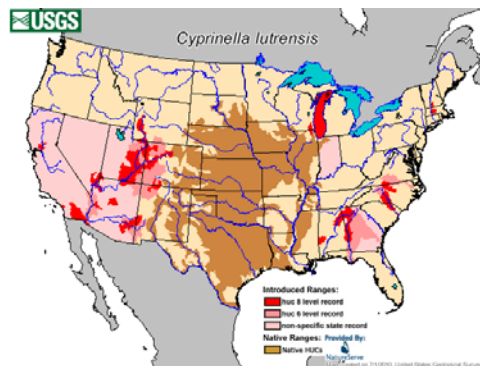
Notropis lutrensis or *Cyprinella lutrensis*

Identification Coloration is olive green above and silver on the sides. Spawning males become bluish on the sides and the fins reddened. Maximum size is only about 3.5 inches.

Why is it a Problem? The red shiner's reproduction is very aggressive. Its nonindigenous occurrence has diluted gene pools of native species of its genus via hybridization. It has also affected the distribution of other native fishes through food competition and, in some cases, tapeworm infestation.



Want to know more? Check out www.dnr.maryland.gov for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.



Range/Habitat Native to Mississippi River basin ranging as far west as New Mexico and latitudinally between central Mexico and South Dakota; Established in areas outside their native range in Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Utah, and Wyoming.

Similar Species Sometimes confused with the golden shiner and exotic minnows such as the rudd and roach.

Legal Status

Control and Prevention Do not release unused bait into Maryland waters.

Method of Introduction

Most populations were introduced by bait bucket, fish farm or aquarium releases. Initial release was intensified by the red shiner's rapid multiplication, dispersal, and colonization.

Sources:

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?speciesID=518>

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/redshiner/>