

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

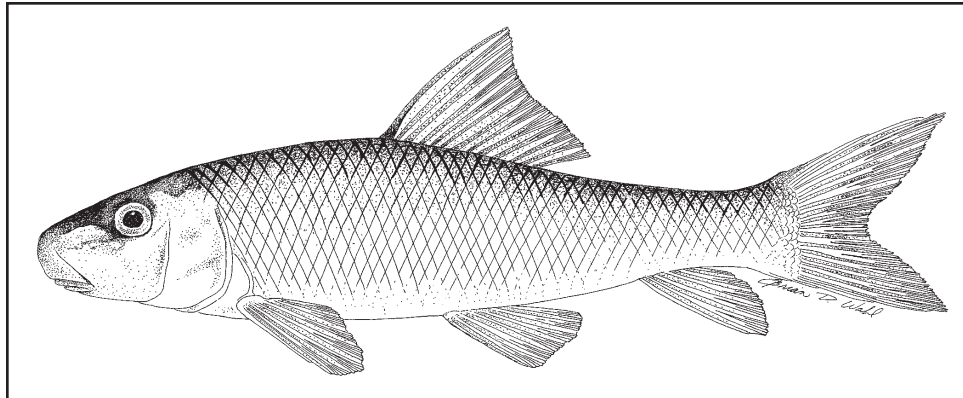
Division of Wildlife

Life History Notes

Golden Redhorse

Common Names: Golden or Smallhead mullet, Golden sucker

Scientific Name: *Moxostoma erythrum*



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Identification:

The golden redhorse has a sucker-like mouth and body. The sides have a bronze-golden cast, the back is brassy to bright gold, and the tail is light slate colored. The back of the lips form a "V" shape. This distinguishes the golden redhorse from the black redhorse whose lips form a straight line.

Range and Habitat:

The golden redhorse is native to Ohio and can be found statewide. This redhorse species is the most widely and evenly distributed in the state. The golden redhorse prefers clear streams with medium flow and numerous riffles of sand, gravel, boulders and bedrock, and little accumulating silt in pools. During winter, golden redhorse prefer larger streams and then move into the smaller tributaries at spawning time. They are seldom found in vegetated waters and only small numbers inhabit large inland lakes and the open areas of Lake Erie.

Life History:

Golden redhorse spawn from late April until early May. They select riffle areas in medium to small streams where females broadcast between 5,000 to 35,000 eggs over the substrate. The spawning act itself involves a lot of jumping and rolling activity. Adults feed on aquatic insects, snails, small mussels, and algae.

Adult Size:

Golden redhorse usually range from 11 to 18 inches in length. However, fish measuring 26 inches and weighing up to 4 pounds have been reported.

Fishing Methods:

Golden redhorse can be caught primarily in the early spring, late March through April, on riffles with small hooks baited with garden worms.