



## northern studfish

*Fundulus catenatus*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates  
Class: Osteichthyes  
Order: Atheriniformes  
Family: Fundulidae

### FEATURES

The northern studfish may grow to six inches in length. Its life span is about five years. The northern studfish has silvery sides with many horizontal stripes. The back is yellow-brown with a short, gold stripe in front of the dorsal fin. The dorsal and tail fins have small brown specks. The breeding male is bright blue with reddish-brown streaks and red spots on the head and fins. Its paired fins are yellow, and the tail fin has an orange fringe with a black band.

### BEHAVIORS

The northern studfish lives in streams with permanent flow, clear water and bottoms of sand, gravel or rock. This fish moves in small groups in very shallow water. Spawning occurs from mid-May to August. The male establishes and guards a territory. Eggs are deposited on gravel. This fish eats insects, snails, clams, crayfish and earthworms.

### HABITATS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan             | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> marshes                   | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands                 |  |

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- |  |                                     |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> native | <input type="checkbox"/> exotic     |                                     |

### ILLINOIS RANGE

southwestern 1/4

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.  
*Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.