



smallmouth buffalo

Ictiobus bubalus

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata
Class: Osteichthyes
Order: Cypriniformes
Family: Catostomidae

FEATURES

The smallmouth buffalo may attain an average length of 15 to 30 inches. Its deep body has a small, cone-shaped head, a small mouth and large eyes. Grooves are present on the upper lip. The back is gray, green or bronze, the sides are black to yellow-green and the belly is white to yellow. Fins are green or black. The front of the upper lip is on a level below that of the bottom of the eye. The front part of the back has a keel.

BEHAVIORS

The smallmouth buffalo may be found in the Mississippi, Illinois, Kaskaskia, Ohio and Wabash rivers in Illinois. It spawns in summer. The eggs are scattered over the bottom and are given no parental care. It feeds on whatever is abundant, including small crustaceans, algae and insects.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: Mississippi, Illinois, Kaskaskia, Ohio and Wabash rivers border counties

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.