



Shadow Bass (*Ambloplites ariommus*)

Shadow bass is one of several fishes often called goggle-eye because of its large eye. The shadow bass is found in the Mobile watershed and some coastal rivers of Alabama, Florida and Georgia.* The shadow bass is also found in Arkansas and southern Missouri. A shadow bass is similar to the rock bass found in the Tennessee River watershed and waters north of the Tennessee watershed.

A shadow bass has fins with lots of spines.* Its body color is an olive to yellow background with lots of black or gray spots. The iris of the eye may be red or reddish orange.* An eight-inch shadow bass is a large one.

A shadow bass lives in streams. It hides in weedy or woody places and darts out to eat aquatic insects and crayfishes. Its mouth is large enough that it will also eat fish. Though this fish is small, it can live to be thirteen years old.

This fish likes medium to large slow-moving streams and rivers. It does not like sedimentation and poor water quality.* Poor habitat is the greatest problem facing fish and wildlife; therefore, enhancing and protecting habitat, including keeping dirt and sand out of streams, is critical to protecting fish and wildlife.

***Vocabulary**

Fin – a visible body part used in swimming or steering that is not supported by solid bone.

Sedimentation – when large amounts of clay, dirt, or sand drop to the bottom of a stream or lake.

Spine – a hard part of a fin that has a point.

Iris – the colored part of the eye; outside of the interior pupil part of the eye.

Watershed – all the land and streams that drain down to one point.