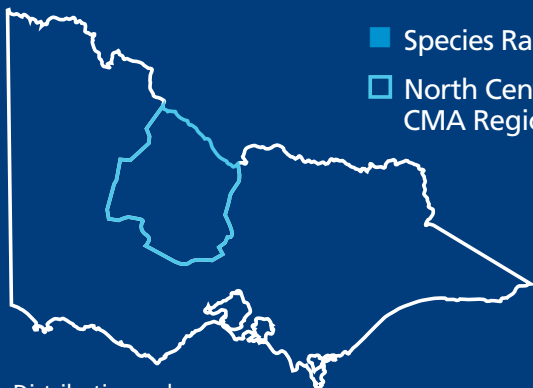


# Common Galaxias (*Galaxias maculatus*)

Tail fin shape



Distribution unknown

■ Species Range

□ North Central CMA Region



Photo Gunther Schmida

**Family:** Galaxiidae

**Other common names:** Common Jollytail

**Description:** The Common Galaxias is a small, slender fish with a bluntly pointed head. The body is olive-grey to amber, with irregular dark blotches on its sides and back. The belly is silvery-white, as are the eyes and gills. The adult size is about 100 mm (maximum size is about 190 mm).

**Fins:** The dorsal, pectoral, pelvic and anal fins are present. The tail is slightly forked.

**Habitat:** Still or gently flowing rivers and streams, lakes and estuaries with fringing vegetation for spawning. The Common Galaxias can tolerate high salinity levels.

**Conservation status & distribution:** Although common in lowland coastal streams from South Australia to southern Queensland and Tasmania, records of the species captured from the Wimmera, Loddon and Campaspe River basins are suggested to be from populations established from illegal translocation (likely as live bait).

**Breeding:** Spawning of coastal populations occurs during autumn high tides after adults migrate downstream into tributaries. Land-locked (inland) populations spawn during late winter to early spring. Maturity is reached after 12 months.

**Eggs:** About 13,500 small adhesive eggs (1 mm in diameter) are deposited on terrestrial vegetation above the water line.

**Diet:** A carnivorous species, its diet consists mainly of amphipods, chironomid larvae and micro-crustaceans.

**Threats:** Threats to the Common Galaxias are in-stream barriers, which restrict migration. Reduced flows may limit conditions conducive to spawning.

**Interesting facts and features:** It is believed a large proportion of adults die shortly after spawning. Eggs may survive a number of weeks out of the water, providing they are kept moist.

**This fish has been translocated into the North Central CMA region.**



## Spawning time

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

The North Central Catchment Management Authority acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners within the region, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country. We also recognise and acknowledge the contribution and interest of Aboriginal people and organisations in land and natural resource management.

The information on this Fact Sheet is extracted from the North Central Waterwatch Fish Field Guide. Please visit the North Central Catchment Management Authority website, [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au) for more information.

