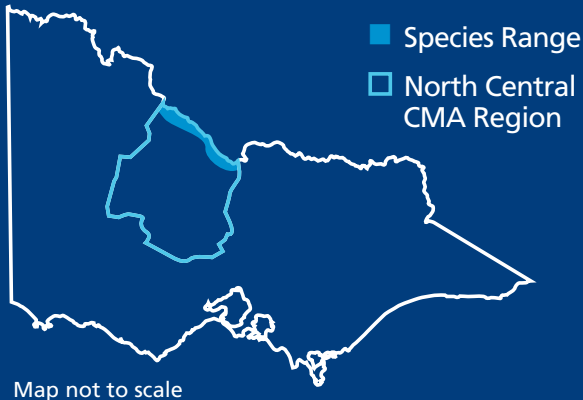


Flat-headed Galaxias (*Galaxias rostratus*)

Tail fin shape



Family: Galaxiidae

Other common names: Murray Jollytail, Flathead Galaxias

Description: The Flat-headed Galaxias is a small, slender-bodied fish with a flattened head and a pointed snout. The mouth is large with the gape extending to well below the eyes. The back and sides are olive-green, and the belly is silvery. The adult can grow up to 80 mm (maximum size is about 146 mm).

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

Habitat: Can be found in still or slow flowing water on the margins of lakes, billabongs and streams. The Flat-headed Galaxias usually swims mid-water over rock and sandy substrates. This fish is often found close to, or amongst, aquatic plants.

Conservation status & distribution: This species is listed as Vulnerable under the *International Union for Conservation of Nature red list 2012*. Historically this species was common to the southern regions of the Murray-Darling Basin, including the Murray, Loddon, Murrumbidgee, Goulburn, Ovens, Mitta Mitta and the Lachlan Rivers. The species is now in decline.

Breeding: Spawning occurs from late winter to early spring when temperatures reach 9 to 14°C. It is not known if the species migrates for spawning. Individuals mature within their first year.

Eggs: Depending on the size of the fish, a large female (136 mm) can lay up to 7,000 eggs. The eggs are round, large (1.3 to 1.6 mm in diameter), slightly adhesive and are scattered randomly to the substrate. Hatching occurs within eight to nine days.

Diet: Predominately feeds on aquatic insects and micro-crustaceans.

Threats: Possible threats include competition with and predation by, introduced species such as the Redfin Perch, Brown Trout and Eastern Gambusia. River regulation, cold water pollution and in-stream barriers are also threats.

Interesting facts and features: It is suggested that individuals school together and move upstream from November to December.

Spawning time

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| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
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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 for more information.

