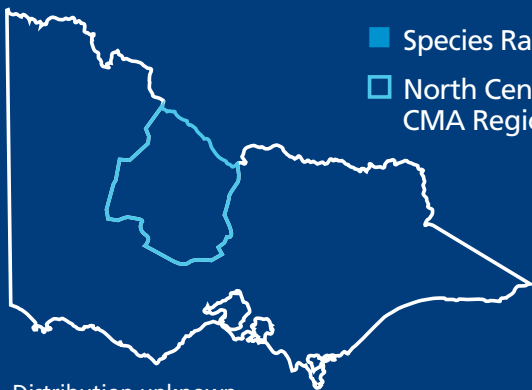


Trout Cod (*Maccullochella macquariensis*)

Tail fin shape



Distribution unknown

■ Species Range

□ North Central CMA Region



Photo Arthur Mostead

Family: Perchichthyidae

Other common names: Blue-nose Cod

Description: The Trout Cod is a large fish. It has a large mouth and a protruding upper jaw. The body is bluey-grey with a darker speckled pattern. Most individuals have a dark stripe through the eyes. Adults can grow up to 500 mm (maximum size is about 850 mm).

Fins: Dorsal, pectoral, pelvic and anal fins present. The tail is truncate.

Habitat: Prefers rapidly flowing streams, with logs and debris over rocky gravel bottoms. Larger fish occur in deeper sections.

Conservation status & distribution: This species is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, is listed as endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and is listed as endangered under the *International Union for Conservation of Nature red list 2012*. The Trout Cod can be found in the Murray River between Yarrawonga Weir and Barmah State Forest, and are also known to occur in the Ovens River and Sevens Creek (upper Goulburn River).

Breeding: Spawning occurs in late spring. Individuals mature at three to five years of age.

Eggs: 1,200-11,000 large eggs (2.5 to 3.6 mm in diameter) are deposited on hard substrates such as logs and rocks. Larvae hatch after five to ten days.

Diet: The Trout Cod diet consists mainly of fish, yabbies, mudeyes, aquatic insect larvae and freshwater prawns.

Threats: Threats include predation of juveniles by alien fish species such as Redfin Perch and Brown Trout, habitat degradation, the removal of woody habitat, sedimentation and clearing of riparian vegetation. River regulation and cold water pollution also pose a threat.

Interesting facts and features: If captured, the Trout Cod is to be released. This species is closely related to the Murray Cod and can be confused when identifying the species.

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 for more information.



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