

## Redear sunfish

### *Lepomis microlophus*

#### Description

Spread by intentional stocking; aquarium releases; potential movement by anglers from stocked ponds.

#### Identification

8 - 9.5 inches; hind end of gill flap is black with a white border and a red spot on the tip (hence the name); pan-shaped, like other sunfish; olive with darker spots and flecks of red; chest is yellowish to cream; small mouth (barely reaches eye).

#### Habitat

Native to the southeast and the Mississippi River basin. Found in ponds, marshes, lakes; mud or sand bottom; sluggish to slow-moving water in streams and rivers; water rich in vegetation and snags.





## **Reproduction**

## **Impact**

Introduction can result in the reduction of as much as 56 percent of the native pumpkinseed population and 69 percent of native snails. Competes with adult pumpkinseeds for snails (both species' main adult food) and can alter the diet of the pumpkinseed sunfish reducing its growth and abundance.

## **Similar**

## **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Clean, drain, dry.

## **Credits**

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