

Longnose Darter

Percina nasuta

Guidelines for Landowners Using Conservation Practices

Missouri Department of Conservation

Common name ▪ Longnose Darter
Scientific name ▪ *Percina nasuta*
State status ▪ Endangered
Federal status ▪ None

Ecology

The longnose darter is an inhabitant of medium to large Ozark rivers in Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. During most of the year, these darters prefer pools and quiet backwaters with thick growths of aquatic vegetation. During spawning in the spring, they move into areas of stronger current. Longnose darters forage on aquatic insects. Adults typically reach a length of 2 to 3.8 inches.

Reasons for Decline

Longnose darters were historically found in several rivers in southeastern and southwestern Missouri. In the mid-1900s, construction of large reservoirs likely eliminated the population found in southwestern Missouri. Stray longnose darters may be found in reservoirs, but they are likely not part of a self-sustaining population. In addition, activities that increase sedimentation and non-point source pollution may affect remaining habitat.

Recommendations

Free-flowing rivers provide habitat for many species, including the longnose darter. Any projects that alter this type of habitat should be modified to minimize impacts. Efforts should be made to ensure our waterways are healthy through protection and/or restoration of habitat for this and other aquatic species.

Avoid constructing stream crossings. If unavoidable, culverts and stream crossings should be constructed with the same bottom elevation as

the existing streambed to avoid restricting stream flow and obstructing fish passage. Dams should not be constructed in those streams where this species occurs.

Longnose darter picture

Bank stabilization materials should consist only of rock, clean broken concrete or similar materials free of pollutants, silt and extraneous debris including exposed rebar. Erosion and sediment controls should be implemented, maintained and monitored for the duration of a project.

Follow proper sand and gravel removal procedures outlined in the Missouri Instream Sand and Gravel Removal Guidelines prepared by the Missouri Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources. Guidelines include the following: leave a minimum 20-foot buffer zone between the water line and the excavation area, do not mine within 20 feet of streamside vegetation, and do not alter stream channels. In addition, do not remove gravel during the longnose darter spawning season (March 15 to June 15).

Limit clearing of vegetation, including standing and downed timber, to that which is absolutely necessary for construction purposes. Re-establish and maintain forested riparian corridors at least 100-foot wide along streams used by longnose darters to reduce erosion and capture nutrient rich runoff.

Exclude livestock with fences to allow the area to naturally re-vegetate. Discourage cattle from using streams and move watering areas into pastures and away from streams.

Refer to Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Streams and Rivers.

Consider the balance between adverse and beneficial practices when determining the overall effect of a conservation practice.

Beneficial Practices

- Limit livestock access to streams.
- Protection and restoration of riparian corridors along streams.
- Nutrient and pest management on adjacent agricultural fields that results in reduced opportunities for contamination of runoff.
- Practices that control erosion and prevent the delivery of sediment to the aquatic system will prove beneficial to this species.

Adverse Practices

- Sand and gravel mining beyond removal of the excess material on adjacent unconsolidated bars.
- Project activities that occur below the high bank between March 15 and July 15, the spawning period of this fish.
- Constructing dams and other impoundment structures on streams that host the fish.
- Improper erosion and sediment control.
- Culverts, fords, and stream crossings that create a barrier to fish passage or restrict stream flow.
- Unnecessary vehicle and equipment stream crossing.
- Removing or degrading the riparian corridor near springs and along streams.
- Unmanaged application of pesticides, animal waste or fertilizers.

Information Contacts

Missouri Department of Conservation
Policy Coordination Section
P.O. Box 180
2901 W. Truman Blvd
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
Telephone: 573-751-4115
<http://www.mdc.mo.gov/nathis/endangered/>

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
Telephone: 800-361-4827 / 573-751-1300
<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/index.html>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
700 Federal Building

601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896
Telephone: 816-389-3990
<http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Telephone: 913-551-7003 / 800-223-0425
<http://www.epa.gov/region7/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
101 Park DeVille Dr., Suite A
Columbia, MO 65203
Telephone: 573-234-2132
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/partners/missouri.html>

Legal

The Missouri Department of Conservation prepared these guidelines for conservation practices with assistance from other state agencies, contractors, and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat.

Compliance with these management guidelines is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law or by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal, state or local laws may affect construction practices.

“State Endangered Status” is determined by the Missouri Conservation Commission under constitutional authority, and specific requirements for impacts to such species are expressed in the Missouri Wildlife Code, rule 3 CSR 10-4.111.