

# Common Shiner (*Notropis cornutus*)

## General Information

As the name implies, common shiners are found in a number of clear lakes and rivers through out the state. They are an important forage species and are used routinely by anglers for bait.

## Native Range

Atlantic coast west through southern Great Lakes drainages to the eastern Dakotas. Found in clear lakes and streams along the Atlantic coast, from Nova Scotia south to the James River system. (Trial and Wade 1983)

## Habitat Description

**Lake:** Predominantly a stream spawner, its presence in great numbers in some clear lakes indicate it may spawn on gravel shoals. Prefers 20 - 70% of lake area to be vegetated, however a completely vegetated littoral area will prohibit spawning. (Trial and Wade 1983)

**River:** resides in pool areas of clear, cool, moderately sized streams. Prefers a gravel, rubble substrate but not large rocks or bedrock. (Trial and Wade 1983)

## Optimum Habitat Requirements

Dissolved Oxygen	
Temperature	< 22° C
pH	6.5 - 8.5
Turbidity	< 40 JTU
Current	10 - 15 cm/sec

## Diet

Fry	
Juveniles	aquatic insects and larvae, algae
Adults	aquatic insects and larvae, algae
Notes: omnivorous, feed on the bottom, in the water column and at the surface	

## Growth (mm)

Age	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
			No growth data available				

Notes: Males grow faster than females. Adult males may reach a size of 175 - 201 mm.

## Reproduction

Time of Year	May - June	Age Males Mature	II
Temperature Range	15.5 - 18.3	Age Females Mature	II
Water Depth	13 - 44 mm	Nest	male
Substrate	gravel, sand	Egg Type	adhesive
Time of Day	daylight	Parental Care	
Critical pH	5.8	Days to Hatching	
Vegetation	not required	Stable Water Level	critical

Notes: Will often use nests built by other fish, in particular those of creek chubs. Spawn on gravel bottoms in stream riffles. Reproduction, diet and habitat requirement data taken from Trial and Wade 1983; Carlander 1969 and Scott and Crossman 1973.