

Longnose Dace (*Rhinichthys cataractae*)

General Information

A species associated with trout due to its similar affinity for swift moving, steep gradient headwater streams. A bottom dwelling species, relatively short lived, with few individuals five years or older. Longnose dace are found in the northern and central regions of New Jersey.



Native Range

Occurs from coast to coast across North America, as far south as the Rocky Mountains in Mexico and as far north as the Mackenzie River system near the Arctic Circle. In the east, it extends south through the Appalachians to Georgia, in the west, along the Rocky Mountains, and along the Pacific Coast from Oregon north through British Columbia. (Edwards, 1983).

Habitat Description

River: Steep gradient, swift flowing, and typically headwater streams with a rock and gravel substrate. Benthic species residing just above the substrate. Shallow water species typically reside in water 0.3 meters deep or less. Over hanging cover orientated species. In swift flowing streams species requires areas of cover to protect from current.

Lake: Literature citations identify wave-swept areas of lakeshores, in New Jersey their presence is essentially limited to streams.

Optimum Habitat Requirements

Dissolved Oxygen	
Temperature	14 – 18°C
pH	
Turbidity	
Current	> 45 cm/sec

Diet

Fry	Algae
Juveniles	Mayflies, chironomids; aquatic insects
Adults	Aquatic/terrestrial insects and larvae
Notes: Will eat whatever is in abundance.	

Reproduction

Time of Year	June – July	Age Males Mature	2
Temperature Range	14 – 19°C	Age Females Mature	2
Water Depth		Nest	None
Substrate	Gravel/rock	Egg Type	Demersal, adhesive
Time of Day		Parental Care	
Critical pH		Days to Hatching	
Velocity Range	45 – 60 cm/sec	Oxygen Level	

Notes: Life history information taken from Edwards 1983.