

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

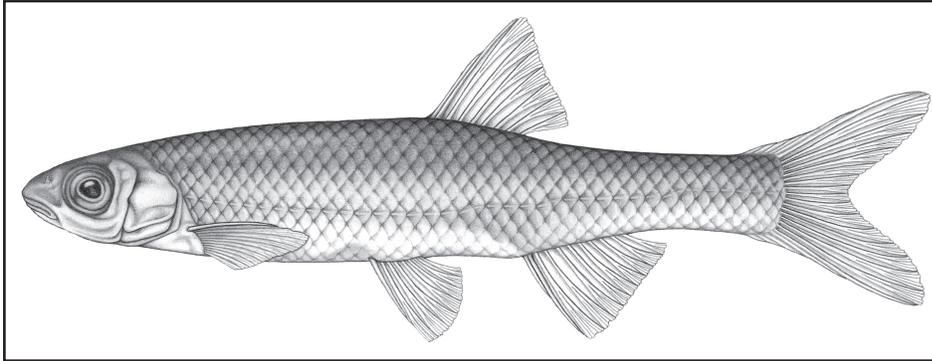
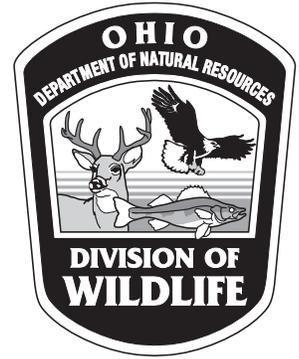
Division of Wildlife

Life History Notes

Emerald Shiner

Common Names: Lake shiner

Scientific Name: *Notropis atherinoides atherinoides*



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Identification:

Emerald shiners are small, slender fish with a terminal mouth and rounded snout. The back is silvery while the sides are emerald to silvery blue from behind the gill covers to the base of the tail.

Range and Habitat:

Emerald shiners can be found mainly in the Ohio River drainage and in Lake Erie. They prefer large, deep rivers and large lakes or reservoirs. They are also found in embayments and backwaters of these systems. Generally, they are found near the surface in open waters.

Life History:

Emerald shiners are broadcast spawners with no real substrate preference. They have been known to spawn over sand, gravel, vegetation and other cover. Generally, they feed on zooplankton, insects, and flying insects.

Adult Size:

The average emerald shiner is 2 to 3.5 inches with a maximum size of 4 inches.

Fishing Methods:

Because of their size, emerald shiners are not targeted by anglers. However, they are used as bait fish, and can be caught with dip nets or seines. They make excellent bait for yellow perch, white perch, white bass, and freshwater drum.