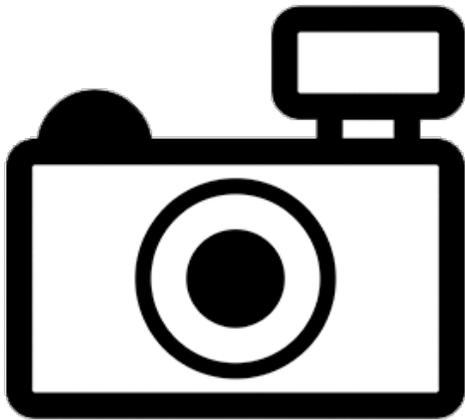


Keppi (*Sarotherodon lohbergeri*)

Ecological Risk Screening Summary

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, May 2012
Revised, November 2018
Web Version, 2/18/2021

Organism Type: Fish
Overall Risk Assessment Category: Uncertain



No Photo Available

1 Native Range and Status in the United States

Native Range

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Africa: Lake Barombi Mbo [Trewavas and Teugels 1991; Stiassny et al. 2008], a tributary of the Kake River (affluent of Lake Barombi Mbo) [Stiassny et al. 2008] and Kumba stream (tributary of the outlet of Barombi Mbo) [Trewavas and Teugels 1991], in west Cameroon.”

Status in the United States

No records of *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* in the wild or in trade in the United States were found.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has listed the tilapia *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* as a prohibited species. Prohibited nonnative species (FFWCC 2020), “are considered to be dangerous to the ecology and/or the health and welfare of the people of Florida. These species are not allowed to be personally possessed or used for commercial activities.”

From Louisiana State Legislature (2019):

“No person, firm, or corporation shall at any time possess, sell, or cause to be transported into this state by any other person, firm, or corporation, without first obtaining the written permission of the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, any of the following species of fish: freshwater electric eel (*Electrophorus* sp.); rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*); all members of the families *Synbranchidae* (Asian swamp eels); *Channidae* (snakeheads); *Clariidae* (walking catfishes); *Trichomycteridae* (pencil catfishes); all species of tilapia [*Sarotherodon lohbergeri* is a species of tilapia], [...]”

Sarotherodon lohbergeri falls within Group IV of New Mexico’s Department of Game and Fish Director’s Species Importation List (New Mexico Department of Game and Fish 2010). “The importation of these species [Group IV] are prohibited for the general public but may be allowed for, scientific study, department approved restoration and recovery plans, zoological display, temporary events/entertainment, use as service animal or by a qualified expert.”

From State of Nevada (2018):

“Except as otherwise provided in this section and NAC 504.486, the importation, transportation or possession of the following species of live wildlife or hybrids thereof, including viable embryos or gametes, is prohibited: [...] All species in the genera *Tilapia* and *Sarotherodon*”

Tilapia species are prohibited to be sold and used as bait or stocked in heated-water reservoirs in the State of Oklahoma (Oklahoma Secretary of State 2019).

All species in the genus *Sarotherodon* are listed as prohibited in Texas (Texas Parks and Wildlife 2020).

From Utah Office of Administrative Rules (2019):

“All species of fish listed in Subsections (2) through (30) are classified as prohibited for collection, importation and possession, [...] (30) *Tilapia*, (*Tilapia* and *Sarotherodon*) (All species) family Cichlidae.”

A permit is required to import, possess, or sell any species of tilapia in Virginia (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries 2020).

All species in the genus *Sarotherodon* are considered regulated Type A species in Washington. Regulated Type A species (Washington State Senate 2019) are “nonnative aquatic animal species that pose a low to moderate invasive risk that can be managed based on intended use or geographic scope of introduction, have a beneficial use, and are a priority for department-led or department-approved management of the species' beneficial use and invasive risks.”

Means of Introductions in the United States

No records of *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* in the wild in the United States were found.

Remarks

No additional remarks.

2 Biology and Ecology

Taxonomic Hierarchy and Taxonomic Standing

According to Fricke et al. (2018), *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* (Holly 1930) is the current valid name of this species. *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* was originally described as *Tilapia lohbergeri* Holly 1930.

From ITIS (2018):

Kingdom Animalia
Subkingdom Bilateria
Infrakingdom Deuterostomia
Phylum Chordata
Subphylum Vertebrata
Infraphylum Gnathostomata
Superclass Actinopterygii
Class Teleostei
Superorder Acanthopterygii
Order Perciformes
Suborder Labroidei
Family Cichlidae
Genus *Sarotherodon*
Species *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* (Holly, 1930)

Size, Weight, and Age Range

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Max length : 16.2 cm SL male/unsexed; [Stiassny et al. 2008]”

Environment

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Freshwater; demersal. [...]; 25°C - 27°C [assumed to be recommended aquarium temperature] [Baensch and Riehl 1995]; [...]”

Climate

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Tropical; [...]; 5°N - 4°N”

Distribution Outside the United States

Native

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Africa: Lake Barombi Mbo [Trewavas and Teugels 1991; Stiassny et al. 2008], a tributary of the Kake River (affluent of Lake Barombi Mbo) [Stiassny et al. 2008] and Kumba stream (tributary of the outlet of Barombi Mbo) [Trewavas and Teugels 1991], in west Cameroon.”

Introduced

No records of introductions of *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* were found.

Means of Introduction Outside the United States

No records of introductions of *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* were found.

Short Description

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Dorsal spines (total): 15 - 17; Dorsal soft rays (total): 10-12; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 8 - 10; Vertebrae: 29. Diagnosis: 14-18 rakers on lower limb of first arch; 30-31 scales in lateral line [Stiassny et al. 2008]. Body silver-grey, with mid-lateral black band interrupted anteriorly on caudal peduncle [Trewavas 1983; Stiassny et al. 2008]. Head length 33.0-38.4% of standard length; jaw teeth with slender shafts and broad crowns [Stiassny et al. 2008]. Mature fishes of both sexes with variable black areas on lower jaw and lower parts of head; no tilapia-mark [Stiassny et al. 2008].”

From Trewavas et al. (1972):

“This species is easily recognized in life and when freshly caught by the prominent black band extending from the opercular spot to the caudal peduncle. When preserved there is also an upper band between the dorsal fin and the upper lateral line. At all times it is distinguished from *K. eisenbrauti* and *S. steinbachi* by the acute snout and the terminal mouth with rather thick lips. The young of about 30 mm SL have pearly iridescent bodies with no stripe (but the stripe may appear in preserved young) and their pelvic fins and the anterior edge of the anal are orange to vermilion.”

Biology

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Found throughout the lake, but seems to prefer zones with submerged wooden or stone structures [Lamboj 2004]. Usually forms schools at the surface; feeds mainly on epiphytic and epilithic filamentous algae, and the diatoms, rhizopods, rotifers and organic debris found among them; adults feed by opening their mouths very wide and applying them to the surface of the rock as though sucking the material in [Trewavas 1983]. Lacks marked sexual dichromatism when sexually active [Stiassny et al. 2008]. Both sexes are possible incubators [Lamboj 2004].”

Forms temporary pair bonds [Stiassny et al. 2008], for the entire duration of incubation/broodcare [Lamboj 2004].”

“Absence of sexual dichromatism suggests a biparental mouth-brooding function.”

From Trewavas et al. (1972):

“We observed no mating or parental behaviour, but eggs of this size must surely be incubated in the mouth. [...] Biparental care is consonant with the lack of external differences between the sexes.”

Human Uses

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Fisheries:”

Diseases

No information on diseases of *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* was found. **No records of OIE-reportable diseases (OIE 2021) were found for *S. lohbergeri*.**

Threat to Humans

From Froese and Pauly (2018):

“Harmless”

3 Impacts of Introductions

No records of introductions of *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* were found.

4 History of Invasiveness

No records of introductions of *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* were found, so there is no known nonnative population.

5 Global Distribution



Figure 1. Map of Africa showing locations where *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* has been reported. Location is in Cameroon. Map from GBIF Secretariat (2018).

6 Distribution Within the United States

No records of *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* in the wild in the United States were found.

7 Climate Matching

Summary of Climate Matching Analysis

The climate match for *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* was low for the entire contiguous United States. There were no areas of high or medium match. The Climate 6 score (Sanders et al. 2018; 16 climate variables; Euclidean distance) for the contiguous United States was 0.000, low (scores from 0.000 and 0.005, inclusive, are classified as low). All States had low individual climate scores.

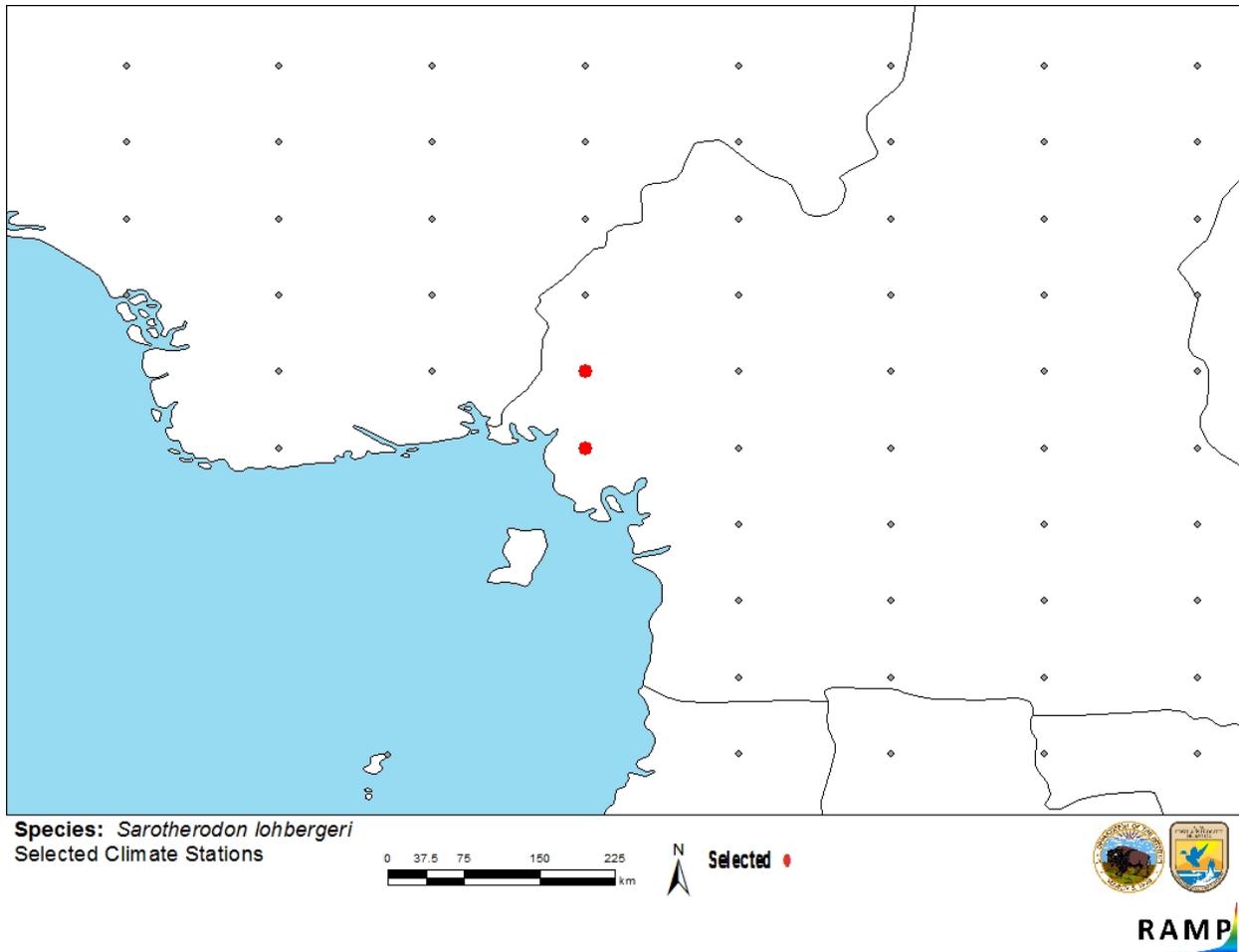


Figure 2. RAMP (Sanders et al. 2018) source map showing weather stations in central western Africa selected as source locations (red; Cameroon) and non-source locations (gray) for *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* climate matching. Source locations from GBIF Secretariat (2018). Selected source locations are within 100 km of one or more species occurrences, and do not necessarily represent the locations of occurrences themselves.

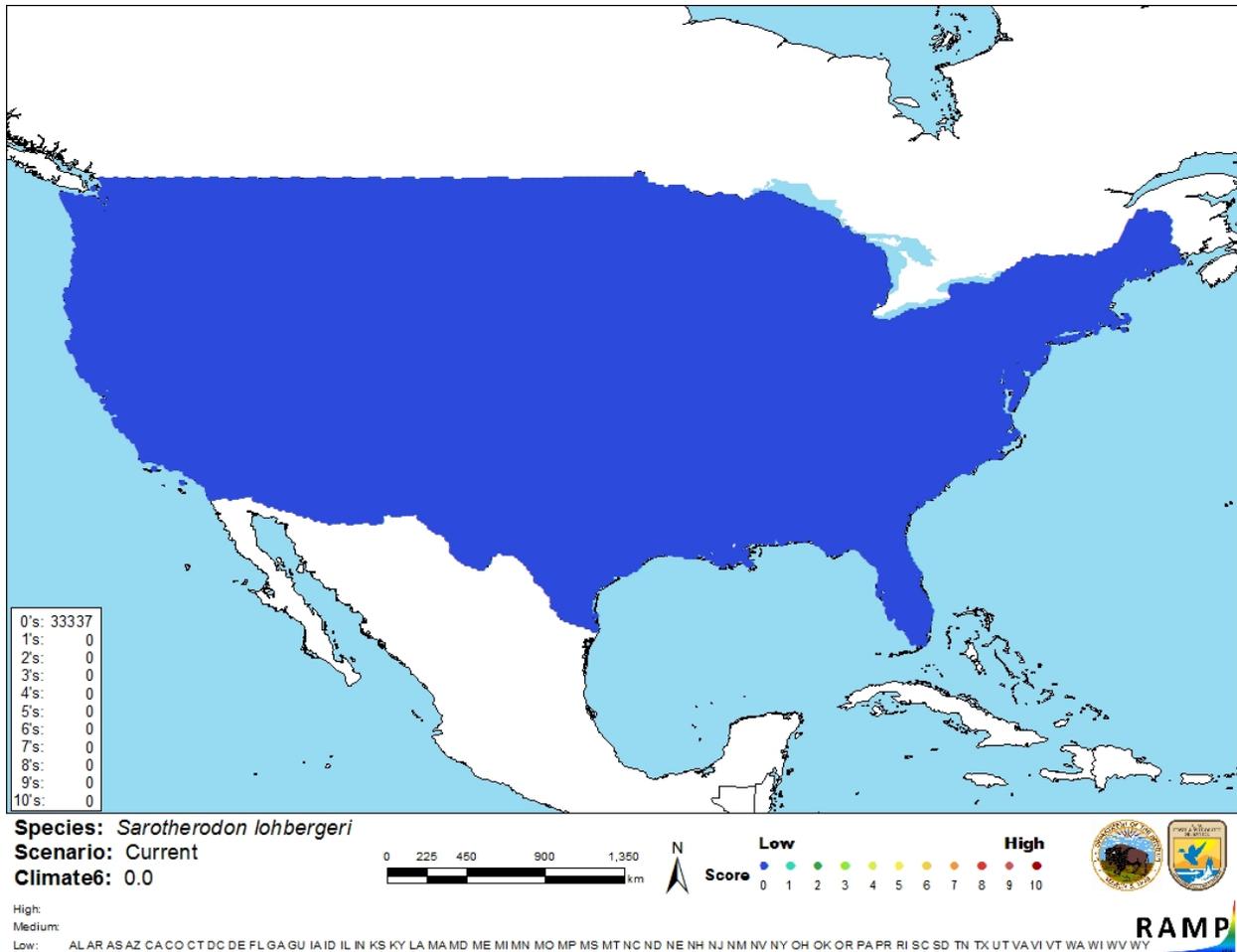


Figure 3. Map of RAMP (Sanders et al. 2018) climate matches for *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* in the contiguous United States based on source locations reported from GBIF Secretariat (2018). Counts of climate match scores are tabulated on the left. 0/Blue = Lowest match, 10/Red = Highest match.

The High, Medium, and Low Climate match Categories are based on the following table:

Climate 6: (Count of target points with climate scores 6-10)/ (Count of all target points)	Overall Climate Match Category
$0.000 \leq X \leq 0.005$	Low
$0.005 < X < 0.103$	Medium
≥ 0.103	High

8 Certainty of Assessment

The certainty of assessment for *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* is low. There is minimal information available for this species. No information on introductions of *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* was found.

9 Risk Assessment

Summary of Risk to the Contiguous United States

Sarotherodon lohbergeri is a South American freshwater fish native to western Cameroon. The history of invasiveness is no known nonnative population. It has not been reported as introduced or established anywhere in the world. The climate match for the contiguous United States was low. The certainty of assessment is low. The overall risk assessment category is uncertain.

Assessment Elements

- **History of Invasiveness (Sec. 4): No Known Nonnative Population**
- **Overall Climate Match Category (Sec. 7): Low**
- **Certainty of Assessment (Sec. 8): Low**
- **Remarks/Important additional information:** *Sarotherodon lohbergeri* is regulated by multiple States.
- **Overall Risk Assessment Category: Uncertain**

10 Literature Cited

Note: The following references were accessed for this ERSS. References cited within quoted text but not accessed are included below in Section 11.

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11 Literature Cited in Quoted Material

Note: The following references are cited within quoted text within this ERSS, but were not accessed for its preparation. They are included here to provide the reader with more information.

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