



Fountain Darter Species Information

Scientific Name: Etheostoma fonticola

Family: Percidae

Description: The fish live one to two years and are less than 1.2 centimeters long, and eat insect larvae and small crustaceans. This species lacks a swim bladder and they scoot along the bottom of their habitat, which helps them deal with swift currents. They spawn year round, but primarily in early spring and fall.

Status: It was federally listed as endangered in 1970 primarily due to the overuse of the springs in which the fish resides.

Native Area: The fountain darter can only be found in Texas; specifically within the headwaters of two spring fed rivers in San Marcos, Texas: the Comal River and the San Marcos River. They live in the clear springs of these headwaters.



Information and photo provided by Uvalde National Fish Hatchery

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/ualde/index.html>