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*