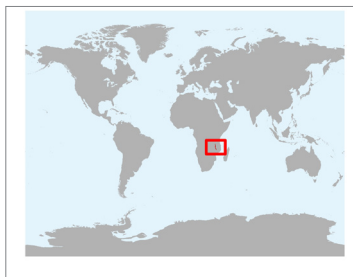




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Geographical range

Species of the Day: *Oreochromis karongae*

Oreochromis karongae is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This fish is one of three 'chambo' species endemic to Lake Malawi, and can be seen in loose shoals in many areas of the lake. Like other *Oreochromis* they are maternal mouthbrooders, with the mother protecting the eggs in her mouth until they hatch, and often the juvenile fry continue to use her mouth for shelter when danger is present.

The chambo are the most valuable food fishes in Malawi, and are very important for local subsistence as well as commerce. Populations of this species, however, collapsed in the 1990s as a result of over-fishing, with as much as a 70% decline within 10 years.

This species is, however, very easy to maintain in captivity. Although formal management of fisheries in the lake has been in place since the 1930s, over-harvesting is still a problem. Greater enforcement of harvest levels is vital in order to minimize further losses of this species and other fishes in Lake Malawi.

The latest **IUCN Red List assessment**, findings released today, shows that 21 per cent of freshwater species in continental Africa are threatened with extinction.

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