

# Conserving Bermuda killifish

Killifish make up one quarter of Bermuda's endemic fish life.



## Project Objectives

To increase the population and range of endemic killifish throughout the ponds of Bermuda.

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Gray, Robin Marirea and Annie Glasspool

## Summary

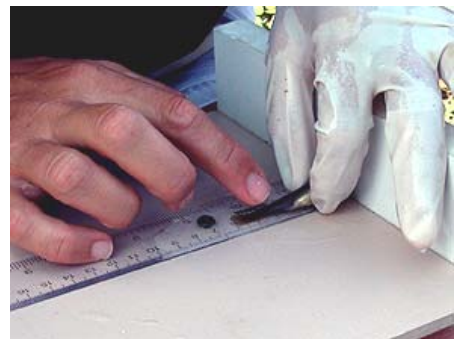
Bermuda has two different species of endemic **Killifish** (*Fundulus bermudae* and *Fundulus relictus*) living in a limited number of saline ponds across the Island, and it appears that no pond contains a mixture of both. Conservation oriented research into the biology and ecology of these unique fishes began in 2004 in order to inform effective management making decisions.

Historically described as abundant and widespread throughout the wetland communities of Bermuda during the 19th century, killifish are now greatly reduced in both numbers and distribution. While most of the present day populations are in ponds located in nature reserves, many of these are in turn adjacent to either roads, agricultural land or golf courses, which makes them susceptible to chemical pollution from surface run off.

Research has determined the population size and characteristics in most of the killifish ponds, and the genetics of each population are currently being investigated.

Individuals from one diminishing population (Warwick Pond) are currently being bred in captivity at the **Vienna Zoological Gardens (2011)** for eventual release into fresh water ponds found in the central parishes of Bermuda.

The restoration of wetland habitats and the creation of additional ponds in Bermuda, combined with the transfer of killifish into them, is just one action that is helping to increase both the population and range of these endangered fishes.



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Department of Conservation Services

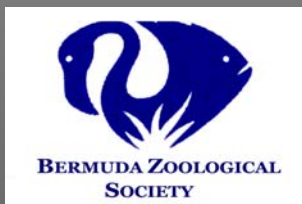
Bermuda Zoological Society

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