

## KEY SILVERSIDE

*Menidia conchorum*

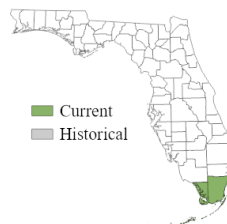
**Order:** Atheriniformes

**Family:** Atherinopsidae

**FNAI Ranks:** G1Q/S1

**U.S. Status:** none

**FL Status:** Threatened



**Description:** Small fish, less than 2 in. (51 mm), silver with dark line along the midside; distinctly large eye. Has 12 - 15 anal rays, 33 - 35 lateral line scales, and 12 -14 pre-dorsal scales (small fin in front of dorsal fin).

**Similar Species:** Similar in appearance to other *Menidia* species; however, ranges do not overlap. May not be distinct from *M. peninsulae*, which is larger and has higher ray and scale counts.

**Habitat:** Shallow pools (lagoons) surrounded by mangroves; usually in association with organic debris and aquatic vegetation.

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Present in all seasons.

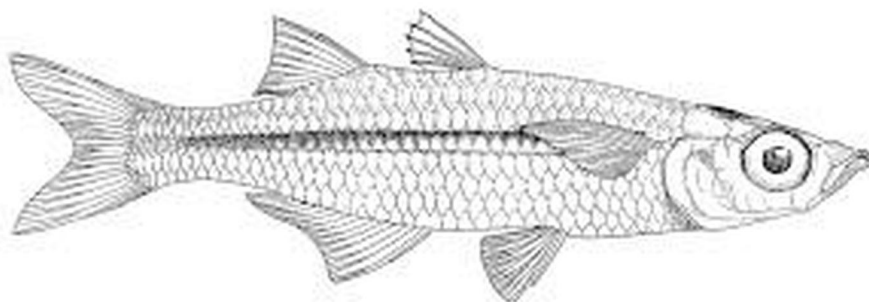
**Florida Distribution:** Florida Keys from Long Key to Key West.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Same as Florida distribution.

**Conservation Status:** Appears to have been extirpated from Key West. Although it is often found in large schools, no information on range-wide abundance is available.

**Protection and Management:** Conduct surveys to determine population extent and number. Prevent further loss of mangrove habitat. Install culverts at impounded sites to allow access to shallow pool areas that once may have been habitat.

**References:** Duggins et al. 1986, Gilbert (ed.) 1992.



by Merald Clark from Gilbert (ed.) 1992 reprinted courtesy of the University Press of Florida



*Menidia beryllina* (very similar in appearance to key silverside) © Joe Tomelleri