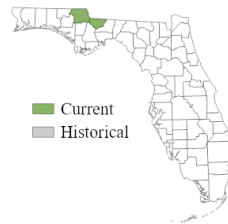


## SHOAL BASS

*Micropterus cataractae*

**Order:** Perciformes  
**Family:** Centrarchidae  
**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S1  
**U.S. Status:** none  
**FL Status:** none



**Description:** Medium to large size bass, up to 25 in. (635 mm); olive-green to nearly black dorsally; dark olive, vertically elongate blotches which often create a distinctive “tiger-striped” pattern along the sides; white to cream-colored venter; darker spot at base caudal fin; upper jaw extends to a point below the eye; no teeth on tongue.

**Similar Species:** Spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*) typically has teeth on tongue; largemouth bass (*M. salmoides*) distinguished by upper jaw extending well past eye.

**Habitat:** Fast-moving shoal areas of rivers and larger tributaries.

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

**Florida Distribution:** Limited to a small portion of the Chipola River, Jackson County, and to the Apalachicola River at the Jim Woodruff Dam, on the Gadsden/Jackson county line. Endemic to the Apalachicola River drainage, restricted to shoals of the Flint, Chattahoochee, Apalachicola and Chipola Rivers.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint rivers basin in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

**Conservation Status:** Populations have been greatly reduced by siltation of habitat and by dam construction. Removal of limestone shoals undoubtedly reduced the Apalachicola River population, where the shoal bass is now uncommon.

**Protection and Management:** Maintain water quality and natural characteristics of habitat. Avoid further destruction of limestone outcrop areas in rivers where the species occurs.

## Shoal Bass

*Micropterus cataractae*

**References:** Gilbert (ed.) 1992, Hoehn 1998, Hurst et al. 1975, Mettee et al. 1996, Page and Burr 1998, Williams and Burgess 1999.



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