

BLUENOSE SHINER

Pteronotropis welaka

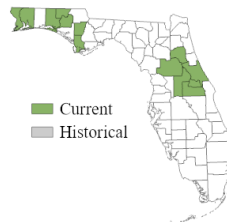
Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Cyprinidae

FNAI Ranks: G3G4/S3S4

U.S. Status: none

FL Status: Threatened



Description: A small shiner measuring 1.3 - 1.9 in. (33 - 48 mm); olive-colored with a dark lateral stripe bordered above by a narrow amber stripe, a dark caudal spot highlighted by light-colored areas above and below, and a blue “nose” (adults only). Adult males have large, darkly pigmented dorsal fins and yellow pelvic and anal fins streaked with black.

Similar Species: Adults are unmistakable. Young are similar to several small shiners with a dark lateral band: the ironcolor shiner (*Notropis chalybaeus*) has an intensely pigmented mouth interior; the coastal shiner (*Notropis petersoni*) has a much smaller caudal spot; the weed shiner (*Notropis texanus*) also has a small caudal spot. These species tend to have the dorsal fin positioned above (equal to) the pelvic fins versus posteriorly in the bluenose shiner.

Habitat: Quiet backwaters and pools of blackwater streams and rivers and spring runs; usually with thick vegetation nearby. Occurs in both low-pH and high-pH environments.

Seasonal Occurrence: Active year round. However, may be abundant at a location only to disappear for years at a time.

Florida Distribution: Occurs in the western Panhandle, west of the Apalachicola River, and disjunctly in a limited area of the middle St. Johns River drainage in eastern peninsular Florida.

Range-wide Distribution: Occurs from eastern Louisiana across southern Mississippi and Alabama, southwestern Georgia, the western Florida panhandle, and a disjunct area in north-central Florida.

Conservation Status: Preliminary data from a study being conducted by FFWCC

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suggests bluenose shiner is much rarer in the western panhandle than originally presumed. Species has apparently declined in the upper St. Johns River (based on multiple collections at known sites).

Protection and Management: Maintain adequate water quality and natural characteristics of habitat.

References: Georgia DNR 1999, Gilbert (ed.) 1992, Hoehn 1998, Mettee et. al 1996, Page and Burr 1998.



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