



# Rare Animals of Louisiana

## Freckled Darter

*Percina lenticula*

**Rarity Rank:** S1/ G2

**Identification:**

- The largest of darters; olive and brown coloring in a distinctive pattern that resembles marbling
- Spots on both dorsal fins, 2nd spot is larger.
- Largest measured to be 8 inches.



**Taxonomic comments:** No recognized subspecies

**Habitat:** Fastest and deepest parts of main river channels with substrate made of uneven bedrock, pools, and drop-offs.

**Food habits:** Invertivore

**Reproduction:** Freckled darter eggs are fertilized externally.

**Threats:**

- Rare throughout its range.
- Habitat disturbance primarily attributed to dam construction
- Pollution from wastewater treatment, industrial run-off and mining discharge
- Stream channelization and siltation from extensive clear-cutting in nearby habitat.

**Beneficial Management Practices:**

- Follow Best Management Practices for Streamside Management Zones.
- Prevent negative changes to water quality.

**U. S. Range:** AL, GA, LA, MS

**References:**

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