

banded killifish *Fundulus diaphanous*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Actinopterygii

Order: Cyprinodontiformes

Family: Fundulidae

ILLINOIS STATUS threatened, native

FEATURES

The banded killifish is about three inches in length. It shows an olive-green coloration on the back and upper sides and a silver-white color below. Ten to 20, dark, vertical bars can be seen along the sides. The breeding male has green bars along the side, a yellow throat and yellow fins. The front edge of the dorsal fin is in front of the front edge of the anal fin. Like all killifishes, this species has a flattened head and back, an upturned mouth and large eyes. There is no lateral line.

BEHAVIORS

The banded killifish may be found in clear, glacial lakes that have much aquatic vegetation in Lake County. This fish moves in schools at or near the surface. Spawning occurs in late spring and early summer. The eggs are deposited in small clusters that stick to aquatic plants. The banded killifish eats a variety of organisms.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

peatlands

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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