

# **burbot**

## *Lota lota*

### **FEATURES**

The average size for a burbot is 15 to 22 inches long and one to three pounds. It may attain a weight of 12 pounds. The single barbel (whiskerlike projection) on the chin is characteristic. The elongate body is olive to green-brown with a white or pale yellow belly. It has small scales and a large head. Two dorsal fins are present, the first short and the second very long. The anal fin is nearly as long as the second dorsal fin. The tail fin is rounded.

### **BEHAVIORS**

The burbot lives in Lake Michigan and in streams. It prefers deep water. This species is active at night. Spawning in winter, the female scatters eggs over the bottom. Eggs hatch after three or four weeks. The burbot eats fishes and crayfish.

### **TAXONOMY**

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Actinopterygii  
Order: Gadiformes  
Family: Gadidae

### **ILLINOIS STATUS**

common, native

### **ILLINOIS RANGE**





### **Aquatic Habitats**

rivers & streams; Lake Michigan

### **Woodland Habitats**

none

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none