

burbot *Lota lota*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Gadiformes

Family: Gadidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

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.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

rivers & streams; Lake Michigan

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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