

## central mudminnow *Umbra limi*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Salmoniformes

Family: Umbridae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

The central mudminnow may attain a length of two to four inches. A black bar is present at the base of the tail fin. The front of the dorsal fin is located far ahead of the front of the anal fin. There is no lateral line. The top and sides of the head are covered with scales. A ridge of skin attaches the upper lip to the snout at its midpoint. The tail fin is rounded. The back and sides are green to dark brown, and the sides may have dark brown bars. The belly is white or yellow. The breeding male has blue-green anal and pelvic fins. The central mudminnow has a life span of about seven to nine years.

### BEHAVIORS

The central mudminnow may be found in the northern one-third, the southeastern one-fourth and the Illinois River in Illinois. This fish lives in streams, peatlands, swamps and other wetlands where there is much mud and submerged debris and vegetation. The central mudminnow is tolerant of extremes in water temperature and low oxygen levels. It can gulp air at the surface and absorb oxygen through its swim bladder. This fish spawns in April, scattering the eggs over vegetation. No parental care is given to eggs or young. The central mudminnow eats invertebrates and fishes.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

**bottomland forests**

Woodland Habitats

**bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands**

Prairie Habitats

**none**

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