

freshwater drum *Aplodinotus grunniens*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Perciformes

Family: Sciaenidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The average life span of a freshwater drum is seven years. Its average weight is one pound. The silver body has a humpbacked appearance. The lateral line extends to the end of the tail. The name "drum" comes from the ability of this fish to produce sounds, using the gas bladder to amplify them. There are two dorsal fins, the first with spines. A long ray appears as a filament on the pelvic fin. Teeth are present in the throat.

BEHAVIORS

The freshwater drum lives in rivers, lakes and impoundments. This fish lives on or near the bottom. It attains maturity at age five. Spawning occurs in April and May. The sounds produced by the drum may be used in the spawning process. The female deposits 200,000 to 400,000 eggs. Eggs and larvae float at the water's surface. The freshwater drum eats insects, fishes and crayfish.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

rivers & streams; lakes, ponds & reservoirs

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2017. *Biodiversity of Illinois*.