

# Yarra Pygmy Perch

***Nannoperca  
obscura***

## ***Status***

Most Yarra Pygmy Perch populations persist in south-west Victorian and South Australian waters but the small fish is classified as nationally vulnerable.



## ***Description***

The Yarra Pygmy Perch is a pale brownish grey, sometimes green fish with a pale belly, spots along the midline, and clear, faint yellow to black fins.

It has been known to grown up to 7.5 cm but more commonly grows to about 6.5 cm.

## ***Habitat***

The distribution of the Yarra Pygmy Perch coincides with the waterways in Victoria's volcanic plains region, with most streams in this area suitably alkaline with a high mineral content.

The fish prefers slow-moving rivers or streams with an abundance of aquatic vegetation and snags.

These conditions make Waurin Ponds Creek, Torguay's Thompson Creek, the Otway's Curdies River and upper Barwon tributaries ideal habitat and crucial for its continued survival.

## ***Threats***

The major challenges for its survival include declining water quality and flow because of drought. Barriers preventing the fish swimming up and down stream have an impact on localised migration patterns which are vital for its breeding and genetic diversity, while land clearing along the stream banks impacts on the amount of sediment which seeps into the river system.

## ***What can you do?***

Exclude stock access to waterways, particularly where threatened fish are known to occur.

Plant indigenous vegetation along stream banks to increase shade in the water, and where possible, reduce water extraction from streams to enhance habitat conditions.

Get involved with community environmental groups interested in the plight of the tiny perch.