

Estuary perch

Percalates colonorum



Only known from Arthur River.

Description: A relatively deep bodied fish of the perch family. Very similar to Australian bass but with a concave forehead i.e. scooped. Has a similar body shape to a black bream.

Colour: Silver to grey in colour with largish scales and black eyes.

Size: Has been recorded to 10 kg and 75 cm but commonly to 3 kg and 55 cm.

Habitat: Spends its' life in schools around snags and weed beds along the length of the river, from the estuary mouth to the first rapids.

Diet: Insects, molluscs, crustacea and small fish.

Life Cycle: Adults move to the lower estuary to spawn and this occurs late Winter and early Spring.

Distribution status: Native.

Original range: Distributed from mid NSW to the mouth of Murray River in South Australia. Thought to be distributed across the North, upper East coasts and Arthur River in Tasmania. Now only Arthurs River.

Reasons for change to distribution: Now absent from much of its previous range. Most likely caused by over fishing and instream barriers preventing migration to and from estuaries.

Legal status: **Protected** (*Inland Fisheries Act 1995*).

Can it be taken? This species is totally protected and may not be taken without a permit. Under its current status it is prohibited to fish for this species.

Other names: N/A.



Image NSW DPI

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