

Golden galaxias

Galaxias auratus



Found throughout lakes' Sorell and Crescent and the upper River Clyde.

Description: A medium to large fish with a thickset body. The anal fin starts behind the dorsal fin origin. As with all Galaxias they don't have scales.

Colour: Often gold-amber in colour with dark oval spots on the sides and back. The belly is silver-grey in colour. The fins are light orange with black edges on the dorsal, pelvic and anal fins. Often covered in black dots that are parasites.

Size: Commonly reaches 140 mm but can grow up to 240 mm in length.

Habitat: Found throughout lakes' Sorell and Crescent and the upper River Clyde. Adults prefer shallow margins with rocky habitat. Juveniles can be found schooling in open water.

Diet: They will feed on a variety of aquatic animals, including insect larvae, molluscs and crustaceans. They will also take insects from the water surface.

Life Cycle: Lives entire life in freshwater. It spawns during Spring, laying its eggs among rocks in the lake shallows. Larvae are abundant in open water during late Spring.

Distribution status: Endemic.

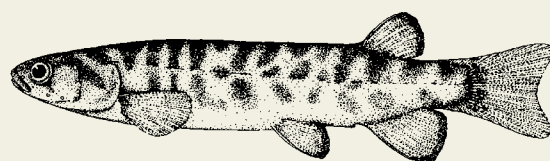
Original range: Not known outside of the River Clyde catchment. Former distribution may have extended further downstream in the River Clyde.

Reasons for change to distribution: Predation by redfin perch and trout. Low water levels prevent access to spawning habitat.

Legal status: **Rare/Endangered** (State and Commonwealth lists).

Can it be taken? This species is totally protected and may not be taken without a permit.

Other names: N/A.



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