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# Black Bullhead

*Ameiurus melas*



MT FISH, WILDLIFE &amp; PARKS

## Characteristics

- chin barbels dark; sharp dorsal and pectoral spines
- tail fin not forked - rounded anal fins
- gray, brown, or black body, mottled coloring on the body - fins brown or black
- serrae on posterior edge of the pectoral spine usually absent compared to the well-developed serrae on black bullhead pectoral spine)

## Ecology and Distribution

- Warm backwaters, pools, creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and reservoirs
- Tolerates high temperature, high turbidity, and low oxygen

**Conservation – not found in Ohio drainage of PA since 1985;  
status in FCW uncertain**