



<http://www.cnr.vt.edu/ejfish/families/images/jpegs/channeldart.jpg>

## Channel Darter *Percina copelandi*

### Characteristics

- midline of belly w/ row of specialized spiny scales - “scutes”; (not in *Etheostoma*)
- relatively small (rarely > 7 cm) *Percina* species w/ a blunt snout
- olive-tan above w/ back & upper side w/ black Xs or Ws
- 9-10 horizontally oblong blotches along side & medial black caudal spot
- dusky teardrop often reduced to small spot
- breeding males with darkened fins & blue-green sheen on sides



### Ecology and Distribution

- medium to large rivers with moderate current & cobble, gravel or sand substrate; also gravel lake shores

**Conservation** – status poorly documented in French Creek; isolated populations in Allegheny River critical for conservation efforts