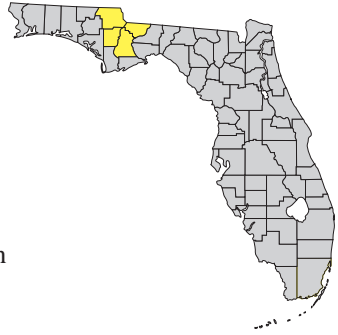


## SHOAL BASS

### *Micropterus cataractae*

<b>Order:</b>	Perciformes
<b>Family:</b>	Centrarchidae
<b>FNAI Ranks:</b>	G3/S1
<b>U.S. Status:</b>	None
<b>FL Status:</b>	Species of Special Concern



© Gray Bass  
courtesy of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

**Description:** Medium to large size bass, up to 25 in. (635 mm); olive-green to nearly black dorsally; dark olive, vertically elongate blotches which often create a distinctive “tiger-striped” pattern along the sides; white to cream-colored venter; darker spot at base caudal fin; upper jaw extends to a point below the eye; no teeth on tongue.

**Similar Species:** Spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*) typically has teeth on tongue; largemouth bass (*M. salmoides*) distinguished by upper jaw extending well past eye.

**Habitat:** Fast-moving shoal areas of rivers and larger tributaries.

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Present in all seasons.

**Florida Distribution:** Limestone shoal areas of Chipola and Apalachicola rivers.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint rivers basin in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

## SHOAL BASS

*Micropterus cataractae*

**Conservation Status:** Populations have been greatly reduced by siltation of habitat and by dam construction. Removal of limestone shoals undoubtedly reduced the Apalachicola River population, where the shoal bass is now uncommon.

**Protection and Management:** Monitor water quality and ameliorate sources of degradation. Avoid further destruction of limestone outcrop areas in rivers where the species occurs.

**Selected References:** Gilbert (ed.) 1992, Hoehn 1998, Hurst et al. 1975, Mettee et al. 1996, Page and Burr 1998, Williams and Burgess 1999.



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