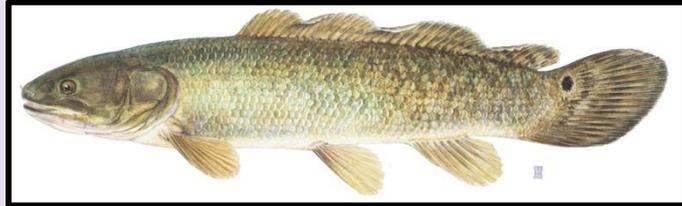


*Amia Calva*

# Bowfin

Other Common Names:  
grinnel, mudfish, dogfish



Amiidae, the ray-finned fish family



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Referred to as a “living fossil” and has retained characteristics of ancient ancestors
- Adults can grow 20-40 inches in length; females grow larger than males (reverse dimorphism)
- Body is elongated and cylindrical with a long dorsal and rounded tail fin
- Coloring makes a camouflaged pattern; olive-brown to brown in color
- Males possess a dark spot with bright orange halo on the tail
- Can breathe both water and air due to gas bladder

## Background

- Native to eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada; possibly introduced as an aquarium release
- Inhabits lowland rivers, lakes, swamps, backwaters, and brackish areas; can withstand poorly oxygenated waters
- Predator fish that stalks pray such as crayfish, mollusks, insects, amphibians, and other fish
- Threatens native fish species

Photo Credit:

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