Hypseleotris barrawayi, Barraway's Fish

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Actinopterygii	Perciformes	Eleotridae

Taxon Name: *Hypseleotris barrawayi* Larson, 2007

Common Name(s):

- English: Barraway's Fish

Taxonomic Source(s):

Eschmeyer, W.N. (ed). 2014. Catalog of Fishes. Updated 6 October 2014. Available at: <http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>. (Accessed: 6 October 2014).

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Near Threatened [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2019

Date Assessed: February 13, 2019

Justification:

This species is listed as Near Threatened because it has a restricted distribution, and is known from only three locations, although there are currently no confirmed major threats.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species is endemic to the upper reaches of the Katherine River and Edith River in the Daly River basin, Northern Territory in Australia (Larson 2007, Pusey *et al.* 2017).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Australia (Northern Territory)

Distribution Map

Hypseleotris barrawayi

Range
Extant (resident)

Compiled by:
Lintermans, M. and colleagues 2019 IUCN Red List assessment for Australian freshwater fish.

Population

It is a locally common species. This species is known to aggregate in large numbers (Larson 2007, Pusey and Kennard pers. obs. from underwater snorkel surveys).

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

The following information is taken largely from Larson 2007:

This species occurs in aggregations in freshwater pools, with sheltered areas such as steep banks, overhanging vegetation and submerged logs (Gomon and Bray 2017). In riverine sections the aggregations stay close to the bank near root masses and leaf litter, and in gorge sections they stay close to the walls (Larsen 2007). In November to January, males will clear a breeding site and females will lay an egg patch of 20 mm diameter, containing 180 eggs of 0.3 mm diameter.

This species' preferred habitat is clear quiet water with sheltered places such as near steep banks with overhanging vegetation (e.g. *Pandanus aquaticus* and *Melaleuca argentea*), among bankside roots, submerged logs (Bywater 1988, pers. obs.). It has been observed forming large loose schools along steep sides of the plunge pool at Edith Falls in the shade of overhanging vegetation (pers. obs.), or in low abundance and solitary, 'skipping about on the surface of boulders and inclined walls ... not in the creek leading out however' (Brad Pusey, Griffith University, pers. comm.). Pusey obtained the species from the main channel of the Katherine River at Centipede Dreaming Gorge, but not from a river channel site above the falls. He also got specimens from the junction of the main channel and tributary above the gorge on a previous occasion in the Katherine River (near Manyallaluk). It was absent from Grace Creek (14°9.025'S, 132°45.886'E) near these two sites, however. Pusey observed that habitat use differed between sites depending on habitat type: 'In riverine sections they were associated with rootmasses and leaf litter close to the bank and aggregated together within about 20 cm of the root structures (much like *H. compressa* does). In the gorge sections where habitat was dominated by sheer bedrock walls and deep pools, *H. barrawayi* aggregations (100s of small fish < 2 cm) formed close to the walls. They were not present in the shallow bouldery sections of these pools where sooties and spangleds were abundant.'. The first specimens from Sleisbeck came from water with a conductivity of 38.00 uS/cm, pH of 7.29, 11.48 total hardness and 15.80 total alkalinity. Dense schools of small juveniles and young adults have been observed in October and gravid females in August and October; the fish moved slowly in the school and were not easily panicked, remaining calm even when placed in a bucket or plastic bag (Bywater 1988, pers. obs.). They adapt readily to captivity.

Systems: Freshwater

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is only found in one area so it may be vulnerable to threats. There were previously uranium mining activities in the core area of the distribution of the species; the legacy effects are unknown. It may be threatened by trampling and habitat degradation from water buffalo and feral pigs.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species occurs in Kakadu and Nitmiluk National Parks and is listed on the Biodiversity Summary for NRM Region Northern Territory due to their distribution laying primarily within the region (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 2011).

Credits

Assessor(s): Hammer, M. & Kennard, M.

Reviewer(s): Brooks, S.

**Facilitators(s) and
Compiler(s):** Chanson, J.S.

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External Resources

For [Images and External Links to Additional Information, please see the Red List website](#).

Appendix

Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.1. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	-	Suitable	-
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.7. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	-	Suitable	-

Threats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
8. Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases -> 8.1.1. Unspecified species	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Negligible declines	Low impact: 4

Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Action Recovery plan: No
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km²): 48
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): Unknown
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km²): 2799
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): Unknown

Distribution
Number of Locations: 3
Lower elevation limit (m): 125
Upper elevation limit (m): 300

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