
Sand Roller

Percopsis transmontana

Actinopterygii — Percopsiformes — Percopsidae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Apparently secure (G4)
Statewide: Historical (SH)
ESA: No status
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM: Regional/State imperiled (Type 3)
IDFG: Protected nongame

BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Lack of essential information pertaining to status in Idaho; limited distribution and no recent record of this species in Idaho.

TAXONOMY

Sand roller are 1 of 2 species in the trout–perch family, Percopsidae. The other species is found on the east coast of North America. It was originally described by Eigenmann and Eigenmann in 1892 (Nelson et al. 2004).

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

The sand roller was historically found in the Columbia River up to central Washington. In Idaho, it was documented in the 1950s in the lower Clearwater River above Lewiston near Hatwai Creek (Keating 1958). Several thousand fish were sampled in downstream traps at the Lewiston Dam. However, in 1996, surveys specifically for sand roller in the Clearwater River reported no observations (Cochnauer, IDFG, pers comm.).

POPULATION TREND

This species has not been observed in Idaho since the 1950s and may be extirpated. Wydoski and Whitney (2003) indicate that sand roller are common in lower Columbia River reservoirs but are less abundant in upstream reservoirs.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Sand roller inhabit waters ranging from quiet backwaters with cover in small streams to large rivers. Wydoski and Whitney (2003) indicate that they are likely territorial or will use cover to separate themselves. Most sand roller are <7cm (<3 in), although they have been collected up to 10 cm (4 in) and an estimated age of 6 years. Maturity is attained at age 2–3. Spawning occurs in June to mid–July with water temperatures 14–16 C (57–61 F). Fecundity ranged from 1100–3300 eggs per female. Diet consists of small crustaceans, plankton, and aquatic insect larvae.

ISSUES

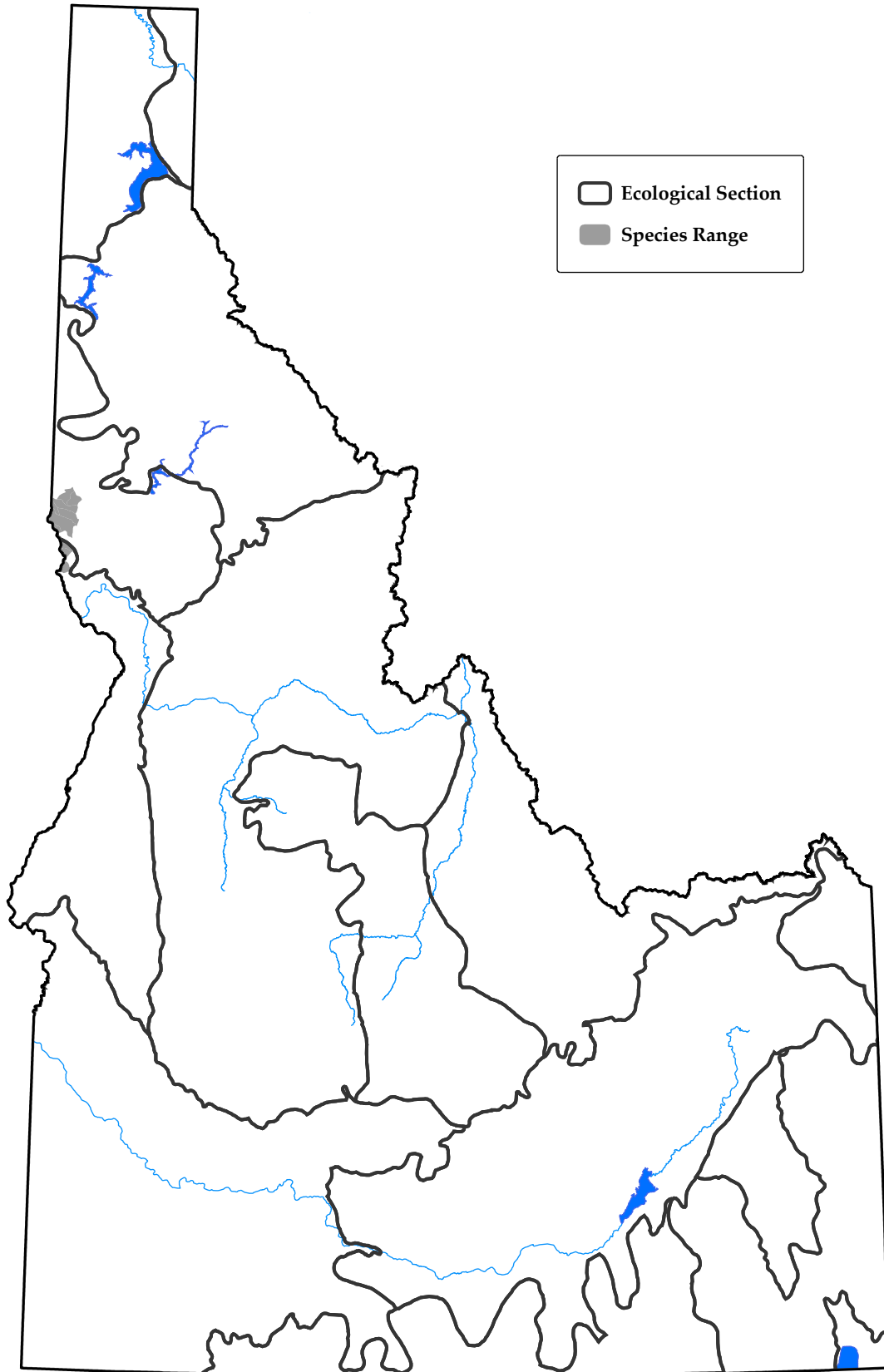
There is a lack of information on the distribution and abundance of this species in Idaho.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Targeted surveys need to be developed to determine the presence or absence of sand roller in Idaho. If located, studies need to be conducted to determine population size, life history requirements and habitat requirements prior to developing additional conservation actions.

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15 August 2005
Fish information is from Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and displayed at the 6th code hydrologic unit.

