

smallmouth buffalo *Ictiobus bubalus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Catostomidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The smallmouth buffalo may attain an average length of 15 to 30 inches. Its deep body has a small, cone-shaped head, a small mouth and large eyes. Grooves are present on the upper lip. The back is gray, green or bronze, the sides are black to yellow-green, and the belly is white to yellow. Fins are green or black. The front of the upper lip is on a level below that of the bottom of the eye. The front part of the back has a keel.

BEHAVIORS

The smallmouth buffalo may be found in the Mississippi, Illinois, Kaskaskia, Ohio and Wabash rivers in Illinois. It spawns in summer. The eggs are scattered over the bottom and are given no parental care. It feeds on whatever is abundant, including small crustaceans, algae and insects.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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