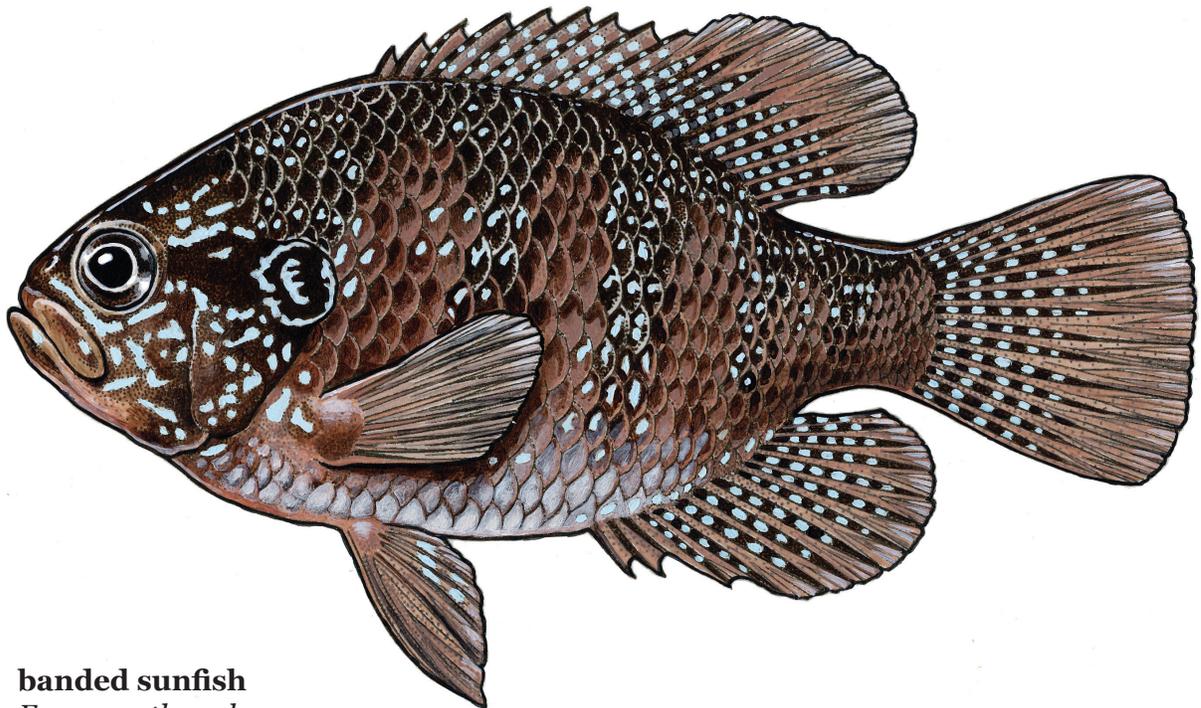


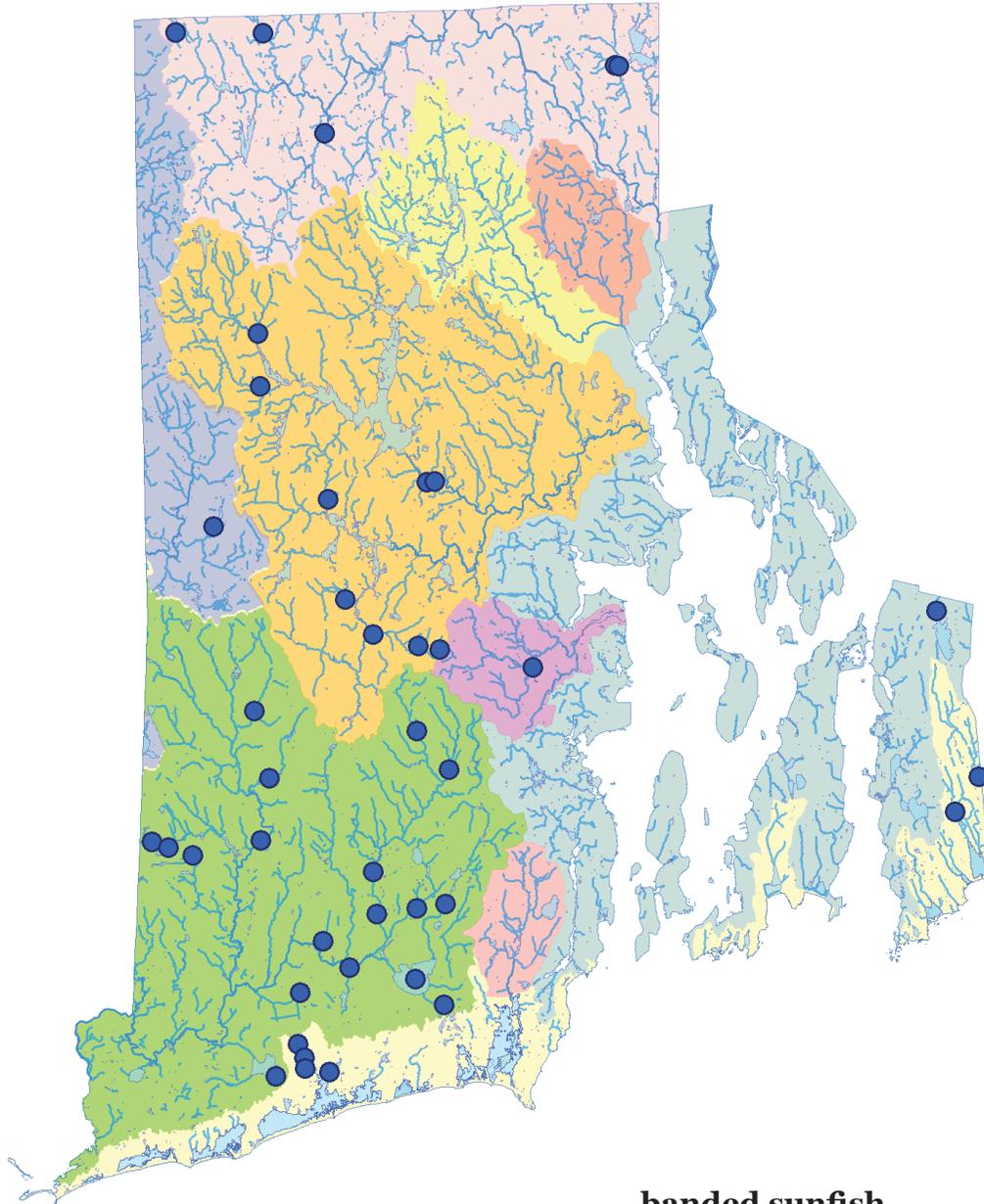
Sunfishes

Family Centrarchidae

Indigenous to the freshwaters of North America, many in this family, which includes black bass (genus *Micropterus*), crappie, and sunfish, have now been introduced to areas where they did not originally occur. A large number of the 31 species in this family are colorful and important to recreational fisheries. Most have deep, laterally compressed bodies and two dorsal fins that contain spines and rays that are connected by membranes. During the breeding season males build nests in the sand or gravel by vigorously fanning the water with their fins. After spawning, males guard their nests until the fry disperse. Seven species were collected during the survey.



banded sunfish
Enneacanthus obesus



banded sunfish

banded sunfish

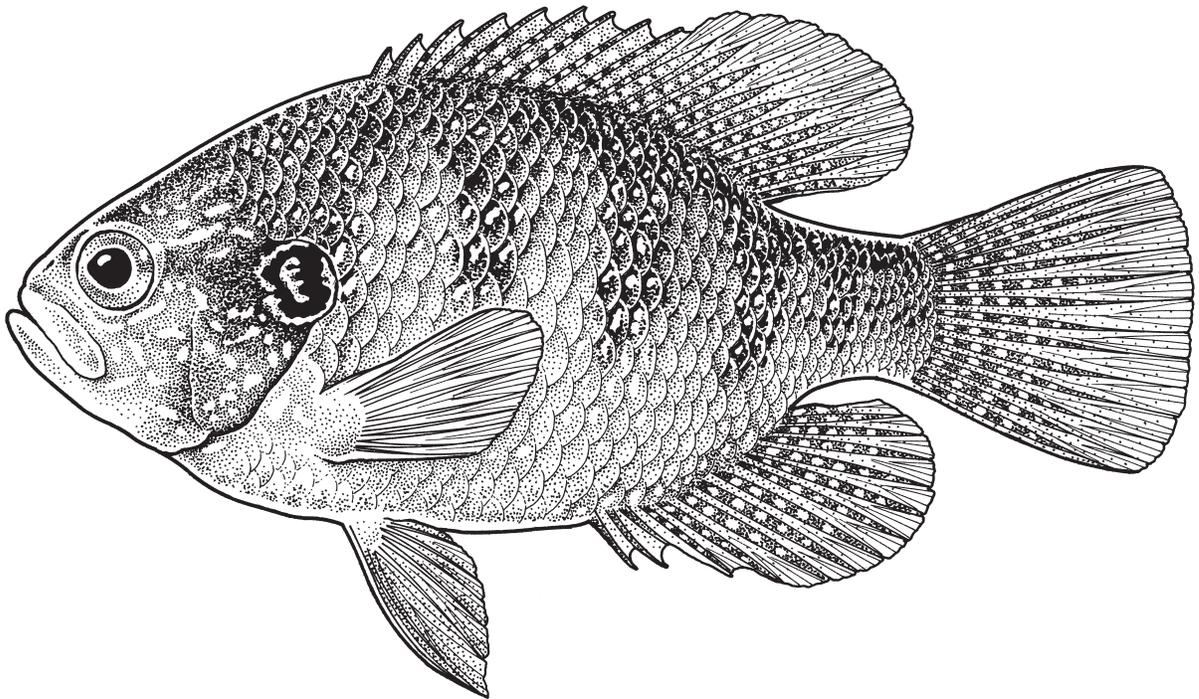
banded sunfish

Enneacanthus obesus (Girard, 1854)

Distribution: The banded sunfish is a small native species that was found in several localities scattered throughout the state. The banded sunfish is generally found in sluggish, heavily vegetated waters from New Hampshire to Florida.

Identification: The banded sunfish is olive-brown in color with several dark vertical bars along its sides. Its sides are also covered with iridescent brass, white or blue spots. This robust little fish reaches lengths of approximately 3.75 inches (95 mm). It is the only member of this family occurring in Rhode Island waters having a rounded caudal fin.

Remarks: The banded sunfish feeds on a variety of small aquatic invertebrates such as copepods and amphipods.



banded sunfish