

## Black Crappie



*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*

## Taxonomy

- Class- Actinopterygii
- Order- Perciformes (Perch-like)
- Family- Centrarchidae (Sunfishes)
- Genus- Pomoxis
- Species- Pomoxis nigromaculatus

## ID and Characteristics

- 7 or 8 dorsal spines, 6 anal spines
- Spotted coloration with no distinct patterns like bars.
- Silvery Green coloration



## Similar Species

- White Crappie- has vertical bar coloration and 6 dorsal spines



## Spawning Habits

- Spawn in early spring to mid summer
- Water temperature between 62 and 68 degrees fahrenheit
- Prefer shallow waters with weedy cover.
- Male digs nest and female lays from 10,000-160,000 eggs
- Eggs hatch 3-5 days later



Spawning Blackchin Shiner (Pomoxis nigromaculatus) in a shallow, weedy area.

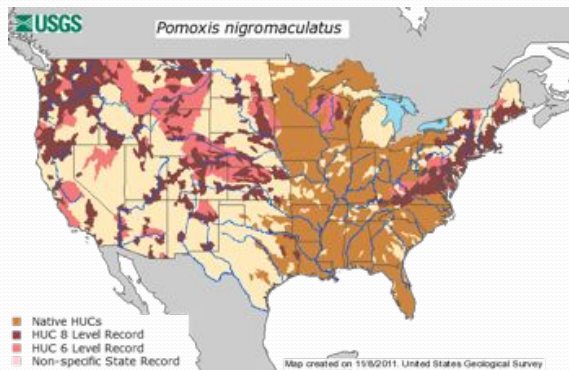
## Spawning Habits

- Male guards nest until hatching.
- Colonial nesters
- Spawning males generally get darker coloration



## Habitat

- Found throughout contiguous states and portions of Canada- Quebec to Manitoba
- Much more common towards the eastern united states
- Can live in variety of conditions but generally prefer structure and cover.



## Food

- Young fish eat microcrustaceans (copepods) as they get older they eat fish, insects, and crustaceans.
- Primarily nocturnal foragers
- Will sometimes school when following large baitfish schools

## Interesting Info

- Also known as papermouth because is thin and delicate and fisherman often rip hook out of fish's mouth while trying to set it.
- World record 4lbs 8 oz caught in Virginia 1981

## Lit Cited

- Black Crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*) Texas Parks and Wildlife ( <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/crappie/>) (November 16,2011).
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- Froese R. 2010. *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*. ( <http://www.fishbase.org/summary/speciessummary.php?id=3388#>) (November 16, 2011).
- Hubbs, C.L and Lagler K.F. 2004. *Fishes of the Great Lakes Region*. University of Michigan Press. (pg 204, 212-213).
- *Pomoxis nigromaculatus* Black Crappie. Texas Freshwater Fishes. ( <http://www.bio.txstate.edu/~tbonner/txfishes/pomoxis%20nigromaculatus.htm>) (November 16, 2011)

## Questions

