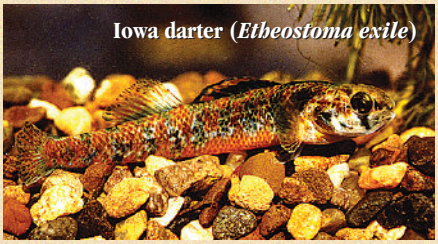
Unfortunately, being removed from the list usually isn't a good sign.

Endangered and Threatened Fishes of Illinois

Photos By Konrad Schmidt

The number of species included on the official list of endangered and threatened fishes of Illinois increased dramatically in 1989 but has changed little in subsequent lists. Fifteen species were added in 1989, three in 1994, two in 1999 and two in 2004. Three species were removed from the list due to presumed extirpation: alligator gar in 1994, flathead chub in 2004 and bluehead shiner in 2004. No species has been removed from the list because its status has improved.

Changes in the list for species of *Coregonus* were the result of taxonomic problems. The longjaw cisco, listed in 1981 and removed in 1989, is no longer considered a valid species. The lake whitefish was listed in 1981 but removed in 1994 because of uncertainty surrounding its taxonomic and demographic status. Both now are considered valid species found in the Illinois portion of Lake Michigan; however, their population status remains uncertain.


Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*)

Western sand darter (*Ammocrypta clara*)

Greater redhorse (*Moxostoma valenciennesi*)

—**Michael E. Retzer**, Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, and **Larry M. Page**, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville

Fish species recognized as endangered (E) or threatened (T) in Illinois.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Year				
		1981	1989	1994	1999	2004
Least brook lamprey	*Lampetra aepyptera*		T	T	T	T
Northern brook lamprey	*Ichthyomyzon fossor*		E	E	E	E
Lake sturgeon	*Acipenser fulvescens*	T	T	E	E	E
Pallid sturgeon	*Scaphirhynchus albus*			E	E	E
Alligator gar	*Atractosteus spatula*	T	T			
Gravel chub	*Erimystax x-punctatus*					T
Cypress shiner	*Hybognathus hayi*		E	E	E	E
Bigeye chub	*Hybopsis amblops*	E	E	E	E	E
Pallid shiner	*Hybopsis amnis*		E	E	E	E
Sturgeon chub	*Macrhybopsis gelida*				E	E
River chub	*Nocomis micropogon*			E	E	E
Pugnose shiner	*Notropis anogenus*	T	E	E	E	E
Bigeye shiner	*Notropis boops*		T	E	E	E
Ironcolor shiner	*Notropis chalybaeus*		T	T	T	T
Blackchin shiner	*Notropis heterodon*		T	T	T	T
Blacknose shiner	*Notropis heterolepis*	T	T	E	E	E
Taillight shiner	*Notropis maculatus*			E	E	E
Weed shiner	*Notropis texanus*		E	E	E	E

Common Name	Scientific Name	Year				
		1981	1989	1994	1999	2004
Flathead chub	*Platygobio gracilis*				E	
Bluehead shiner	*Pteronotropis hubbsi*	E	E	E	E	
Longnose sucker	*Catostomus catostomus*	T	T	T	T	T
River redhorse	*Moxostoma carinatum*		T	T	T	T
Greater redhorse	*Moxostoma valenciennesi*		E	E	E	E
Northern madtom	*Noturus stigmosus*		E	E	E	E
Longjaw cisco	*Coregonus alpenae*	E				
Cisco	*Coregonus artedi*	T	T	T	T	T
Lake whitefish	*Coregonus clupeaformis*	T	T			
Banded killifish	*Fundulus diaphanus*		T	T	T	T
Starhead topminnow	*Fundulus dispar*					T
Redspotted sunfish	*Lepomis miniatus*		T	T	T	T
Bantam sunfish	*Lepomis symmetricus*	T	T	T	T	T
Western sand darter	*Ammocrypta clara*		E	E	E	E
Eastern sand darter	*Ammocrypta pellucida*		E	E	T	T
Bluebreast darter	*Etheostoma camurum*	E	E	E	E	E
Harlequin darter	*Etheostoma histrio*	E	E	E	E	E
Iowa darter	*Etheostoma exile*		T	E	E	T
Total number listed		13	28	28	30	31