

## HABITATS OF SOME KILLIFISHES OF SOUTHERN ALABAMA AND VICINITY

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THIS LIST WILL START WITH THE "MOST BRACKISH" FISH AND END WITH THE "MOST FRESH." ITS PURPOSE IS TO AID ANYONE WISHING TO MAINTAIN OR SPAWN THESE SPECIES.

Fundulus similis--Brackish to almost marine. Dislikes water that is only slightly brackish. Dies within hours in fresh water.

Adinia xenica--Brackish, prefers rather strongly brackish. Most common in the lower parts of bayous and salt marshes around bays and barrier islands. Does poorly in fresh water, though it may survive a short time.

Cyprinodon variegatus--Hard to place on this list due to wide salinity tolerance. Prefers rather strongly brackish water. It is not unusual to find tide pools with thousands of Cyp. variegatus and almost nothing else. However, the fish has been found in water fresh enough to support water lilies, tadpoles, and Fundulus cingulatus. In this environment, they are small and relatively sparse.

Fundulus grandis--Brackish to weakly brackish, though often found with F. similis. It is rarely seen in water of marine salinity. It travels farther up bayous than F. similis. I have never seen it in areas fresh enough for F. cingulatus.

Fundulus jenkinsi--Medium-brackish to weak-brackish. Since I have caught so few of these, I am not certain of preferred environment. Sometimes found with Adinia xenica. I have never seen it in fresh water.

Fundulus confluentus--Medium-brackish to almost fresh. Prefers medium-brackish, but has been found in areas with F. cingulatus. Has also been collected with Adinia xenica.

Lucania parva--Nearly fresh to medium-brackish, most common in nearly fresh. Often in small ponds in tidal areas that have no connection to true brackish water. Cattails frequently grow in these ponds. Can be adapted to fresh water.

Fundulus cingulatus--Fresh to very slightly brackish, seems to prefer traces of salinity. largest local population in landlocked shallow ditches on a barrier. Also found in shallow ponds associated with streams. Evidence indicates it can live in brackish water, but it seems that brackish killies dislike F. cingulatus and violently attack them. No reason known for this.

Fundulus chrysotus--Fresh water to water with very slight salinity. Likes "green" water and situations just above the brackish line in streams. Virtually never found in even weakly brackish areas. Likes weedy areas.

Leptolucaania ommata--The water requirements for this species are very similar to those of chrysotus. Often the two species are found together. I believe that when they live together, chrysotus often eat Leptolucaania.

Fundulus notti escambiae--Freshwater streams similar to the habitat of chrysotus. Perhaps a little less tolerant of salinity. Prefers weedy areas but not quite as weedy as preferred by chrysotus.

Fundulus olivaceus--Of the local killies, this one likes the freshest water. Likes moderate to large streams with no measurable salinity. Often in the same area as Notropis spp., but in quieter backwater areas.

