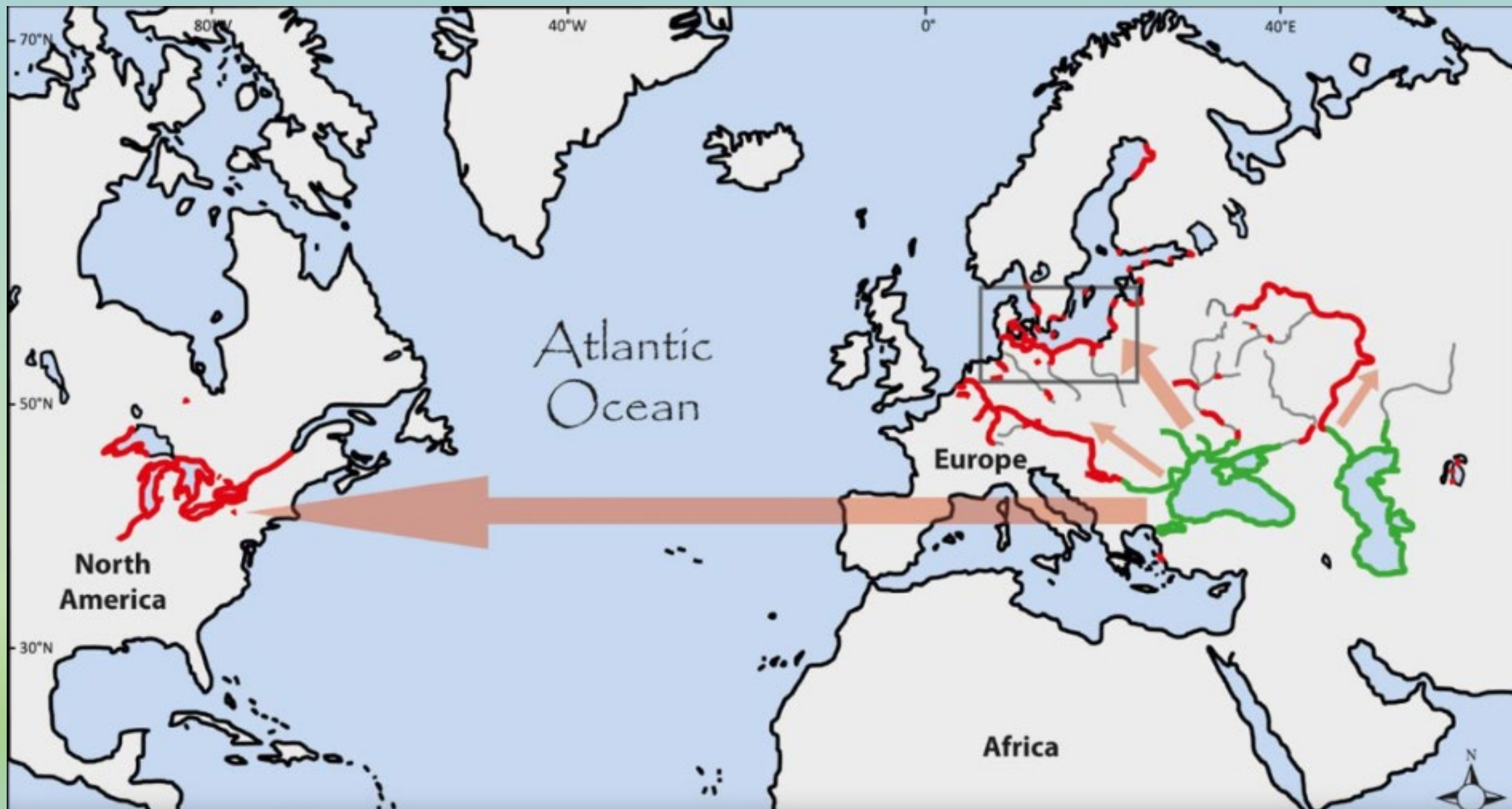


Round Goby *Neogobius melanostomus* in the Upper Mississippi River









Mottled Sculpin



Round Goby



Life History

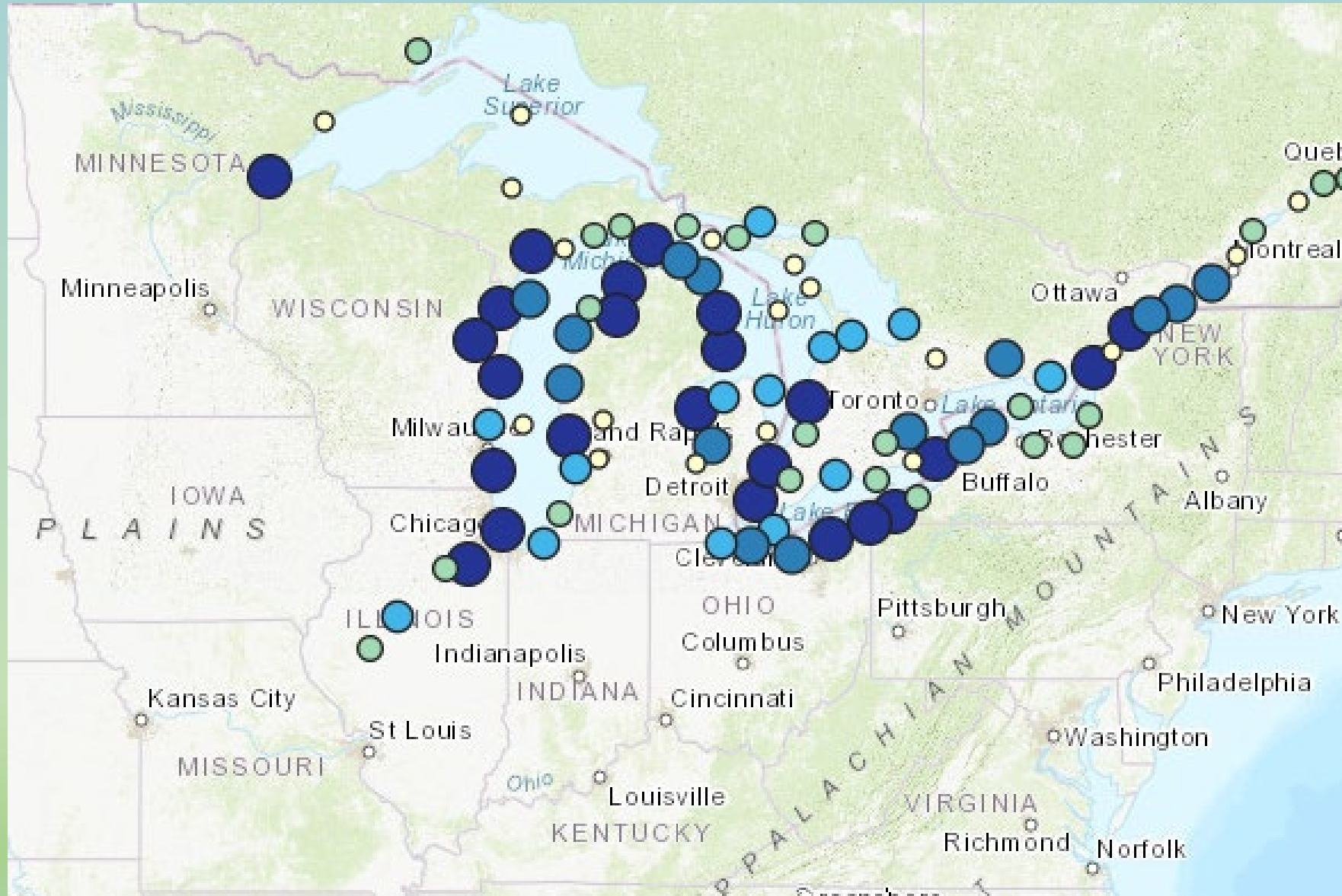
- Size: 7 inches (12" in native range)
- Broad tolerance for water temp, salinity, poor water quality, and habitat types.
- Dietary generalists – insects, crayfish, mussels, fish and fish eggs.
- Prolific – spawn every 20 days April – Sept.
- Life span – 4 years

First report in North America –
1990 in the St. Clair River

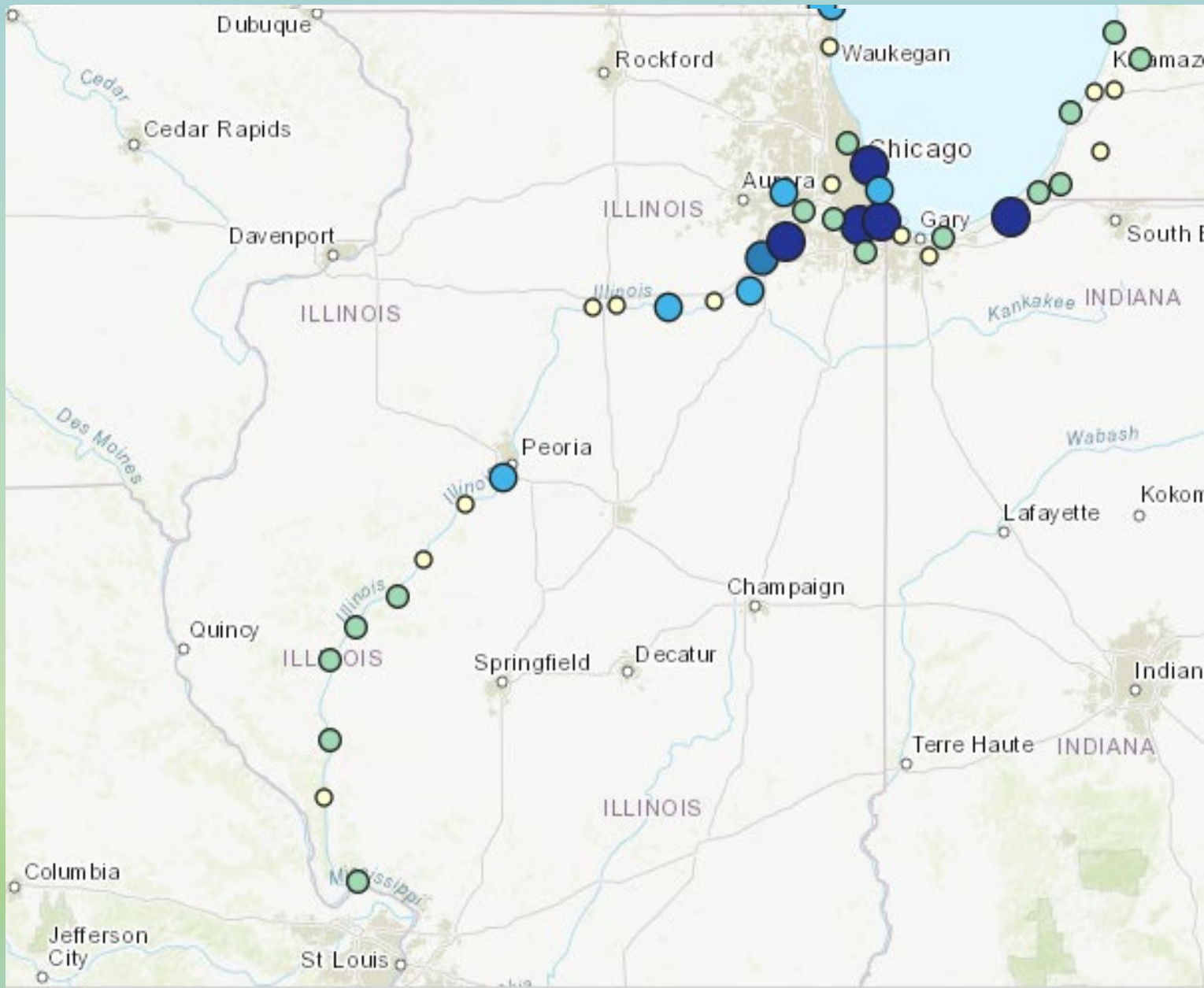


- [Nonindigenous Aquatic Species \(usgs.gov\)](https://usgs.gov)

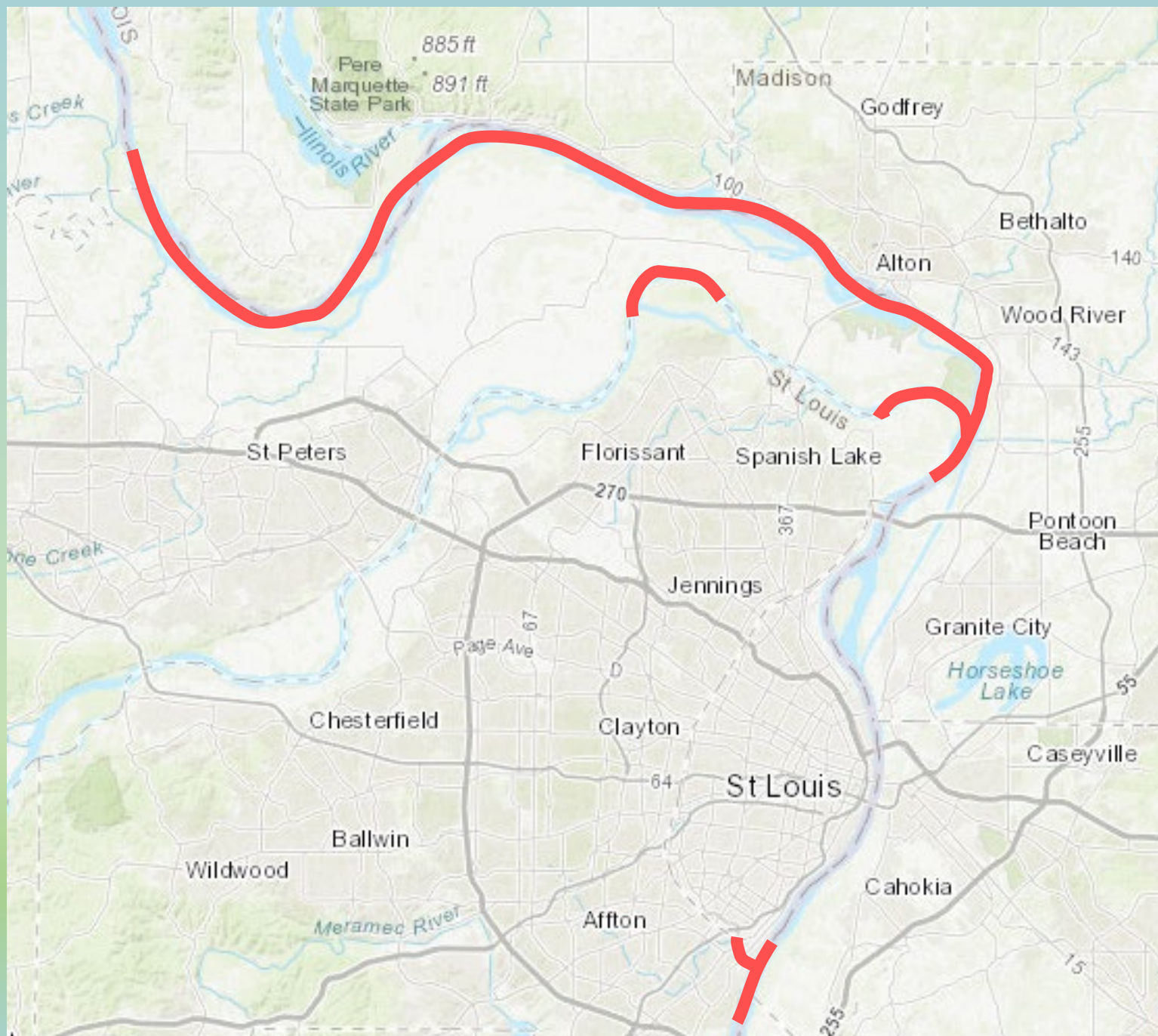
2010



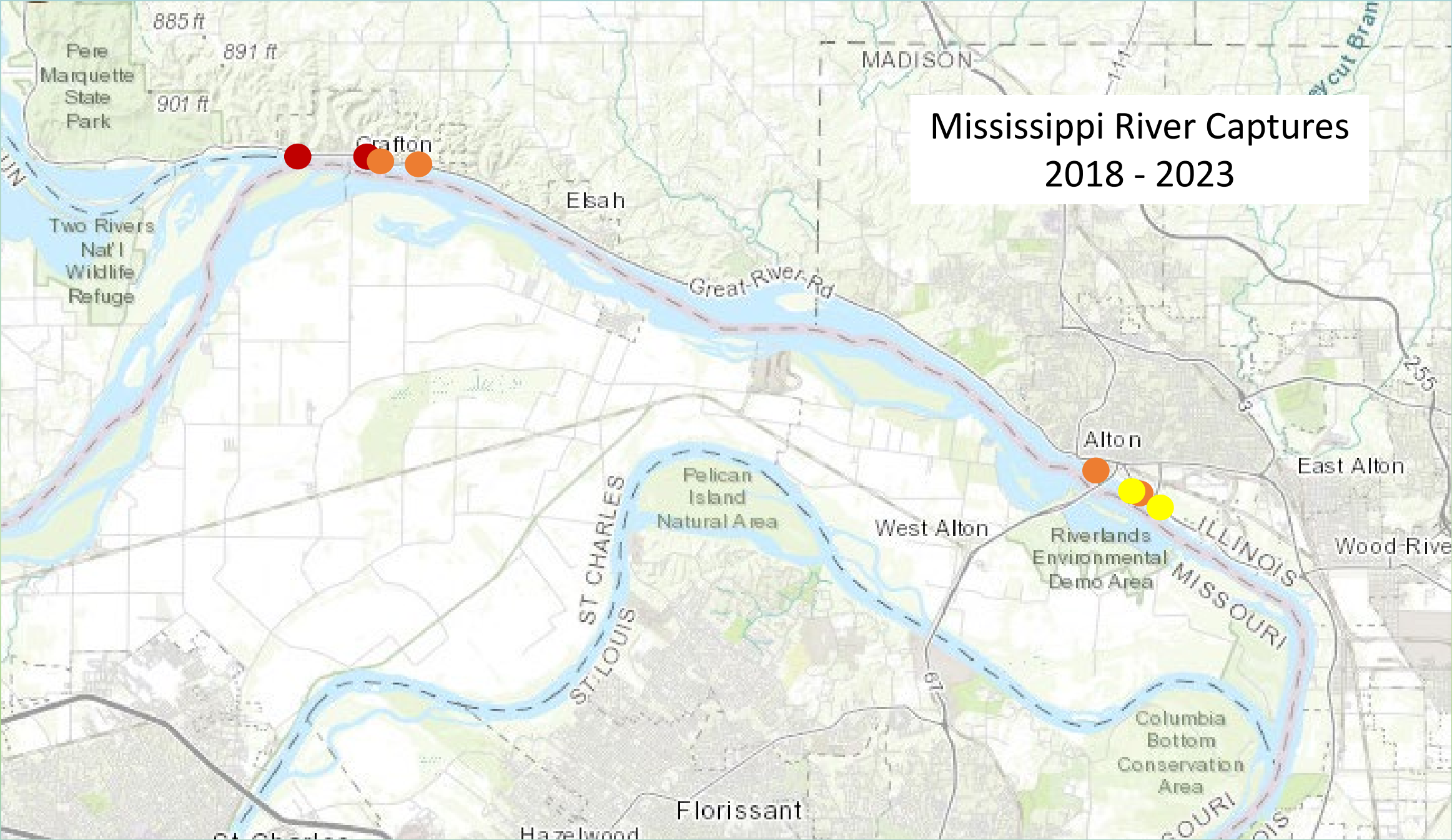
2018







Mississippi River Captures 2018 - 2023





DON'T



Round Goby (3" to 6")

Keep

Mo

Use

Report gobies in the
Dam and in the

Visit DNR
"Report a Catch"





ROUND GOBY

Neogobius melanostomus

The round goby is a small, but aggressive bottom-dwelling fish that grows rapidly and reproduces several times in one spawning season. It is a huge threat to North American aquatic ecosystems because it is adaptable to a wide range of environmental conditions, and will eat just about anything alive that will fit in its mouth.

Illustration courtesy of Ohio Sea Grant.



Sculpin - Sculpins have separate pelvic (bottom) fins. A dark spot on the dorsal fin is common.



SPECIES DESCRIPTION

Round gobies have a soft body and a large round head with thick lips and distinctive frog-like raised eyes. They can reach up to 25.5 cm (10 in) in length as adults, but are usually less than 18 cm (7 in) in the Great Lakes. Females and immature males are a solid slate gray mottled with black and brown spots. Spawning males turn almost solid black. Two distinguishing characteristics of round gobies are a single, scallop-shaped pelvic fin and a distinctive black spot located on the dorsal fin.

Round gobies closely resemble the native mottled sculpin, but two species can be easily separated by looking at the pelvic fins. Round gobies have a single pelvic fin compared to the two separated pelvic fins of the sculpin. The sculpin also has a dark spot on the dorsal fin of the round goby.

ROUND GOBY

"LASER EYES"



5'10"
5'8"
5'6"
5'4"
5'
5'0"
4'10"
4'8"

47A589 POLICE DEPARTMENT

MUGSHOT

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Round Goby
(*Neogobius melanostomus*)



Sculpin
(*Myoxocephalus octodecemspinosus*)



DO NOT USE AS BAIT



HELP EL

Round Goby are Invasive

The Round Goby is a small, invasive fish that has spread into Missouri waters. It can out-compete native fish for food and habitat, and may consume native fish eggs and young.

How You Can Help

Did you catch a Goby? Don't release it back into the water. Take photos and email MDC with details about the catch.

Round Goby are illegal to possess or use as bait. Check your bait bucket to prevent the accidental spread of round goby. Use them as feed for eagles and other birds of prey by tossing them well above the shoreline.

Report sightings and send photos to MDC
goby@mdc.mo.gov





Round Goby

This fish can grow up to 10 inches in length, though 3-6 inch fish are more common. The distinctive feature of the Round Goby is its fused pelvic (bottom) fins.



Sculpin

Sculpin are native fish that look similar to the invasive round goby. Sculpins can easily be distinguished from gobies by their separate pelvic (bottom) fins.




Impacts

- Diet overlap with small benthic fishes
- Compete for spawning sites
- Consume juvenile mussels
- Raid nests of native species
- Decreased number of native species
 - Recovery of Lake Erie Water Snake
 - Abundant prey for sportfish

Impacts

- Angler annoyance at high by-catch rates of Gobies
- Closure of SMB season during spawn
- Menasha Lock closed to navigation
 - Favored baitfish



Freshwater Tubenose Goby





Amur Goby

Shimofuri Goby





Highfin Goby

Questions?

