

Burbot *Lota lota*

Habitat Preference: Require cold water to complete life cycle. Burbot are characteristic of large, cold, deep, rivers with rocks, roots, or holes to find refuge under.

Threats:

- Iowa is the edge of the burbot range. The burbot is a coldwater species and water temperature is a controlling factor.
- Degradation of habitat due to siltation and nutrient runoff.
 - Nutrients cause the growth of attached algae (i.e. periphyton) that covers coarse substrates and thus degrades habitat quality for this species.
- Channelization
 - A naturally meandering channel is needed to maintain the variety of substrates and current velocities that lead to high quality habitats (e.g. clean riffles and sandy runs).
 - Streams with a naturally meandering channel form are much better able to accommodate high silt loads than are channelized streams.
- Removal of natural riparian vegetation.



Habitat Improvement Guidelines

- Implement proper upland management such as contour farming and other soil erosion control methods.
- Avoid additional channel modifications for commercial navigation; allow, to the extent possible, natural river processes (e.g., meandering, sandbar formation) to occur.
- Reestablish natural riparian vegetation.