

Grass Pickerel *Esox americanus*

Status: State threatened

Iowa Range: Found in backwaters and lowland streams in the lower parts of the Iowa and Cedar rivers and along the Mississippi River.

Habitat Preference: Prefer clear, shallow, densely vegetated waters of low gradient streams, springs, marshes, oxbows, overflow and pothole ponds. Grass pickerel prefer clear waters, particularly areas that have not been ditched, dredged or channelized. They avoid turbid or muddy water with silt bottoms.

Threats:

- Channelization
- Water pollution due to siltation and nutrient runoff.

Appropriate Practices:

- Allow lowland/floodplain streams to naturally meander.
- Maintain integrity of existing and future floodplain wetlands
- Create buffers around water bodies to filter sediment and nutrient runoff.



Photograph by: Daryl Howell

