

Mudpuppy *Necturus maculosus*

Habitat Preference: Medium to large rivers and lakes. Found in permanent water bodies at least three feet deep. Prefer to live on the floor of its aquatic habitat under sunken logs or rocks.

Threats:

- Poor water quality due to sedimentation and certain chemicals.
- There is a tendency to collect mudpuppies and keep them as pets.
 - Remember: Mudpuppies are threatened in Iowa and therefore it is illegal to take one as a pet.
- Many fishermen kill mudpuppies because they believe they are detrimental to sports fishing.



Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Improvement of watershed quality
 - Use of riparian buffers and agricultural erosion control practices.
- Cease use of chemicals for aquatic species control in mudpuppy spawning areas.
- Cease all collection of mudpuppies.
- Anglers should release mudpuppies if caught while fishing.
- Leave aquatic woody debris and other potential cover in place.