Nocomis leptocephalus (Bluehead chub) DC21

Collection Location:

Duncan Creek Park

H’ value associated with location: 1.42173503340761

Taxonomic Information:

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Actinopterygii

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Cyprinidae

Genus: Nocomis

Species: Nocomis leptocephalus

Morphological Characteristics:

Large, stout body. Large, slightly subterminal mouth with a small barbel at each corner and a brassy green side body with a dusky stripe along its mid-side. Breeding males develop swelled heads which are typically blue in color. Adults on average are between 70 and 160 mm in length.

Habitat:

Native range: Atlantic and Gulf Slope drainages.

Freshwater pools, creeks, and small to medium rivers with sandy or rocky bottoms. Live in water temperatures of warm to cool waters that usually have swift currents. Generally prefer clear streams of small or moderate size with a moderate to high gradient.

Ecology:

Bluehead chubs spawn in the spring and reproduce via external fertilization. Females release their eggs onto the bottom of a stream or river and the males release sperm to fertilize the eggs. Males will then guard the eggs until they hatch. Maturing takes three years before they are able

to reproduce. Adult males also construct piles of gravel that become “nests” that can be up to two feet tall. The nests can be safe places for eggs. Other minnows can be positively affected by the nests created by male bluehead chubs as they can help with degrading habitats for other fish.

DNA Sequence:

DC21F22

NCCCCCCTTCTTTTGTCCCTTATAATAGATNCTGTANNTTGGTGCCTGAGCTGGAATA
GTGGGAACCGCTTTAAGCCTCCTTATTCGAGCCGAATTAAGCCAACCCGGATCACTC
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CCTCTCTTTGTATGAGCCGTACTTGTAACCGCTGTTCTTCTACTTCTATCGCTACCTGT
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GACCCCGCAAGCGGAGGAGACCCAATCCTGTACCAACACCTATTCTGATTCTTCGGT
CACCCTGAAGTGTCATACTTGTTTTCCCGGAA