Common name • Taillight shiner
Scientific name • Notropis maculatus
State status • Endangered

Ecology
Currently, the taillight shiner is found in Missouri only in the southeastern corner of the state. It prefers low-gradient streams, sloughs, lakes, oxbows and swamps. It is a schooling species with a varied diet of small crustaceans, insects and algae. Taillight shiners complete their life cycle in one year. Their body length ranges from 1.9-2.7 inches in length. Spawning begins in April and extends into mid-June.

Reasons for Decline
The taillight shiner is one of the rarest minnows in Missouri, with current populations being the remnants of a former widespread distribution. The decline of the species is largely a result of habitat loss due to the draining of wetlands for agricultural purposes. Non-point source pollution also may be a contributing factor to the decline of the taillight shiner.

Specific Recommendations
Restoration of streams, sloughs, lakes and wetlands will be necessary to reestablish healthy, widespread populations of all fish, including the taillight shiner.

• No work should be allowed below the high bank of the stream or high water mark of wetlands between April 1 and June 15.
• Limit clearing of vegetation, including standing and downed timber, to that which is absolutely necessary for construction purposes.
• Riparian areas located down slope of construction zones should be physically screened with sediment controls, such as silt fences or filter strips. Sediment controls should be monitored and maintained for the duration of the project.
• Avoid stream crossings. If unavoidable, temporary crossings should be employed. Temporary crossings should not restrict or interrupt natural stream flow. If temporary in-channel fill is necessary, culverts of sufficient size should be employed to avoid water impoundment and allow for fish passage.

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Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from other state agencies, contractors and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal, state or local laws may affect construction practices.