Banded Killifish

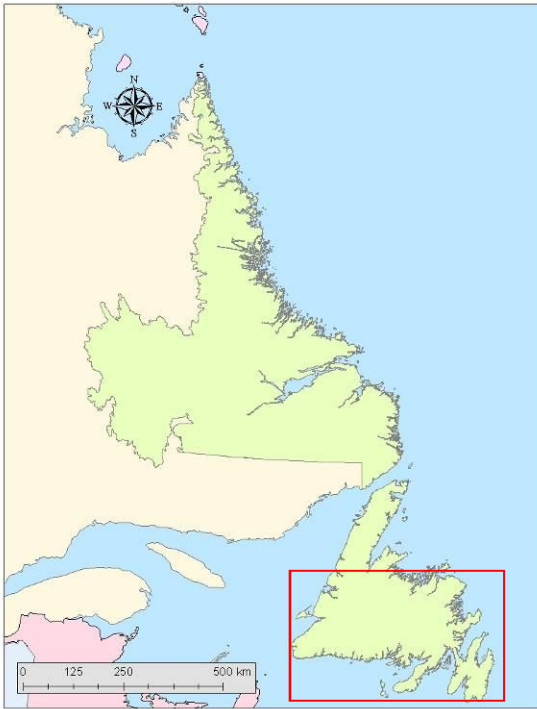*(Fundulus diaphanus)*

- Banded killifish are a small fish, about 75 mm in length that live for 3 to 4 years.

- They have an elongated and slender body that is slightly flattened at the back of the head.

- Banded killifish have a dark brown to olive-green back and silvery or yellowish sides.

- They have white bands on their belly and numerous black, vertical bands on their back.

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Provincial Distribution

Habitat/ Range
Banded killifish are found throughout southeastern Canada. In this Province they are only known from several locations on the west coast, northeast coast, and Burin Peninsula of Newfoundland. These locations represent the eastern most extent of this species' range and a unique Canadian population. Banded killifish are most often seen in the shallow areas of clear ponds with a muddy/sandy substrate, high detrital content, and submerged aquatic vegetation.

Population Trends
They are abundant within the confined regions of the watersheds in which they are found, but these regions are widely scattered.

Limiting Factors and Threats
Banded killifish are limited by small numbers of available habitat and barriers, such as steep gradients, impassible rapids, and water falls, which restrict access to some of this habitat. Any habitat loss or pollution associated with forestry or land use/development would put these rare fish at further risk.

Special Significance
The population of banded killifish in Newfoundland and Labrador is isolated from mainland populations and research is ongoing to determine if it is a distinct subspecies.

You can help protect the banded killifish:

- **Support habitat conservation for all our rare species.**

- **Be careful not to pollute ponds, rivers, and lakes.**

- **Learn something new about a species at risk in Newfoundland and Labrador and tell a friend!**

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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