

# Threatened Species Assessment

## *Potamalosa richmondia* Freshwater Herring

### Description

#### *Potamalosa richmondia*

The Freshwater Herring *Potamalosa richmondia* is a smallish, silver, back slightly iridescent green, coloured fish that has a reported lifespan of at least 11 years. Slender and elongated, with sharp ridges dividing both its back and belly, the adult length is commonly 140 – 160 mm, but has been described at up to 320 mm. Large, silvery eyes lie slightly above and to the side of a small upturned mouth with protruding lower jaw on its longish snout. It has a scaleless head, but quite large scales cover the rest of its body. Small, colourless fins (although sometimes darkening along the rays) are typically angular, with the tail fin strongly forked. (DSE 2005)

### Current conservation status

Listed as Threatened in Victoria under *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

### Proposed conservation status

Extinct (EX) in Victoria.

### Criteria for Extinct status

As per Schedule 1 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020, the primary criterion for the category of threat 'extinct' is met if–

- (a) exhaustive surveys throughout the taxon's historic range fail to record an individual member of the taxon; and
- (b) those surveys were conducted over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form, in known or expected habitat and at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual).

Historical records of the species were retrieved from the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. A 50km buffer was placed around each location, and all surveys of appropriate surveying method to date were retrieved. In total, 443 appropriate surveys have taken place within the historic range with no records of *P. richmondia* since 1976.

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas search results	
Number of known historical locations	2
Last known record	1976
Total recorded surveys to date within 50km of all historical locations	443
Survey methods searched	Angling (general), Bait Trap (general), Dip Net, Electrofishing (backpack), Electrofishing (bankmounted), Electrofishing (boat - general), Electrofishing (general), Electrofishing (medium boat), Fyke Net (fine mesh), Fyke Net (general), Fyke Net (larval), Gill Net, Megafaunal invert & cryptic fish



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	transect count, Mobile fish and cephalopod transect count, Piscicide, Seine Net
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## Historical distribution

In Victoria, a Freshwater Herring was located at one site in the Little River (Teal Creek) river system in 1976. It is also found in coastal streams in New South Wales, where it is less common in the southern part of its range, appearing to be more abundant north of the Hawkesbury River, although low and fluctuating abundance in many streams has led to concern for the species. (DSE 2005)

## References

DSE 2005. Department of Sustainability and Environment. Action Statement No. 203: Freshwater Herring *Potamalosa richmondia*, Empire Gudgeon *Hypseleotris compressa*. Retrieved from: [https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/32417/Freshwater\\_Herring\\_Potamalosa\\_richmondia.pdf](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/32417/Freshwater_Herring_Potamalosa_richmondia.pdf)