

## SALTMARSH TOPMINNOW

*Fundulus jenkinsi*



**Order:** Cyprinodontiformes

**Family:** Fundulidae

**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S2

**U.S. Status:** none

**FL Status:** Threatened

**Description:** Small topminnow, averaging approximately 1.75 in. (44 mm). The most diagnostic feature is a series of small, round, black spots on the midside of the body that often form two rows. General coloration is a very light yellowish brown.

**Similar Species:** Marsh killifish (*Fundulus confluentus*) has a series of approximately 14 vertical bars along the midside. Gulf killifish (*F. grandis*) is much larger, 4 - 8 in. (102 - 203 mm), and lacks the black spots of saltmarsh topminnow.

**Habitat:** *F. jenkinsi* inhabits brackish marshes with a salinity of less than 16 ppt (Lopez 2011).

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Present in all seasons.

**Florida Distribution:** Pensacola area embayments, including Perdido, Escambia and Yellow-water Bays; prefers protected tidal ponds and meanders in *Spartina* marsh near river mouths.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Northern gulf coast from Galveston Bay to the western Florida panhandle.

**Conservation Status:** Range in Florida is limited to brackish marshes in two counties and habitat has the potential to be degraded by coastal development.

**Protection and Management:** Maintain natural character of habitat and good water quality. Protect water quality by prohibiting water contamination via septic systems and surface runoff from nearby developments.

**References:** Gilbert (ed.) 1992, Peterson et al 2016, Walls 1976.



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