

# Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

## LORENTZ GRUNTER

### *Pingalla lorentzi*

#### Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable



Photo: Helen Larson, MAGNT

#### Description

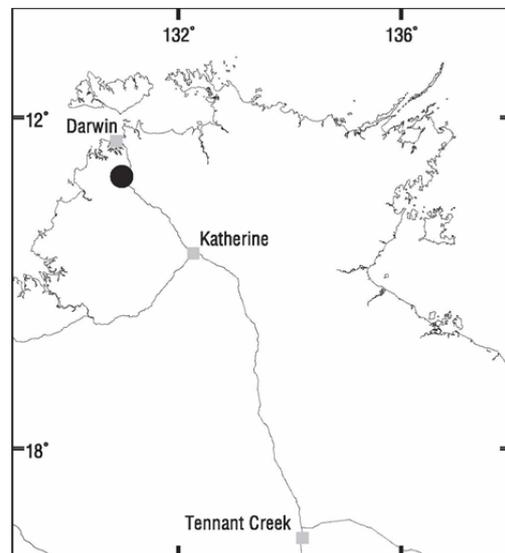
Lorentz grunter is a small (maximum length about 20 cm) perch-like fish, uniformly silver in colour with darkened scale margins dorsally. It has a white stripe from below the eye to the upper lip. The fins are mostly transparent to dusky and the anal fin has a dark grey to blackish blotch. The dorsal fin has 13 to 14 spines and 11-13 soft rays (Allen *et al.* 2002).

#### Distribution

Lorentz grunter is rare in Australia although more widespread in Papua New Guinea. In the Northern Territory it is known only from the Finniss River near the Rum Jungle mine site.

*Conservation reserves where reported:*

None



Known location of Lorentz grunter

#### Ecology

Lorentz grunter occurs in small and large pools with rock and sand substrates, usually in open unshaded sections of streams and in water temperatures between 25°C and 30°C (Allen *et al.* 2002).

The diet consists of benthic algae. The teeth of Lorentz grunter are adapted to scraping algae and other plant material from rock and wood surfaces and from sandy substrates (Allen *et al.* 2002).

Spawning appears to be in the mid wet season, from November to February.

### Conservation assessment

Conservation assessment is hampered by the lack of any information on trends or threatening processes. The species can be classed as **Vulnerable** (under criterion D2) due to:

- a very restricted area of occupancy (<20km<sup>2</sup>); and
- known from only one location.

### Threatening processes

Lorentz grunter occurs relatively close to Darwin. Potential threats are degradation of waterways and riparian vegetation due to rural development, mining activity, altered fire regimes in rural areas, weed infestation and alteration of water flow and quality (due to erosion or pollution as a consequence of poor land management and agricultural development).

### Conservation objectives and management

The managing authority for this species is the Fisheries section of the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines.

Research priorities are to:

- (i) better define the distribution and status of this species;
- (ii) assess the impacts of a range of putative threatening processes.

Given its very limited distribution, further surveys should be carried out to determine if its occurrence is more widespread in the Finniss River and adjacent catchments.

Management priorities are to:

- (i) establish a monitoring program at the known sites because of the proximity of the species to developed areas.

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### References

Allen, G.R., Midgley, S.H., and Allen, M. (2002). *Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Australia*. (Western Australian Museum, Perth.)

when possible, to carry out a survey for the species