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NAS - Nonindigenous Aquatic Species

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Konrad P. Schmidt

Ictiobus bubalus Rafinesque 1818

Common Name: smallmouth buffalo

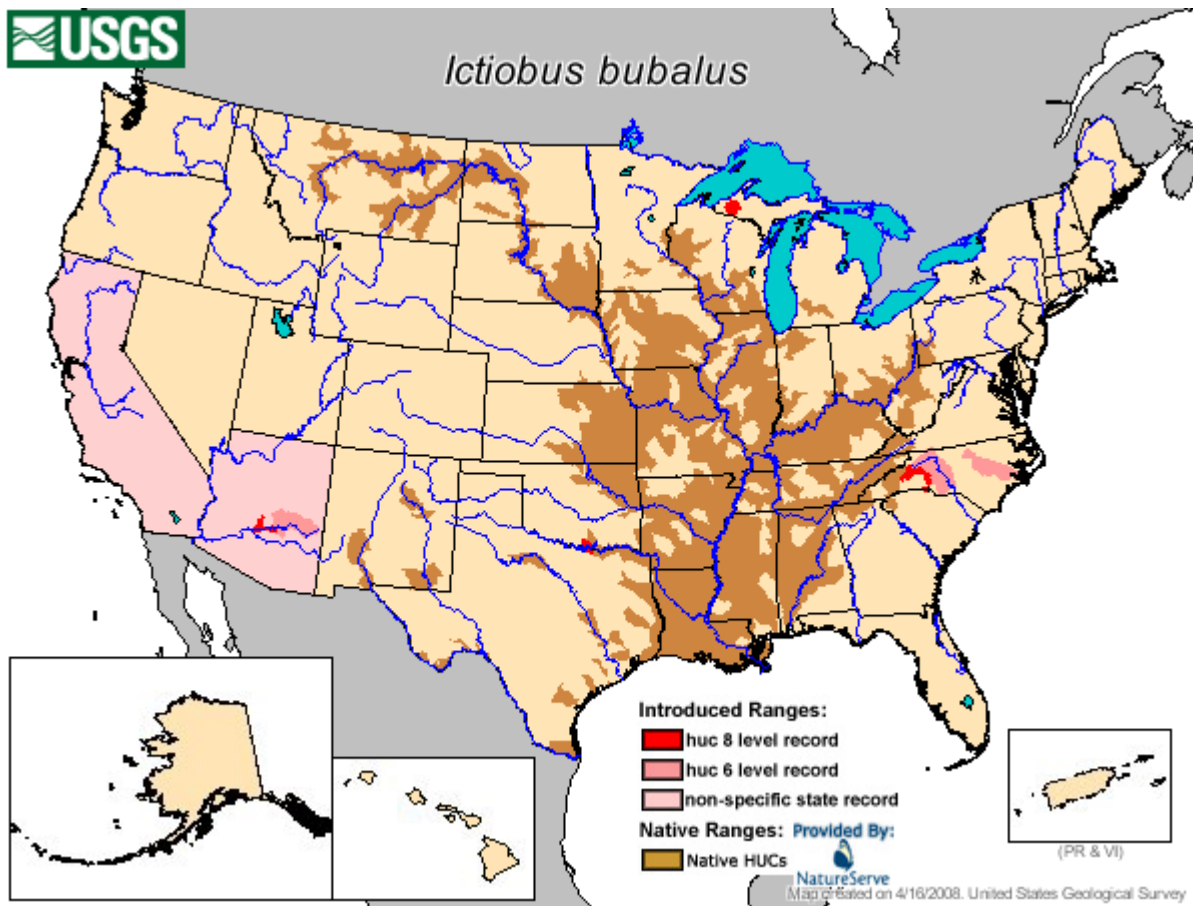
Taxonomy: available through

Identification: Becker (1983); Hubbs et al. (1991); Page and Burr (1991); Etnier and Starnes (1993).

Size: 78 cm.

Native Range: Lake Michigan drainage and Mississippi River basin from Pennsylvania and Michigan to Montana and south to Gulf of Mexico; Gulf Slope drainages from Mobile Bay,

Alabama, to Rio Grande, Texas and New Mexico. Also in Mexico (Page and Burr 1991).



Interactive maps: [Continental US](#), [Hawaii](#), [Puerto Rico](#)

Nonindigenous Occurrences: Smallmouth buffalo were stocked in Canyon, Saguaro, and Apache lakes in **Arizona** (Minckley 1973). They were introduced to unspecified area(s) of **California** (Hubbs et al. 1979). They were probably introduced into the Yadkin, Catawba, and Neuse drainages of **North Carolina** (Hocutt et al. 1986; Menhinick 1991), and to the Yadkin and Santee drainages in **South Carolina** (Hocutt et al. 1986; Rohde et al. 1994). Specimens have been taken from the Big Lake and Island Lake region in Vilas County, **Wisconsin** (Becker 1963).

Means of Introduction: Accidental introduction in Arizona in 1918 with bigmouth buffalo *I. cyprinellus* (Minckley 1973; Rinne 1995); unknown means in California, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Stocked in Wisconsin during fish rescue operations from the Mississippi River in the 1930s (Becker 1983).

Status: Unknown in most sites in Arizona. Established in Apache Lake, Arizona, and in North and South Carolina. Extirpated in California. Unknown in Wisconsin; still present in the 1960s (Becker 1983).

Impact of Introduction: Unknown.

Remarks: In the early 1900s all three species of buffalofishes were stocked; *I. bubalus*, *I. cyprinellus*, and *I. velifer* (Leach 1921, 1923). However, when the stockings were reported they were lumped together as "buffalofish" and it is not possible to determine which species

were planted. Stocking of buffalofishes occurred outside their native ranges in Lake Erie in Ohio, the Pee Dee and Catawba drainages in North Carolina, and in unknown locations in Massachusetts (Leach 1921, 1923).

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Other Resources:

[FishBase Fact Sheet](#)

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