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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	<b>&lt; CRITICALLY ENDANGERED &gt;</b>	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
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Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Giant Barb

The **Giant Barb**, *Catlocarpio siamensis*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Found in the MaeKlong, Chao Phraya and Mekong Rivers in Southeast Asia, it is one of the largest and rarest cyprinids (a large family of freshwater fishes that comprise the carps, the true minnows, and their relatives) on Earth.

Primary threats to Giant Barb include overfishing and habitat fragmentation. Over-harvesting is of particular concern since this species is commercially valuable, slow growing, large-bodied and often a component of mixed stock fisheries in areas of heavy fishing pressure. The Giant Barb was once an important food fish in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, but over the past 20 years there has been a sharp drop in its abundance.

In a 2005 royal decree, the Giant Barb was designated as the national fish of Cambodia, protected by law, to bring conservation awareness to this species. However, surveys on the abundance, distribution and migratory behavior of this fish are urgently needed and, once these are better understood, the protection of spawning sites, rearing areas and migratory pathways should become a priority.

**Knowledge**<sup>EQ</sup>  
**Experts**<sup>EQ</sup>  
**Action**<sup>EQ</sup>  
**Get Involved**<sup>EQ</sup>



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