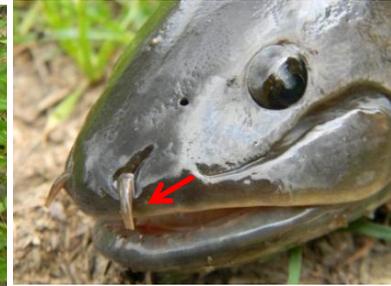


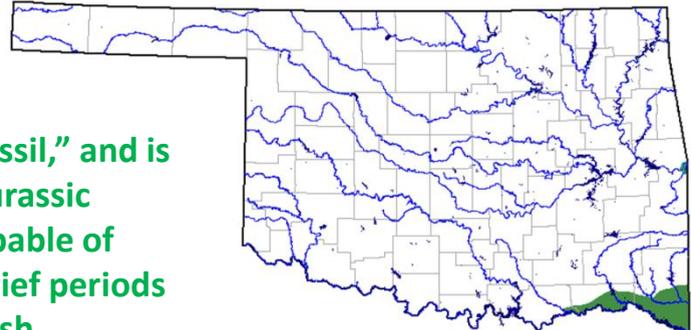
The Bowfin



Bowfin



- The bowfin has a long, thick, eel-like appearance, with a rounded tail and a long, undulating dorsal reaching nearly to its tail.
- The head is blunt and snake-like with two small appendages, or nares, on the upper jaw near its nostrils. It has very strong jaws lined with sharp teeth, which should be handled with caution.
- The bowfin is strictly a lowland species, and is often found in heavy vegetation. In Oklahoma, they mainly occur in southern portions of Choctaw and McCurtain counties.



Fish Fact: A bowfin is sometimes called a “living fossil,” and is the sole survivor of a family of fish dating to the Jurassic period. It literally outlived the dinosaurs and is capable of gulping air and burrowing in the mud to survive brief periods of drought. It mainly feeds on other fish and crayfish.