

# Fauna fact sheet

## Mary River Cod

**Scientific Name:** *Maccullochella peelii mariensis*

**Common Name:** Mary River Cod

**Status:** EPBC Act (1999): Endangered

**Distribution:** Mary River.

**Habitat:** Slow flowing freshwater streams in lowland areas and rocky upland streams. Favours deep pools, overhanging vegetation, boulders, logs and undercut banks.

**Description:** Large, elongated fish, slightly concave head profile with protruding lower jaw. Golden-yellow to green or dark brown with black to dark green mottling. Has been recorded at 23.5kg but usually less than 10kg.

**Habits:** Ambush predator. Lays eggs on wood surfaces, preferably hollow logs.

**Comments:** Critically endangered fish. Declines in population due to loss of riparian vegetation and de-snagging of waterways.



**Photo courtesy of Gunther Schmida**