

21 – 06 – 2023

News: Alligator Gar Fish

- The discovery of an Alligator Gar fish (*Atractosteus spatula*), an invasive species in Kashmir's Dal Lake has raised concerns.

Alligator Gar Fish

- Alligator Gar Fish (*Atractosteus spatula*) is a **close relative of the bowfin species.**
- It is a **ray-finned euryhaline fish** (creature's ability to adapt to a wide range of water types that range in salinity) and is one of the biggest freshwater fish in **North America** and the largest species in the 'gar' family.
- It is found in **some parts of India such as Bhopal and Kerala.**
- They **grow rapidly and have a life span of 20-30 years.**
- IUCN Status: **Least Concern.**
- The recent discovery of an Alligator Gar fish, **in Kashmir's Dal Lake has raised concerns** since the fish is **considered as an invasive species** in India.

Concerns

- Gar fish can **grow up to eight feet.**

- They can be **dangerous for indigenous fish species**.
- During **winter**, they can even sustain themselves in the cold waters of Dal because the temperature they mostly live in is 11-23 degrees Celsius.
- **The Biological Diversity Act 2002**: The Biological Diversity Act 2002 **prohibits the presence of invasive fish species** that could harm natural fish populations.
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