

- St. Cloud State University research found that minnows exposed to antidepressants, whose residues end up in local waters, are more laid back – which is not so great for survival.



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This fathead minnow is part of the study by St. Cloud State anatomy Prof. Heiko Schoenfuß. More studies are needed to see what the results could mean for other wildlife and people.

When minnows take a chill pill

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That dose of Prozac, Effexor, Wellbutrin, Zoloft or Zyban doesn't disappear once you swallow it.

Some of it flows through your body into toilets, sewer lines, wastewater treatment plants and eventually into lakes and rivers.

Multiply that by millions of people, and tons of diluted but biologically active drug residues end up in the drink.

"We don't have a clue about how these drugs really behave together," said Melissa Schultz, assistant chemistry professor at Wooster College in Ohio.

Scientists at St. Cloud State University want to answer some of those questions by studying what happens to fathead minnows when they're exposed to antidepressants. The results have been surprising.

They've found that fish eggs and hatchlings doused with drugs are more laid back than those raised in cleaner water. That may be a death sentence in nature; they could be gobbled up by larger fish before they can escape, said Meghan McGee, a

Fish continues: Many drugs in the water. **A9 ►**