

# Okefenokee Fishing Spider (*Dolomedes okefinokensis*)



**Diet:** Mainly aquatic insects but they are opportunistic feeders and have been seen going after small gold fish.

**Habitat:** Found in North America, along bodies of water.

**Predators:** Birds and snakes; dragonflies prey on juveniles and a species of wasp is parasitic to the spider.

**Behavior:** Fishing spiders extend their legs onto the surface of the water to feel vibrations; they can tell simply based on the vibrations if it is a potential prey or if it is a leaf. The spider will then run across the surface of the water to grab the prey. This is all done at night while their main predators are asleep.

**Lifespan:** Average lifespan is one to two years.

**Growth and Development:** Males primarily outnumber the females in these spider species 3:1. Mating typically ends with the male dying as self-sacrifice while the female has no obvious involvement.

**Endangered Status:** The status of this species is undocumented.

**Fun Fact:** The species of spider experiences female gigantisms and male dwarfism; the male is usually less than half the size of females.

Greenwood, Michelle, 2008. Aquatic Assassins: The Secret Life of Fishing Spiders. *New Zealand Geographic*, 91. ([online summary Archived](#) December 12, 2009, at the [Wayback Machine](#).)

"Spontaneous male death and monogyny in the dark fishing spider", Steven K. Schwartz, William E. Wagner Jr and Eileen A. Hebets. *Biol. Lett.* 23 August 2013 vol. 9 no. 4 20130113. <http://rsbl.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/9/4/20130113.long>