

# Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



# Sturgeon chub

*Macrhybopsis gelida*

Common name • Sturgeon chub  
Scientific name • *Macrhybopsis gelida*  
Federal status • Candidate

## Ecology

Sturgeon chub inhabit the Missouri River from Montana to Missouri and the Mississippi River downstream from the confluence of these rivers. They prefer swift current in large, silty rivers that have sand and fine gravel bottoms. Chubs eat bottom-dwelling invertebrates that they find using taste buds that cover their fins, head and body. They spawn from late spring to mid-summer. Adult sturgeon chub are typically 1.7-3.0 inches in length.

## Reason for Decline

Surveys conducted on the Missouri River during the 1940s show that the sturgeon chub was not very common. Since then, the population has become steady in the eastern part of Missouri. Channelization activities that destroy shallow shoals with gravel greatly reduce habitat for young-of-the-year sturgeon chub. Changed natural flow regimen and reduced turbidity caused by Missouri River mainstream reservoirs have degraded sturgeon chub habitat. Other factors including point and non-point source pollution have likely reduced the population, too.

## Specific Recommendations

Missouri contains one of the best populations of sturgeon chub in its historical range. It is important to protect shallow shoals and large rivers to help ensure the survival of this minnow species.

→ Project activities should not occur below water levels between April 15 and August 30.

→ Channelization and impoundment activities should be avoided in areas of potential habitat for the sturgeon chub.

## General Recommendations

Refer to Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Streams and Rivers.

## Information Contacts

For information regarding regulations for development in rivers and streams, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation  
Policy Coordination Section  
P.O. Box 180  
2901 W. Truman Blvd  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
Telephone: 573/751-4115

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176  
Telephone: 573/526-3315

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
700 Federal Building  
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896  
Telephone: 816/983-3990

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division  
901 North 5th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Telephone: 913/551-7307

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services Field Office  
608 E. Cherry Street, Room 200  
Columbia, MO 65201  
Telephone: 573/876-1911

## Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from other state agencies, contractors and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal, state or local laws may affect construction practices.