



Best Management Practices for Construction and Development Projects Flathead Chub

Platygobio gracilis

Common name • Flathead Chub
Scientific name • *Platygobio gracilis*
Federal status • None
State status • Endangered

Purpose and Use

The information in this document is to be used to help avoid and minimize species impacts due to construction practices. It is not intended as a guide to manage habitat for a given species. Please contact the Department of Conservation if habitat management information is needed. Because every project and location differ, following the recommendations in this document does not guarantee impacts will not occur to the species and additional information may be required in certain instances. Following the recommendations in this document does not complete Endangered Species Act consultation that may be necessary for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act; please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more information.

Ecology

The historical range of the flathead chub includes the entire length of the Missouri River and the Mississippi River from the mouth of the Missouri southward to the Arkansas state line. In northwestern Missouri, they also occurred in small tributaries of the Missouri River. Flathead chubs inhabited a diverse range of habitats. In large rivers, they were found in continuously turbid waters with swift current and substrates composed of sand and fine gravel. In northwestern Missouri, they were also found in pools of small creeks with clear water, little current, and substrates composed of coarse gravel and bedrock. Flathead chubs are likely generalists in their dietary needs and use external taste buds to find food. Main food items are terrestrial insects that fall into the water, as well as small aquatic insects. Spawning occurs in July and August. Adult flathead chubs are typically 3.7-7.5 inches in length.

Reasons for Decline

Surveys done between 1940-1960 showed that flathead chubs comprised a large percentage of fish in the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. However, by the mid-1960s their populations had begun declining rapidly. The declines coincided with the construction of large reservoirs on the Missouri River upstream of Missouri, which changed the natural flow regimen and reduced the turbidity of the water. Other negative factors likely

include non-point source pollution and degradation of riparian areas.

Specific Recommendations

As with many other aquatic species, Flathead chubs benefit from practices that reduce alterations to water quality, water turbidity and water flow regimes.

- Dams and other impoundment structures should be prohibited in Flathead Chub habitat.
- Project activities should not occur below water levels between July 1 and August 31.

General Recommendations

Refer to *Best Management Practices for Construction and Development Projects Affecting Missouri Rivers and Streams*.

If your project involves the use of Federal Highway Administration transportation funds, these recommendations may not fulfill all contract requirements. Please contact the Missouri Department of Transportation at 573-526-4778 or the [Missouri Department of Transportation Environmental Studies webpage](#) for additional information on recommendations.

Information Contacts

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

For species information:

[Missouri Department of Conservation](#)

Science Branch
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
Telephone: 573-751-4115

For species information and Endangered Species Act Coordination:

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

Ecological Services
101 Park Deville Drive, Suite A
Columbia, MO 65203-0007
Telephone: 573-234-2132

For Clean Water Act Coordination:

[Missouri Department of Natural Resources](#)

Water Protection Program
P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
Telephone: 573-751-1300, 800-361-4827

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

Regulatory Branch
700 Federal Building
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896
Telephone: 816-389-3990

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

EPA Region 7 Water Division
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219
Telephone: 913-551-7977

Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from state and federal agencies, contractors, and others to provide guidance to those who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with these Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Federal laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, and state or Local laws need to be considered for construction and development projects and require permits and/or consultation with the appropriate agency. Following the recommendations provided in this document will help reduce and avoid project impacts to the species, but impacts may still occur. Please contact the appropriate agency for further coordination and to complete compliance requirements.