

Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



Sicklefin chub

Macrhybopsis meeki

Common name • Sicklefin chub
Scientific name • *Macrhybopsis meeki*
Federal status • Candidate

→ Channelization and impoundments should be avoided in areas where there is available habitat for sicklefin chubs.

Ecology

The sicklefin chub is restricted to the Missouri River and the Mississippi River downstream of the confluence of these two rivers. It inhabits the main channels of these large, turbid rivers where it lives in a strong current over a substrate of sand or fine gravel. Sicklefin chubs are likely bottom feeders and locate food by external taste buds on the body, as well as by sorting through food taken off the river bottom. Spawning occurs in the spring, likely between late March and May. Adult sicklefin chubs are typically 2.4-4.0 inches in length.

Reason for Decline

Surveys conducted on the Missouri and Mississippi rivers during the 1940s show that the sicklefin chub was not very common. Since then, the population has become steady in the Missouri River below the mouth of the Gasconade River and has been found in the Middle Mississippi River in higher numbers than indicated by past records. However, this may be due to increased efficiency in sampling for this species. The sicklefin chub has declined because the number and area of sand and gravel shoals and bars have been eliminated by channel training activities. These areas are especially important for young-of-the-year fish. Changed natural flow regimen and reduced turbidity caused by Missouri River mainstream reservoirs have degraded sicklefin 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 sicklefin chub in its historical range. It is important to protect shoals and sand bar habitat to help ensure the survival of this minnow species.
→ Project activities should not occur below water levels between March 1 and July 31 and should avoid main channel areas.
→ Practices that will increase siltation or erosion should be avoided.

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

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