



**Humpback Chub
(Gila cypha)**



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Humpback Chub (*Gila cypha*)

Federal status: Endangered
Colorado status: Threatened

This fish, growing to a length of up to 18 inches, is green to silver and white in color and is named for the abrupt hump behind its head. It has a white belly and a deeply forked tail. The hump directs the flow of water over the body to maintain body position in swift currents.

Habitat: This species is found in deep, canyon-bound portions of the Colorado River system, in 17 western Colorado counties. The young prefer shallow, low velocity pools, and progressively move to deeper, faster waters with increasing size and age. Depletions to the Colorado River can adversely affect the habitat of this fish downstream in other states.



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