



Razorback Sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*)



Photo Source: Colorado Division of Wildlife



03-0312-11



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This fish has a sharp-edged ridge anterior to the dorsal fin, a characteristic not shared by any other sucker. Adults are dark brown to olivaceous dorsally, fading to white on the belly. The head and the ridge on the back are very dark. In Colorado, fish of 20 inches in length and weighing 2 to 3 pounds are typical.

Habitat: This is a large river species not found in smaller tributaries and headwater streams. It is found in water from four to ten feet in depth. Adults are associated with areas of strong current and backwaters. The fish is found in the lower, mainstream Colorado, Gunnison, lower Yampa and Green rivers in 22 western Colorado counties. Depletions to the Colorado River can adversely affect the habitat of this fish downstream in other states.



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