

HUMPBACK CHUB

Gila cypha (Threatened Colorado, Endangered Federally)

Anglers should return humpback chubs to the water and report the capture of tagged fish to the nearest Division of Wildlife or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service office.



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THE HUMPBACK CHUB IS A remarkable member of the minnow family that is green to silver and white in color with an abrupt hump behind the head and large wing-like fins. The historic range of this 18-inch chub was similar to that of the pikeminnow. However, humpback chub prefer deep, canyon-bound portions of the Colorado River system like Black Rocks and Westwater canyons on the Colorado River and Yampa Canyon inside Dinosaur National Monument. This species declined for the same reasons as the pikeminnow. Other populations occur in Utah in Desolation-Gray, Westwater and Cataract canyons in the Green and Colorado rivers in the Upper

Colorado River Basin; and in the Grand Canyon and Little Colorado River in the Lower Colorado River Basin. These populations are currently being monitored for abundance. Removal of non-native fishes is occurring in Yampa Canyon to enhance survival of humpback chub there. The humpback chub, along with the Colorado pikeminnow, may be caught during angling because of their predatory food habits. It is important that Colorado anglers be able to distinguish these rare fishes from their more abundant relatives like roundtail chub, and return them safely to the water and report the capture of tagged fish to the nearest Division of Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office.