

Quillback



Nicole Powers

Taxonomy

- Kingdom Animalia
- Phylum Chordata
- Class Actinopterygii
- Order Cypriniformes
- Family Catostomidae
- Genus Carpiodes
- Species cyprinus

Identification

- Long first dorsal ray is about equal to the base of the dorsal fin, no spines, and 22-30 dorsal fin rays



Identification

- 7 to 8 anal fin rays



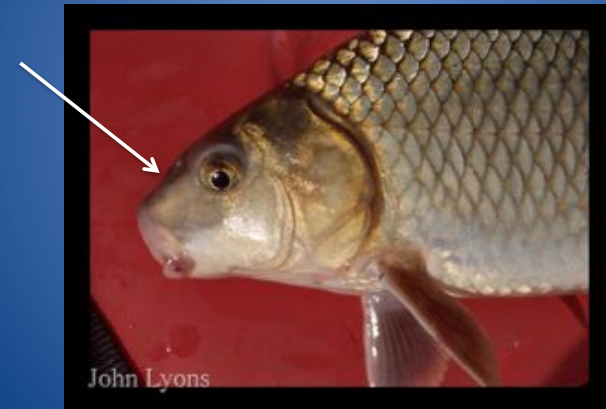
Identification

- Lips form an acute angle and have no nipple at the tip, also no barbells



Identification

- Notch anterior to nostril and lips in front of nostril

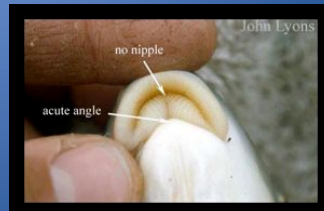


Similar Species

Lake Chubsucker



Quillback

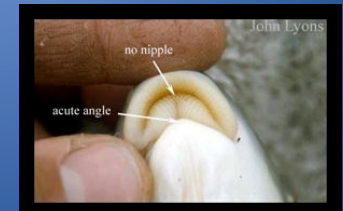


Similar Species

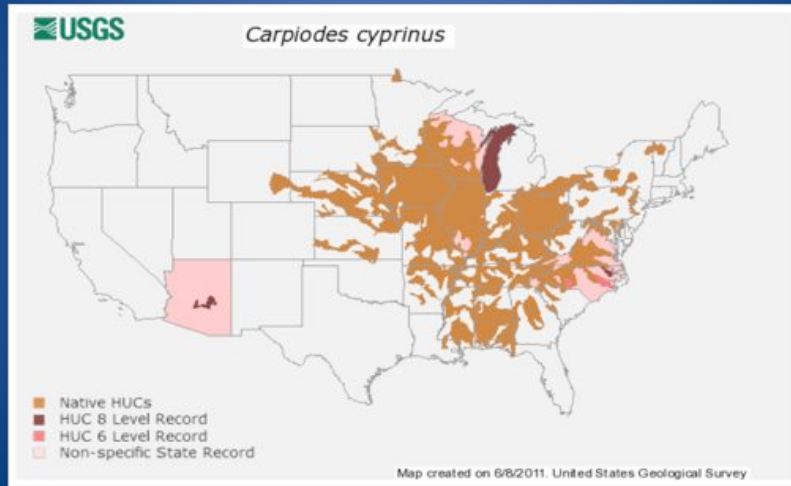
Highfin Carpsucker



Quillback



Distribution



Status

- Critically imperiled in Vermont
- Imperial in New York and Michigan
- Vulnerable in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, South Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and North Carolina
- All other populations are stable

Habitat

- Highly productive streams
- Moderate depths
- Clear water
- Can adapt to slow moving water, lakes and their tributaries



Reproduction and Development

- Make run to shallow water over gravelly rifts, sand or mud
- Females release several hundred thousand eggs
- Females reach prime at age 6 and release an average of 64000 eggs
- Broadcast spawners
- No apparent parental care



Reproduction and Development

- Eggs hatch 8-12 days after fertilization
- Grow an average of 7-9 cm per year in young
- Grow an average of 2-4 cm per year in when older
- Long lived species
- Seen as old as 11 years old in natural occurring populations



General Ecology

- Schooling fish
- Use both visual and tactile cues
- Bottom feeders
- Seek aquatic insect larva and other small organisms
- Also consume aquatic vegetation
- Eggs fry and young are highly preyed upon
- Largest from Wisconsin 23.7' TL and 8.1 lbs



Ecosystem and Economic Roles

- Help clean ecosystems due to bottom feeding
- No commercial fishery
- Occasional commercial bycatch
- Little to no economic benefit in the States
- Important economic importance to north eastern portion of Mexico for food



Questions

