



Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Creek Chubsucker *Erimyzon oblongus*

State Status: **None**
Federal Status: **None**

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: The Creek Chubsucker looks superficially like a minnow, but has plectred and fleshy lips, a posteriorly placed anal fin, and a higher number of dorsal fin rays. The mouth is almost terminal, the scales are large, and lateral-line pores are lacking. Young have a dark brown mid-lateral stripe from the snout to the base of the caudal fin, and a second, less-defined stripe between it and the dorsal midline on a golden-bronze to yellow-brown background. Adults lose these colors although occasional diffuse vertical blotches may be present along the sides of the body. Most specimens are generally under 9 inches in length, but are capable of attaining twice that length. Creek Chubsuckers feed on plant material and a variety of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates. The species spawns in streams, but spends most of the year in downstream habitats. Female Creek Chubsuckers can live at least seven years.

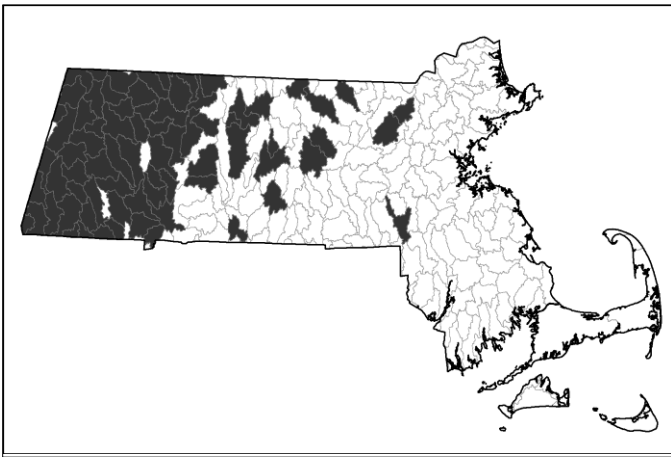
The areas where they were not collected are scattered throughout their local range, and their absence cannot be attributed to any particular environmental factors.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: This species is typically found in creeks, streams, and lakes with moderate quantities of aquatic vegetation, but is also found in the clear waters of lakes and reservoirs.

THREATS: This species is known to be sensitive to pollutants, especially silt.

REFERENCE:

This species description was adapted, with permission, from: Karsten E. Hartel, David B. Halliwell, and Alan E. Launer. 2002. *Inland Fishes of Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Massachusetts.



Data from DFW Fisheries Surveys and Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE: In Massachusetts, this species is relatively more common east of Quabbin Reservoir, but is not known from Cape Cod and the Islands. Surveys between 1970 and 1991 have failed to find this species at a number of localities in Massachusetts where they were found prior to 1969.

Updated 2015

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

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