

scientific name**Gila robusta**

Bison code 010145

common name**roundtail chub**

Official status

Federal (USDI):**State AZ: threatened****State NM: endangered**

Endemism**Status/threats**

Introduced, predatory sport fishes are perhaps the greatest threat to the species. Alteration and loss of habitat through mainstream dam construction is probably the second greatest threat.

Distribution

Formerly throughout the Colorado River Basin. Greatly reduced in range and numbers in the past 4 decades, but common in the upper Colorado River basin, especially in the larger tributaries to the Colorado.

Habitat

Most commonly a pool inhabitant, with associated cover in form of undercut banks, root wads and boulders and containing sand gravel substrates.

Life history and ecology

Omnivorous, consuming a wide variety of aquatic and terrestrial insects. Larger individuals are piscivorous.

Breeding

Spawn in May when water temperatures reach about 22C. Spawning occurs in pool-riffle habitats or in riffles immediately above pools. Fecundity is age dependent with age 5 females producing over 30,000 eggs. Grow to 70 mm in first year and growth rate appears to be directly proportional to habitat (pool) size.

Key Habitat Components:

Pools with associated cover in form of undercut banks, rootwads and boulders.

Breeding season

May or once water temperatures exceed 20 C.

Grazing effects

This species is currently present in larger river systems and due to inhabiting pools in these systems is probably little affected by livestock grazing. However, in areas where present in smaller, more headwater tributaries, potential bank damage caused by livestock could reduce cover in form of undercut banks.

Selected references

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