

Fish Species Information

Name: Bonytail
Scientific Name: <i>Gila elegans</i>
Family: Cyprinidae
Photo: 
Brief Description: Freshwater, large chub (averaging 12-14 inches in length), characterized by a small head, large fins and a long thin caudal peduncle. Adults are gray or olive-green on the back with silvery sides and a white belly; they can reach lengths exceeding 22 inches and weigh over 2 pounds.
Status: Endangered, April 23, 1980
Native Area: Historically, the bonytail was found throughout the Colorado River basin and its tributaries such as the Gila, Salt, and Verde Rivers in Arizona and Green River in Utah and Wyoming. Captures in the Green River in the 1800s indicated the bonytail was present in southern Wyoming where Flaming Gorge Reservoir is now located, and Desolation and Gray Canyons on the lower Green River in Utah. Since the late 1970's a few old specimens (40+ years) have been taken from Lake Mohave, Arizona/Neveda.
Comments: The Dexter National Fish Hatchery & Technology Center, Dexter, New Mexico, maintains a captive broodstock of bonytail and produce fish for reintroduction.