



# Colorado Pikeminnow Species Information

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**Scientific Name:** *Ptychocheilus Lucius*

**Family:** Cyprinidae

**Description:** The Colorado pikeminnow is an elongated pike-like fish, it is the largest Cyprinid in North America able to reach 6 feet and weigh as much as 80 pounds. Adults are an olive green with gold patches on their back, lighter sides and a white belly. The anal and dorsal fin each have nine principal rays. The young are silvery in color.

**Status:** Endangered, March 11, 1967

**Native Area:** The species is endemic to the Colorado River Basin of the Southwestern United States. Early records indicated it was abundant in the main stream Colorado River, most of its tributaries and in the Colorado River Delta in Mexico.

**Additional Comments:** The Dexter National Fish Hatchery & Technology Center in Dexter, New Mexico, maintains a captive broodstock of Colorado pikeminnow and produces fish for reintroduction. In 1998 the common name was changed from Colorado squawfish to Colorado pikeminnow.



*Information provided by Dexter National Fish Hatchery and photo provided by NMFWCO*

<http://fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/dexter/index.html>