

Creek chub

Semotilus atromaculatus



Similar Species: Smaller creek chubs may resemble many minnows and some suckers; however, adult creek chubs are much larger than most of these fish except for some suckers.

Identification: Dark blotch at front of dorsal (back) fin base, small dark blotch near tail, large mouth with upper jaw reaching beyond eye.

Creek chubs are widely distributed throughout eastern and central North America and are found statewide in South Dakota. They inhabit small prairie creeks and occasionally clear lakes. During dry weather, creek chubs can survive in isolated pools. Creek chubs spawn over gravel and require flowing water for reproduction. Males are sometimes called horned dace because tubercles (bumps) form on their heads during the breeding season. Creek chubs are often caught by hook and line using live bait or dry flies. They are used as bait for catfishes. Creek chubs can grow to 12 inches, but most are 5 to 8 inches long.

