

## White sucker

*Catostomus commersoni*



**Similar Species:** Mountain sucker and longnose sucker

**Identification:** Scales largest near tail, becoming smaller toward head, bumpy lips, short dorsal fin, resembles both longnose and mountain suckers but is more common than either.

The white sucker is widespread in rivers and lakes in South Dakota. White suckers are omnivorous, feeding on plants, algae, crustaceans, and larval insects. White suckers are early spring spawners, congregating near riffles after upstream spawning runs. They spawn over gravel, burying the eggs in the substrate. White suckers are relatively long-lived, with life spans of 15 years or more. Although they can reach about 5 pounds, they are more well-known as the common “chub minnow,” widely used for bait when fishing for northern pike in South Dakota.

