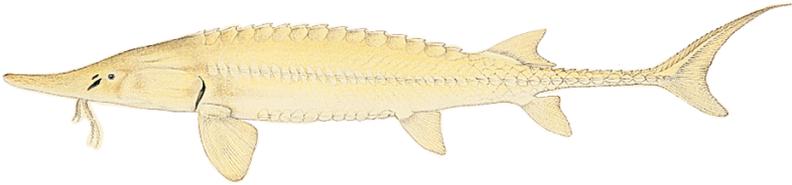


## STURGEON (family Acipenseridae)

### Pallid sturgeon

*Scaphirhynchus albus*



**Similar Species:** Shovelnose sturgeon

**Identification:** Bases of outer barbels usually **behind** inner barbels, outer barbels twice as long as inner barbels, bony plates **absent** on belly.

Pallid sturgeon are almost entirely restricted to the main channel of the Missouri River and lower half of the Mississippi River. The pallid sturgeon is an endangered species; therefore, it is illegal to have it in your possession. Throughout its range this sturgeon is most common in Montana and the Dakotas. It is less common than the shovelnose. Like the shovelnose, pallid sturgeon prefer strong currents in sandy and gravel-bottomed rivers. All sturgeons, the pallid included, feed on bottom-dwelling organisms such as snails and insects, but they also eat fish. Pallid sturgeon can weigh as much as 65 pounds.



Pallid



Shovelnose

