

North Dakota NATIVE FISH of the Missouri River System



BLUE SUCKER



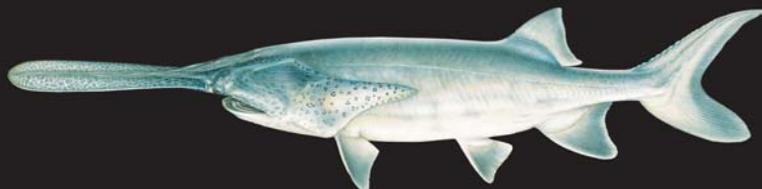
SHORTNOSE GAR



SHOVELNOSE STURGEON



PALLID STURGEON



PADDFISH



BURBOT



SAUGER

Depicted are some of the unique native fish of North Dakota's Missouri River System. Native fish are those species that lived in North Dakota prior to the late 1800s. These species evolved to require a shallow, warm, meandering river which exhibits a natural cycle of high spring flows, flooding of back waters and high turbidity. Since the mid 1900s the Missouri River has experienced significant habitat changes. Construction of Garrison and Oahe dams created reservoirs that now cover hundreds of miles of riverine habitat. In addition, water withdrawals, bank stabilization and shoreline development inhibit the river's natural processes.

Many native fish species have difficulty coping with these changes in habitat and have experienced population declines. To date, only the pallid sturgeon has been listed as federally endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Habitat protection and restoration is critically important to prevent further population declines of these especially unique species inhabiting North Dakota's waters.



PRODUCED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

MINNOW SPECIES



FLATHEAD CHUB



SICKLEFIN CHUB



STURGEON CHUB

Illustrations by Joe Tomelleri