

FISH

SLENDER CHUB

ABOUT

The Slender Chub (*Erimystax cahni*) is a small fish with a brown body and head, a white belly, large eyes, and a long snout. Adults can grow as large as three and a quarter inches in length and only have a lifespan of three years. They like warm, moderate to fast flowing, clear, shallow water. It is thought that they spawn in late April and early May, with the young and adults sharing the same habitat. The Slender Chub's diet is primarily immature aquatic insect larvae, tiny snails, and mussels.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Slender Chub inhabits the Upper Tennessee River Basin of Tennessee and Virginia. It was federally listed as a threatened species in 1977 throughout its range, which is one of the smallest ranges among North American river fish. One of the main reasons for the fish's decline is its preference for living in fine-gravel shoals, and the biggest threats to the Slender Chub is the degradation of its habitat through dredging, chemical spills, gravel removal, pollution, river alteration, and silt build up. For instance, silt from coal washing operations has degraded habitat in the Powell River. The recovery of this species in this particular river depends on a reduction in coal silt runoff.

For more detailed information visit: www.natureserve.org or www.fws.gov.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

What sort of habitat does the Slender Chub prefer?

- a) Fine-gravel shoals
- b) Still, brackish pools
- c) Fast running mountain rivers
- d) Coastal waterways

Answer is A.

