



<http://www.cnr.vt.edu/efish/families/polyodontidae.html>

# Paddlefish

*Polyodon spathula*

## Characteristics

- greatly elongated, paddle-like snout; large mouth without teeth
- tail fin deeply forked, upper lobe is longer than lower lobe
- skin is without scales, except for a patch on upper lobe of tail fin

## Ecology and Distribution

- found in quiet or slow-moving waters rich in zooplankton
- spawns over gravel bars in large, free-flowing rivers



[http://www.epa.gov/bioiweb1/html/photos\\_fish\\_freshwater.html](http://www.epa.gov/bioiweb1/html/photos_fish_freshwater.html)

**Conservation – rare in Ohio drainage in PA; probably extirpated from French Creek; reintroduction program in PA**