CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



American Paddlefish

Polyodon spathula

The American Paddlefish is a large, ancient freshwater fish known for its long, paddle-shaped snout, called a rostrum, which can be up to one-third of its body length. It inhabits slow-moving waters …

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Polyodontidae
Habitat: Large freshwater rivers and reservoirs
Diet: Carnivore (primarily zooplanktivore)
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 20-30 years
Weight: 27-70 kg (60-154 lbs)
Scientific name: Polyodon spathula

Did you know?

- Paddlefish are among the few North American fish species that use filter feeding, sweeping plankton into their large, gaping mouths as they swim.
- The paddlefish's rostrum is covered with electroreceptors that help it detect plankton. Unlike most fish, paddlefish do not have scales, giving them …

What I learned

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