



# Northern Hog Sucker

*Hypentelium nigricans*



## Description:

- ◆ dark olive or bronze to red-brown on top
- ◆ often light stripes along scale rows on sides
- ◆ pale yellow or white belly
- ◆ blue-black snout
- ◆ four dark brown bars on body
- ◆ large rectangular head, body wide in front and tapering behind the dorsal fin
- ◆ large fleshy lips, horizontal mouth
- ◆ large individual has black tipped dorsal fin
- ◆ 11 dorsal rays
- ◆ 32-38 total pectoral rays (both sides)

## Facts:

- ◆ eats insects and other organisms from beneath the substrate
- ◆ uses long snout and bony head to push aside rocks to feed
- ◆ likes rocky runs and pools of clear creeks and small rivers, occasionally larger rivers
- ◆ often migrate long distances in the spring to spawn in smaller streams
- ◆ good indicators of waterway health, as they are intolerant of polluted water

## Size:

- ◆ average between 7 and 14 inches but can get up to 24 inches

## Range:

- ◆ Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and Mississippi River basins from New York and southern Ontario to Minnesota, and south to northern Alabama, southern Arkansas and eastern Louisiana; Atlantic slope drainages from Mohawk – Hudson River, New York to Altamaha River, northern Georgia
- ◆ Gulf slope drainages from the Pascagoula River, Missouri to the Comite River, Louisiana

## **NORTHERN HOG SUCKER CATCH TOTALS**

Year	Total
2007	2
2012	1
2018	1
2019	2
Total	6

\*Northern hog suckers were only caught during the years shown