Fish of Montana
from the Journals of Lewis & Clark
July 16, 1806—one of the men brought me a fish of a species I am unacquainted; it was 8 inches long formed like a trout. Its mouth was placed like that of the Sturgeon; a red streak passed down each side from the gills to the tail. - Clark; Yellowstone River just east of Livingston
MOUNTAIN SUCKER
August 22, 1805—late in the evening I made the men form a bush drag, and with it in about 2 hours they caught 528 very good fish, most of them large trout, among them I saw for the first time new ten or a dozen of a white species of trout, they are of a silvery colour except on the back and head, where they are of a bluish cast. the scales are much larger than the speckled trout, but in their form position of their fins tenth mouth & they are precisely like them they are not generally quite as large but equally well flavored. - Lewis; Headwaters of the Beaverhead River
ARCTIC GRAYLING
June 13, 1805—Goodrich had caught half a dozen very fine trout ...these trout are from sixteen to twenty three inches in length, precisely resemble our mountain or speckled trout ...these are furnished long sharp teeth on the pallet and tongue and have generally a small dash of red on each side behind the front ventral fins - Lewis; Missouri River near Great Falls
CUTTHROAT TROUT
August 19, 1805—This evening I made a few of the men construct a seine of willow brush which we hauled and caught a large number of fine trout and a kind of mullet about 16 inches long which I had not seen before. The scales are small, the nose is long and obtusely pointed and exceeds the underjaw. The mouth is not large but opens with foolds at the sides, the colour if it's back and sides is of a bluish brown and belley white. - Lewis; Beaverhead River
MOUNTAIN WHITEFISH
Prosopium williamsoni
June 15, 1805—I amused myself in fishing ... goodrich also caught about dozen and several small cat of a yellow colour which would weigh about 4 lbs. The tails was seperated with a deep angular nitch like that of the white cat of the missouri - Lewis; Missouri River near Highwood Creek in Cheatham County
CHANNEL CATFISH
June 11, 1805—Goodrich who is remarkably fond of fishing caught several dozen fish of two different species - one about 9 inches long of white colour round and in form and fine resembles the white chub common to the Potomac ...the mouth is bent both above and below with a rim of fine sharp teeth ...they bite at meat or grasshoppers. this is a soft fish, not very good, tho' the flesh is of a fine white colour. - Lewis; Mouth of Marias River near Loma
SAUGER
June 11, 1805—Goodrich who is remarkably fond of fishing caught several dozen fish of two different species - one about 9 inches long of white colour round and in form and fine resembles the white chub common to the Potomac ...the mouth is bent both above and below with a rim of fine sharp teeth ...they bite at meat or grasshoppers. this is a soft fish, not very good, tho' the flesh is of a fine white colour. - Lewis; Mouth of Marias River near Loma
FLATHEAD CHUB
June 11, 1805—Goodrich who is remarkably fond of fishing caught several dozen fish ...precisely the form and about the size of the well known fish called the Hickory Shad or old wife ...the eye of this fish is very large, and the iris of a silvery colour and wide - Lewis; Mouth of Marias River near Loma
GOLDEYE
Hiodon alosoides
July 29, 1806—caught 3 cat fish. They were small and fat. - Clark; Yellowstone River just downstream from the mouth of the Tongue River
STONECAT
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
www.fwp.mt.gov