Bigmouth Buffalo are a sucker fish, and resemble the more common but invasive Carp. Unlike Carp, Bigmouth Buffalo do not have barbels (fleshy filament) under their mouth. Bigmouth Buffalo also do not have a stiff spine leading the dorsal (top) and anal (bottom rear) fins, while Carp do. Their long, curved dorsal fin distinguishes Bigmouth Buffalo from most other suckers. Bigmouth Buffalo can grow nearly a meter long and can weigh as much as a Labrador retriever (36 kg). They live in lakes and slow-moving rivers and feed almost entirely on invertebrates. They feed both on the bottom and in the middle of the water column. Bigmouth Buffalo spawn in flooded shoreline vegetation. They may travel hundreds of kilometers, searching for a suitable spawning site. Adults are relatively free of predation, thanks to their size and body shape. Bigmouth Buffalo are tolerant of turbid conditions, and actually appear to prefer them.
Conservation
• Bigmouth Buffalo are listed as Special Concern in Canada.
• Changes in water management in the Qu'Appelle River basin have eliminated spawning grounds and led to drastic declines of Bigmouth Buffalo in the watershed.
• In some years, it's possible Bigmouth Buffalo may not be able to spawn at all in the Qu’Appelle system.

Get involved
• Read the assessment and status report for Bigmouth Buffalo [here](https://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status_e.cfm).
• If accidentally captured while angling, release quickly. Minimize handling and exposure to the air.

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