

Cahaba River Facts

Major Physical Features

◆ Basin area (km ²)	4,730
◆ Mean discharge (m ³ /s) (1938-2000)	80
◆ Mean precipitation (cm/yr)	138
◆ Physiographic provinces	Ridge and Valley, Appalachian Plateau, Coastal Plain

Major Biological Features

◆ Terrestrial biome	Eastern Deciduous Forest
◆ Number of fish species	135
◆ Number of endangered species	3

Major Fishes

Paddlefish, Alabama sturgeon, spotted and longnose gars, mooneye, American eel, Alabama shad, skipjack herring, gizzard and threadfin shads, Alabama shiner, blacktail shiner, tricolor shiner, pretty shiner, speckled chub, silver chub, emerald shiner, cahaba shiner, silverside shiner, fluvial shiner, skygazer shiner, mimic shiner, bluntnose and bullhead minnows, riffle minnow, quillback, highfin carpsucker, southeastern blue sucker, smallmouth buffalo, Alabama hog sucker, spotted sucker, river, golden and blacktail redhorses, blue, channel and flathead catfishes, frecklebelly madtom, redbfin and chain pickerels, white bass, shadow bass, warmouth, green, bluegill, longear, redear, and redspotted sunfishes, spotted and largemouth basses, white and black crappie, naked sand darter, southern sand darter, crystal darter, rock darter, goldline darter, coal darter, blackbanded darter, saddleback darter, Mobile logperch, and freshwater drum

Major Invertebrates

Mussels – southern fatmucket, Alabama orb, elephant ear, bleufer, three-horned wartyback, southern rainbow, Asiatic clam

Gastropods – *Elimia cahabensis*, *E. clara*, *E. pupoidea*, *E. showalteri*, *Leptoxis* sp., *Somatogyrus*, *Physella*, *Ferissia*, *Micromenetus*, *Fossaria*

Insects – *Cheumatopsyche*, *Hydroptila*, and *Cyrnellus*, *Acroneuria*, *Stenacron*, *Stenonema*, *Tricorythodes*, *Eurylophella*, *Ancyronyx*, and Chironomidae (*Ablabesmyia*, *Polypedilum*, *Tribelos*)

Non-native Species

Fourteen species of freshwater fishes have been introduced, three species (goldfish and grass and common carps) are exotic species; Asiatic clam

Major Riparian Plants

Bald cypress, eastern cottonwood, swamp cottonwood, mockernut hickory, river birch, American hornbeam, American beech, southern red oak, water oak, live oak, American elm, yellow-poplar, sweetgum, American sycamore, American holly, red maple, blackgum, water tupelo, swamp tupelo, carolina ash

Special Features

The Cahaba River is the longest free-flowing river in the southeastern Gulf Coast Region. It contains the largest number of fish species for its size in North America.