

ROUND GOBY

Neogobius melanostomus



Be on the lookout for this invader!



Photo: Dave Jude, Michigan Sea Grant

Description:

Usually 3-6" long, but can be up to 10" long. They have frog-like raised eyes with large heads and soft bodies. Young are gray while adults have blotches of black and brown. The front dorsal fin is scalloped with sharp spines, has a black spot, and may be tinged with green. The back dorsal fin lacks spines. This goby is similar to native sculpins, but can be distinguished by the presence of fused pelvic fins (sculpins have two separate fins).

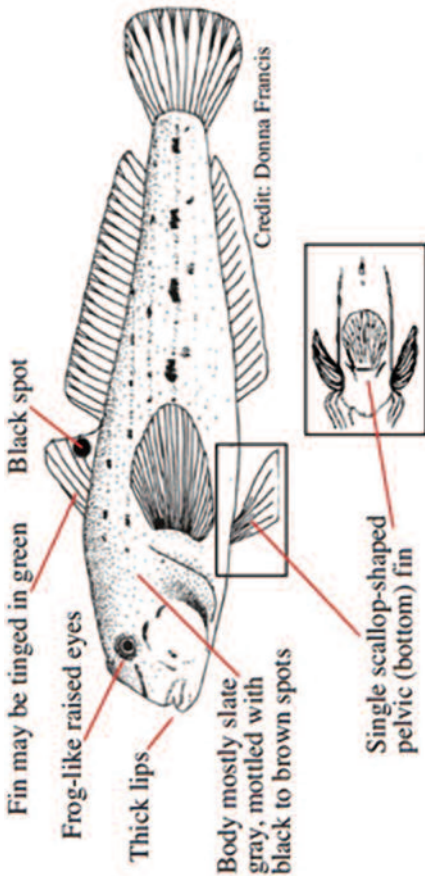
Round gobies displace native bottom-dwelling fish, such as sculpins and darters, and prey on eggs of lake trout and other fish species.

Habitat:

Round gobies are a bottom-dwelling fish that perch on rocks and other substrates in shallow areas; however, they are now moving into deeper habitat (extending more than 360' deep!) and far upstream into trout streams and warm-water rivers.

IDENTIFICATION

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Known to occur at these locations in Northern Michigan:

- Mullett Lake
- Lake Charlevoix
- Lake Huron
- Lake Michigan
- Pickere! Lake
- Crooked River
- Crooked Lake
- Indian River
- Black River
- Cheboygan River

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