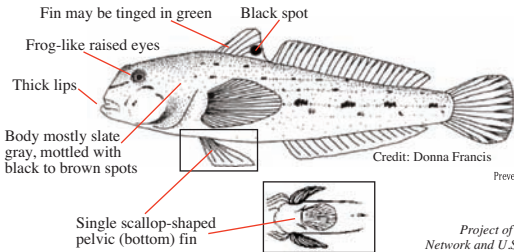


Round Goby WATCH

How to Identify a Round Goby (*Apollonia melanostomus*)



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Prevent transport of aquatic invasive species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Project of the Great Lakes Sea Grant
Network and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

General Characteristics

- No native fish in the Great Lakes has the single pelvic fin
- Young are solid slate gray
- Usually 3-6 inches (7.6 - 15.2 cm) long; may be up to 10 inches (25.4 cm)

Round Goby

The round goby (*Apollonia melanostomus*) poses a serious threat to North American aquatic ecosystems, with potential impacts on sport and commercial fishing. Since its discovery in the St. Clair River in 1990, this bottom-dwelling fish has rapidly spread to many areas of the Great Lakes. Once established, populations typically increase quickly. The round goby can displace native fish, eat their eggs and young, take over optimal habitat, spawn multiple times a season, and survive in poor quality water – giving them a competitive advantage.

Anglers, commercial fishermen, and fishery professionals should know how to identify the round goby. Often, anglers are the first to discover round gobies because these aggressive fish are commonly caught by hook and line. Your help to report new sightings and to prevent their spread is vital.

What you can do

- **Learn** to identify the round goby (see back cover).
- **Inspect** and **remove** aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat, motor, and trailer.
- **Drain** water from boat, livewell, and bilge before leaving any water access.
- **Dispose** of unwanted live bait and worms in the trash.
- **Never** dump live fish from one body of water into another.
- **Report** new sightings – note exact location; place specimens in a sealed container with rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol; and call the WI Sea Grant Program in Manitowoc, (920) 683-4697; the WI DNR in Madison, (608) 266-6437; or a local DNR office; or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Ashland, (715) 682-6185.

REMINDER: Know the rules!

Specimens are needed to confirm sightings, but some jurisdictions prohibit possession and transport of invasive aquatic plants and animals. Contact your local natural resource management agency for instructions. Unauthorized introduction of plants, fish, or invertebrates into the wild is illegal. Protect your property and our waters.