

Tubenose Goby

Proterorhinus semilunaris



What is it and Why is it a Problem?

The Tubenose Goby is a bottom-dwelling fish that has invaded the Great Lakes and some connecting rivers where it feeds on the young of native bottom-dwellers such as Rainbow Darters (*Etheostoma caeruleum*) and Northern Madtoms (*Noturus stigmosus*). This small invasive fish also outcompetes native fish for food such as insects, shellfish and worms, and may compete with native fish for spawning habitat on the shores of lakes and rivers. Although the Tubenose Goby has not yet been detected in The Land Between, it has been confirmed in surrounding Great Lakes and thus may potentially spread to the region if careful precautions are not taken.



How Can it be Managed?

- Help prevent the spread of this invasive species to The Land Between by reporting sightings of any invasive species online through [EDDMapS Ontario](#), a web-based mapping system which also has an app, or through the [Invasive Species in Ontario](#) project on [iNaturalist.org](#).
- Inspect your boat, trailer and fishing gear before leaving a fishing spot and before heading to a new fishing spot to remove any mud, plant fragments and animals. Dispose of any plant and animal matter in the garbage. Refer to the [OMNRF's Boater's Action Plan](#) for more information on cleaning your boat and gear.
- Release water from your motor, live well, bilge and transom wells once on land.
- Do not release aquarium or pond contents into water bodies. Oftentimes invasive aquatic animals end up reaching water bodies when people dispose of them in lakes and rivers.



What Does it Look Like?

- Unlike the other invasive Round Goby, the Tubenose Goby does not have a black spot on the first dorsal fin and its nostril do not stop before the upper lip (they extend over it), but both species have a fused scallop-shaped pelvic fin and fully scaled body
- Body colour ranges from grey to light brown to olive to tan with black or reddish-brown mottling on the back
- Both the Round Goby and Tubenose Goby may look similar to the native Sculpin (*Myoxocephalus thompsoni* and *Cottus* sp.) but they can be differentiated based on the fact that the Sculpin does not have scales, a fused pelvic fin (it has two separate fins) or a black dot on its dorsal fin

References

[Great Lakes Nonindigenous Species Information System](#), produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program](#), developed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH).