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A Field Guide to

**Common Bait  
Fish Species  
in Manitoba**

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Manitoba  
Conservation



## **Acknowledgments**

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# Introduction

In Manitoba, as of 1999, legal bait fish species include the following:

Minnows (family Cyprinidae) except carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)

Suckers (family Catostomidae)

Tullibees (*Coregonus artedii*)

Darters (family Percidae, subfamily Etheostomatinae)

Mudminnows (family Umbridae)

Sculpins (family Cottidae)

Sticklebacks (family Gasterosteidae)

Trout-perches (family Percopsidae)

In addition, yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), goldeye (*Hiodon alosoides*) and mooneye (*Hiodon tergisus*) that have been caught by angling may also be used as bait.

Rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*), except for purchased frozen smelt, may not be used as bait.

While it is not possible to include every bait fish species found in Manitoba, the following guide shows the major species that are sold commercially or that may be trapped by anglers for their own use. Key characteristics will help in the identification of less-common species to a point where it will become clear whether or not they are legal to use as bait (i.e. to the family or subfamily level).

To assist with the terminology used in the descriptions, a hypothetical fish is labelled below.

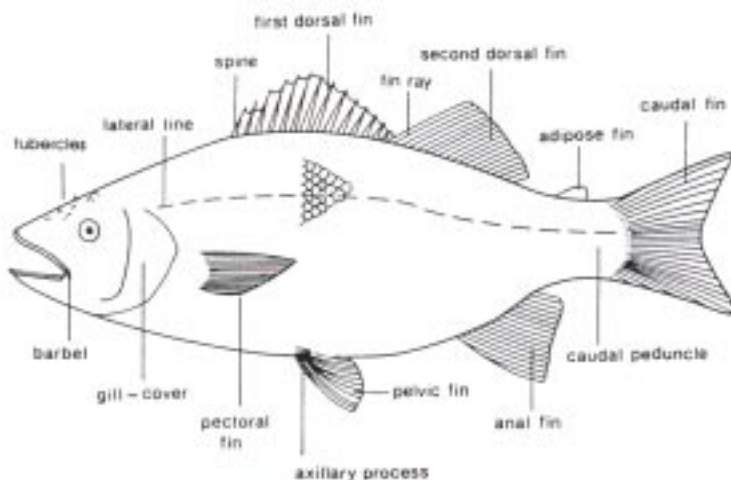


Figure 1. Hypothetical Fish

Following are some general rules of thumb that will help you immediately identify small fish that are not legal bait fish.

1. AVOID fish with spines in their fins. Spiny fishes include the young of many game fish, such as WALLEYE, SAUGER, CHANNEL CATFISH AND SMALL-MOUTH BASS. They also include many undesirable species such as CARP, GOLDFISH AND BULLHEADS.

EXCEPTIONS: YELLOW PERCH have spines and are legal to use as bait if caught by angling.

SCULPINS, STICKLEBACKS, DARTERS, AND TROUT-PERCHES (see pages 5 to 8) also have spines and are legal bait fish species, although they are not very good as bait, since predators avoid them because of their spines.

2. AVOID fish with an adipose fin - a small, fleshy, tab-like fin on the back between the dorsal fin and base of the tail (see Figure 1). These fish include the young of TROUT, CHAR, GRAYLING AND WHITEFISH. They also include undesirable species such as BULLHEADS (which also have spines).

EXCEPTIONS: TROUT-PERCHES have both an adipose fin and spines and are legal for bait (see page 8).

RAINBOW SMELT have an adipose fin and may be used as DEAD BAIT ONLY (see page 4).

TULLIBEE or lake herring also have an adipose fin and are legal for bait.

3. AVOID fish with strong, sharp teeth in their jaws. They include game fish such as NORTHERN PIKE and MUSKELLUNGE. They also include BOWFIN, an undesirable introduced fish now in Lake of the Woods, which might spread.

EXCEPTIONS: GOLDEYE and MOONEYE have strong teeth and may be used as bait if caught by angling.



Richard Remnant, North/South Consultants

## **Rainbow Smelt *Osmerus mordax***

LEGAL BAIT ONLY IF PURCHASED FROZEN.

### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body slender, elongate, averaging 18 to 20 cm (7 to 8 inches) in length; flattened from side to side;
- head long; eye moderately large;
- snout elongated and pointed; mouth large with long teeth and protruding lower jaw;
- well-developed adipose fin; dorsal fin located halfway down the back, its origin over origin of pelvic fins;
- scales thin and easily rubbed off;
- lateral line not complete.
- overall colour silver, pale green on back, but with purple, blue and pink iridescent reflections on sides when freshly caught; fins generally clear;
- spawning males usually with small tubercles profusely distributed over head and body; often do not show as colourful reflections as females, although males are just as colourful when tubercles are lost.

### **Distribution:**

Introductions of the rainbow smelt into the Great Lakes watershed has greatly extended its range into inland waters. They have spread throughout Northwestern Ontario. So far, the only specimens reported in Manitoba have been found in Lake Winnipeg. Accidental catches by Lake Winnipeg fishermen show this species has been introduced in Manitoba waters.



*John F. Scarola, New Hampshire Fish & Game Dept.*

## SCULPINS

### Family Cottidae

Members of this family are rather distinctive-looking and should be easily identifiable. Sculpins are of minor importance as bait fish.

### **Description:**

Characteristics of the family are as follows:

- usually two dorsal fins; the first dorsal fin spiny, the second soft-rayed (usually with long base); anal fin soft-rayed with relatively long base; pectoral fins large and conspicuous; pelvic fins located forward in the “chest” area (on the bottom of the fish), with one spine (hidden); caudal fin round or slightly forked;
- head usually broad and flat with large eyes towards the top;
- mouth large; jaws with teeth;
- body scaleless (or some with scales or prickles).
- colour light to dark brown with darker mottling

### **Distribution:**

Sculpins are generally bottom-dwellers, found in deeper waters of lakes and cooler streams. The mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdi*) is found in the Hudson Bay drainage of southern Manitoba, including Lake Winnipeg and its tributaries, north to off the mouth of the Mukatawa River. The slimy sculpin (*Cottus cognatus*) is found in suitable habitats throughout Manitoba, occurring further north than the mottled sculpin.



William N. Roston

## STICKLEBACKS

### Family Gasterosteidae

Members of this family are of minor importance as bait fish.

#### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- soft-rayed dorsal fin set far back on the body; dorsal fin preceded by three or more separate, well-developed spines (usually one short spine at front of dorsal fin); anal fin also with a short spine; pelvic fins located forward in the chest area with one strong spine and a few soft rays;
- very slender caudal peduncle; caudal fin rounded or slightly forked;
- body usually flattened from side to side;
- mouth small; jaws with small teeth;
- scales lacking (sometimes replaced by bony plates);
- colour olive green to black mottled with dark or light splotches or bars, depending on species.

#### **Distribution:**

The brook stickleback (*Culaea inconstans*) is found in cool, clear waters throughout the Hudson Bay drainage area in Manitoba. The ninespine stickleback (*Pungitius pungitius*) is found throughout the province.





William N. Roston

## DARTERS

### Family Percidae, Subfamily Etheostomatinae

Members of this group are often colourful fish but of minor importance as bait fish.

#### **Description:**

General characteristics of the subfamily include:

- two dorsal fins distinctly separated, the first with many spines and the second soft-rayed; anal fin small with one or two spines; pelvic fins relatively far forward with one spine; caudal fin rounded or squared (rarely, shallowly forked);
- mouth relatively small; jaws with teeth; gill openings relatively large;
- scales small, rough, and well-attached; lateral line usually present;
- no swim bladder; stay at bottom of bait bucket.

#### **Distribution:**

The most common representative of this group, the Johnny darter (*Etheostoma nigrum*) occurs throughout Manitoba north to the Churchill River area in Southern Indian Lake. It prefers waters of moderate to no current, over a sandy bottom, but does inhabit weedy areas or gravel riffles of streams. The Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*) prefers clear, standing or slowly moving waters of lakes or rivers, with rooted aquatic vegetation and a bottom of organic debris. It is found throughout southern Manitoba, extending north to the Saskatchewan River near The Pas.



*Charles Purkett*

## TROUT-PERCH

### Family Percopsidae

Only one species of this family is found in Canada. The name arises from the fact that members possess some characteristics of both trout (e.g. adipose fin) and perch (e.g. rough scales, spines). They are of minor importance as bait fish.

**Trout-Perch** *Percopsis omiscomaycus*

### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body distinctly thicker towards front end, averaging 8 to 10 cm (3 to 4 inches) in length;
- mouth small and slightly under snout; jaws with fine teeth;
- adipose fin present; dorsal and anal fins each have one or two soft spines at front edge; pelvic fins relatively far forward; pectoral fins extend past bases of pelvic fins;
- scales moderate in size;
- lateral line full-length;
- overall colouring silvery, often appearing to be partially transparent; five distinct rows of black spots overlay background colour.

### **Distribution:**

The trout-perch is widely distributed in lakes and streams throughout Manitoba.



Peter Blahut, Manitoba Conservation

## SUCKERS

### Family Catostomidae

The primary member of this family used as a bait fish is the white sucker.

#### White Sucker *Catostomus commersoni*

##### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- robust, cylindrical, torpedo-shaped body, averaging 30 to 50 cm (12 to 20 inches) in length;
- head relatively short and broad;
- mouth ventral and moderately large; lips thick with fleshy bumps or ridges and lower lip is divided (into left and right parts); jaws toothless;
- single dorsal fin, not preceded by any spines; all fins soft-rayed; pelvic fins located in belly region, low on body; no adipose fin;
- scales smooth;
- lateral line complete and straight.
- back and top of head grey to brown; lower sides and belly cream to white; young (5 to 15 cm in length) usually have three large, prominent black spots on sides of body.



##### **Distribution:**

White suckers are found throughout the province, usually in warmer shallow lakes or warm, shallow bays, and tributary rivers of larger lakes.

# MINNOWS

## Family Cyprinidae

This family has more members than any other fish family (over 1,500 species throughout the world) and includes most of the major baitfish species used in Manitoba.

### Description:

General characteristics of the family include:

- single dorsal fin, not preceded by any spines; all fins of native species are soft-rayed; pelvic fins located in the belly region; no adipose fin; forked caudal fin;
- mouth usually terminal (i.e. tips of upper and lower jaw form foremost part of the head) or slightly below the snout; jaws toothless; lips usually thin;



- scales usually smooth; lateral line usually present;
- males often with conspicuous spawning colours and small tubercles on head, fins, or other part of the body.

EXCEPTIONS: CARP and GOLDFISH belong in this family but are not legal bait fish.

Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)



Anries Blouw, Canada Dept.  
of Fisheries and Oceans

Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)



Richard S. Wydoski &  
Richard R. Whitney



Anries Blouw, Canada Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans

## Northern Redbelly Dace *Phoxinus eos*

### Description:

General characteristics include:

- body relatively short and cylindrical, averaging 5 cm (2 inches) in length, with largest up to 7.5 cm (3 inches);
- mouth terminal, sloping downward, and relatively small (compared to finescale dace);
- dorsal fin begins distinctly behind origin of pelvic fins;
- lateral line not clear and not often full-length, usually ending ahead of pelvic fin origin;
- scales very small, hardly visible to naked eye;
- back olive to dark brown, often scattered with dark spots; two dark lateral bands on sides (the upper one often broken), usually more visible on young or preserved specimens; below lower band on adults, sides silvery or cream, turning brilliant yellow or red as spawning time nears;
- during spawning season (often prolonged), males may show yellow or red bellies; fins yellowish; spawning tubercles found on breast in front of pectoral fins and below gill covers;
- northern redbelly dace may have similar colouring to finescale dace and often hybridizes with this species; in this case, it often cannot be positively identified.

### Distribution:

The northern redbelly dace has been reported in Manitoba in the Whiteshell Forest Reserve, the Bissett area, the Brokenhead River, and McElheren Creek, which flows into Lake Winnipeg near Gimli. It seems to prefer the quiet waters of beaver ponds, small lakes, or pools in streams. These waters often have a bottom of finely divided ooze or silt, are slightly acidic, and are stained the colour of tea.



*Andries Blouw, Canada Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans*

## **Finescale Dace *Phoxinus neogaeus***

### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body elongate and cylindrical in shape (somewhat flattened from side to side in tail region) averaging 7.5 cm (3 inches) in length;
- mouth terminal and relatively large;
- dorsal fin begins distinctly behind pelvic fin origin;
- scales relatively small;
- lateral line not full-length, ending even with pelvic fins;
- back dark brown, ending sharply in lighter lateral stripe of olive green or gold; below this is dark lateral band, beginning on snout and ending as a spot at base of caudal fin; belly silvery-white on non-breeding adults;
- breeding males bright lemon yellow (possibly with red streaks) on lower sides and fins; pectoral fins thickened, standing out stiffly from body; tubercles on breast ahead of pectoral fins and along lower sides between anal fin and caudal fin (may distinguish this dace from northern redbelly dace and pearl dace).

### **Distribution:**

The finescale dace has been reported from Brereton Lake, Telford Pond, and Rennie River, all in southern Manitoba. Preferred habitat includes cool bog lakes, streams, and some larger lakes. It is usually found with the northern redbelly dace, pearl dace, brook stickleback and central mudminnow.



*Andries Blouw, Canada Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans*

## **Pearl Dace** *Margariscus margarita*

### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body elongate and tubular with rather long, slender caudal peduncle; average length 9 cm (3.5 inches) with maximum of 15 cm (6 inches);
- small, flap-like barbel at corner of mouth (may be poorly developed or totally lacking);
- dorsal fin begins distinctly behind pelvic fin origin;
- lateral line usually full-length, sometimes broken into sections in young specimens;
- general mottled appearance due to many darkened scales scattered along sides; back dark, sides dusky silver, and belly silvery-white; dark lateral band distinct on young, ending in a spot on caudal fin base, often visible only on the caudal peduncle of adults;
- from late fall to mid-summer, adult males may show orange-red along sides below lateral band, except for pale stripe along belly from head to anal fin; spawning tubercles not well-developed on pectoral fins and very small on head.

### **Distribution:**

The habitat of pearl dace is typically cool, clear headwater streams in southern Manitoba, and cool bog-drainage streams, ponds, and small lakes in northern Manitoba. It is usually found with the northern redbelly dace, the finescale dace, the fathead minnow and the brook stickleback.



*Andries Blouw, Canada Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans*

## **Longnose Dace *Rhinichthys cataractae***

### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body stout, averaging 8 cm (3 inches) in length;
- long, bulbous snout that extends beyond and hangs over mouth; small barbel at each corner of mouth, which although hidden in skin fold, is conspicuous on large adults;
- dorsal fin begins behind pelvic fin origin; caudal fin shallowly forked with rounded lobes;
- lateral line full-length;
- colour of back varies from olive-green to brown, shading to cream or silvery white on belly, with dark back colour often ceasing abruptly more than halfway down sides; sometimes a faint mottling formed by scattered darkened scales; often a dark stripe ahead of eye;
- dark lateral line may be full-length, only on posterior half of fish, or absent, except on young fish which have distinct lateral stripe from snout to tail;
- breeding males display orange-red colouration on corners of mouth, spreading lightly onto cheeks; pectoral fins may also be bright orange.

### **Distribution:**

The longnose dace is widely distributed throughout Manitoba. It occurs in clean, swiftly flowing, gravel or bouldery streams, at times inhabiting very turbulent waters. It also occurs in inshore waters of lakes over boulder or gravel bottoms.





*William N. Roston*

## **Blacknose Dace** *Rhinichthys atratulus*

### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body stout and elongate, not flattened from side to side; averages 6 cm (2.5 inches) in length;
- snout long with upper lip overhanging mouth; small barbel visible at each corner of mouth;
- dorsal fin begins slightly behind pelvic fin origin; caudal fin shallowly forked with rounded lobes;
- lateral line full-length;
- breeding males have tubercles on head, over entire body and on fins, particularly pelvics;
- overall colouration dark with speckles or mottling on sides; back olive-green to dark brown; sides sprinkled with darkened scales, becoming lighter on lower sides and silvery white below;
- breeding males rusty-red on sides, with some orange or red on pectoral fins.

### **Distribution:**

In Manitoba, where the blacknose dace reaches its northernmost and westernmost limits of range in Canada, it has been recorded from the Pembina, Whitemud, and Assiniboine River systems, and in tributary streams of lakes Dauphin, Winnipegosis, and Swan. It prefers small, clear, swiftly flowing streams with gravelly substrate.



*John F. Scarola, New Hampshire Fish & Game Dept.*

## **Lake Chub *Couesius plumbeus***

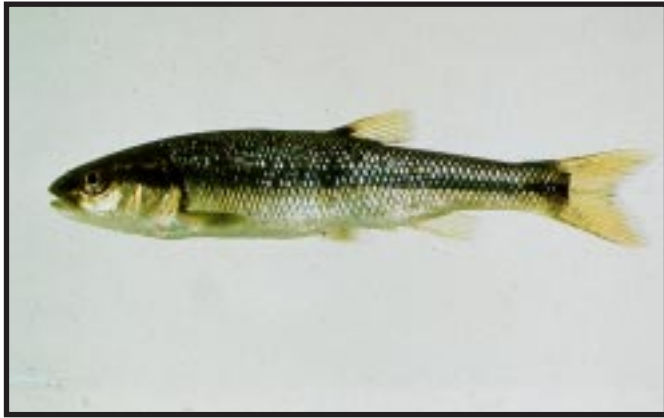
### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body elongate, not flattened from side to side, with long, slender caudal peduncle;
- average length about 10 cm (4 inches);
- mouth moderate in size, with small barbel near each corner;
- dorsal fin begins slightly behind pelvic fin origin;
- lateral line full-length;
- overall colour leaden silvery, with olive brown back and silvery white belly; often darkened scales scattered on sides and dark spots on lower sides and belly; dark lateral band on young (less than 2 inches or 5 cm long) may persist on adults;
- breeding males show red-orange at bases of pectoral fins and sometimes pelvic fins; some specimens also red-orange on snout and gill-covers; male and female spawning tubercles small and scattered over sides of head, on back from nape to dorsal fin, on breast ahead of pectoral fins, and on pectoral fins.

### **Distribution:**

The lake chub occurs in many streams and rivers in southern Manitoba and in lakes in the north.



*John F. Scarola, New Hampshire Fish & Game Dept.*

## **Creek Chub** *Semotilus atromaculatus*

### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- relatively deep-bodied, not flattened from side to side (except slightly on caudal peduncle);
- one of the largest bait minnows used; average length of 10 cm (4 inches); largest up to 25 cm (10 inches);
- mouth large, with upper lip reaching a point below pupil of eye;
- dorsal fin begins slightly behind pelvic fin origin, with distinct black spot at base of first three rays (distinguishes this minnow from lake chub and several other minnow species);
- lateral line usually full-length;
- scales larger and easily seen;
- adults have olive to olive-green back, silvery sides (often with purple iridescence), and silvery-white belly; young silvery, with narrow, dark lateral band extending from behind eye to small spot on caudal base;
- spawning males usually show rosy, orange, or bluish tints, especially on sides of head and body; relatively large spawning tubercles on males on head in single line over eye on each side and on top of pectoral fins.

### **Distribution:**

The creek chub reaches its western limit in Canada in the Assiniboine River in Manitoba. It has been found in western tributaries in lakes Manitoba, Dauphin, Swan, and Winnipegosis, and tributaries of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, but not east of Dominion City. It seems to prefer pools in small, clear, streams and brooks, although it does inhabit the shore waters of small lakes.



*Andries Blouw, Canada Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans*

## **Fathead Minnow *Pimephales promelas***

### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body relatively short, flattened from side to side and deep-bodied (often with pronounced belly); averages 5 cm (2 inches) in length with largest up to 10 cm (4 inches);
- head blunt and rounded forward; snout slightly overhangs small and upturned mouth;
- dorsal fin begins above pelvic fin origin and may have a black mark on lower part of front edge in males; dorsal and anal fins have rounded margins; first ray of dorsal fin blunt-tipped with membrane between it and rest of fin;
- scales moderate in size, but notably crowded and smaller on back in front of dorsal fin than on sides and to rear;
- lateral line often not full-length, usually ending ahead of or even with dorsal fin;
- colour usually dark, with olive-green to brown back, olive-coloured sides with silvery or brassy tones and whitish belly; young and non-breeding adults usually lighter, with distinct lateral band from head to caudal peduncle;
- spawning males have tubercles (three main rows on snout) and fleshy or spongy pad on back extending from nape to dorsal fin.

### **Distribution:**

The fathead minnow occurs throughout Manitoba as far north as Lake Athapapuskow and Gods Lake. It prefers the still waters of ponds to the flowing waters of streams. In Manitoba, it occurs in reservoirs, muddy brooks, and alkaline lakes, sometimes in considerable numbers. It is one of the most commonly used bait fish in the province as it is very hardy.



*Andries Blouw, Canada Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans*

## **Golden Shiner *Notemigonus crysoleucas***

### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body deep and very flattened from side to side, with fleshy ridge or “keel” between pelvic fins and anal fin (though not easily seen, distinguishes it from many other bait fish species; averages 8 to 13 cm (3 to 5 inches) in length;
- head relatively small and sharply pointed at front;
- mouth notably directed upward, with chin projecting ahead of mouth;
- pectoral fins rather small; dorsal fin begins distinctly behind pelvic fin origin;
- lateral line full-length and strongly curved towards belly, often accentuated with pigmentation around pores;
- overall colour of adults golden, with olive or dark brown on back, brassy sides and yellowish fins; young silvery with transparent fins and dark lateral band.

### **Distribution:**

The golden shiner prefers clear, weedy, quiet waters with extensive shallow areas. It is a lake rather than a river species. In Manitoba, it is found frequently at the mouths of rivers and on sandy beaches of Lake Winnipeg, extending north to Mukutawa River. It has been reported from the Whiteshell Forest Reserve, Lake Manitoba, and a tributary of Lake Winnipegosis. The golden shiner is an excellent live bait minnow.



*Andries Blouw, Canada Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans*

## **Emerald Shiner *Notropis atherinoides***

### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body slender (even fragile looking), very flattened from side to side; average length of 5 to 7.5 cm (2 to 3 inches);
- mouth terminal and relatively small;
- dorsal fin begins distinctly behind pelvic fin origin;
- lateral line full-length;
- scales of moderate size, easily rubbed off, resulting in dark blue or blue-green patches;
- overall colour silver, with back showing blue-green or green iridescence; belly silvery-white; young up to 5 cm (2 inches) long usually translucent;
- tubercles on spawning males very small (only on upper sides of pectoral fins) and can easily be missed; no brilliant spawning colours.

### **Distribution:**

The emerald shiner occurs in large open lakes and rivers throughout Manitoba.

*Notropis* shiners make poor live bait fish, since they need lots of oxygen and continuous fresh water. They are delicate and easily injured. The emerald shiner and the spottail shiner make up most of the frozen and salted minnow trade.



*Andries Blouw, Canada Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans*

## **Spottail Shiner *Notropis hudsonius***

### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body relatively elongate and flattened from side to side, averaging 7 cm (3 inches) in length;
- snout rounded, slightly overhangs mouth;
- dorsal fin begins above pelvic fin origin;
- lateral line full-length;
- scales large;
- conspicuous field mark - black spot at base of caudal fin rays; noticeable on fish less than 8 cm (3 inches) long and on all sizes after preservation, but not always on larger live fish; otherwise fins mainly clear;
- overall colour silvery with yellow or golden tints; back pale green to olive; belly silvery-white.

### **Distribution:**

It is common in Manitoba in almost all larger lakes and rivers. It has been reported in the Saskatchewan-Nelson River system and in the Hayes River above York Factory.

The spottail shiner and the emerald shiner make up most of the frozen and salted minnow trade.



*John F. Scarola, New Hampshire Fish & Game Dept.*

## **Common Shiner *Notropis cornutus***

### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body one of the most flattened from side to side, with average length of 6 to 10 cm (2.5 to 4 inches);
- mouth large and terminal;
- dorsal fin begins above pelvic fin origin; pectoral fins and pelvic fins rather small;
- scales along sides, especially towards head region, two to three times higher than wide;
- lateral line full-length, curving slightly towards belly;
- overall colour silver with bronze tints; back olive-green with purple or gray-blue stripe on top; sides silvery; belly silvery-white; young fish less than 6 cm (2.5 inches) usually silvery with clear fins;
- tubercles on spawning males dense on snout and present on head and nape towards dorsal fin; breeding males pink or reddish on outer third of all fins and reddish tinted on anterior lower sides and head; often a golden stripe on each side slightly below dark stripe on back.

### **Distribution:**

In Manitoba, the common shiner has been recorded in the Assiniboine River and its tributaries (Cypress, Little Saskatchewan, Souris), the Whitemouth River, and some of the western tributaries of Lake Dauphin, Swan Lake and the Red River. Although principally a stream fish, the common shiner frequently occurs in the shore waters of clearwater lakes.





*Peter Blahut, Manitoba Conservation*

## MUDMINNOWS

### Family Umbridae

The central mudminnow, the only member of this family occurring in Canada, is of minor importance as a bait fish.

### Central Mudminnow

#### **Description:**

General characteristics include:

- body robust, almost round in cross-section behind head, but flattened from side to side behind dorsal fin; average length 5 to 10 cm (2 to 4 inches);
- dorsal fin and anal fin soft-rayed; dorsal fin set far back on body like a pike's; caudal fin rounded; pelvic fins small and abdominal, under origin of dorsal fin;
- scales large;
- no lateral line;
- upper parts of head and body dark olive-green, through brown, to brown-black; sides marbled or mottled with dark brown; prominent, vertical black bar at base of tail; all fins dusky to brownish; females supposedly brighter in colour at spawning time than males, both with green iridescence at this time, particularly on anal fin.

#### **Distribution:**

It is found in southern Manitoba in boggy habitats, small creeks, and isolated ponds, often with dace. It is very hardy, as it can breathe atmospheric oxygen, and is easily kept in a bait bucket.

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