

*Neogobius melanostomus*

# Round Goby

Gobiidae, the goby family



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Small, brownish-gray body with dark spots
- Bodies are soft with hard heads
- Fused pelvic fin that forms a suction disk
- Spiny fins: anterior dorsal fin has 5-7 spines; posterior dorsal fin has one spine and 13-16 soft rays

## Background

- Native to Asia and parts of Europe; introduced in ship ballast water and possible egg attachment to ship hulls
- Occurs in lakes, marine habitats, and water courses
- Thrives in disturbed or human-modified environments
- Preys on small fish and eggs of trout and other species
- Occupy and takeover native fish spawning habitat
- Well-developed sensory system can detect movement, giving the ability to feed in the dark
- Perch on rocks and other substrates
- **Adults feed on zebra/quagga mussels when present; toxin build-up in mussels transfers to goby, making them toxic to larger predators**

Photo Credit:

1354046 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bugwood.org

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