

*Gymnocephalus cernuus*

# Ruffe



Percidae, the perciform fish family



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Small fish that can reach 10 inches in size
- Dorsal side is olive-brown with a yellowish-white underside
- Dark spots
- Spiny dorsal and anal fins
- Fused dorsal fins with 11-16 spines

## Background

- Native to Asia and Europe; probably introduced via ship ballast water and live bait releases
- Inhabits lakes, rivers, and water courses
- Incredible reproductive ability
- Feed on an assortment of prey; will eat native fish eggs
- Can adapt to a wide array of environments
- Outcompete native fish for habitat
- Can detect prey in low-light and highly turbid conditions; can feed at night

Photo Credit:

1354009 - Doug Jensen, Minnesota Sea Grant, Bugwood.org

5430872 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bugwood.org

5431179 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bugwood.org

1354048 - Gary Cholwek, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org