



## New Hampshire Fish Identification (Confusing Species)



**Minnow Family: Cyprinidae** - Mouth directed toward the front (except longnose and blacknose dace with their pointed snout), lips thin, dorsal fin less than 10 rays.

### Lake Chub, *Couesius plumbeus*



**Description:** The rounded body is elongate with a broad snout extending just past the lower lip which has two small barbells, one at each end. The back is olive-brown or dark brown, and the sides are silver with a lead colored band that extends along the side onto the cheek. May be confused with the creek chub which has a dark spot on the front side of the base of the dorsal fin.

### Golden Shiner, *Notemigonus crysoleucas*



**Description:** The golden shiner is a slab shaped minnow with golden colored scales and a lateral line that curves downward into the lower third of its body. Juvenile golden shiners have a dark lateral band and are easily confused with other minnows. Juvenile golden shiners tend to be silver, gold color is exhibited as they grow.

### Common Shiner, *Luxilus cornutus*



**Description:** Common shiners are a silvery minnow similar in appearance to the fallfish. Their scales are more laterally compressed, diamond shaped, and crowded toward the head. Scales slough off more easily than those of the fallfish, which are more rounded and plate-like. The fins of breeding males become reddish during spawning.

### Bridle shiner, *Notropis bifrenatus* NH Conservation Status: **Threatened**



**Description:** The bridle shiner is a small minnow species with a black lateral band that extends from the tip of the snout, through the eye, back to the base of the tail. It is golden in color, with large, diamond shaped scales and white underbelly.

### Spottail Shiner, *Notropis hudsonius*



**Description:** A medium sized minnow from 2 to 5 inches in length. Streamlined body with silvery-bluish sides and a black spot at the base of the tail fin (spot sometimes not visible). Tail is deeply forked. Large loose scales come off easily. Sub-terminal mouth does not reach end of snout. The peritoneum (lining of the abdominal cavity) is silvery.



### Northern Redbelly Dace, *Chrosomus eos*



**Description:** The northern redbelly dace is a small to medium sized minnow species with two parallel, black lateral bands, a terminal mouth, and very small scales.

### Blacknose Dace, *Rhinichthys atratulus*



**Description:** Blacknose dace are a small minnow species with a black lateral band which extends from a slightly pointed snout to the base of the tail. The snout is less pronounced than that of the longnose dace. The scales are very small. Coloration is dark gray, sometimes with black spots, above the lateral band and light gray to silver below. The body and fins of breeding males turn reddish in color.

### Longnose Dace, *Rhinichthys cataractae*



**Description:** A streamlined minnow with an elongated snout that projects over a sucker-like mouth. Coloration ranges from dark brown to light tan, often mottled or speckled in appearance, with a white to yellowish underbelly. Although some individuals may have a faded black lateral band, it is usually not as pronounced as that of the blacknose dace. The fins of breeding males may have a reddish tinge.

### Fallfish, *Semotilus corporalis*



**Description:** A thick bodied minnow with large, silver, metallic looking scales that overlap in half circles. The snout extends slightly beyond the upper lip. The mouth terminates at the front end of the eye, which is relatively large. Young fallfish appear to have a dark lateral band which can make them difficult to distinguish from other juvenile minnows. Common shiners, unlike fallfish, have diamond shaped scales which slough off easily and become crowded just behind the gills.

### Creek Chub, *Semotilus atromaculatus*



**Description:** The creek chub looks similar to the fallfish with a more prominent lateral band and smaller scales. Creek chubs may be distinguished from other small minnow species by a dark spot at the base of the dorsal fin.