

*CAUTION: Invasive Species*  
**Round Tubenose Goby**

**Impact:** The Round Goby preys heavily on other fish eggs and outcompetes natives for food and nesting sites, especially in shallow waters. They pose a serious threat to eco-systems, eating eggs and fry of lake trout. During spawning season, Round Gobies are prolific breeders, reproducing every 20 days. Although they eat invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels, studies have shown that can result in the adverse effect of introducing botulism into the food chain. They also steal bait off of fishermen's hooks.

**How to Identify:** Small round fish that can grow up to 10", but are generally 3-6" in length. They have a large head with protruding eyes, are slate gray (young) or black and brown in color. Soft bodied and bottom dwelling creatures, they have a distinctive black spot on the first dorsal fin and a single scallop-shaped bottom fin. Similar to native sculpin.

Since discovered in 1990, it's spread to the Great Lake and more recently Oneida Lake, the St. Lawrence River, Lake Erie and western Erie Canal. Considered a high-risk candidate for invasion.



**Control:** Once gobies are established in a body of water, little can be done to eliminate them. Prevention is the best method of control. Anglers can help through proper bait handling – buying certified bait and keeping the unused portion, rather than dumping it into the water. Practicing clean boating procedures also aids in stopping the spread from waterbody to waterbody.