

# Invasive Species Alert

## Round Goby (*Apollonia melanostomus*) \*Established in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Up to 30.5 cm long, U.S. Max: 17.8 cm
- Young fish are solid slate gray color, older individuals are blotched with black and brown
- Black spot on rear of first dorsal fin
- **Fused** pelvic fin



Illustration by Joe Tomelleri, Ontario's Invading Species Program

**Habitat:** Round gobies are freshwater fish that prefer brackish water conditions. Behavior generally includes perching on rocks and other substrates in shallow areas of water. Round gobies may also flourish in open sandy areas and other varieties of habitat types.

**Diet:** Zebra mussels, some native snails, aquatic insects, other males' eggs and smaller individuals



David Copplestone, Ontario's Invading Species Program

**Native range:** Eurasia – Caspian Sea, Black Sea, Sea of Azov & tributaries

**Local concern:** Round gobies have voracious appetites and an aggressive nature which allows them to dominate over native species. Round gobies also have a competitive advantage over native species due to a well-developed sensory system that allows for enhanced water movement detection and the ability to feed in complete darkness.

**Means of Introduction:** Ballast water

**Native look-alikes and how you can tell them apart from round goby:**

- ✓ **Spoonhead Sculpin:** pelvic fins **not fused**, all fins lightly speckled except for clear pelvic fins
- ✓ **Slimy Sculpin:** pelvic fins **not fused**, no spot on first dorsal fin
- ✓ **Mottled Sculpin:** pelvic fins **not fused**, dark spots all over first dorsal fin
- ✓ **Deepwater Sculpin:** pelvic fins **not fused**, no spots on first dorsal fin

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