

# Invasive Species Alert

## Tubenose Goby

(*Proterorhinus semilunaris*)

\*Established in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Small – up to 11 cm.
- Mottled brown coloration with small scales
- Conjoined pectoral fins, 2 dorsal fins
- Tube-shaped protuberance extending from each anterior nostril
- Lines on first dorsal fin (no spot like round goby)



Illustration by Joe Tomelleri, Ontario's  
Invading Species Awareness Program

**Habitat:** Slightly brackish to freshwater habitats are preferred.

**Diet:** Tubenose gobies primarily feed on benthic invertebrates such as amphipods.

**Native Range:** Black, Caspian, and Aral Seas, the Sea of Azov and rivers in northern Aegean

**U.S. Distribution:** They have been introduced to the Great Lakes basin and inhabit Lakes Superior, Erie, Huron, and are abundant in Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River.

**Local Concern:** Dietary requirements put this species in strong competition with native darter populations in the Great Lakes.

**Means of Introduction:** It is believed that tubenose gobies made their way to the Great Lakes basin via ballast water introduction.

### Native look-alikes and how you can tell them apart from the tubenose goby:

- ✓ **Spoonhead Sculpin:** pelvic fins **not fused**, all fins lightly speckled except for clear pelvic fins, scaleless body
- ✓ **Slimy Sculpin:** pelvic fins **not fused**, scaleless body
- ✓ **Mottled Sculpin:** pelvic fins **not fused**, dark spots all over first dorsal fin, scaleless body
- ✓ **Deepwater Sculpin:** pelvic fins **not fused**, scaleless body

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