

BLACKNOSE DACE (*Rhinichthys atratulus*)

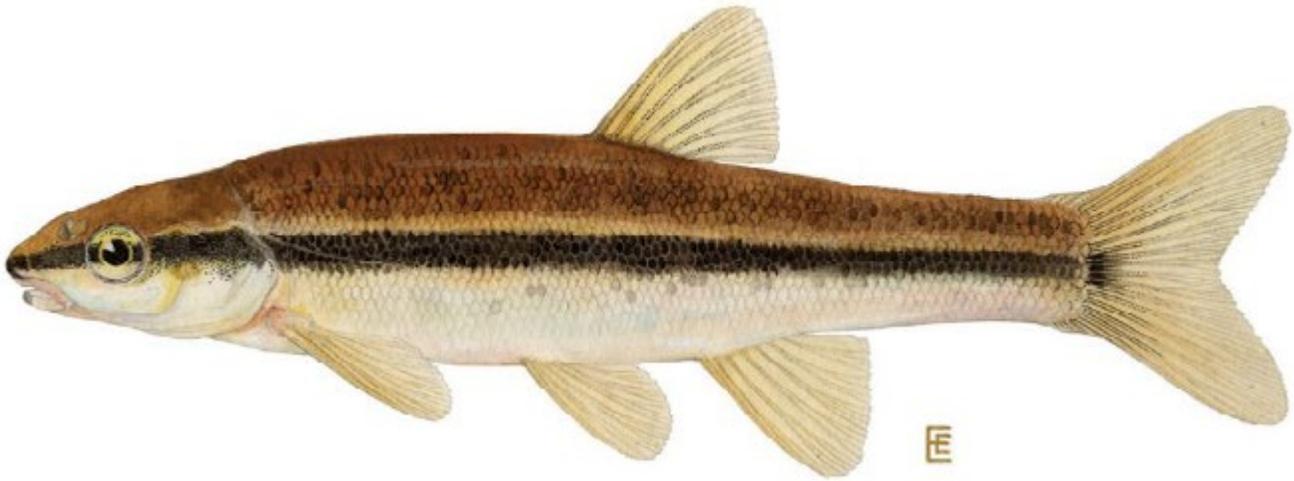


Image by Ellen Edmonson

Other common names: Dace

Identification: Body is stout and elongate; fairly round in cross section ahead of dorsal fin and slightly compressed behind it. Snout is long and slightly overhangs mouth. Upper lip of mouth is not separated from the snout by a groove. Scales are very small giving fish a smooth skinned appearance. Coloration: Back is dark gray; sides have a prominent black band that extends from base of tail, along lateral line, through eye, and around tip of snout; the lower sides and underside are silvery-white. Males may show a black and reddish lateral band. Body is peppered with numerous dark flecks. Size: Average about 2 inches.

Habitat: This species prefers small, clear, swift flowing streams having gravel bottoms. The blacknose dace is widely distributed in Vermont.

Bait use: Although common in many Vermont streams, it is not a particularly popular bait fish perhaps due to its overall drab appearance; however, it is usually abundant and easily obtained from the wild.