

BLUNTNOSE MINNOW (*Pimephales notatus*)



Image by John Lyons

Other common names: Minnow

Identification: Body is slender and elongate; round to roughly squarish in cross section ahead of dorsal fin; only slightly compressed laterally behind dorsal fin. Snout is broadly rounded and decidedly overhangs small, horizontal mouth. Scales on sides are large and dark edged producing a cross hatched appearance; scales are crowded behind head. A lateral black stripe extends from tip of snout, through eye and gill cover, and terminates in a prominent black spot at base of tail. A dark spot is sometimes visible on the first few dorsal fin rays. Lining of body cavity is black. Coloration: sides are silvery; back is olive-brown to black; underside is whitish. Size: Average about 2-3 inches.

Habitat: This fish inhabits a wide range of waters (small streams, rivers, lakes) but seems to most prefer clear, rocky streams. It is fairly widely distributed in Vermont.

Bait use: It is reported that the bluntnose minnow makes a good bait fish particularly for panfish; however, it is not generally available from commercial bait dealers unless it comes mixed with other wild caught minnows and shiners. It does not transport well and is short lived in a crowded bait bucket.