

EASTERN SILVERY MINNOW (*Hybognathus regius*)



Image by Jon Craig Cloutier

Other common names: Hunt, pinhead, shiner.

Identification: Body is stout; moderately compressed laterally; and deepest and widest ahead of dorsal fin. Caudal peduncle is fairly deep. Snout is blunt, rounded and slightly overhangs small mouth. Upper jaw extends back to front edge of eye. Lower jaw is nearly horizontal and chisel-shaped with a small knob at the inside tip of mouth. Eyes are moderately large. Fins are clear and body lacks any distinctive markings. Lining of body cavity is black; intestine is very long and coiled. **Coloration:** Sides are bright silvery often with a bluish metallic sheen and lack any lateral stripe or band; back is olive to silvery with a dark mid-dorsal stripe. **Size:** Up to 3-4 inches.

Habitat: Prefers large, slow moving streams particularly pools and backwater areas. The silvery minnow is not a commonly encountered species in Vermont, although it can be found in abundance in some waters with suitable habitat.

Bait use: This is an important bait fish especially during the ice fishing season. Small, young fish (pinheads) are popular perch bait.