

COMMON SHINER (*Luxilus cornutus*)



Image by Doug Watkinson

Other common names: Redfin shiner.

Identification: Body is deep, strongly compressed laterally; heaviest toward front. Head is moderately large and blunt. Eyes are large. Mouth is large, forward pointing, and slightly slanted upward. Scales are large and easily shed; those on sides near front of body are higher than wide (at least 2-3 times). Middle of back in front of dorsal fin has a distinct black line. **Coloration:** Back is olive-green or dusky olive; Sides are silvery but may have a bluish or purplish iridescence. Fins vary from clear to having pink or orange pigmentation on outer third of fin margins. Fin color intensity depends on fish size, age and time of year. **Size:** Average about 2-4 inches.

Habitat: As the name implies this fish is a common resident of rivers and streams and may be occasionally encountered in the shallow shore waters of some lakes and ponds. Flowing water is required for spawning. The common shiner is widely distributed throughout Vermont.

Bait use: This is a popular bait species frequently taken in bait traps set out in suitable habitats. It may also be purchased at some bait shops. Common shiners generally transport well during the cooler months of the year and are easily maintained in holding tanks.