

CREEK CHUB (*Semotilus atromaculatus*)



Image by Doug Watkinson

Other common names: Chub, common chub, horned dace

Identification: Body is relatively thick and deep; barely or only moderately compressed laterally. Front half of body is more or less round in cross section. Head is large and blunt. Mouth is forward pointing and large, extending back to a point below pupil of the eye. Scales are large, more crowded toward front of body, and not easily shed. A distinctive black spot is present at base of first three rays of dorsal fin. Sides with a dusky lateral stripe that ends in a spot at base of caudal fin (most evident in young fish). Coloration: Back is olive-brown or olive-green; sides are silvery with a purplish iridescence; underside is silvery-white. Young fish are silvery overall with a dark, narrow lateral stripe terminating in a distinct caudal spot. Size: Average about 3-5 inches, although 10-12 inches may be attained.

Habitat: A species that seems to prefer pools in small brooks and streams with gravelly bottoms. It is sometimes encountered in shallow shoreline areas of small lakes and ponds. The creek chub is widely distributed and common throughout Vermont.

Bait use: The creek chub is a common species and is considered to be a hardy bait fish, although it is not often sold by commercial bait dealers in Vermont but more readily encountered when trapping wild bait fish in suitable habitats.