

LONGNOSE DACE (*Rhinichthys cataractae*)



Image by John Lyons

Other common names: Dace.

Identification: Body is stout and elongate; fairly round in cross section ahead of the dorsal fin and slightly compressed behind it. Top of head is somewhat flattened. Snout extends well beyond and overhangs the mouth. Upper lip of mouth is not separated from the snout by a groove. The lips are thick giving the fish a sucker-like appearance. Scales are very small giving the fish a smooth skinned appearance. Coloration: The upper body is light olive-green to black with numerous dark flecked scales; the lower body is silvery-white. With exception of very young individuals, a distinct black band on sides is lacking. Size: Up to 4 inches.

Habitat: This fish prefers swift flowing streams with riffles and pools. The longnose 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. It is not a hardy fish to maintain for any length of time in holding tanks.