

SPOTTAIL SHINER (*Notropis hudsonius*)



Image by Ellen Edmonson

Other common names: Spottail minnow, spottail.

Identification: Body is relatively elongated, compressed laterally, and moderately deep. Snout is blunt, rounded and slightly overhangs small mouth. Eyes are large. Small to medium size fish have a conspicuous black spot at base of caudal fin, otherwise the body and fins lack any markings. Scales are large and easily shed. Coloration: Back is yellowish or pale green; sides are silvery; underside is silvery-white. Size: Average about 2-3 inches.

Habitat: This species inhabits lakes and large rivers. Wild populations within Vermont are not widely distributed. They are most abundant in Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River.

Bait use: The spottail shiner is an important bait fish and is readily available from many commercial bait dealers. It is a moderately hardy fish.