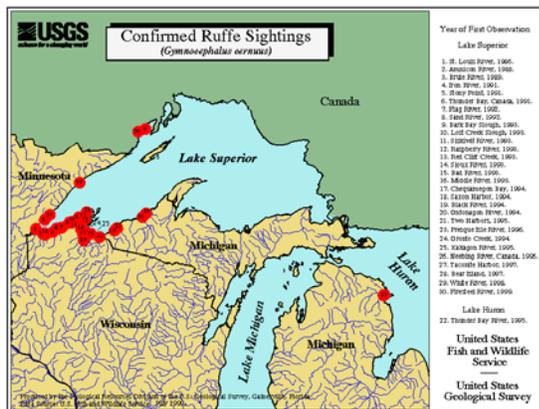


# Eurasian river ruffe

## *Gymnocephalus cernuus*

**Identification** Perch-like body; 4 – 6 inches in length; olive-brown to golden-brown on back with paler sides and yellowish white belly

**Why is it a Problem?** Very adaptable with a fast growth rate and high reproductive capacity; spreads rapidly and competes with native species for food and habitat



**Range/Habitat** Ruffe have spread rapidly in the Great Lakes, but have not yet been found in Maryland.

**Similar Species** Similar in appearance to native perch.

**Legal Status** Prohibited from import, transport, sale, purchase and possession in Maryland.

**Method of Introduction** The ruffe is native to fresh and brackish waters in Eurasia. It was introduced to Lake Superior in the 1980s via ballast water and has since spread throughout the Great Lakes.

**Control and Prevention** Do not bring live ruffe into Maryland.

**Want to know more?** Check out [www.dnr.maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov) for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.