

NOT WANTED



EURASIAN RUFFE
ALIAS: *GYMNOCEPHALUS*
CERNUUS

Distribution: Native to areas of Europe and Asia. Now found in the Great Lakes.

Size: About 4-6 inches.

Description: Perch-like body shape. Member of the yellow perch and walleye family. Olive brown to golden brown on top with yellowish underside. Spiny dorsal fin is fused with soft dorsal.

Impacts to Aquatic Ecosystem: Grows very quickly, has a high reproductive capacity, and adapts to a wide variety of environments. It is considered a serious threat to commercial and sport fish. Growth of the ruffe population means less food and space in the ecosystem for other fish with similar diets and feeding habits. Because of this, walleye, perch, and a number of small forage fish species are seriously threatened by continued expansion of the ruffe's range. It eats mainly invertebrates from the bottom, though it will take small fish and some plant matter. The ruffe is known to eat other fishes' eggs, but the ruffe is an opportunistic feeder and will eat almost anything. Ruffe do not become a preferred prey species of larger fish.

Means of Introduction: Most likely hitchhiked into the Great Lakes through ballast water exchange.

Status in Maryland: Currently not in Maryland.



Look-A-Likes: Yellow perch and small walleye.

Legal Standing: Prohibited from import, transport, sale, purchase and possession in Maryland.

*Special provisions for delivering specimens to authorities, visit www.dnr.state.md.us/invasives.

For more information on invasive species in Maryland visit www.dnr.state.md.us/invasives.

