

Round Goby

Neogobius melanostomus

Identification Soft body and a large, rounded head with eyes that protrude near the top; females and immature males are mottled gray and brown; mature males may be all black

Why is it a Problem? Round gobies are aggressive, out-competing native fishes for food and space, often becoming the dominant fish species where it invades.



Range/Habitat Prefer fresh water and a rocky or gravel habitat; generally inhabit the near shore area, although they will migrate to deeper water in winter; currently found primarily in the Great Lakes; not yet found in Maryland

Similar Species Round gobies look similar to native sculpins, but can be distinguished by the fused pelvic fins on their underside. Sculpins have two distinct pelvic fins, not one large fin.

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

Method of Introduction Hitchhiked into the U.S. in ballast water

Control and Prevention Do not bring live round goby into Maryland.

Want to know more? Check out www.dnr.maryland.gov for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.