

Round Goby Fish

The round goby is a small gray or olive-green bottom-feeding fish that lives in fresh or brackish water. It lives on the bottom of ponds, lakes, and rivers, eating the eggs of native fish and disrupting their aquatic habitats. They have a black spot at the base of the first dorsal fin and a single fused pelvic fin on their belly that they use as a suction cup to hold onto the bottom substrate.

Native region: The Black and Caspian Seas in Eurasia (Near Turkey, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Iran)

Introduction: 1990; accidentally introduced through ballast water from Eurasian cargo ships released into the Great Lakes.

Spread: Spread through rivers and canals and transported into other water bodies in bait buckets and boat live-wells.

Range: Lives primarily in the Great Lakes region and parts of the Mississippi River basin



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