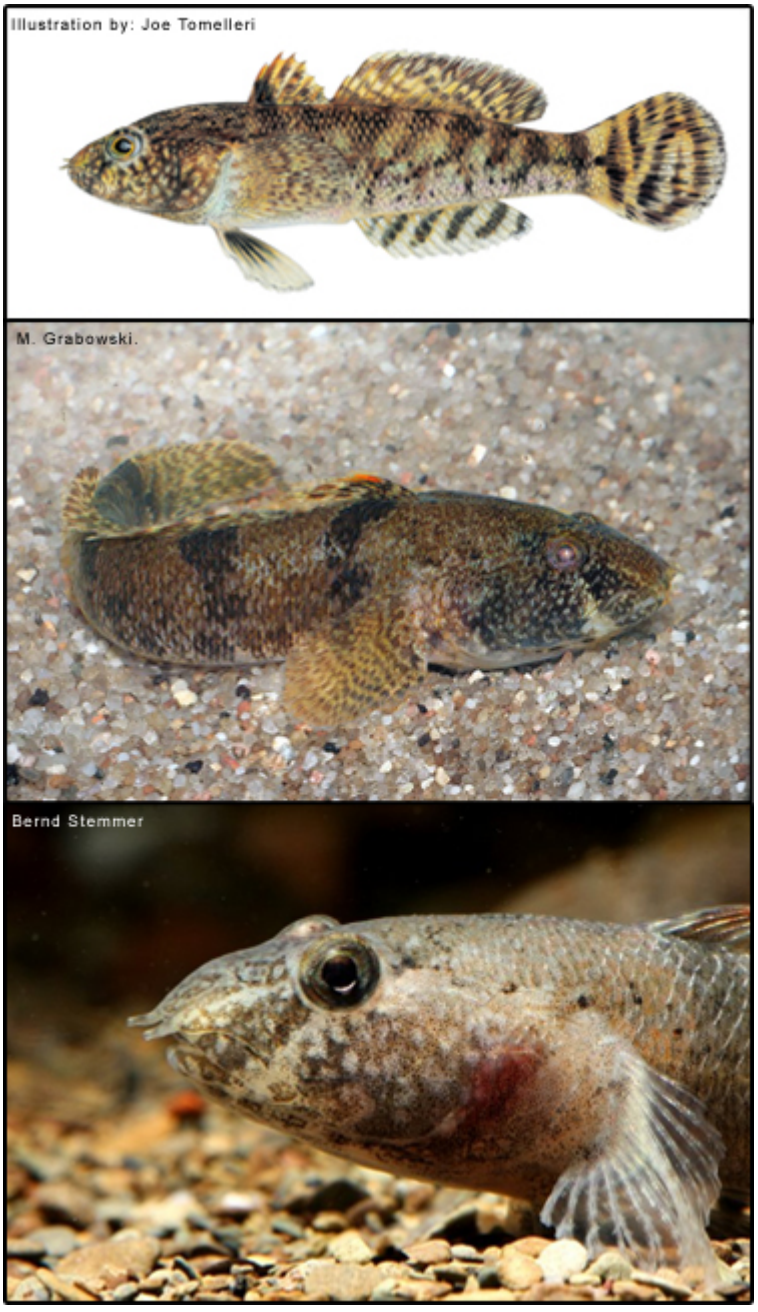
MISIN Midwest Invasive Species Information Network

Freshwater tubenose goby

Proterorhinus semilunaris



Description

Introduced to the Great Lakes in ballast water; first detected in the St. Clair River in 1990; not dispersed as widely as the round goby.

Identification

Up to 4 inches; mottled brown body, usually 5 dark bars on sides; a single scallop-shaped pelvic fin (resembles a suction cup); nostrils extend beyond lower lip and are tube-like; black lines on first dorsal fin.

Habitat

Native to Eastern Europe. Prefer inshore bottom areas with plant cover in lakes and rivers; defends its nest sites created under rocks, logs and shells.

Reproduction

Males guard nesting sites to defend the eggs and young. Spawn multiple times during the warmer months of the years and are rather prolific.

Source: MISIN. 2024. Midwest Invasive Species Information Network. Michigan State University - Applied Spatial Ecology and Technical Services Laboratory. Available online at https://www.misin.msu.edu/facts/detail.php?id=328.

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Impact

Compete with, and prey upon, native bottom-dwelling fish. Their preferred habitat impacts the spawning grounds and nurseries of native fish species. They eat fish larvae and fish eggs and will compete with native fish for food, feeing on invertebrates, insect nymphs and small crustaceans.

Similar

Sculpin and other native species have a pair of pelvic fins; the round goby is the only other invasive with a single fused pelvic fin.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

No known biological control methods. USACE notes the potential effectiveness of acoustic or sensory fish deterrents. Increasing CO2 concentrations can be used as a potential method of harvesting fish for removal as it will sedate the fish.

Credits

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