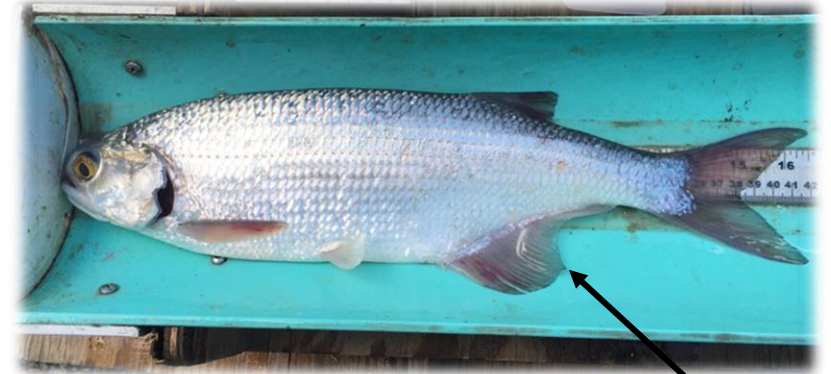


Peace River Fish Identification

Goldeye (GE)

- Deep, laterally compressed (flattened body shape)
- Golden yellow coloured iris in adults
- No adipose fin
- Dorsal fin is placed well behind the middle of the body
- Large scales
- Length of the anal fin base is over twice the length of the dorsal fin base
- Females have a concave anal fin while males have a convex anal fin

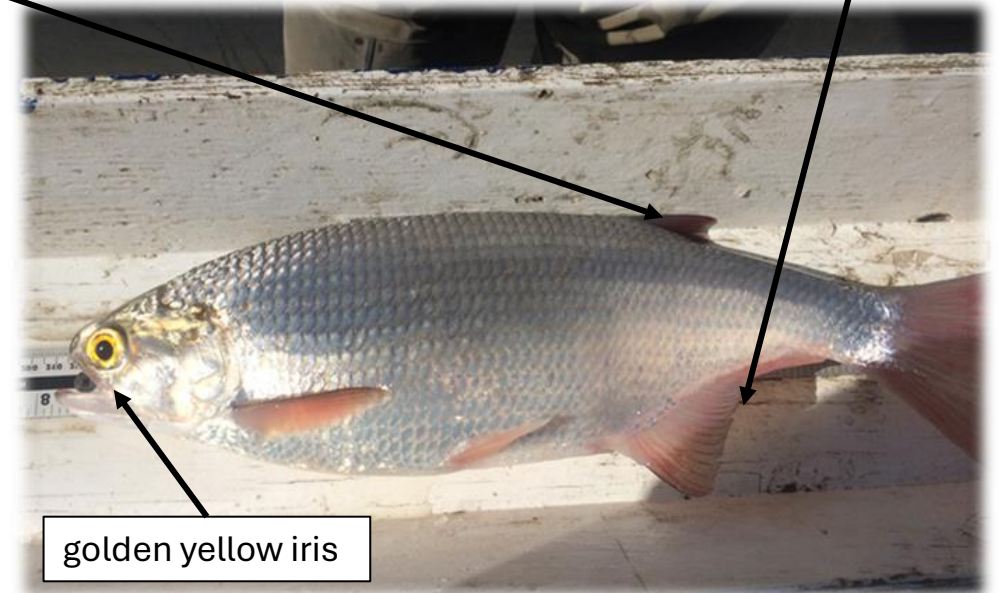


Male



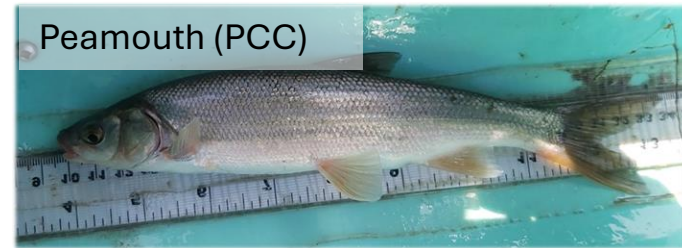
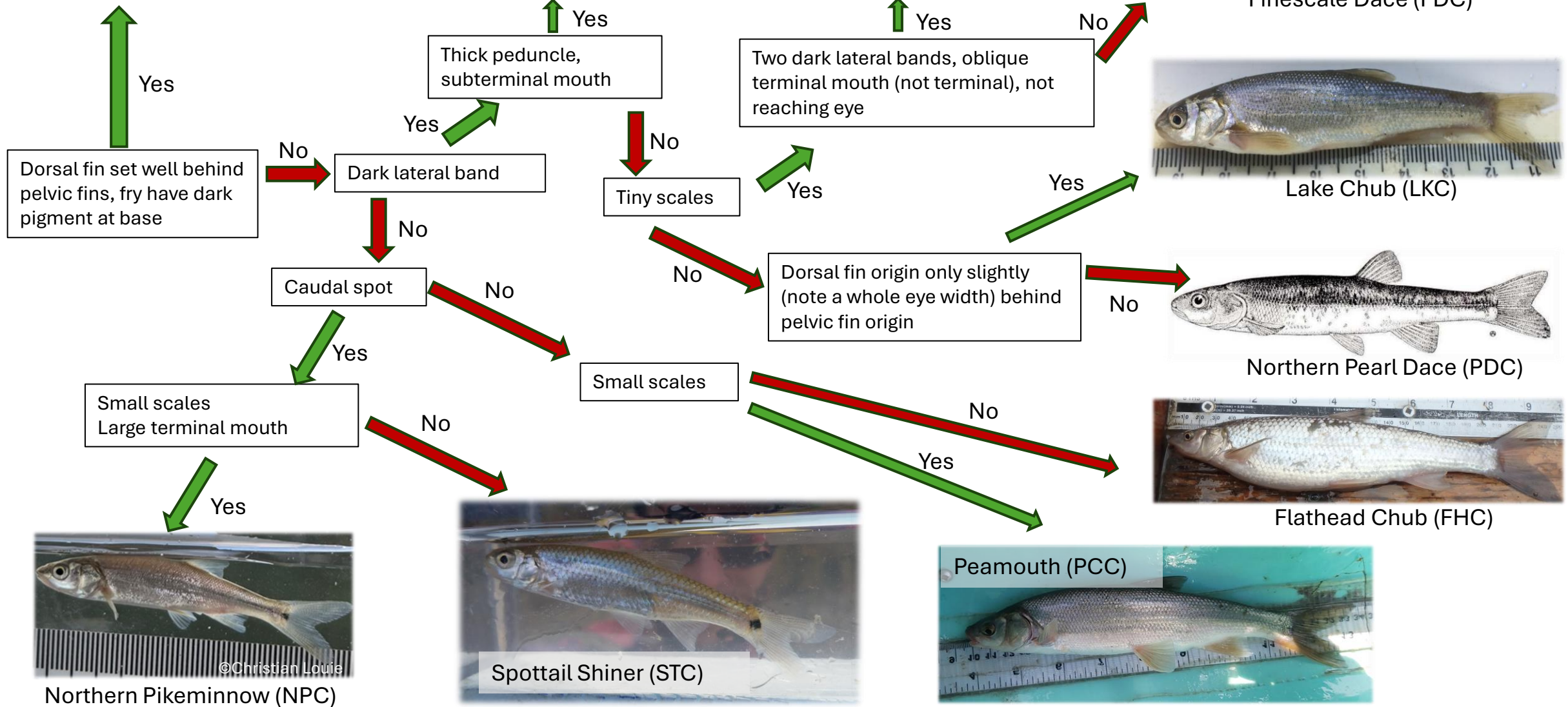
dorsal fin placed well behind
the middle of the body

Length of anal fin base is over twice
the length of the dorsal fin base



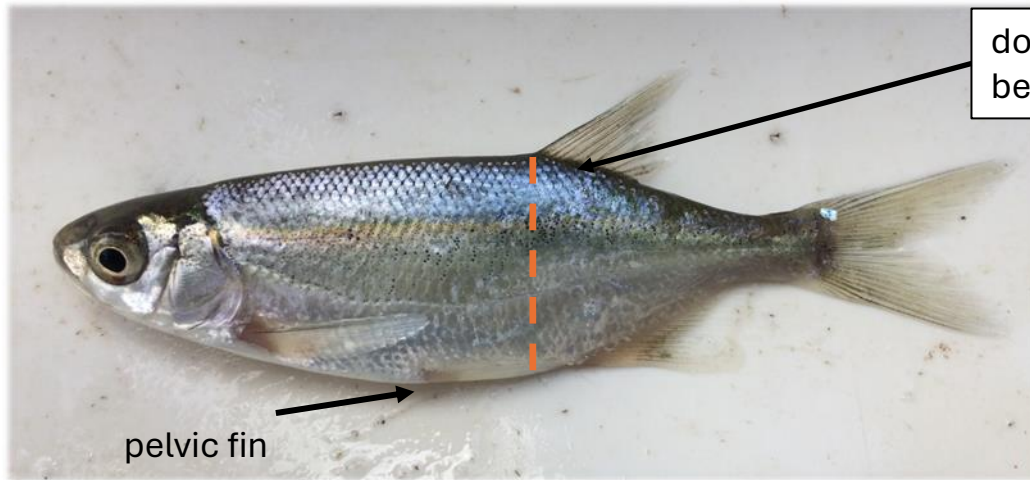
Female

golden yellow iris



Redside Shiner (RSC)

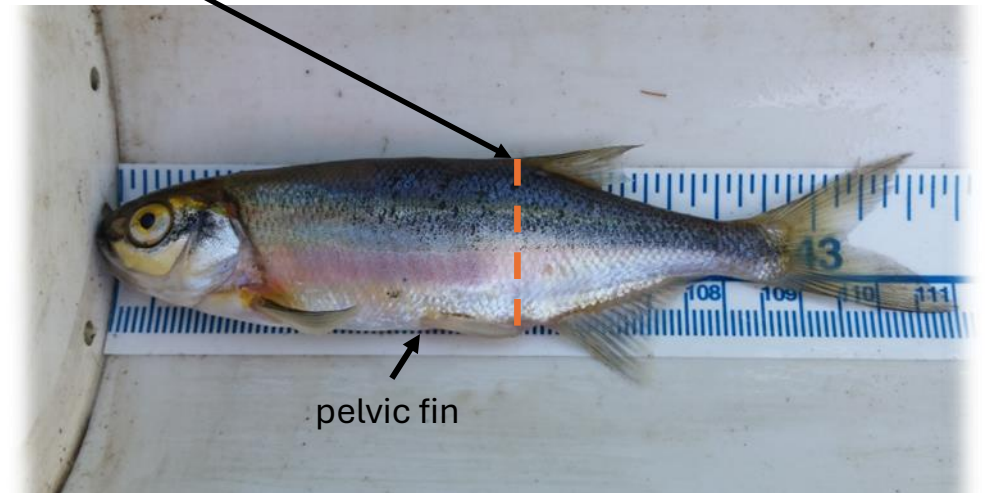
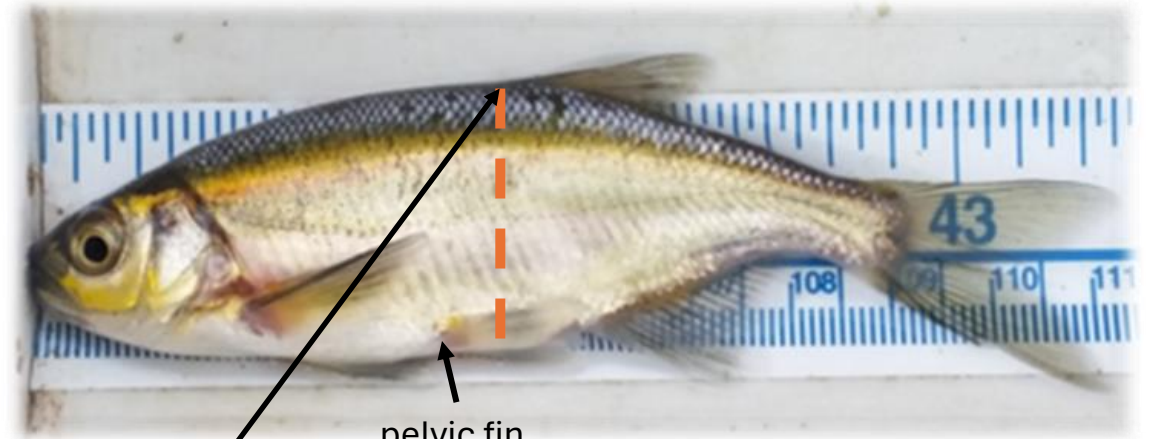
- Dorsal fin origin well behind pelvic fin origin
- Dark pigment along base of anal fin in fry
- Narrow caudal peduncle (depth is less than half of the head length)
- Deep, laterally compressed body



Similar species:

Peamouth – dorsal insertion is directly above, or in front of, the origin of pelvic fins

Northern Pikeminnow – dark spot at base of caudal fin



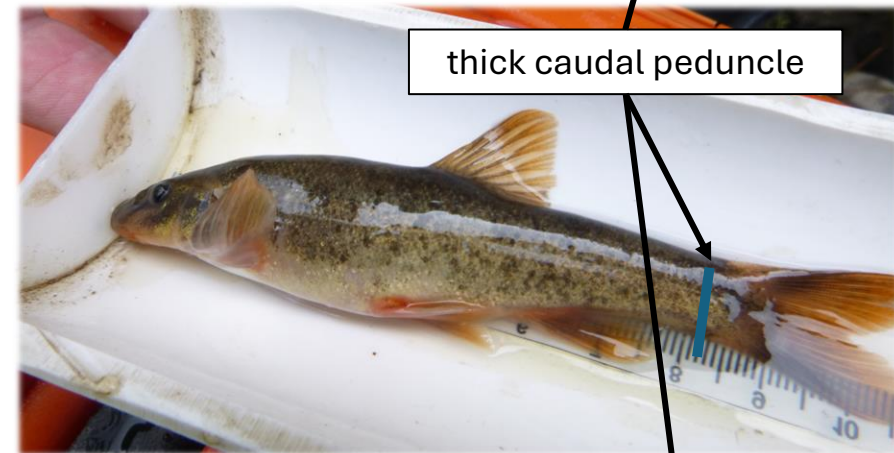
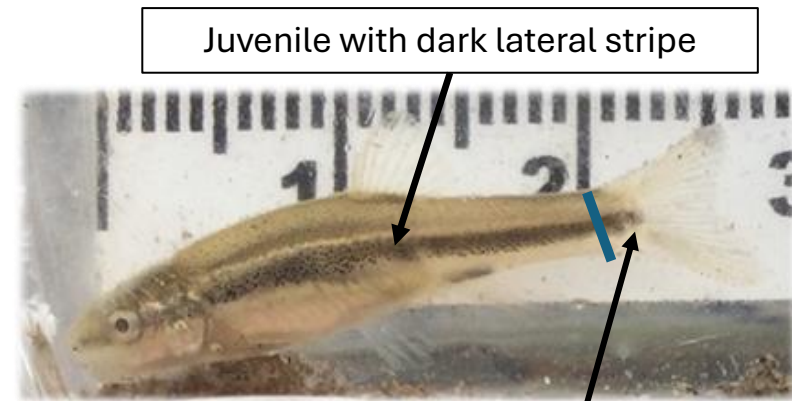
Longnose Dace (LNC)

- Ventrally flattened
- Adults have a long snout that clearly overhangs mouth
- Thick caudal peduncle
- Subterminal mouth
- Fine scales
- Juveniles have a distinct, dark lateral stripe



Similar species:

Flathead Chub – subterminal mouth **AND** large scales



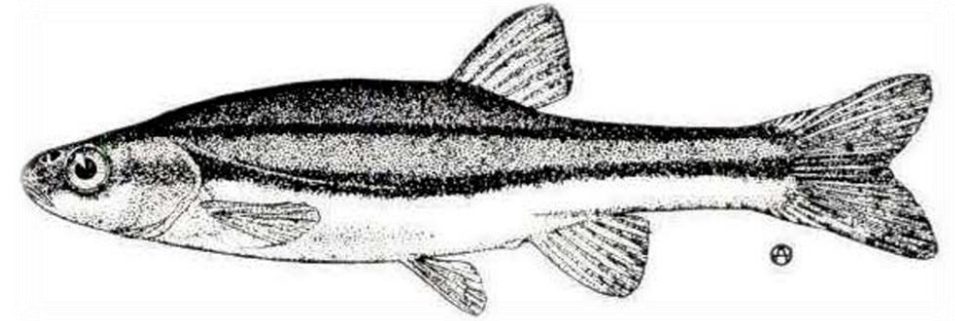
Northern Redbelly Dace (RDC)

- Very fine scales (often not visible)
- Two dark lateral bands (top one is often indistinct)
- Jaws do not reach front margin of eye
- Short, oblique mouth
- Incomplete lateral line



Similar species:

Finescale Dace – mouth extends **past** the anterior margin of the eyes



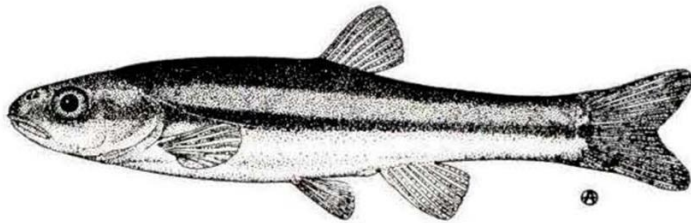
Reference: Freshwater Fishes of Canada 1973 (pg 392-395).



© Freshwater Fisheries Canada

Finescale Dace (FDC)

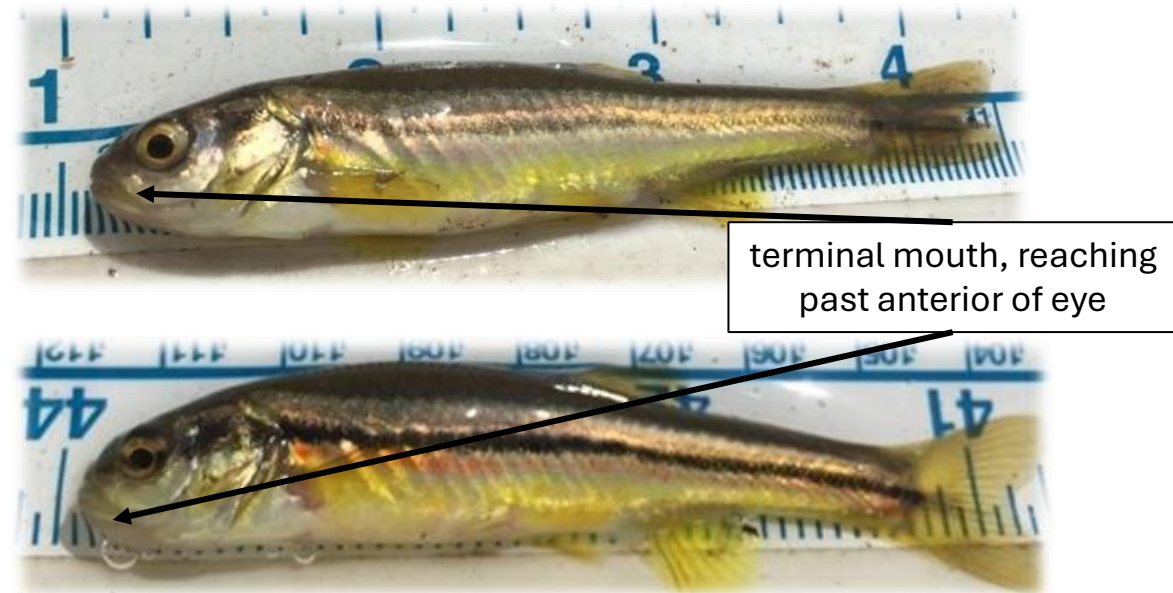
- One dark lateral band
- Tiny scales, often not visible
- Terminal mouth, reaching the front margin of eye
- Jaw extends beyond front margin of eye
- Origin of dorsal fin begins behind the origin of the pelvic fin
- Lateral line incomplete, ending under or before dorsal fin



Reference: Freshwater Fishes of Canada 1973 (pg 396-398).

Similar species:

Northern Redbelly Dace – short, oblique mouth that does **NOT** reach past the anterior margin of the eyes

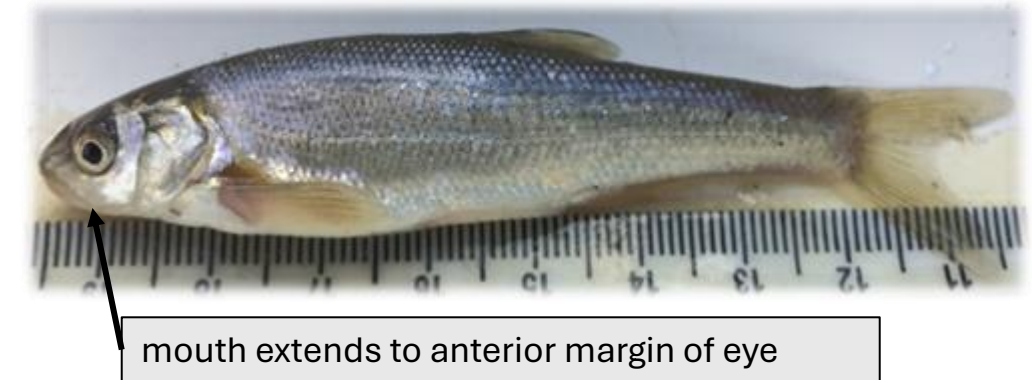


Lake Chub (LKC)

- Visible scales
- Dorsal fin origin slightly behind pelvic fin origin
- Usually has a dark mid-lateral band on the back half of the fish, particularly in juveniles
- Terminal mouth that extends back to the anterior margin of the eye

Similar Species:

Northern Pearl Dace - origin of pelvic fins is **well forward** of the dorsal fin origin (at least an eye diameter width)



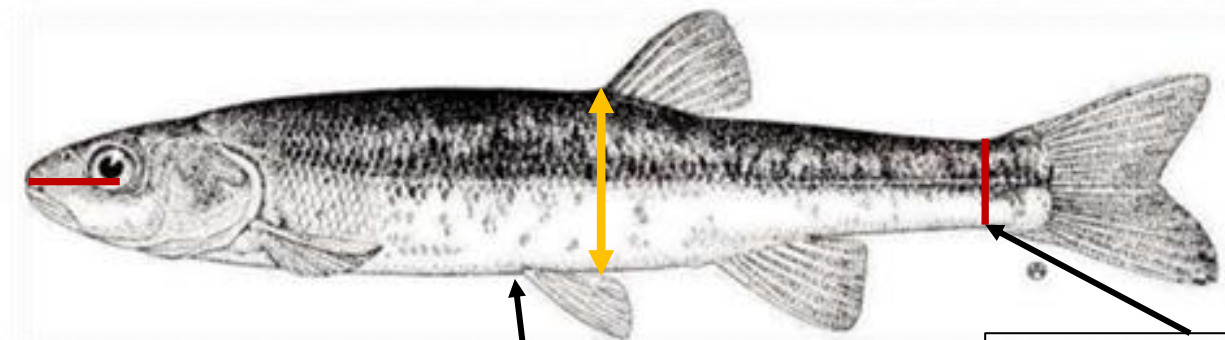
Northern Pearl Dace (PDC)

- Wide caudal peduncle (least depth about equal to distance from tip of snout to hind margin of eye)
- Blunt snout
- Visible scales
- Origin of pelvic fins is **well forward** of the dorsal fin origin (at least an eye diameter width)
- Breeding males have an orange or red stripe along the lower flanks



Similar Species:

Lake Chub - dorsal fin origin **slightly behind** pelvic fin origin



Reference: Freshwater Fishes of Canada 1973 (pg 515-519)

origin of pelvic fins is well forward of the dorsal fin origin

wide caudal peduncle

Flathead Chub (FHC)

- Large subterminal mouth – snout overhangs mouth
- Large scales
- Distinctive flattened head (broad and flat) – space between eyes 2 to 2.5 times eye diameter
- Large barbels at the corner of the mouth
- Sickle shaped fins (especially the pectoral fins)
- Outer pectoral rays long and pointed, equal to head length and nearly reaching pelvic fins
- No adipose fin
- Deeply forked tail fin



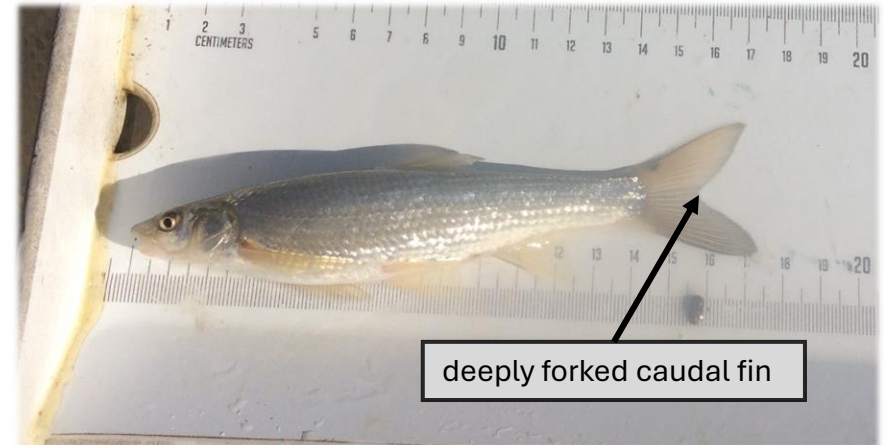
distinctive flattened head



sickle shaped fins



deeply forked caudal fin



deeply forked caudal fin

Peamouth (PCC)

- Snout barely hangs over small mouth
- Two dark horizontal stripes on body
- Breeding adults have red lips and fin axils
- Adults have two dark bands on flanks



breeding adult

red lips on breeding adult



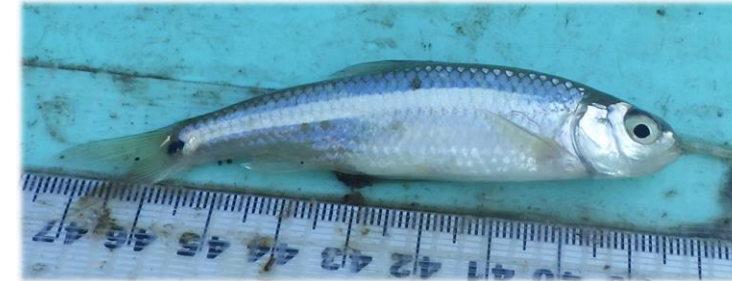
snout barely overhangs small mouth

Similar Species:

Northern Pikeminnow - large terminal mouth – upper jaw extends past front margin of eye

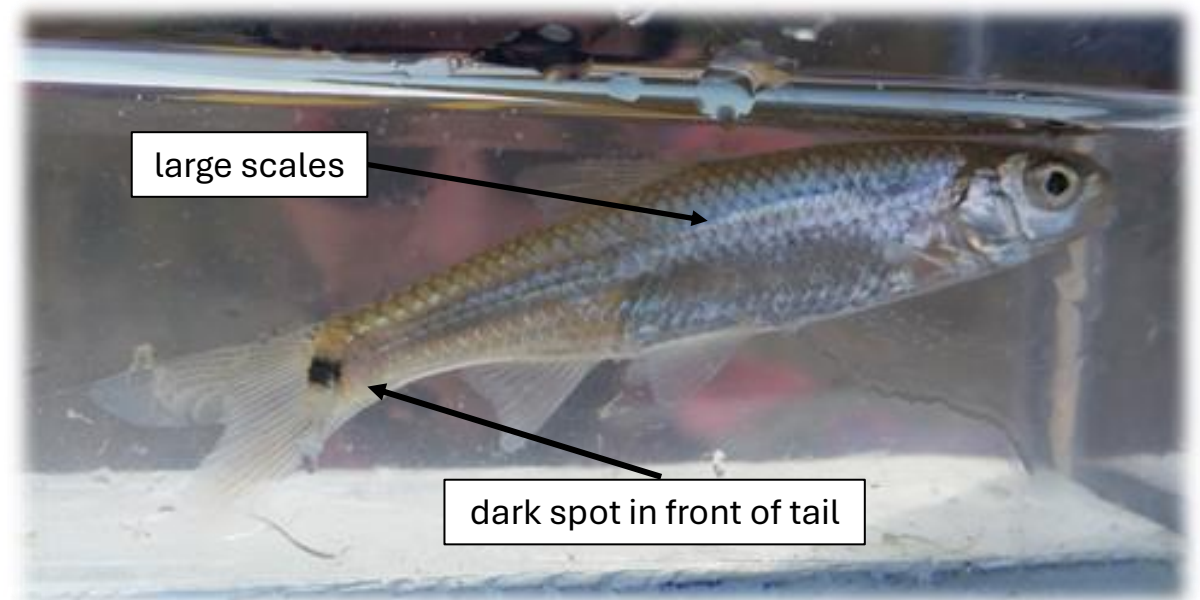
Spottail Shiner (STC)

- Prominent dark spot directly in front of tail
- Large scales
- Short anal fin (usually 8 rays)
- Short snout



Similar Species:

Northern Pikeminnow – both have a dark spot at tail base but Spottail Shiners have **large** scales



Northern Pikeminnow (NPC*)

- Juveniles have black spot at base of tail
- Large terminal mouth – upper jaw extends past front margin of eye
- Complete lateral line
- Deeply forked tail



Juvenile with black spot at base of tail



Adult Suckers

- Snout long and pointed, clearly overhangs mouth
- Fine scales (barely visible just behind the head) – 90 or more along lateral line
- Relatively deep caudal peduncle (well over half the width of the dorsal fin base)
- 9 to 11 dorsal fin rays

Yes



**Longnose Sucker
(LSU)**



- Snout short and rounded, barely overhangs the mouth
- Large scales – 75 or fewer along lateral line
- Caudal peduncle narrow – half or less than half of dorsal fin base
- 13 to 16 dorsal fin rays

Yes



**Largescale Sucker
(CSU)**



- Snout short and rounded, barely overhangs the mouth
- Caudal peduncle deeper, depth is half to almost equal dorsal fin base
- 11 to 12 dorsal fin rays

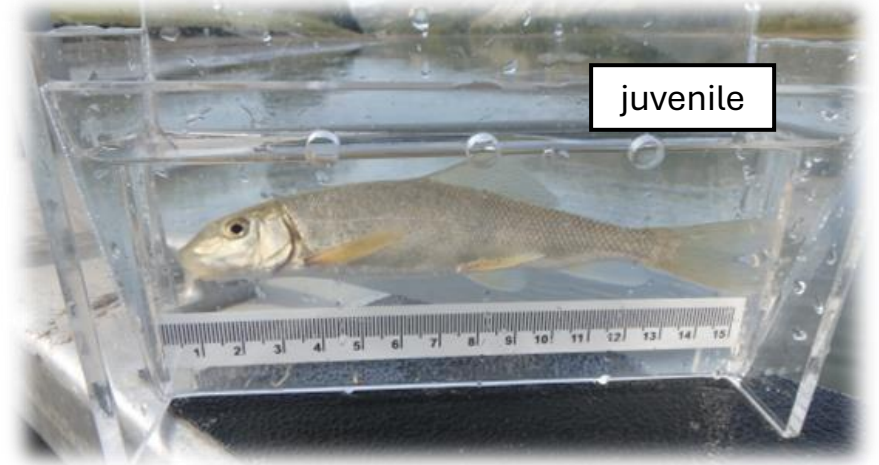
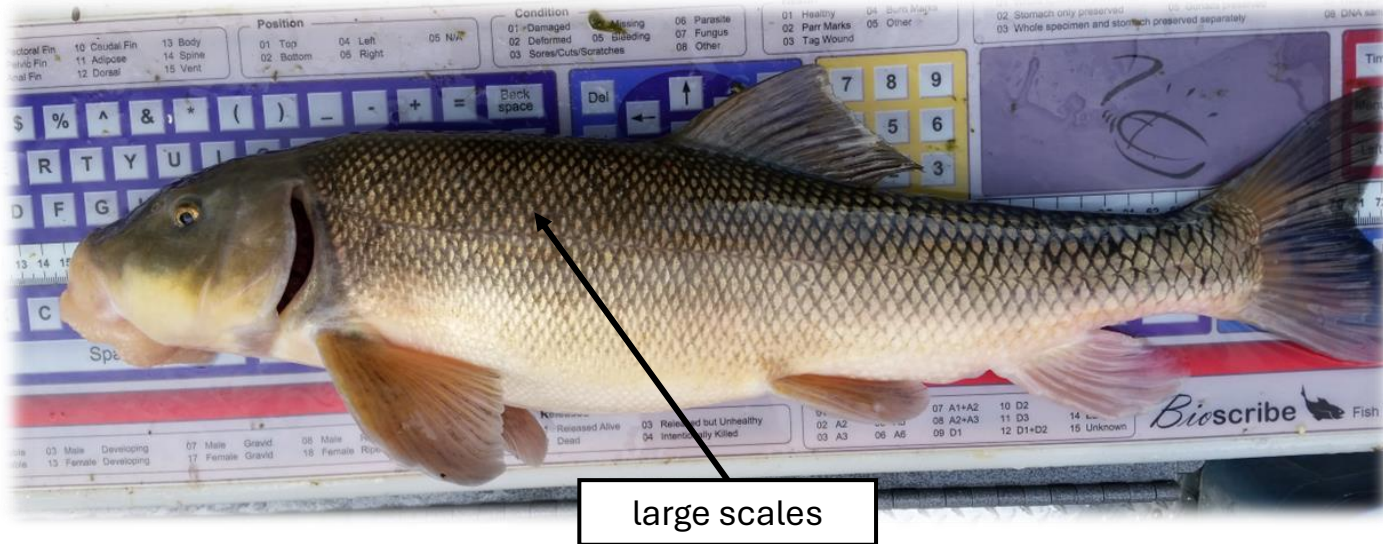
Yes



**White Sucker
(WSU)**

Largescale Sucker (CSU)

- Snout short and rounded, barely overhanging the mouth
- Scales on the body are large – 75 or fewer along lateral line
- Caudal peduncle narrow – half or less than half of dorsal fin base
- 13-16 dorsal fin rays

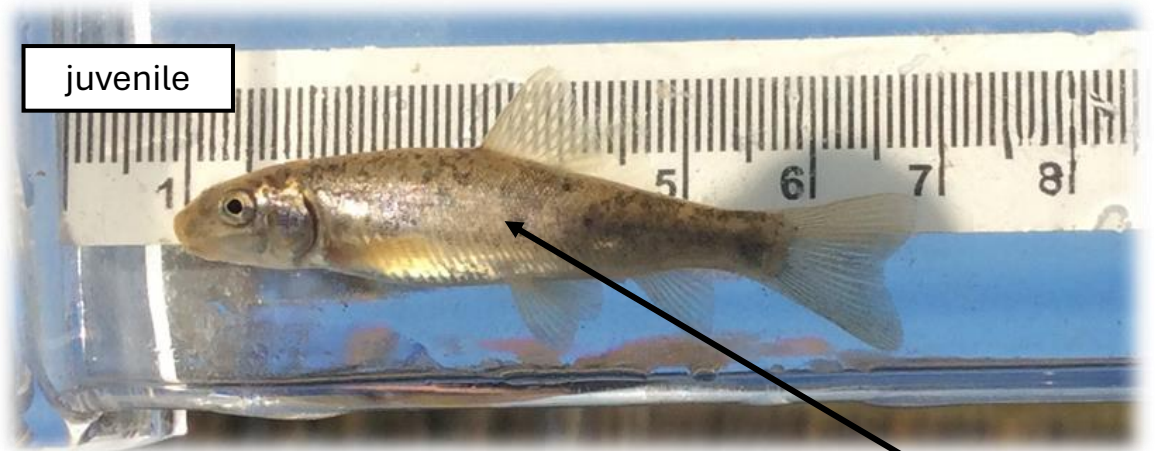


Longnose Sucker (LSU)

- Snout long and pointed, noticeably hangs over the mouth
- Fine scales (just behind the head they are barely visible) – 90 or more along lateral line
- 9 to 11 dorsal fin rays



Snout noticeably hangs over the mouth



juvenile

very small scales

White Sucker (WSU)

- Short, blunt snout that barely overhangs the mouth
- Large scales
- Caudal peduncle deeper, depth is half to almost equal dorsal fin base
- 11-12 dorsal fin rays



Northern Pike (NP)

- Long, flattened, duck-like snout
- Dorsal and anal fins positioned towards back end of the fish
- Well developed teeth
- Dorsal and anal fins set well back on body



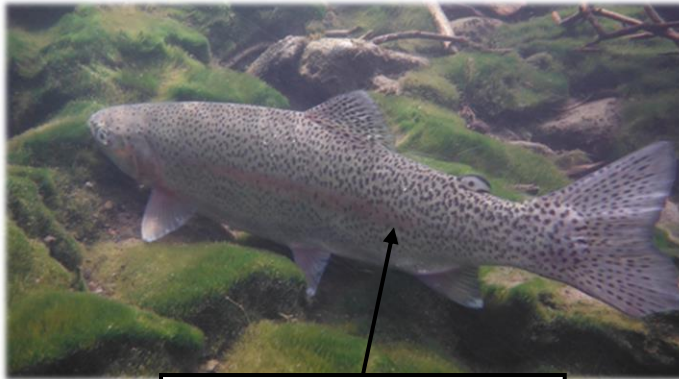
Kokanee (KO)

- Adipose fin present
- Anal fin is longer than tall
- Silvery colour, occasional dark speckles on back or other edge of tail
- Small head relative to body
- Deep “V” in caudal fin

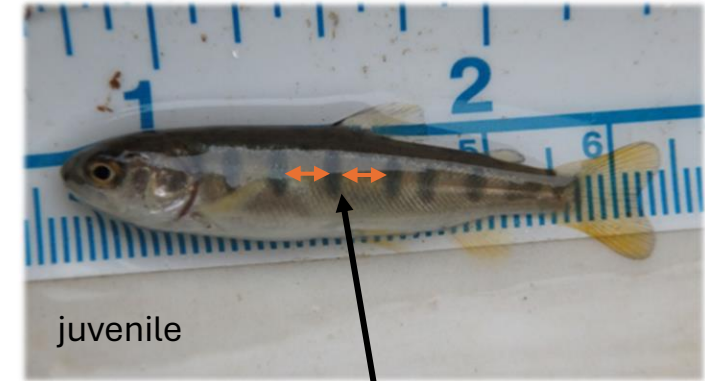


Rainbow Trout (RB)

- Sides usually silver with pink hue along midline (colour deepens and is more pronounced during spawning)
- Evenly dispersed black spots on flanks
- Tail is dusky with dark spots
- For juveniles the width of the parr marks is less than the width of the light areas between parr marks



pink hue along midline



juvenile

width of parr marks is less than width of light areas



juvenile

Lake Trout and Bull Trout (*sa-pa*)

- Deep “V” in caudal fin
- Head and body heavily covered in light irregularly shaped spots on a dark background
- Spots on the body are grey or whitish but never coloured

Yes



Lake Trout (LT)

No



- Dark background with light spots along flanks
- Pale pink, lilac, or red spots along flanks
- Tail is not deeply forked (especially in adults)

Yes



Bull Trout (*sa-pa*) (BT)

Lake Trout (LT)

- Deep “V” in caudal fin
- Head and body (including dorsal and caudal fins) heavily covered in light irregularly shaped spots on a dark background
- Spots on the body are grey or whitish but never coloured



spots are grey or whitish



deep V in caudal fin

Bull Trout (*sa-pa*) (BT)

- Dark background with light spots along flanks
- Pale pink, lilac, or red spots along flanks
- Tail is not deeply forked (especially in adults)
- In juveniles, parr marks are irregular blotches with the width of the dark areas on the mid-line greater than width of light areas



tail not deeply forked, especially in adults



parr marks are irregular blotches



juvenile



dark background with light, coloured spots

Whitefishes

- Deep, slab-sided body
- When depressed the anterior dorsal rays extend well beyond the posterior dorsal rays
- Small head compared to body



No

- Large adipose fin present, base is more than 1.5 times eye diameter
- When pushed down, the anterior rays of the dorsal fin do not extend past the posterior rays
- Snout usually pointed and pinched when viewed from above

Yes



Lake Whitefish (*ihuwe-dak'ale*) (LW)



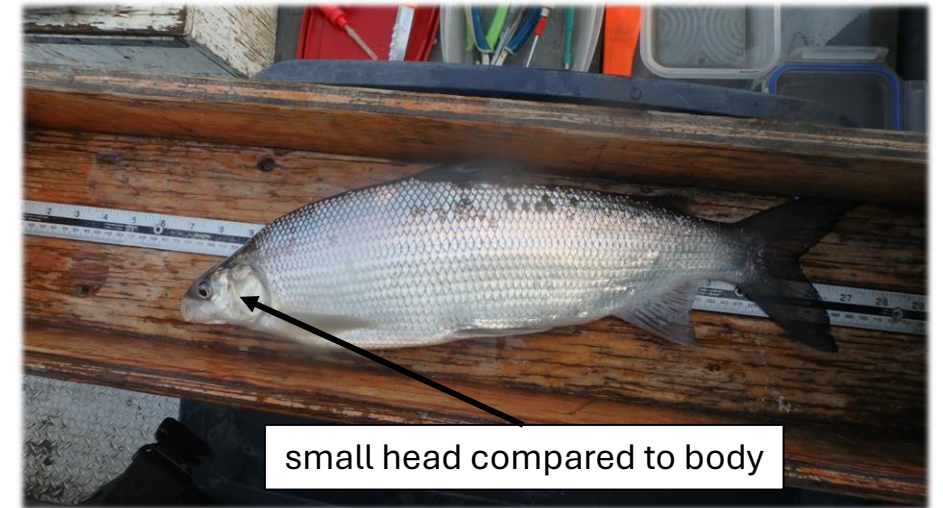
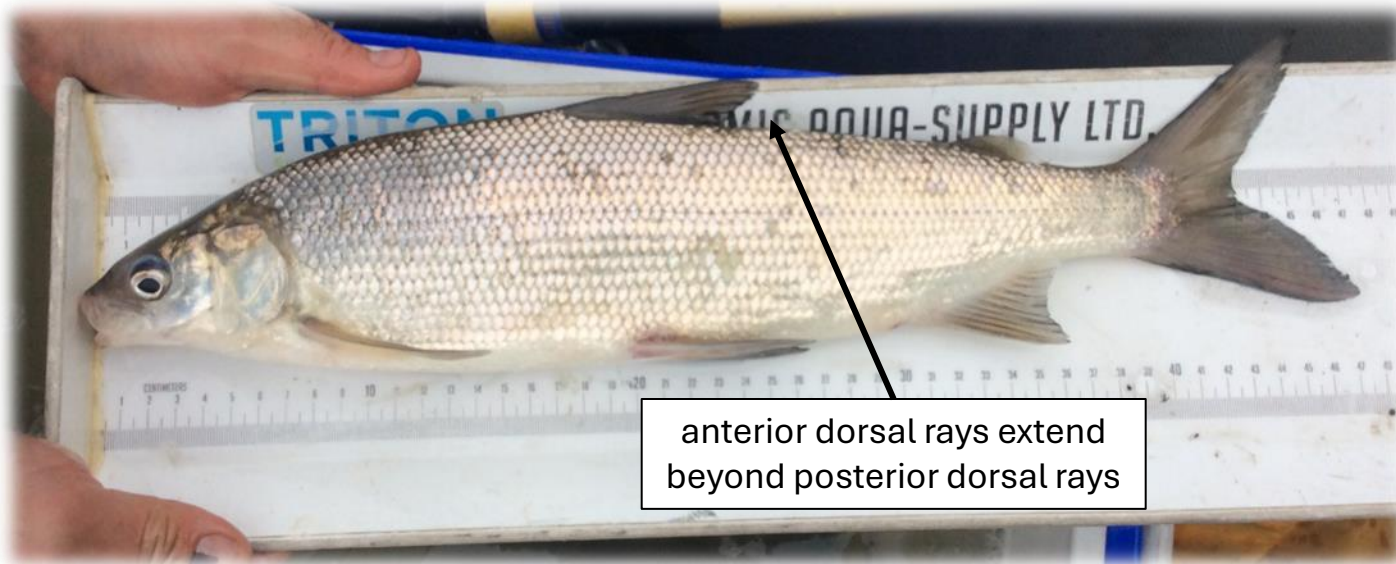
Mountain Whitefish (MW)

Yes



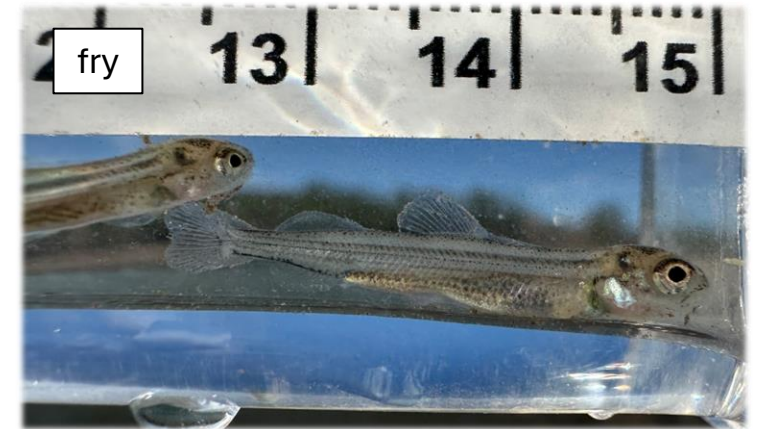
Lake Whitefish (*ihuwe-dak'ale*) (LW)

- Deep, slab-sided body
- When depressed the anterior dorsal rays extend well beyond the posterior dorsal rays (falcate dorsal fin)
- Small head compared to body
- Parr marks are absent on juveniles



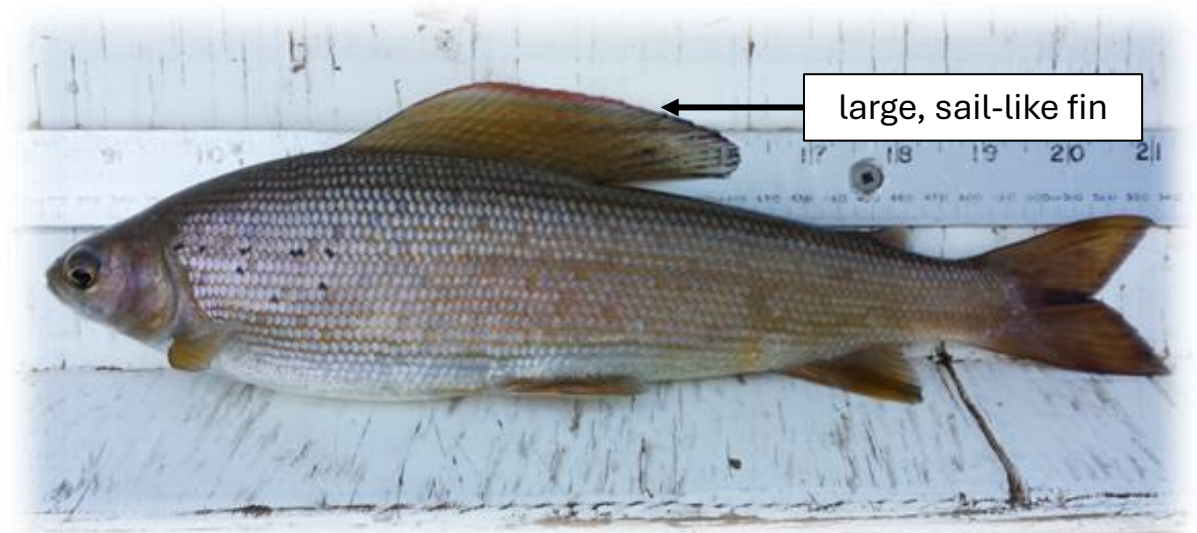
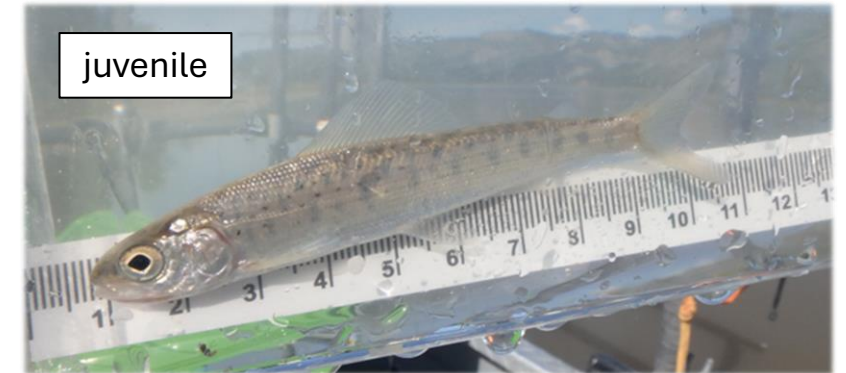
Mountain Whitefish (MW)

- Large adipose fin present, base is more than 1.5 times eye diameter
- When pushed down, the anterior rays of the dorsal fin **do not** extend past the posterior rays
- Snout usually pointed and pinched when viewed from above
- Juveniles have well developed, roundish parr marks
- Fry (up to 30mm) lack lateral parr marks but have an adipose fin that is almost as large as their anal fin



Arctic Grayling (GR*)

- Juvenile grayling have well developed jaw teeth
- Large dorsal fins, particularly in males – dorsal fin base is longer than the length of the head
- Dorsal and pelvic fins are colorful in spawning males
- Adipose
- Large scales



Juvenile Salmonids

- Parr marks present as 7-10 dark, mid-lateral blotches
- Dorsal fin base is longer than head length
- Well developed jaw teeth



Arctic Grayling (GR)

- Round parr marks present along lateral line
- large adipose fin



Mountain Whitefish (MW)

- Parr marks are absent



**Lake Whitefish
(ihuwe-dak'ale) (LW)**

- Anal fin is longer than it is tall
- Deep V in caudal fin
- Small oval shaped parr marks



Kokanee (KO)

- Parr marks are dark irregular blotches with width of dark areas greater than width of light areas along the midline



Bull Trout (sa-pa) (BT)

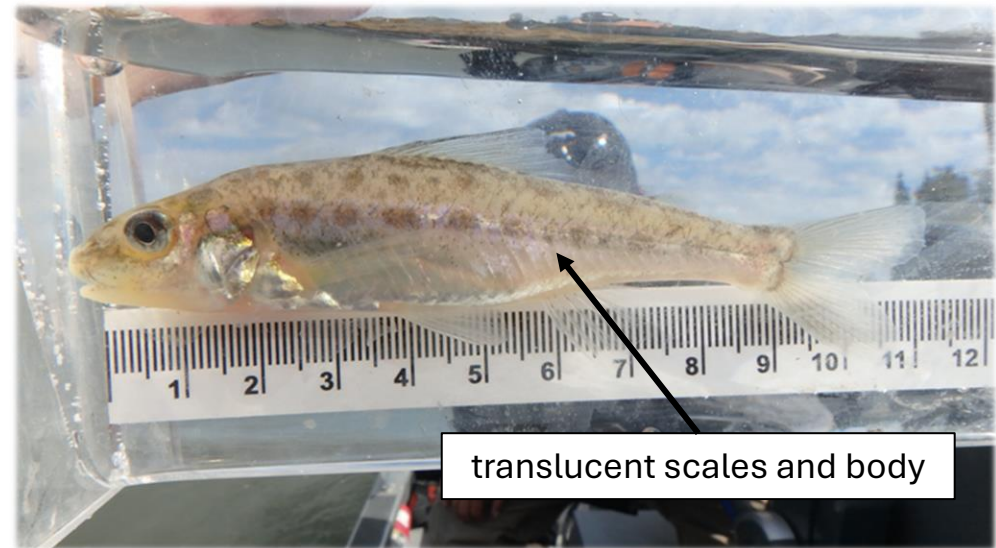
- Width of parr marks is less than width of light areas



Rainbow Trout (RB)

Trout-Perch (TP)

- Adipose fin
- Spiny rayed dorsal fin
- Translucent scales
- Light spots can be present on the body
- Fish appears to be “see through”



Burbot (BB)

- Two dorsal fins, the first one is small, but the base of the second one is about half the length of the body
- Long anal fin
- Pelvic fins originate in front of the pectoral fins
- Single barbel at the tip of the chin
- Mottled dark olive-brown colouration dorsally with dark markings on back, sides and fins, with very, very small scales
- Round (not forked) tail fin



Sculpins

- When viewed from above, head is broad and noticeably flattened
- Preopercular spines strongly hooked
- Complete lateral line

No



- When viewed from above, head not flattened
- Preopercular spines not strongly hooked
- Lateral line incomplete
- 10-13 anal fin rays

No



- Anal fin base noticeably longer than head length
- Dorsal fins strongly conjoined
- Usually 16-18 anal fin rays.

Yes



Spoonhead Sculpin (CRI)

Yes



Slimy Sculpin (CCG)

Yes



Prickly Sculpin (CAS)

Spoonhead Sculpin (CRI)

- When viewed from above, head is broad and noticeably flattened
- Preopercular spines are strongly curved
- Complete lateral line
- Slim and heavily prickled



broad, flat head



strongly curved preopercular spine



Slimy Sculpin (CCG)

- When viewed from above, head not flattened
- Preopercular spines not strongly hooked
- Lateral line incomplete
- Smooth skinned (other than a small patch behind the pectoral fins)
- 10-13 anal fin rays

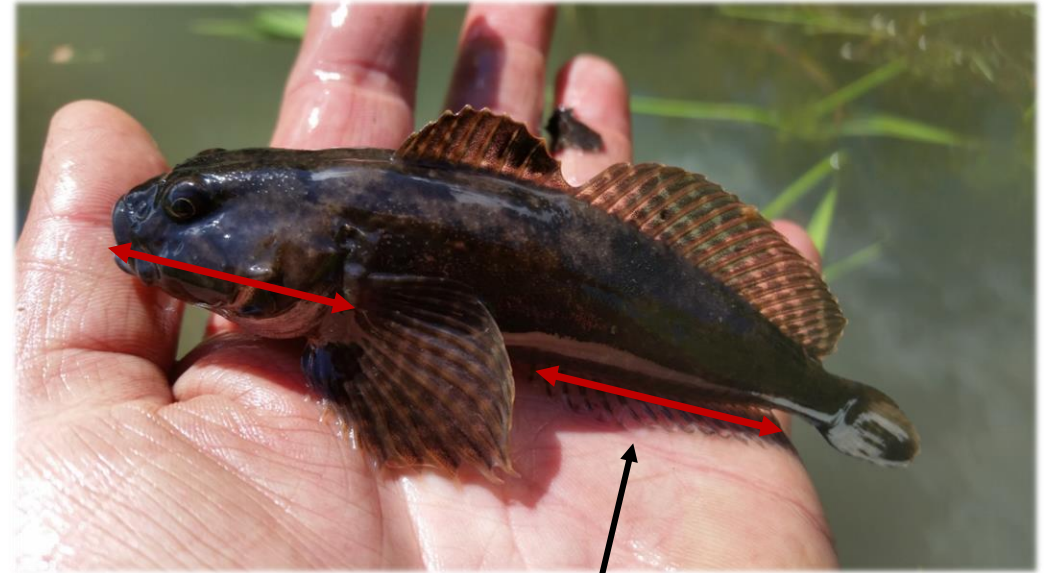


Reference: Freshwater Fishes of Canada 2007 (pg 462)

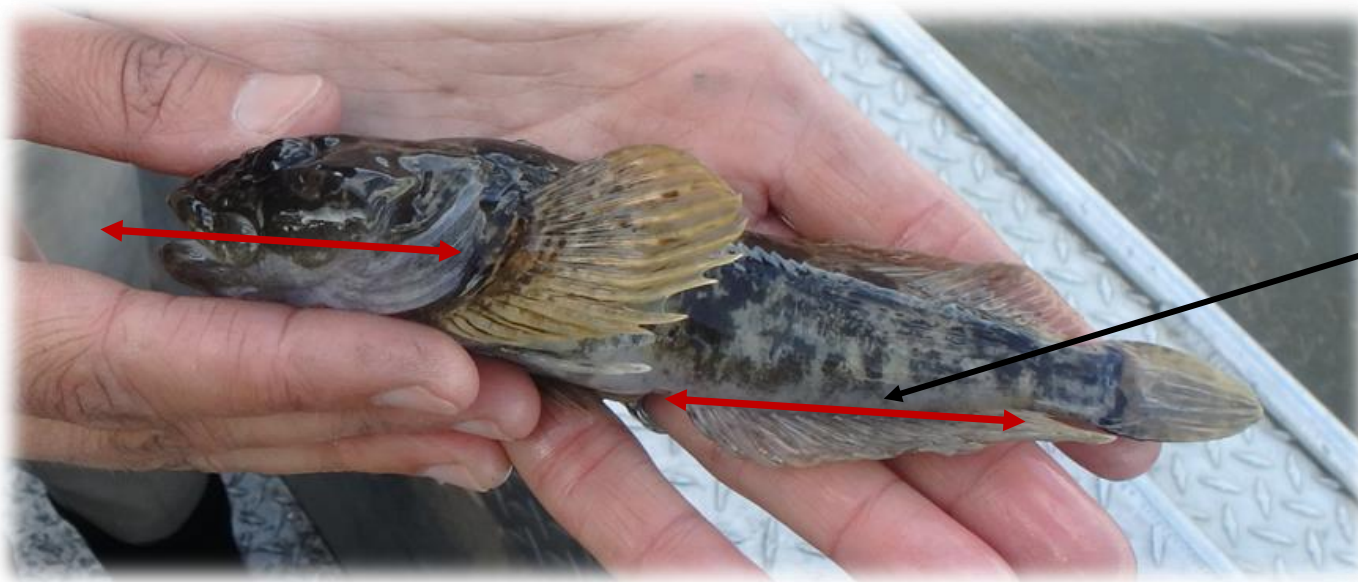


Prickly Sculpin (CAS)

- Anal fin base noticeably longer than head length
- Strongly conjoined dorsal fins
- Single median chin pore
- 16-18 anal fin rays.



anal fin base distinctly longer
than head length



Perches

- Sides have 6 to 9 dark regular vertical bars
- Lower lobe of tail does not have a conspicuous white mark
- No prominent teeth

Yes



Yellow Perch (YP)



No

- Lower lobe of tail has conspicuous white spot
- Juveniles have irregular dark bars on sides
- Prominent teeth

Yes



Walleye (WP)

Yellow Perch (YP)

- Two dorsal fins
- Sides have 6 to 9 dark regular vertical bars
- Lower lobe of tail does not have a conspicuous white mark
- No prominent teeth

lack of a white mark
on lower lobe of tail



6 to 9 dark regular vertical bars



Walleye (WP)

- Two dorsal fins
- Lower lobe of tail has conspicuous white spot
- Juveniles have irregular dark bars on sides
- Prominent teeth

