

# Common Maryland Stream Fishes



## Pollution sensitive species found in good quality streams



**Rosyside Dace** (*Clinostomus funduloides*): Non-spawning adults are olive above with a rosy tinge on the sides. Average adult length is 2-3 inches.

**Northern Hogsucker** (*Hypentelium nigricans*): Round in cross section with prominent saddle-shaped markings, tubular mouth, small scales and concave depression between the eyes. Average adult length is 7-14 inches.

**Shield Darter** (*Percina peltata*): Nondescript coloration with a row of modified star-shaped scales on the midline of the belly and rectangular black blotches along the side. Average adult length is 2-3 inches.

**Brook Trout** (*Salvelinus fontinalis*): Most conspicuous features are the white leading edge of the pectoral, pelvic and anal fins, plus brilliant red is variable but usually 8-10 inches in headwater streams.

## Somewhat pollution tolerant fishes found in fair to good quality streams



**Redfin Pickerel** (*Esox americanus*): Cheeks and gill covers are fully scaled. Snout is relatively short and broad. Average adult length is 6-8 inches.

**Longnose Dace** (*Rhinichthys cataractae*): Long snout, back and upper sides are olive or dark grey with golden color on lower sides and belly. Average adult length is 2-3 inches.

**Mottled Sculpin** (*Cottus bairdi*): Back and sides are generally brownish with irregular marbling and blotches on back; belly is clear white in front of the anal fin. Average adult length is 2-4 inches.



**Redbreast Sunfish** (*Lepomis auritus*): An elongated sunfish with a short, rounded pectoral fin and an opercular flap that is dark to its margin. Average adult length is 5-8 inches.

**Tessellated Darter** (*Etheostoma olmstedii*): Pale sandy color on the back shading to a white belly; small X or W-shaped markings on the back and upper sides. Average adult length is 1 ½ -2 inches.

## Pollution tolerant species found in any quality stream



**American Eel** (*Anguilla rostrata*): Adults are usually yellowish to yellow brown. Average adult length is 9-35 inches.



**Eastern Mudminnow** (*Umbra pygmaea*): Dark olive to brown on the back and upper sides, shading to pale tan below with 10 longitudinal brown stripes. Average adult length is 2-5 inches.



**Creek Chub** (*Semotilus atromaculatus*): Olive on the back shading to white on the belly, with a conspicuous spot at the front of the dorsal fin base. Average adult length is 3-8 inches.



**Eastern Blacknose Dace** (*Rhinichthys atratulus*): Dark olive grey to black on the back, shading to a silvery white belly; sides with a broad midlateral stripe from snout to tail. Average adult length is 1 ½ -3 inches.



**White Sucker** (*Catostomus commersoni*): Dark grey on the back shading to white on the belly. Average adult length is 7-15 inches.

All photos courtesy of Dave Neely

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