

Invasive non-native species ID Series

Fish



Reducing and Preventing
Invasive Alien Species Dispersal

Round Goby *Neogobius melanostomus*

Topmouth Gudgeon *Pseudorasbora parva*

Fathead Minnow *Pimepales promelas*

There are three species of invasive non-native small fish that are considered to be posing a serious threat to native wildlife in the UK. They are all capable of surviving in a variety of freshwater bodies, and Round Goby can also tolerate brackish and saline water.

They pose a threat to native wildlife and biodiversity through competition and spread of disease. The Round Goby is an aggressive territorial breeder and Topmouth Gudgeon and Fathead Minnow can reach very high densities, outcompeting native species for both food and spawning sites.

To record your sightings, visit www.nonnativespecies.org/recording

Round Goby. Not yet present in the UK but considered highly likely to invade soon

Fused pelvic fin for attaching to rocks in fast-flowing water

Dark blotch at end of dorsal fin is key ID feature

Large for a goby, can reach up to 25cm in length

Most British Goby's are less than 12cm



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Topmouth Gudgeon. A number of populations exist in isolated lakes in England and Wales

Small, slender fish between 4-8cm long

Lacks barbels present in Gudgeon *Gobio gobio* (pictured below)

Has full, straight lateral line with 34-38 scales vs Common Minnow *Phoxinus phoxinus* which has 80-100

Small, high-set mouth with upturned lower jaw

Scales quite large with dark edges.



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Fathead Minnow. Only established population in the UK eradicated in 2010.

Small fish, average 4-8cm with distinctly rounded head

Pink/golden in colour and sometimes shows dark stripe

Dorsal fin contains 8 soft rays and has a dark blotch

Common Minnow (pictured below) has black and gold stripe along flank and black spot on wrist of tail



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For more information on this and other non-native species visit <http://www.nonnativespecies.org>