

Navigating the Waters of Fish ID

NATIVE, NON-INVASIVE ONTARIO LAMPREYS

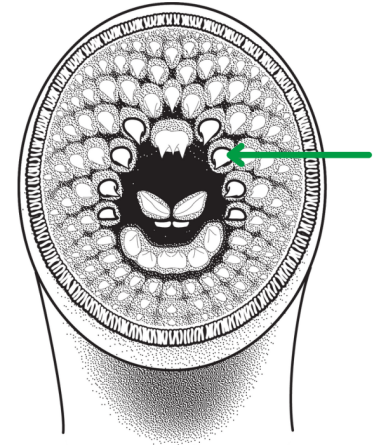
Lampreys have been maligned as fish parasites that damage commercial and sport fish. However, not all species are parasitic - most are native and some are species at risk. Most native lampreys are now absent from 50% to 75% of the streams where they were historically found. Help protect species at risk by learning to identify and return native lampreys to the water.

SILVER LAMPREY Special Concern*



PARASITIC
small: < 39 cm

- A wide membrane joins the two dorsal fin lobes.
- The mouth is large; teeth beside the throat *generally* have one cusp.
- Adults are parasitic, but do not kill their host fish.
- Found in the lower Thames River and Rondeau Bay.



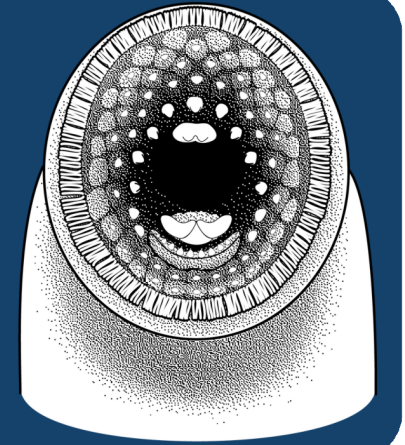
NORTHERN BROOK LAMPREY Special Concern*



NON-PARASITIC

small: < 17 cm

- A wide membrane joins the two dorsal fin lobes.
- The mouth is small, with a few blunt teeth.
- Ammocoetes (young) feed on plankton, while adults do not feed.
- Found in the upper Thames River.



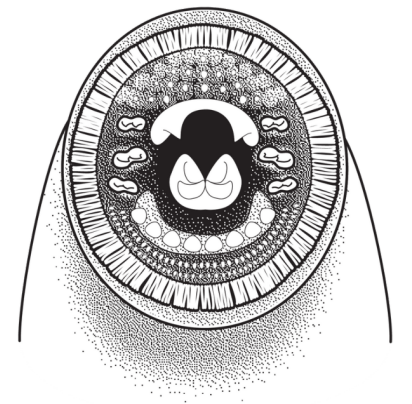
AMERICAN BROOK LAMPREY



NON-PARASITIC

small: < 35 cm

- A narrow membrane joins the bases of the two dorsal fins.
- The mouth is small, with a few blunt teeth.
- Ammocoetes feed on plankton, while adults do not feed.
- Found in the upper Thames River.

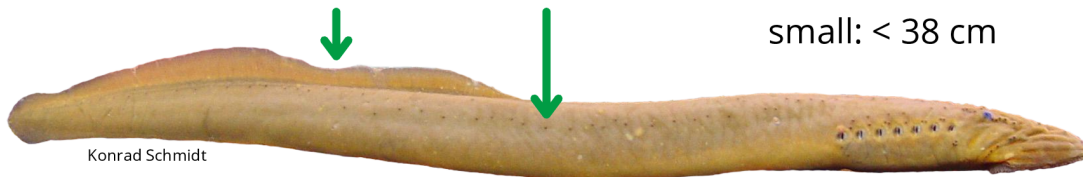


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NATIVE, NON-INVASIVE ONTARIO LAMPREYS

Native lampreys are beneficial. Their ammocoete larvae distribute nutrients as they burrow into creek and river bottoms. They remain there for up to 12 years, feeding on microscopic insects and plankton.

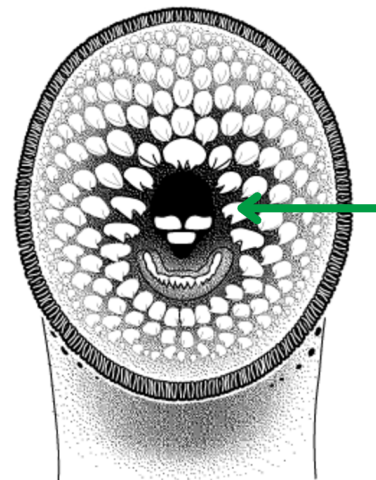
CHESTNUT LAMPREY



PARASITIC

small: < 38 cm

- A wide membrane joins the two dorsal fin lobes.
- The mouth is large, with teeth beside the throat having two cusps.
- The pores along the lateral line are black.
- Adults are parasitic, but do not kill their host fish.
- Locally only known from the Detroit River.



If you catch a native lamprey, please take a picture and quickly return it to the water where it was caught. Report all lamprey sightings to the  iNaturalist app.



SCAN ME

NON-NATIVE, INVASIVE LAMPREY

SEA LAMPREY

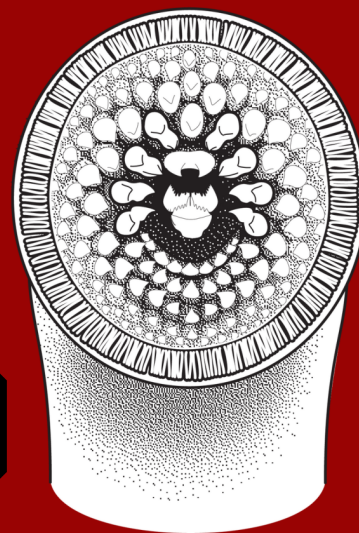


PARASITIC

LARGE: < 120 cm

- Distinguished from native lampreys by two separate dorsal fins.
- The mouth is large, with many sharp teeth.
- Invaded the Great Lakes through the Erie and Welland canals from their home in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Controlled via an extensive management program, with 90% eradicated from the Great Lakes.

**DO NOT
RETURN
SEA LAMPREY
TO THE
WATER**



More information on local species at risk can be found at:

Locations are specific to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and surrounds



SCAN ME