

# Navigating the Waters of Fish Identification

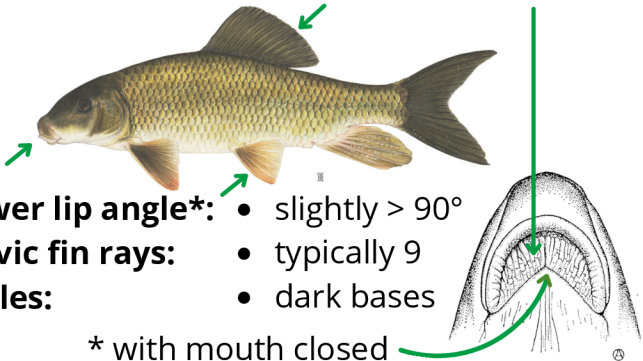
## ONTARIO REDHORSES

The Thames River is a popular sport fishing destination. It is also home to many redhorses and suckers, some of which are species at risk (SAR). Help protect SAR by learning to identify them and returning them to the water promptly. Fin colour, shape of the outer edge of the dorsal fin, the angle and grooves in the lower lip and the number of pelvic fin rays help to distinguish between different redhorse species.

### GREY-TAILED

#### SILVER REDHORSE

- Dorsal fin margin:**
- usually convex
- Lips:**
- fine horizontal grooves



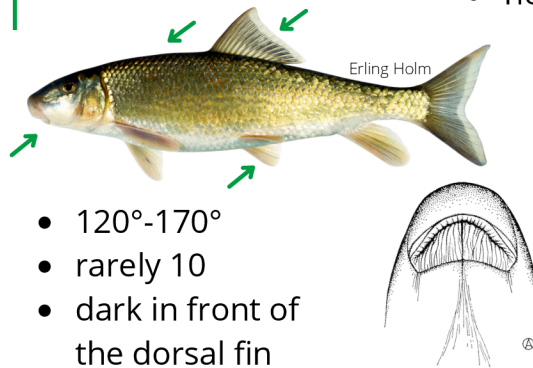
- Lower lip angle\*:**
- slightly > 90°
- Pelvic fin rays:**
- typically 9
- Scales:**
- dark bases

\* with mouth closed

#### BLACK REDHORSE

**Threatened**

- concave
- no horizontal grooves



- 120°-170°
- rarely 10
- dark in front of the dorsal fin

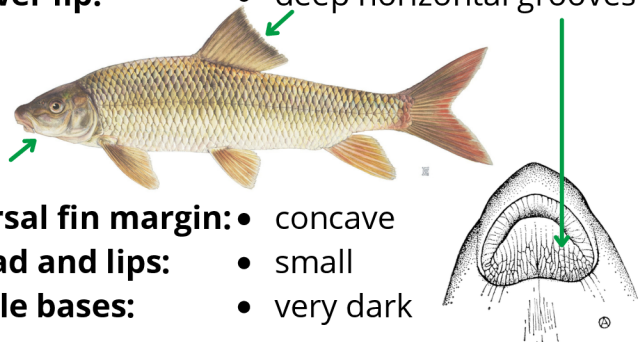
#### GOLDEN REDHORSE

- 90°-140°
- typically 9
- centres lighter than edges in front of the dorsal fin

### RED-TAILED

#### SHORTHEAD REDHORSE

- Lower lip:**
- deep horizontal grooves

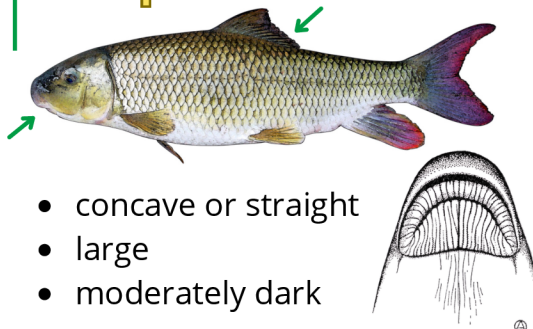


- Dorsal fin margin:**
- concave
- Head and lips:**
- small
- Scale bases:**
- very dark

#### RIVER REDHORSE

**Special Concern**

- no horizontal grooves



- concave or straight
- large
- moderately dark

#### GREATER REDHORSE

- usually convex
- large
- dark

More information on local SAR can be found at:



SCAN ME

Report SAR using the iNaturalist app:



SCAN ME

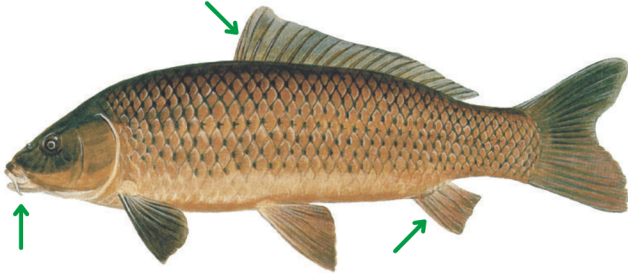
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## REDHORSE LOOK-ALIKES IN ONTARIO

### LONG DORSAL FIN

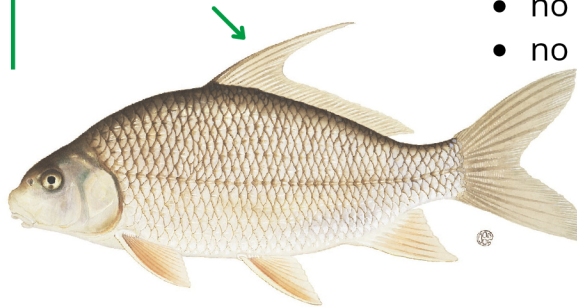
#### COMMON CARP

- two pairs of barbels
- serrated spines lead the dorsal and anal fins



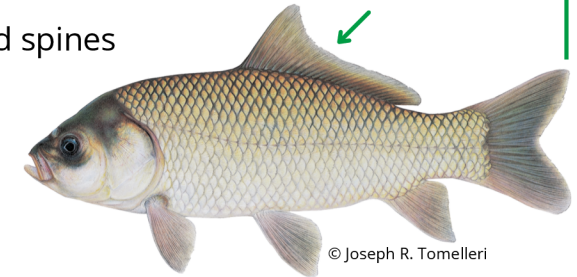
#### QUILLBACK

- no barbels
- no serrated spines



- long, threadlike leading dorsal fin ray

#### BIGMOUTH BUFFALO



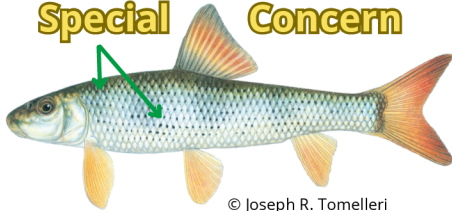
- angular (falcate) dorsal fin

### SHORT DORSAL FIN

Suckers have their mouth on the underside of their head for bottom-feeding.

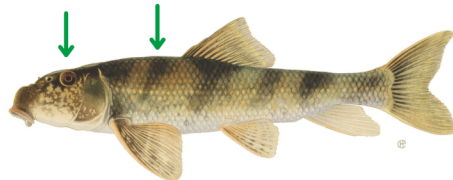
#### SPOTTED SUCKER

Special Concern



- ~10 rows of dark spots at scale bases

#### NORTHERN HOG SUCKER



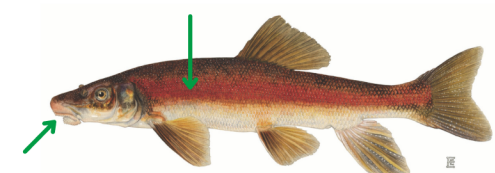
- black, sloping bars on body
- depression between eyes on large individuals

#### WHITE SUCKER



- small scales; larger toward tail
- snout barely overhangs mouth

#### LONGNOSE SUCKER



- very small scales
- snout overhangs mouth



Stop the spread of invasive species! Clean and drain your boat, trailer and gear of aquatic organisms, mud and water before transport and dry them prior to launching.

