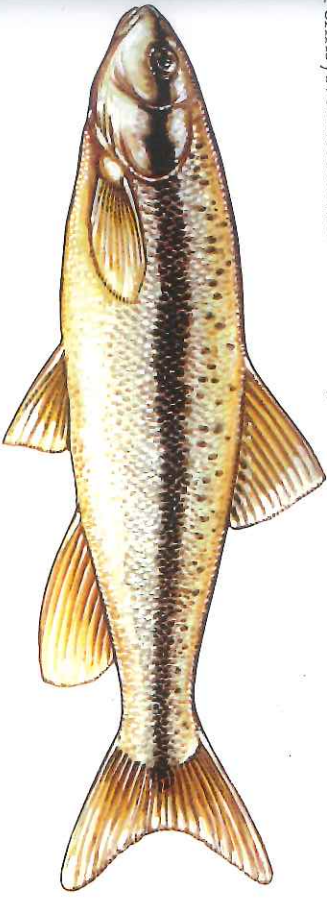




## Blacknose Dace *Rhinichthys atratulus/Rhinichthys obtusus*

**Species overview:** The blacknose dace is a common small minnow, distributed throughout the Mississippi and Great Lakes watersheds, and along the Atlantic Coast to North Carolina. There are two species in Pennsylvania—the western blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys obtusus*) in western Pennsylvania and the eastern blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*) in the eastern part of the state. Both look virtually alike. The blacknose dace's genus name "Rhinichthys" means "snout-fish," and the species name "atratus" is derived from a word that means "clothed in black." Local Pennsylvania nicknames for this species are "redfin" and "redfin dace."

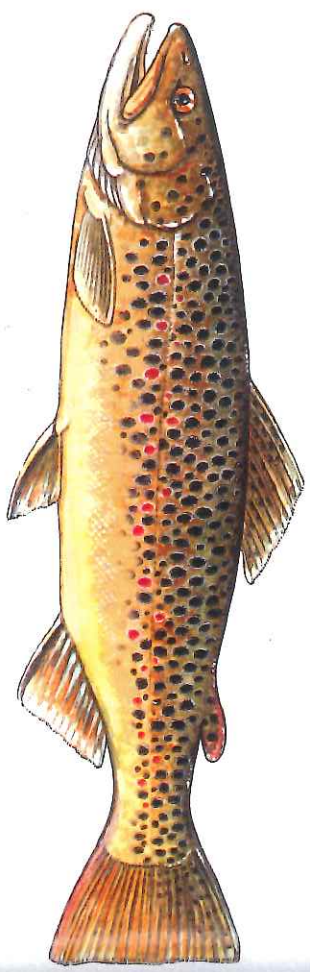


**Identification:** The blacknose dace is a small, slender minnow that grows to about three inches long. They have the typical minnow's short, single dorsal fin and a forked tail. The back is light or dark-brown, or gray. The sides shade lighter, toward a silvery-white belly. Sprinkled along the sides are dark scales that give the fish a spotted appearance. The blacknose dace's most obvious characteristic is its black side stripe. The stripe runs from the snout through the eye, and along the length of the side to the tail. At breeding time, the males also have a rusty-orange or red stripe immediately below the black side stripe. In spawning season, males also acquire pads on the upper surface of the pectoral fins, and the pectoral and pelvic fins become yellow-white or orange. The blacknose dace's cousin, the longnose dace, grows up to five inches long and is reddish brown to dark-olive, with scattered dark spots and a light belly. But it does not display the blacknose's prominent black "racing" stripe on its side.

**Habitat:** Blacknose dace are creatures of flowing water. They are found in most of the small streams in Pennsylvania, but are typically in the moderate current of headwaters and springfed runs. Although they thrive in stream pools as well as rocky riffles, they won't be found in the still water of lakes. The blacknose dace shares Pennsylvania with the longnose dace (*Rhinichthys cataractae*). Both dace are most often found in the same streams, but they use different habitats.

## Identification:

Brown trout are brownish in overall tone. The back and upper sides are dark-brown to gray-brown, with yellow-brown to silvery lower sides. Large, dark spots are outlined with pale halos on the sides, the back and dorsal fin, with reddish-orange or yellow spots scattered on the sides. The fins are clear, yellow-brown, and unmarked. The belly is white-yellow. Like other trout and salmon, breeding males develop a long, hooked jaw and brighten in color. Wild brown trout in infertile streams may grow only slightly larger than the brook trout there. But in more fertile streams brown trout that weigh a pound are common. A brown trout over 10 pounds is a trophy. Brown trout may exceed 30 inches in length. The state record is more than 19 pounds.



**Habitat:** The brown trout lives in cold or cool streams, rivers, lakes and impoundments. It is more tolerant of siltation and higher water temperatures than brook trout. A brown trout's optimum water temperature range is 50 to 60 degrees, although it can tolerate water temperatures in the low 70s. Like brook trout, they are also somewhat tolerant of acidity. Brown trout may be found in all of the state's watersheds, from limestone spring creeks, infertile headwaters and swampy outflows to suitable habitat in the larger rivers and reservoir tailwaters. Some brown trout can "hold over" after they are stocked. They can last a year or more in a stream, because they are adaptable to stream changes and are not that easy to catch.

## Brown Trout *Salmo trutta*

**Species overview:** The brown trout is not a native Pennsylvanian, although it is now naturalized and widespread here in the wild, even becoming the main trout species in streams previously dominated by brook trout. Brown trout were originally found in Eurasia and were stocked in the late 1800s in the United States as strains from various locations, including Scotland and Germany. Pennsylvania received its first brown trout in 1886. Brown trout are considered more difficult to catch than brook trout. The larger ones tend to feed at night. Brown trout are closely related to Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*). The genus name "Salmo" is the Latin name for the Atlantic salmon. The species name "trutta" is the Latin name for "trout."