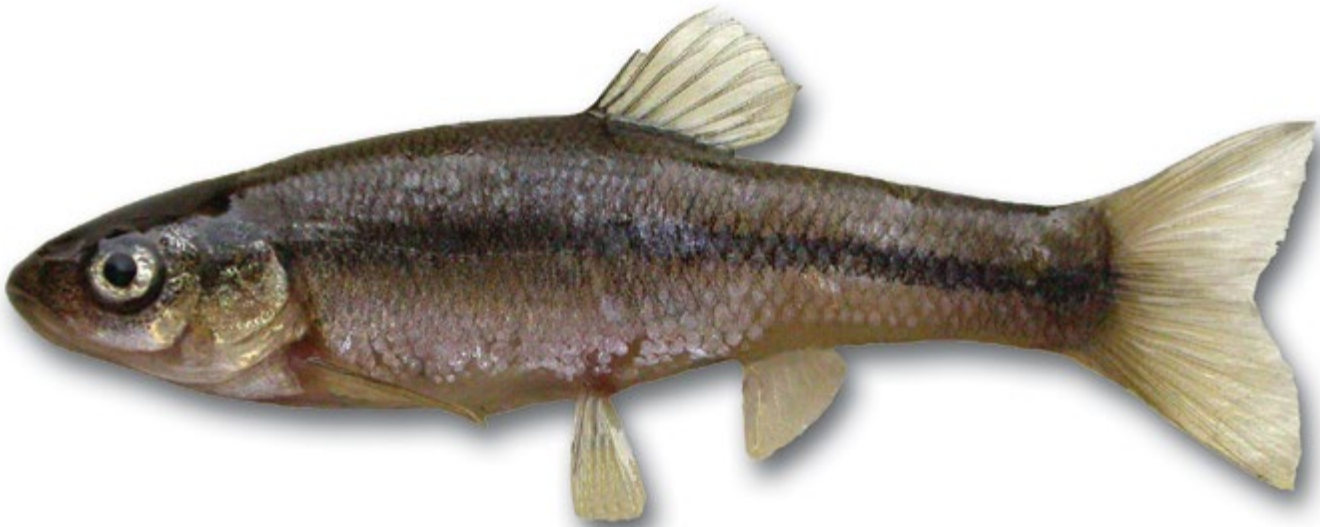


## FATHEAD MINNOW (*Pimephales promelas*)



*Image by Noel Burkhead*

**Other common names:** Rosy red, minnow, perch minnow.

**Identification:** Body is stout and chubby; moderately compressed laterally; heaviest toward the front. Head is large but short, flat on top, and with a blunt snout. Mouth is small, forward pointing, and slightly upturned. Scales are largest toward the tail; smaller and crowded toward the head. The first dorsal fin ray is short, about half the length of following rays. A dark spot is sometimes visible on the first few dorsal fin rays. A dark bar is present at the base of the caudal fin rays. Coloration: Back is dark olive or gray; sides are silvery or brassy; whitish below. The “rosy red” variant is pinkish-orange overall. Size: Average about 2 inches.

**Habitat:** This is a tolerant species of extreme environmental conditions (muddy, warm, poorly oxygenated water), and, therefore, it may be encountered in a variety of habitats, including soft-bottomed small and large streams and ponds. The fathead minnow is widely distributed in Vermont; however, they tend to be more common in the Lake Champlain drainage.

**Bait use:** This is one of the most commercially important bait fish in Vermont. Both wild and “rosy red” types may be purchased from most bait shops. This is a hardy fish for transporting and holding.