

LONGNOSE SUCKER (*Catostomus Catostomus*)



Image by John Lyons

Other common names: Finescale sucker, northern sucker, red-sided sucker.

Identification: The longnose sucker bears many similarities to the white sucker ; however, several characteristics aid in setting it apart. The snout projects noticeably beyond the leading edge of the upper lip (twice as much as with the white sucker). Scales are smaller and number more than 95 along the lateral line. Coloration: Back is brown to olive-brown; lightening to silvery or brassy-yellow on the sides frequently with dark irregular blotches; underside is whitish, yellowish or pinkish. In spring and summer, the sides of the fish may have a prominent broad, rosy band. Size: Typically up to 10-15 inches, although it can attain much larger size particularly in lake populations.

Habitat: Unlike the white sucker, this species prefers cool, deep lakes, although it can also be encountered in streams. The longnose sucker is widely distributed in Vermont, but because of its more specialized habitat requirements, it is less common than the white sucker.

Bait use: The longnose sucker has many of the same attributes as the white sucker but is of lesser importance as a bait fish.