

# Chub

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## Species Description

**Scientific name:** *Squalius cephalus*

**AKA:** old rubber lips, loggerhead, chavender and chevin

**Native to:** Europe; including England, southern France northward to Scandinavia and eastwards to the Ural basin.

**Habitat:** Rivers and lakes; prefer shallow water and gravel banks with moderate to high water flow

Chub are a thick set freshwater fish with a large blunt head, which usually grow to 30cm in length (maximum reported length of 60cm). They have a long and cylindrical body, with large greenish-brown scales that have a slight black edging. Flanks are a light golden colour, their belly is light and have a dark brown or black tail. The dorsal fin is a greyish-green colour and has 7-9 rays, and 3 spines. The pelvic and anal fin are orange-red, with the anal fin having 7-10 rays and 3 spines. The back edge of the anal fin is convex.

It is not present in Northern Ireland. It was previously present in Ireland; after the confirmation of chub in the River Inny (tributary to the Shannon) in 2006 an eradication programme took place from 2006 - 2012. As a result it is likely that this population has been successfully eradicated. It is probable that these chub had originally been illegally introduced by anglers seeking to improve or create angling opportunities. Illegal introductions are the most likely pathway for the introduction of chub into Northern Ireland.

Chub are omnivorous, eating invertebrates, plant material. Larger Chub (15cm in length) can adopt a piscivorous diet (fish feeding). Between May and August chub may spawn on three occasions (a minimum temperature of 15°C is required). In areas where they become established they could impact upon native biodiversity; by preying on fish, or their eggs or larvae, or out-competing for habitat and available food. As with many invasive non-native introductions, chub may carry disease and pathogens that affect native species.

**As Chub are not ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland, under The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019, it is an offence to release or allow this species to escape into the wild.**

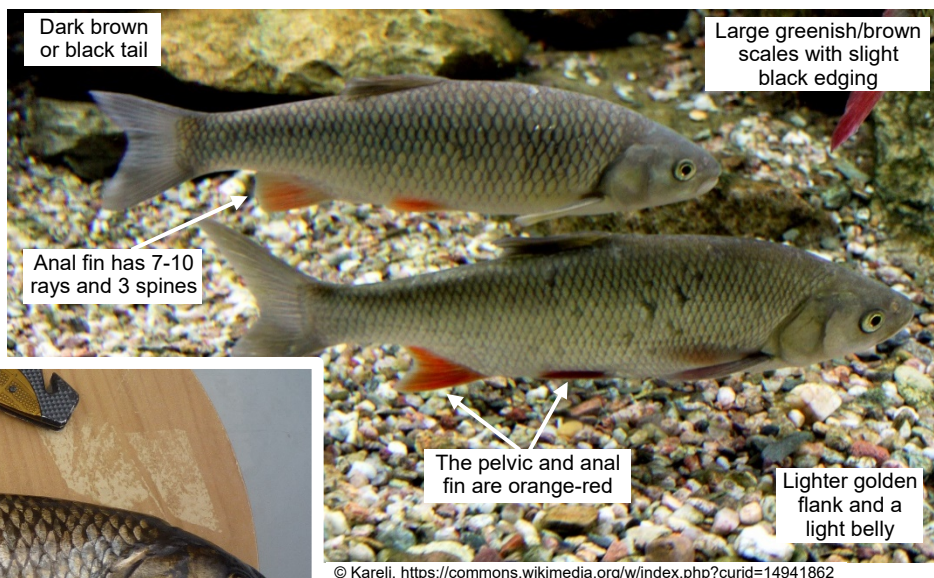


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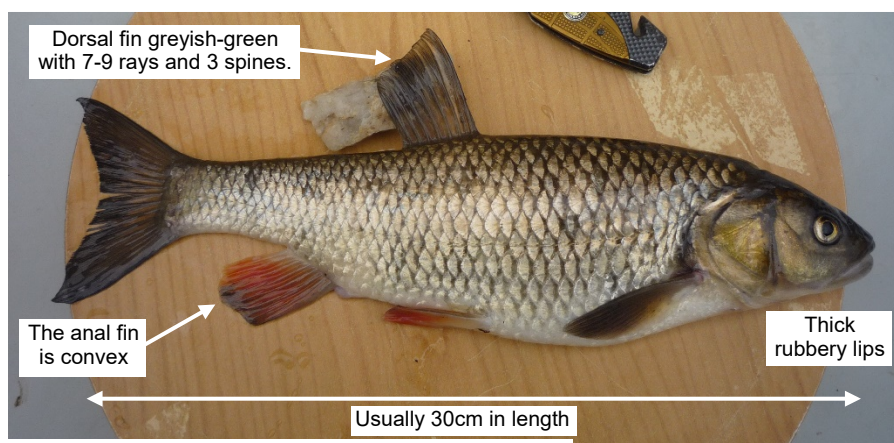


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## Key ID Features



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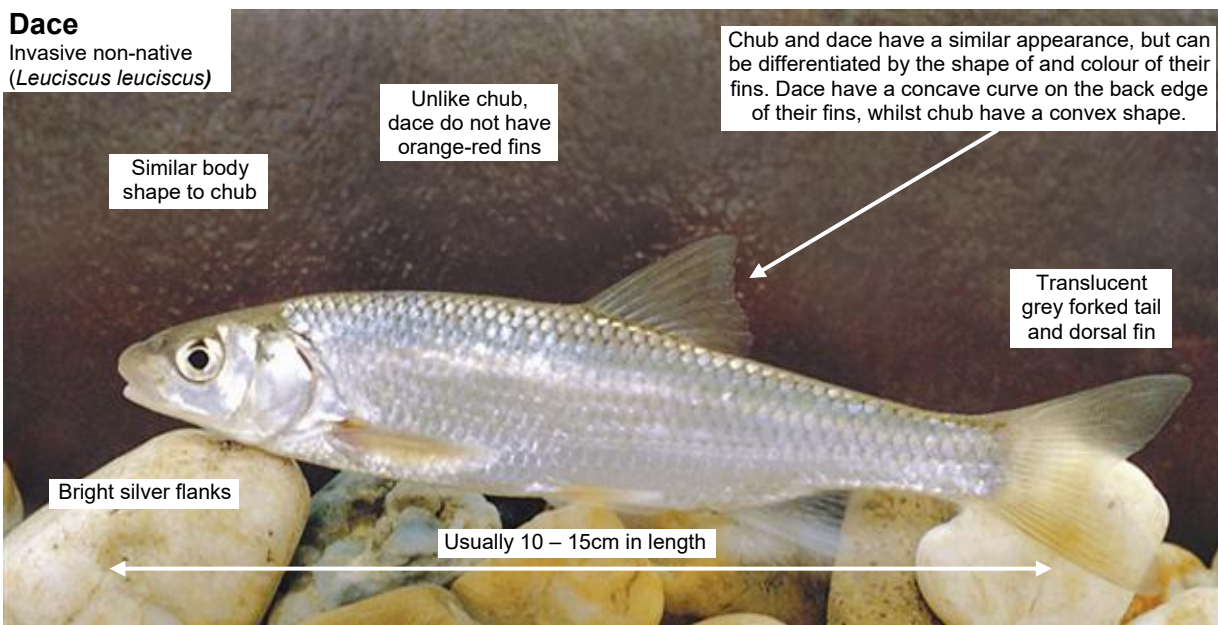
Report any sightings via; CEDaR Online Recording - <https://www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI>, iRecord app or Invasive Species Northern Ireland website - <http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/report-sighting>



# Similar Species

## Dace

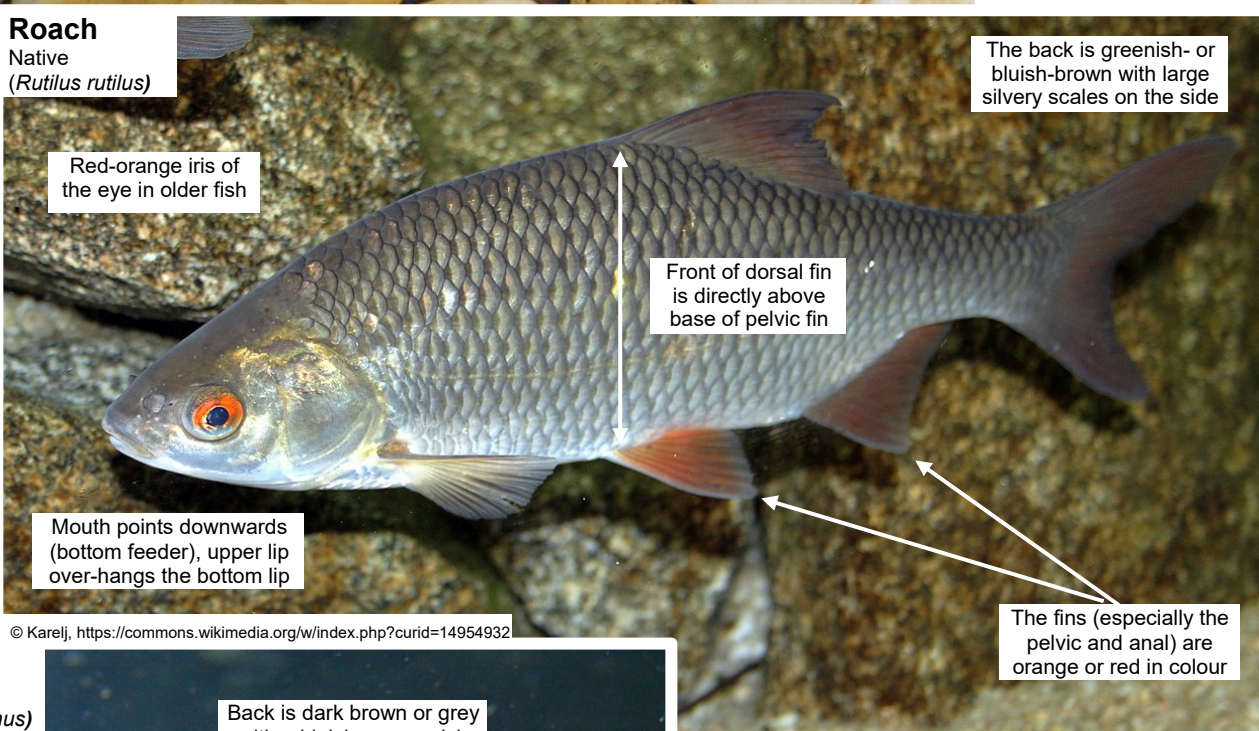
Invasive non-native  
(*Leuciscus leuciscus*)



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## Roach

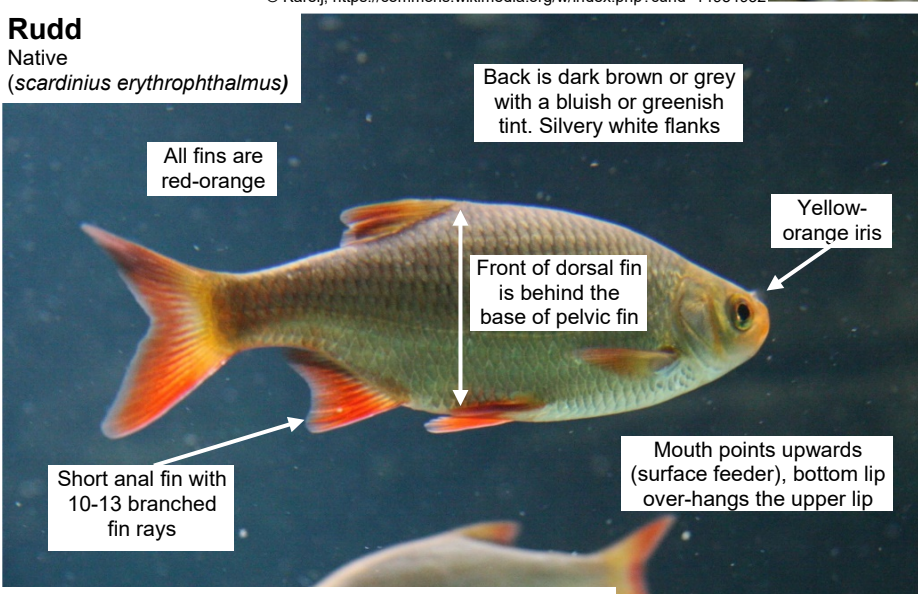
Native  
(*Rutilus rutilus*)



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## Rudd

Native  
(*scardinius erythrophthalmus*)



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Roach and rudd are similar in appearance. They can be differentiated by the relative positions of the dorsal and pelvic fins. However, the roach interbreeds readily with both rudd and bream.

## References and further reading:

- CADI *Squalius cephalus* (European chub) data sheet - <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/77316>
- Caffrey, J., Acevedo, S., Gallagher, K. & Britton, R. 2008. Chub (*Leuciscus cephalus*): A new potentially invasive fish species in Ireland. *Aquatic Invasions*. 3. 201-209.
- Caffrey, J., Gallagher, K., Broughan, D. & Dick, J. 2018. Rapid response achieves eradication – chub in Ireland. *Management of Biological Invasions*. Volume 9, Issue 4: 475–482

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