

Ruffe *Gymnocephalus cernuus*

QUICK FACTS:

- › Classification: Fish in the perch family (Percidae)
- › Origin: Eurasia
- › First validated occurrence in the Great Lakes basin: St. Louis River, 1986 (Mills *et al.* 1993)
- › Means of introduction: Likely introduced from ship ballast water
- › Key impacts: Competes with native fish for food and habitat, preys on native species



Photo courtesy of Sea Grant

LITERATURE CITED

Mills, E. L., Leach, J. H., Carlton, J. T. and Secor, C. L. 1993. Exotic species in the Great Lakes: A history of biotic crises and anthropogenic introductions. *Journal of Great Lakes Research* 19(1):1-54.