

Bitterling, *Rhodeus sericeus*



Size	Usually 5-8cm, reaching a max of 10cm
Distribution	Generally found in Eurasia and France, now common in Cheshire area, spreading East through the canal system. Requires freshwater mussels for spawning.
Key I.D. features	Deep body with relatively large scales. Iridescent blue stripe along the sides, more clear towards the tail of the fish. Could be confused with juvenile native fish including roach and common bream.

Potential Impacts On Native Fisheries

Competition	✓ Spawning habitat and food
Habitat destruction	
Disease transmission	✓ Can host non-native parasites
Predation	
Natural Balance	✓ Large populations may result in recruitment problems in native fish
Fishery performance	✓ Can become a pest to anglers targeting other species

If you discover a fish matching this description, please contact Gareth Davies at gareth.d.davies@environment-agency.gov.uk