



67. CHUB / AITEL / DOEBEL (*Leuciscus cephalus*)

IDENTIFICATION: The chub has an almost cylindrical body; a large, flat-topped head; and large, rough scales. The back and the upper part of the head are dark gray with a green to brownish-green tinge. The sides are silver, sometimes with a yellowish glitter. Cheeks and gill covers have a golden touch with an occasional reddish tinge. The dorsal and tail fins are dark gray with a yellowish or reddish touch, pectoral fins are somewhat lighter, and pelvic and anal fins are pale pink. The scales have a black margin that gives the chub a net-like appearance. Young chub are often mistaken for the much smaller dace. The main difference, the dorsal fin is straight along the upper edge on the chub and concave on the dace.

HABITAT: The chub is one of the most sporting of freshwater cyprinids. Its typical habitat is the upper reaches of rivers here the flow is still brisk and the water not yet turbid. Young chub are gregarious and live in large school, but they become more solitary with age. Chub often share living space with trout. But chub are highly undesirable in salmonid waters because they are predators.

FOOD:

Diet: Chub are perhaps the most omnivorous of European river fish, consuming anything living, or falling into the water. Chub eat vegetable matter, alternating with crustaceans, mollusks, and insects. Fish eggs and fry of more desirable game fish are a delicacy to adult chub.

Value: Chub meat has been described as cotton wool stuffed with needles and is not sought after for human consumption. Chub are popular among fishermen who like to stalk their fish. Chub offer fair sport even when other fish do not. They bite boldly, but do not fight exceptionally well.

SPAWNING: Chub breed from April to June. Their sticky eggs are deposited on plants and stones in gravelly shallows. The male sports a breeding headdress of sexual tubercles.