

Know Your Fish — Common Fish Species

Lake Trout

spotted back

well forked tail

Brook Trout

wormy marks on back

black and white edges on fins

tail slightly forked

Rainbow Trout (Steelhead)

white mouth

10-12 anal fin rays

spotted tail

Splake

wormy marks on back

tail slightly forked

Rainbow Trout

usually pink streak

spotted tail with definite fork

Pink Salmon

black spots on upper back and adipose fin

13-19 anal fin rays

black spots on tail

Brown Trout

boxy shaped body

red or orange spots

upper jaw extends beyond rear of eye

Abdomen usually yellow

square tail

Atlantic Salmon

upper jaw extends to rear of eye

torpedo shaped body

black "x" marks on upper body

Smallmouth Bass

vertical bars on sides

upper jaw does not extend beyond back of eye

Coho Salmon

small spots on upper portion of tail

dark mouth with whitish gums

13 - 15 anal fin rays

Chinook "King" Salmon

large black spots over tail and upper portion of body

dark mouth and gums

15 - 17 anal fin rays

Largemouth Bass

dark horizontal band

upper jaw extends beyond back of eye

Northern Pike

bean shaped yellowish spots on green background

five or less sensory pores per side on lower jaw

cheek fully scaled but only upper half of gill cover scaled

Black Crappie

seven or more dorsal spines

Muskellunge

dark bars or spots on light background

six or more sensory pores per side on lower jaw

only upper half of cheek and gill covers are scaled

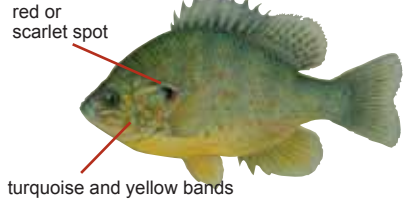
Rock Bass

red eye

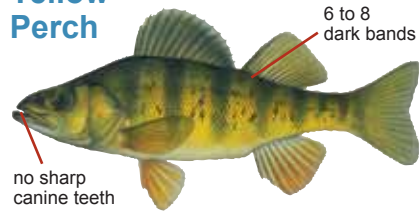
six spines

Illustrations by — Joseph R. Tomelleri

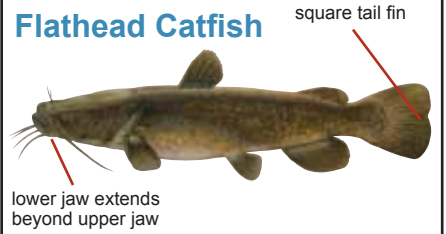
Pumpkinseed (Sunfish)



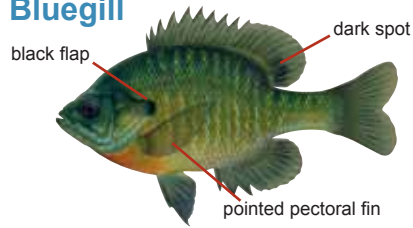
Yellow Perch



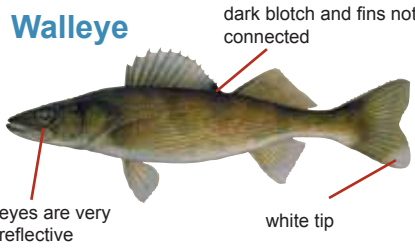
Flathead Catfish



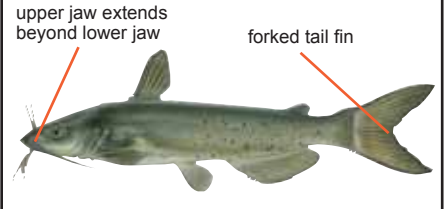
Bluegill



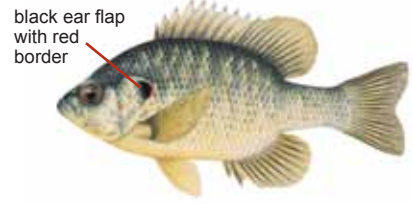
Walleye



Channel Catfish



Redear Sunfish (female)



Asian Carp Pose Threat to Great Lakes

Bighead Carp



Photos courtesy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Silver Carp



Four species of Asian carp, including the bighead carp and silver carp shown above, are threatening to arrive in Michigan. Bighead carp are so voracious they leave nothing for native species. The silver carp is a safety hazard because it can jump high enough to hit people in boats. Anglers should be alert for any carp that appears to have its eyes looking down. If you find an unidentified carp in any inland or Great Lakes waters, contact the DNR at 517-373-1280 or fill out an Asian carp reporting form online at www.michigan.gov/asiancarp. (see p. 39)

Visit a State Fish Hatchery!

State Fish Hatcheries are dedicated to providing visitors with the opportunity to learn about fish, their life cycles and habitats as well as the history of the Great Lakes fish hatcheries and the vital role they play in helping to protect and restore our aquatic ecosystems.



- See and feed Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, walleye and many more species from viewing piers at the hatchery show ponds
- Learn about different species through interpretive exhibits and interactive displays
- Take a self-guided hike through the nature trails

Visitors are welcome at all six hatcheries. Wolf Lake and Oden have education staff, and offer guided hatchery tours and summer fishing days. Discover how much fun it is to go fishing!

Visit www.michigan.gov/dnrvisitorcenters for more information.

