

Dichotomous Key to Common Fish of Michigan

1, Does the fish have an adipose fin?

- A. Adipose fin present
 - **Go to 2**
- B. Adipose fin not present
 - **Got to 3**

2. Salmonidae family:

- A. Fish has spotted tail and white mouth; commonly has a pinkish colored streak on its sides
 - **STEELHEAD TROUT**
- B. Large black spots over tail and upper portion of its body; black mouth and gums; is commonly silver in color
 - **CHINOOK “KING” SALMON**

3. What does the dorsal fin look like?

- A. Dorsal fin's spiny and soft-rayed portions are connected as one fin
 - **Go to 4**
- B. Dorsal fin sits far back on the fish's body (very close to its tail)
 - **Go to 5**
- C. Dorsal fin is divided into separate spiny and soft-rayed portions
 - **WALLEYE**

4. What body shape does the fish have?

- A. Fish's body is longer than it is deep
 - **Go to 6**
- B. Fish's body is deeper than it is long
 - **BLUEGILL**

5. What special features does the fish have?

- A. Dark bards or spots on a light background
 - **MUSKELLUNGE**
- B. Bean shaped yellowish spots on green background
 - **NORTHERN PIKE**

6. How big is the upper jaw?

- A. The upper jaw extends past the eye.
 - **LARGE MOUTH BASS**
- B. The upper jaw does not extend past the eye
 - **SMALLMOUTH BASS**