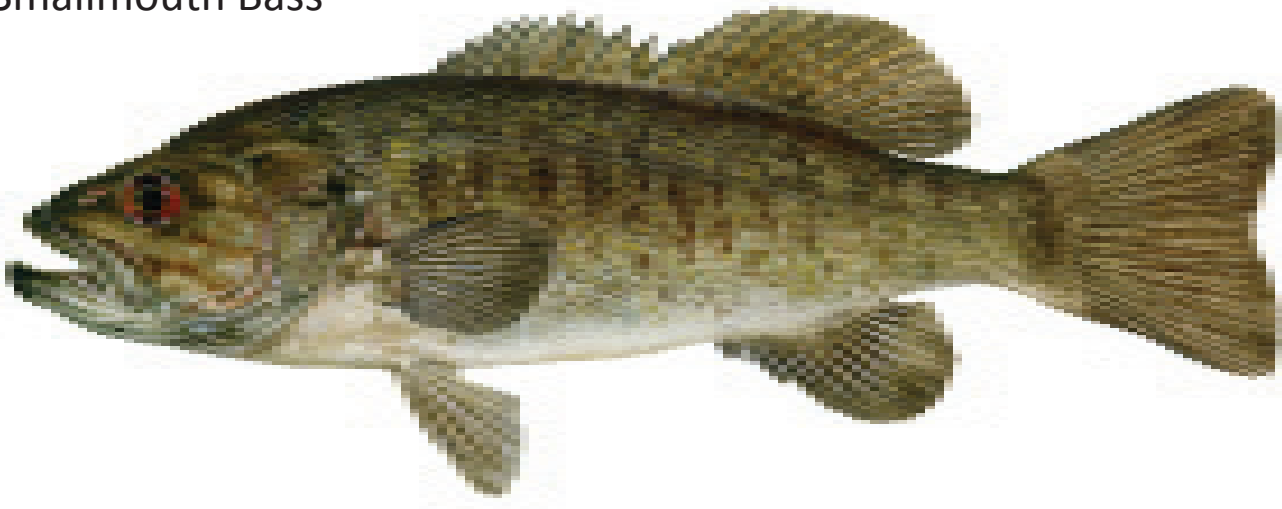


Maine's Warmwater Fish

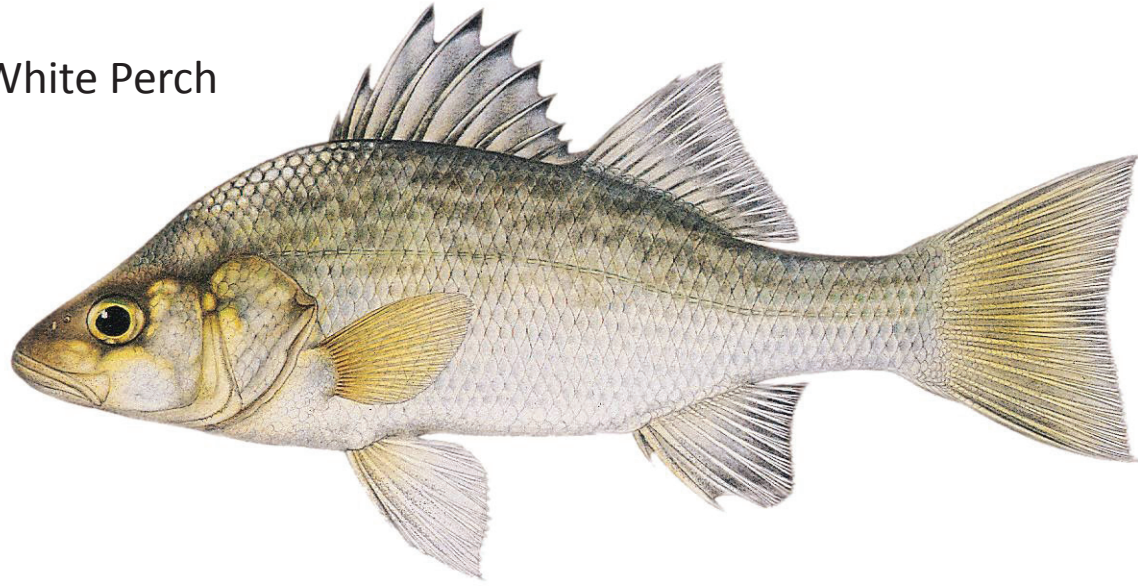
Smallmouth Bass



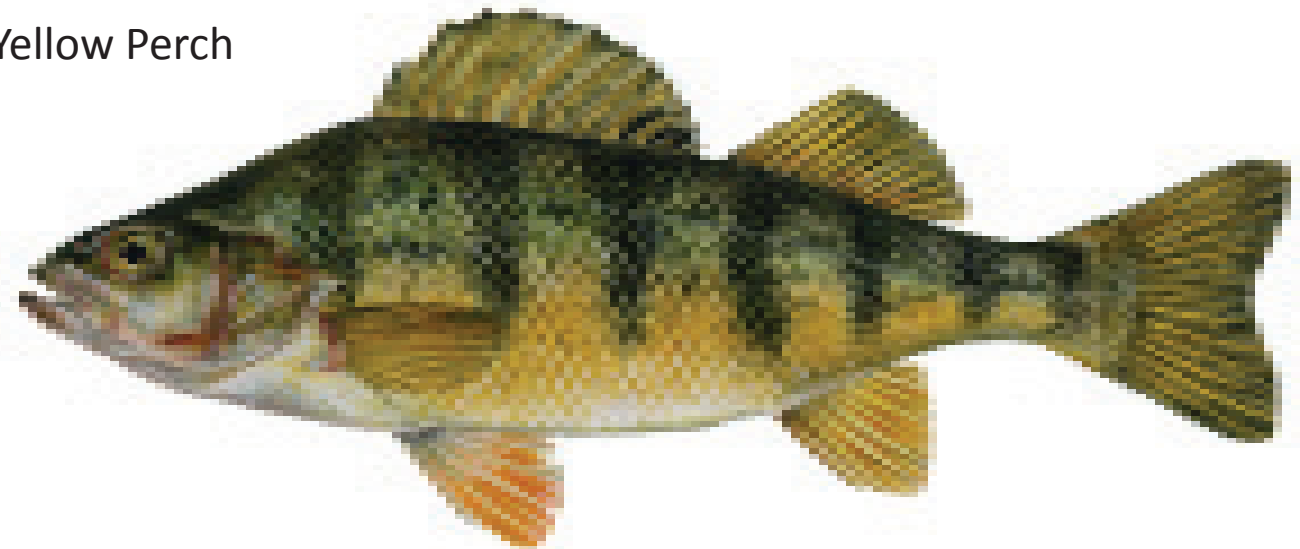
Largemouth Bass



White Perch



Yellow Perch



Black Crappie



Northern Pike



Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Chain Pickerel



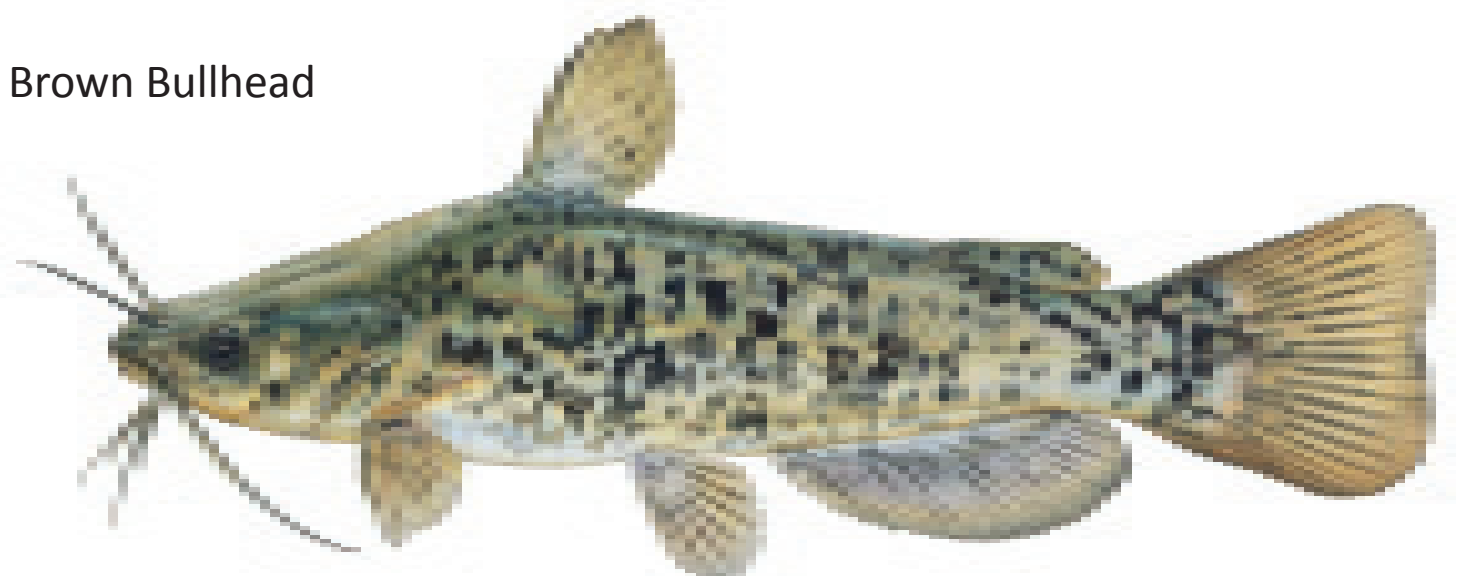
Redbreast Sunfish



Muskellunge



Brown Bullhead



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Maine's Warmwater Fish

COMMON NAME: SMALLMOUTH BASS
OTHER NAMES: SMALLIE, SMALLMOUTH BLACK BASS, BLACK BASS, BROWN BASS, BASS
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Micropterus dolomieu*

ORIGIN: Introduced

ADULT SIZE: Smallmouth bass commonly live 5-7 years, with a few individuals reaching ages from 10-20 years. Most bass waters grow some adults to weights of 2-3 pounds. In Maine, only a few exceed 4 pounds, and bass heavier than 5 pounds are rare. The state record smallmouth bass is 8 pounds

IDENTIFICATIONS: Bass are members of the sunfish family. The upper jaw of smallmouth bass does not extend beyond the back of the eye. The notch between the spiny and the soft-rayed section of the dorsal fin is not deep.

COMMON NAME: WHITE PERCH
OTHER NAMES: PERCH, SILVER PERCH
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Morone americana*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: Size can vary greatly according to the type of habitat and the density of the perch population. A 6-year old perch can be anywhere from 6 to 12 inches long. The average 8 to 10 inch perch weighs about 0.45 pounds and is about 4 years old.

IDENTIFICATION: The white perch is a spiny-finned fish with large, easily seen scales. The fish is dark gray-green on the back and upper sides, and the color gradually changes to silver on the sides below the lateral line to white on the belly. In clear waters, the white perch exhibits a bluish tint on the lower jaw.

COMMON NAME: BLACK CRAPPIE
OTHER NAMES: CALICO BASS, CRAPPIES
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*

ORIGIN: Introduced

ADULT SIZE: Sexual maturity is reached between 2 and 4 years of age, at which time crappies may be 6 to 10 inches long. Typical crappie fisheries produce fish between 6 and 11 inches long, although crappies exceeding 14 inches and 3 pounds have been caught in Maine.

IDENTIFICATIONS: Closely resembling bass and sunfish species, which have 10-12 dorsal fin spines, crappies possess 6-8 dorsal fin spines. Body form is very deep and narrow (laterally compressed). Coloration is silvery-olive to golden brown, with an irregular mosaic of dark black blotches.

COMMON NAME: PUMPKINSEED SUNFISH
OTHER NAMES: PUMPKINSEED, COMMON SUNFISH, PUNKY
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Lepomis gibbosus*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: Size is typically between 6 and 10 inches in Maine.

IDENTIFICATION: The pumpkinseed is a very deep-bodied fish, almost disc-like, with several spines in the dorsal fin. The lateral view varies from golden brown to olive on top to irregular, wavy, interconnecting blue-green lines in the middle, to bronze or red-orange on the ventral surface. The side of head and body have blue, emerald, or green reflections. The opercle, or gill-cover, is mostly black with a trailing tip that is black and rimmed with a small halfmoon of bright red.

COMMON NAME: REDBREAST SUNFISH
OTHER NAMES: YELLOWBELLY SUNFISH, LONGEAR SUNFISH
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Lepomis auritus*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: Size is typically between 5 and 7 inches in Maine.

IDENTIFICATION: The redbreast sunfish is very deep-bodied and strongly compressed laterally. The opercle, or gill cover, is long and black with no colored border. The body is usually golden brown to olive, with the dorsal surface darker. Sides are lighter in color with small reddish spots, vague blue streaks, and a yellow to orange-red breast.

COMMON NAME: BROWN BULLHEAD
OTHER NAMES: BULLHEAD, HORNPOUT, CATFISH
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ameiurus nebulosus*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: In Maine, adult bullheads are usually about 10 inches long and weigh less than one pound. Fish up to 14 inches are occasionally caught, but fish 18 inches and larger are rare in Maine.

IDENTIFICATIONS: As the name implies the brown bullhead is dark brown to olive green on the back, with mottled sides, and a creamy white belly. Individuals having white patches on their sides and back are common in some Maine waters. Brown bullheads have a thick rounded body, a broad, somewhat flattened head with a distinctive set of "whiskers" around the mouth called barbels. The dorsal and pectoral fins have sharp saw tooth spines at their base that can be locked in an erect position. The caudal fin is square and there is a pronounced adipose fin. They have no scales on their skin.

COMMON NAME: LARGEMOUTH BASS
OTHER NAMES: BLACK BASS, LARGEMOUTH
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Micropterus salmoides*

ORIGIN: Introduced

ADULT SIZE: The typical largemouth bass in Maine is 12-16 inches long and weighs 1-3 pounds, with occasional fish up to 7-8 pounds.

IDENTIFICATIONS: Largemouths are dark olive green on the back with light green sides shading to a white belly. A dark mottled band extends along the sides. The upper part of the mouth extends past the eye. Smallmouth bass are similar in appearance, but the upper jaw ends below the eye.

COMMON NAME: YELLOW PERCH
OTHER NAMES: PERCH, LAKE PERCH, AMERICAN PERCH
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Perca flavescens*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: Yellow perch normally range from 6 to 12 inches in length and weigh from 1/4 to 1 pound. Larger yellow perch, up to 15 inches and 1.6 pounds, are occasionally caught in Maine.

IDENTIFICATIONS: The top of the head and back is bright green to olive in color; sides are yellowish-green to golden yellow with 6 to 8 dark vertical bands; belly area ranges from yellow to white; pectoral, pelvic and anal fins vary in color from pale yellow to bright orange.

COMMON NAME: NORTHERN PIKE
OTHER NAMES: PIKE, NORTHERNS
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Esox lucius*

ORIGIN: Introduced

ADULT SIZE: Sexual maturity is generally reached between 3-5 years of age, at which time pike may average between 24-30 inches long and weigh 3.5 to 7.5 pounds. Pike exceeding 30 pounds have been caught in Maine.

IDENTIFICATIONS: Scales are present on the upper half of the gill cover, but are absent on the lower half. The cheek area (located just forward of the gill plate), is fully scaled. Pike usually have five pairs of sensory pores along the underside of the lower jaw. The cheeks and gill covers of chain pickerel are fully scaled, and generally only four pairs of sensor pores are present on the lower jaw. The pattern of markings is typically very different on adult and juvenile pike. Juvenile pike possess wavy, white to yellow vertical bars. Adults have shorter markings arranged in a more horizontal configuration. Pike can hybridize with chain pickerel, and the resulting hybrid may possess markings common to either or both species.

COMMON NAME: CHAIN PICKEREL
OTHER NAMES: PICKEREL, CHAINSIDES, EASTERN PICKEREL
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Esox niger*

ORIGIN: Native

ADULT SIZE: Most of the pickerel caught in Maine are age 3-5, at which time they range in length from 14-19 inches. Productive waters grow good numbers of 2-3 pound fish, along with occasional 4-pound fish. The state record, caught in 1992, weighed 6 pounds 13 ounces.

IDENTIFICATION: Pickerel are a member of the pike family. The fish is green with the sides prominently marked by yellow-green areas broken by dark, interconnecting lines resembling the links of a chain. The jaws are elongated, containing large, sharp teeth; the large dorsal fin is located way back towards the caudal fin, which is forked.

COMMON NAME: MUSKELLUNGE
OTHER NAMES: MUSKY, MASKINONGE
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Esox masquinongy*

ORIGIN: Introduced

ADULT SIZE: Muskellunge commonly grow to lengths of 30 to 36 inches and weights of 5 to 10 pounds, with occasional larger individuals. Females attain larger sizes than males. The largest muskellunge recorded in Maine weighed 22 pounds, 12 ounces.

IDENTIFICATIONS: Muskellunge are long, slender fish with dark vertical bars on a background ranging from light green to light brown. They have soft-rayed fins, with the dorsal fin located just in front of the tail. Their large mouths, full of sharp teeth, leave no doubt as to their predatory nature. Muskies can be distinguished from northern pike by the presence of 7 to 11 sensory pores on the underside of each jaw (pike have only 5), and by cheeks and gill covers scaled only on the upper half (the cheeks of pike are fully scaled).

Artwork by Joseph R. Tomelleri, and the Wyoming Department of Fish and Game.