

Which Fish Will I Catch?

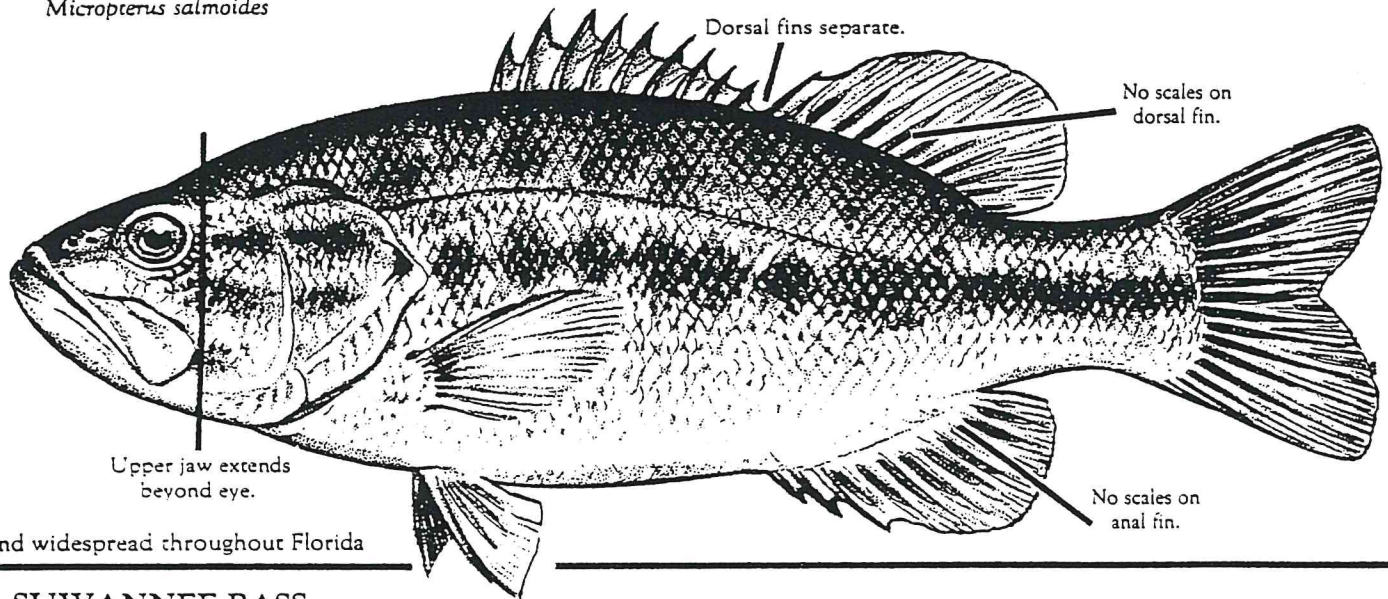
Florida has more than 7,700 lakes and 1,700 streams throughout the state. There are more than 100 species of freshwater fish in Florida including such popular fish as largemouth bass, bluegill, redear, crappie, warmouth, pickerel, catfish and sunshine bass. These are 24 of the most commonly caught fish in Florida.

How Many Fish Can You Remember?

BASS

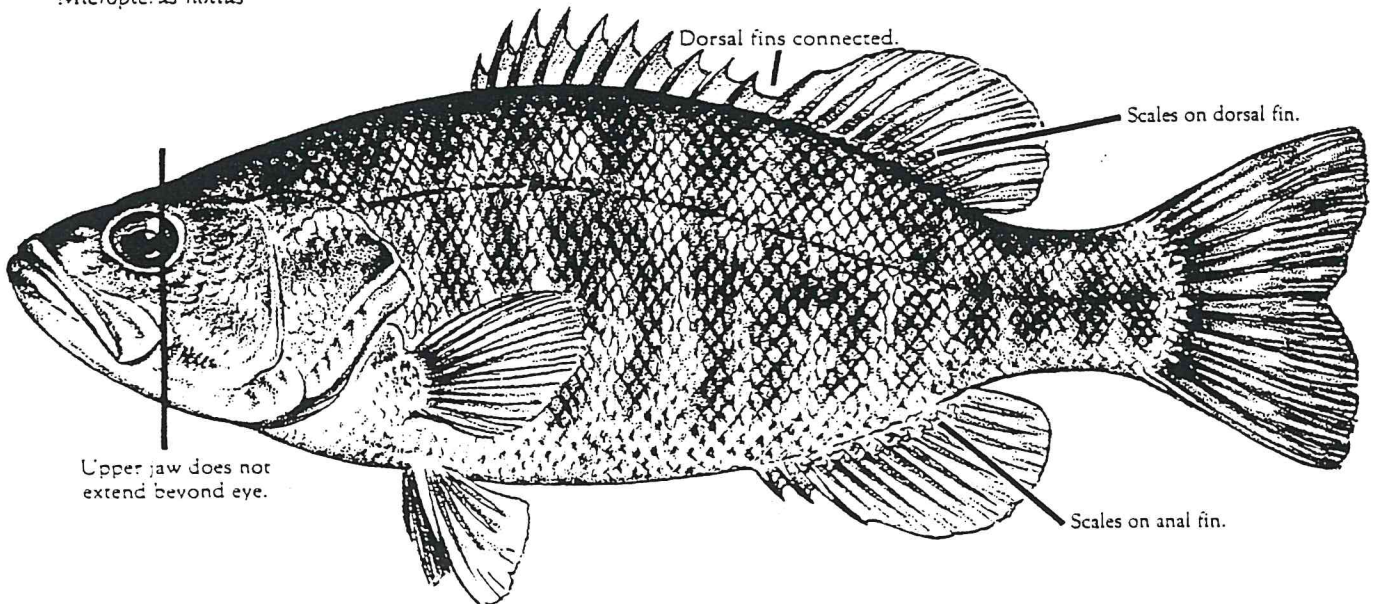
LARGEMOUTH BASS

Micropterus salmoides



SUWANNEE BASS

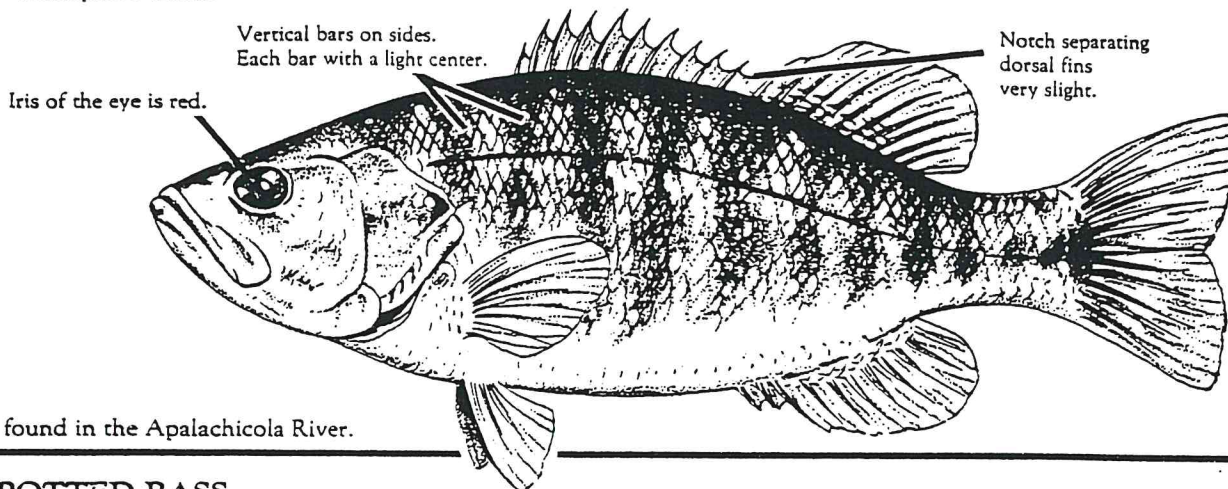
Micropterus notius



BASS

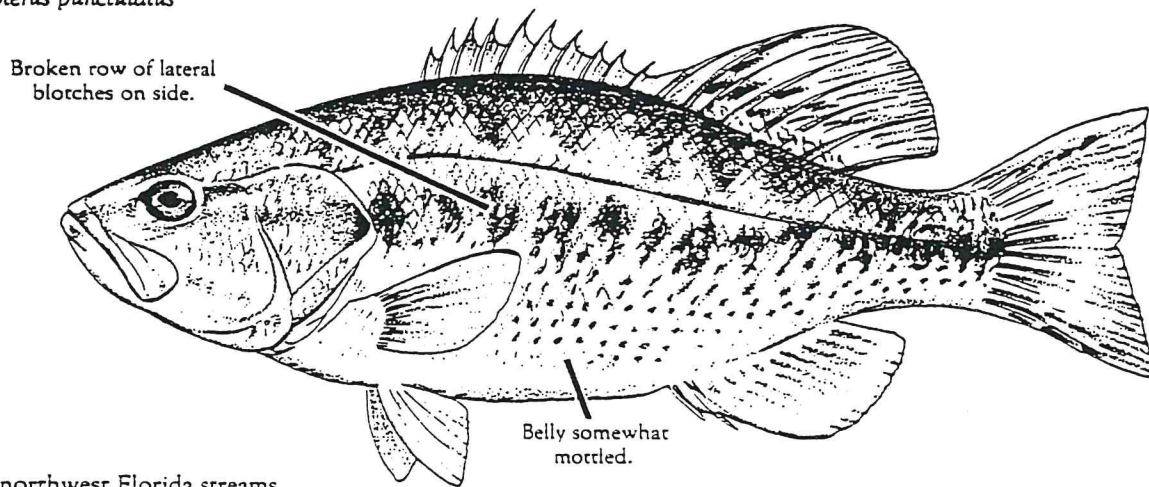
REDEYE BASS

Micropterus coosae



SPOTTED BASS

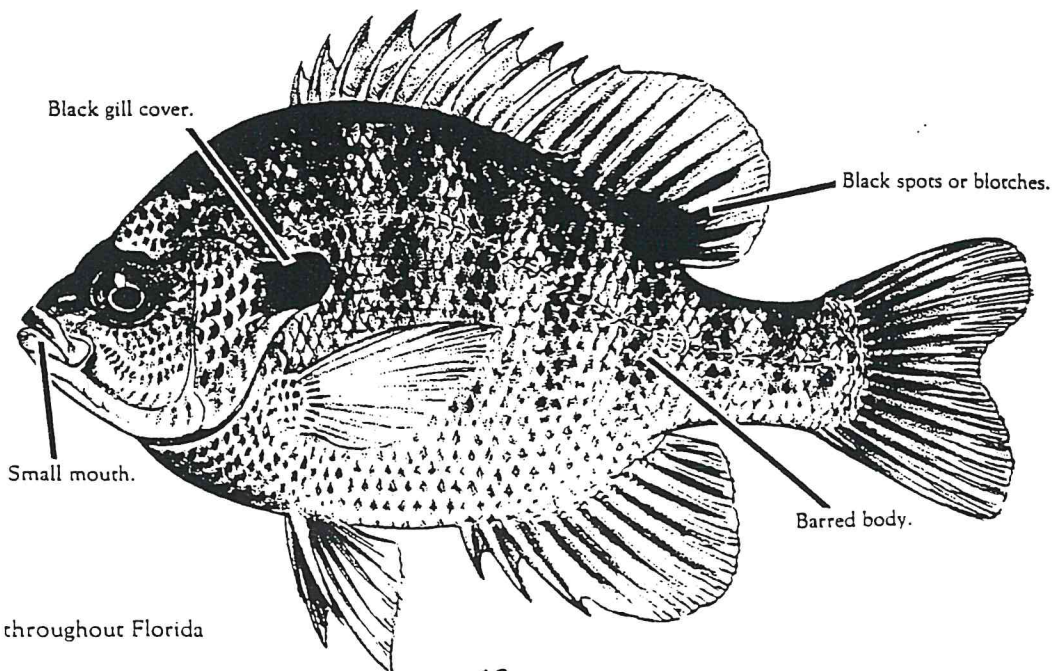
Micropterus punctulatus



PANFISH

BLUEGILL

Lepomis macrochirus



PANFISH

REDEAR SUNFISH (shellcracker)

Lepomis microlophus

Ear flap bordered
with red or orange

Spotted body.

Long, pointed pectoral fin.

Found widespread throughout Florida

SPOTTED SUNFISH (stumpknocker)

Lepomis punctatus

Black or reddish spots
on each scale.

Found widespread throughout Florida

FLIER

Centrarchus macropterus

Each scale with brown spot, giving
appearance of rows of dots on sides.

Body quite deep.

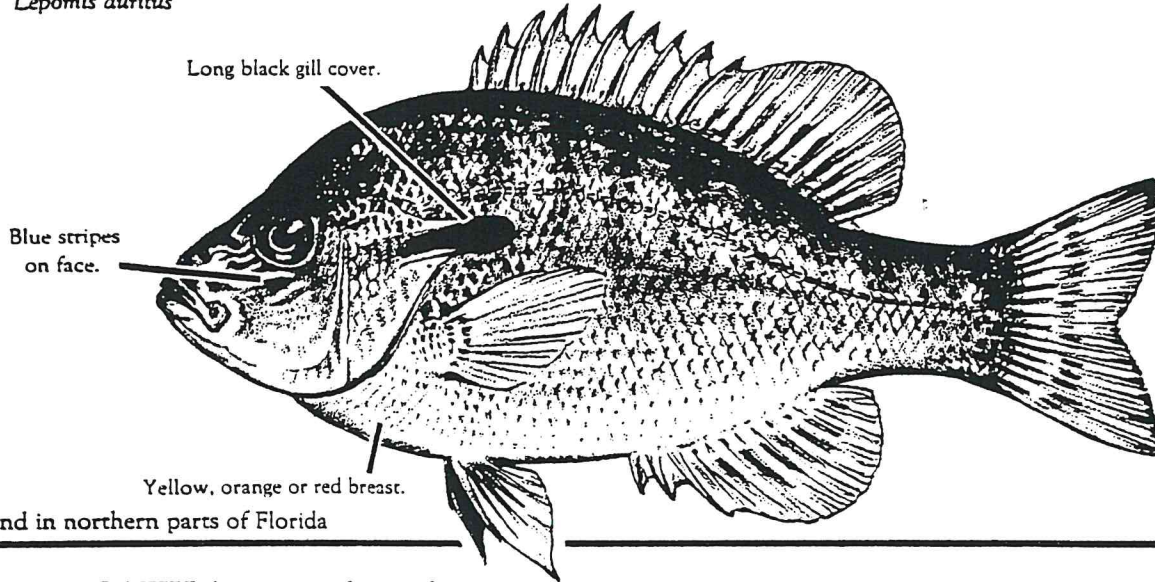
Dorsal and anal fins nearly symmetrical.

Found in northern parts of Florida

PANFISH

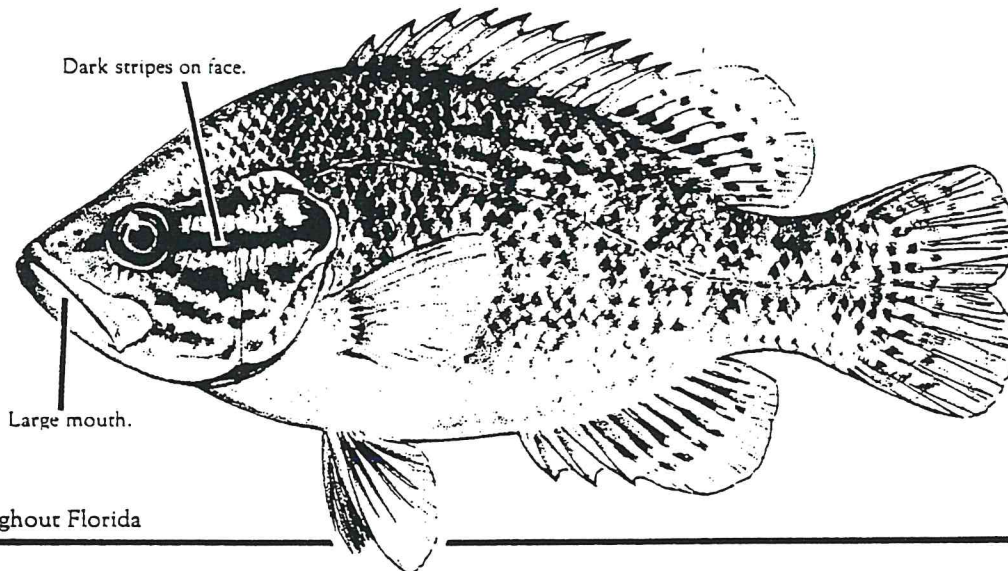
REDBREAST SUNFISH

Lepomis auritus



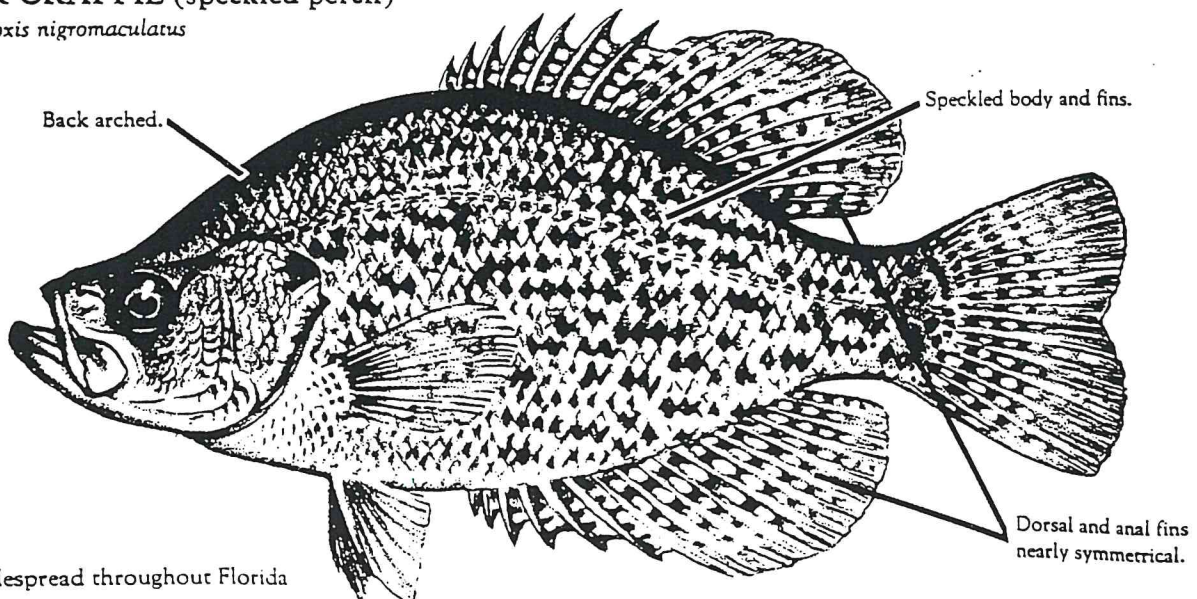
WARMOUTH (warmouth perch)

Lepomis gulosus



BLACK CRAPPIE (speckled perch)

Pomoxis nigromaculatus

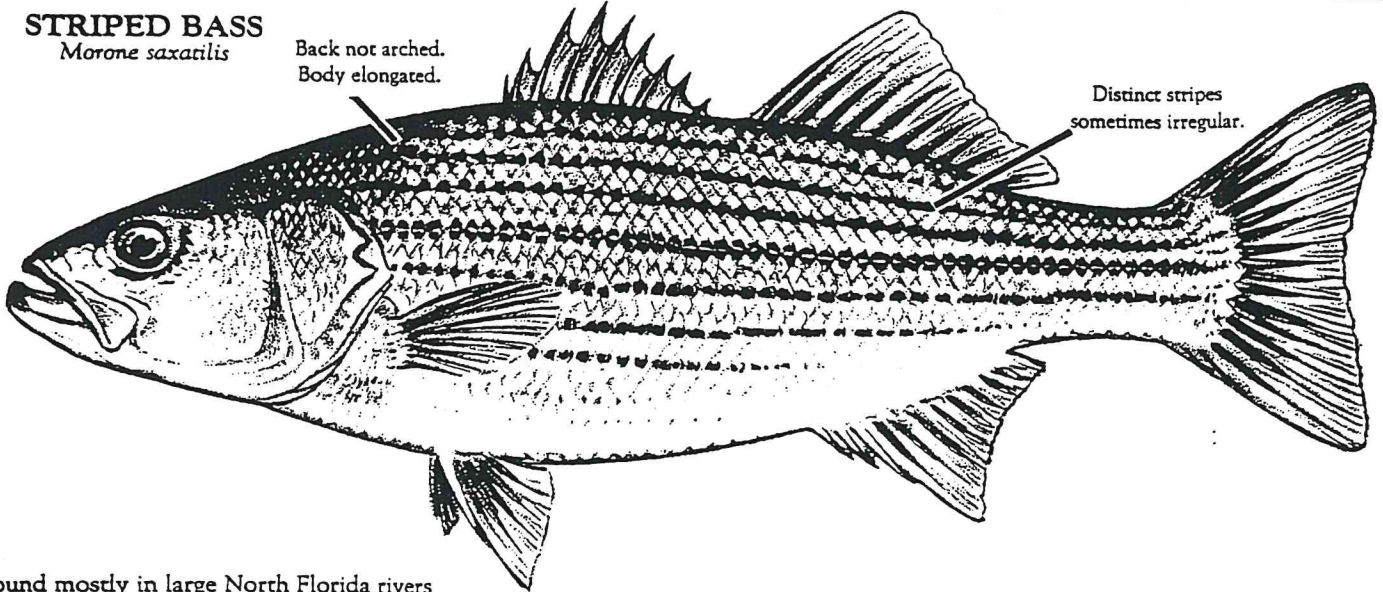


BASS

STRIPED BASS *Morone saxatilis*

Back not arched.
Body elongated.

Distinct stripes
sometimes irregular.



Found mostly in large North Florida rivers

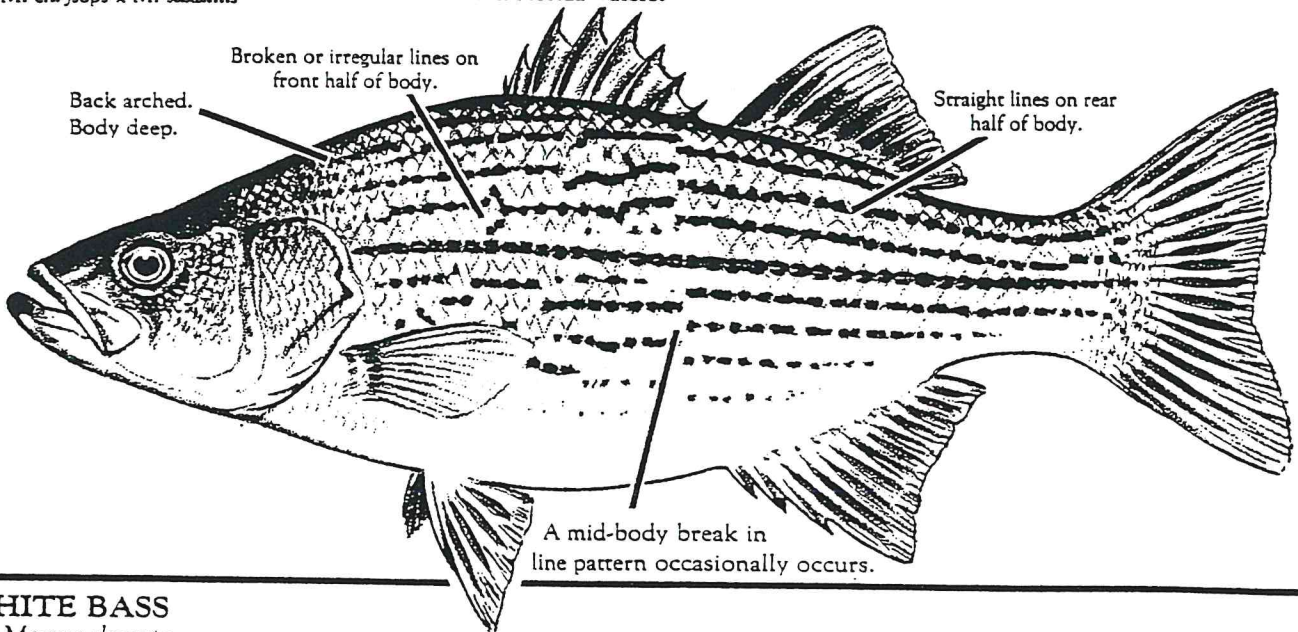
SUNSHINE BASS *M. chrysops x M. saxatilis*

Hybrid between the white bass and striped bass which is produced by Commission biologists at hatcheries and stocked in Florida waters.

Back arched.
Body deep.

Broken or irregular lines on
front half of body.

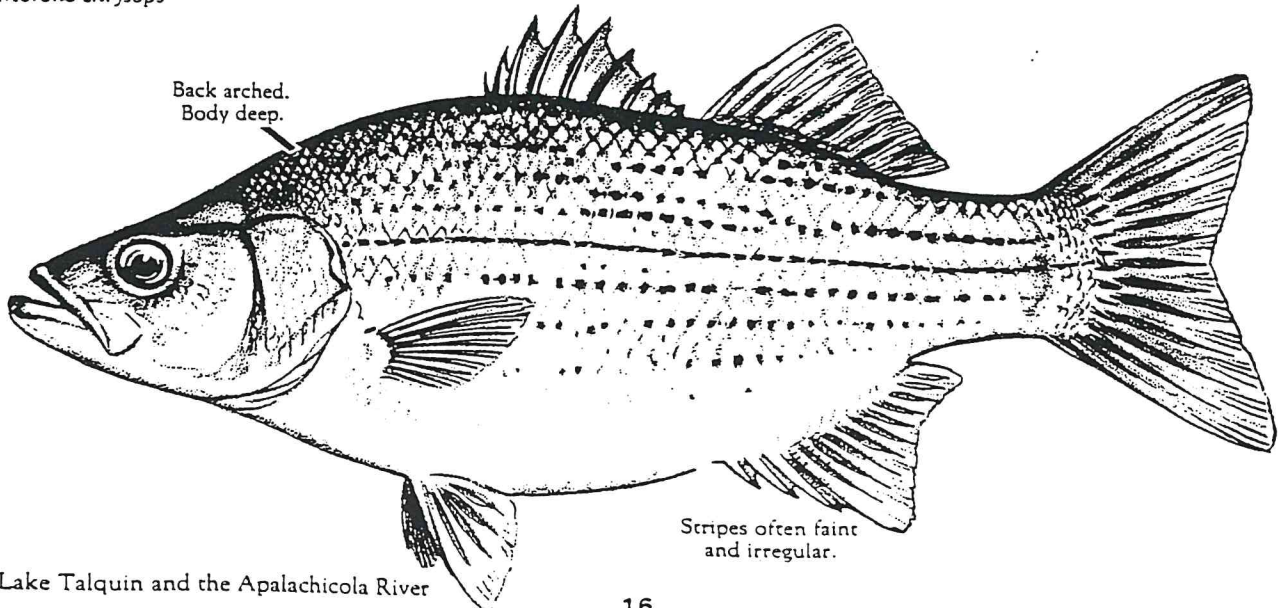
Straight lines on rear
half of body.



A mid-body break in
line pattern occasionally occurs.

WHITE BASS *Morone chrysops*

Back arched.
Body deep.



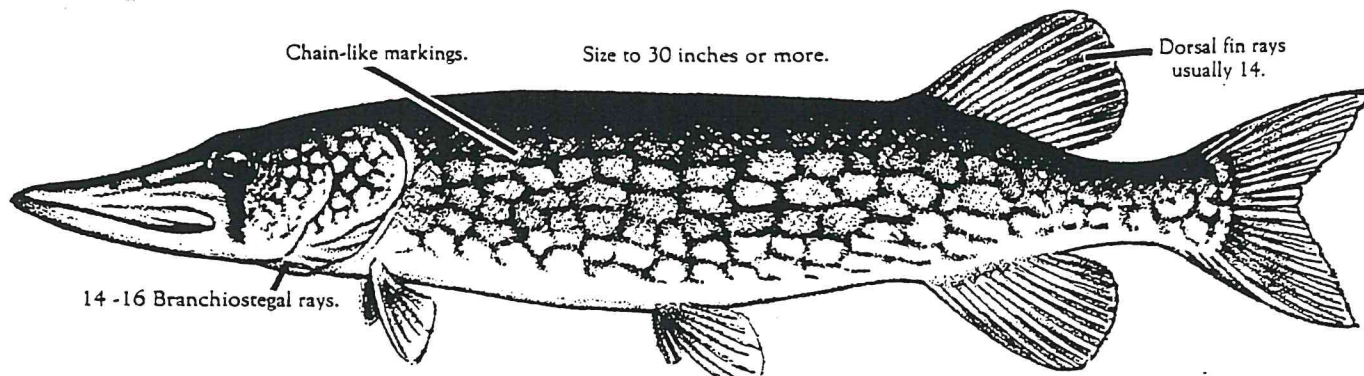
Stripes often faint
and irregular.

Found in Lake Talquin and the Apalachicola River

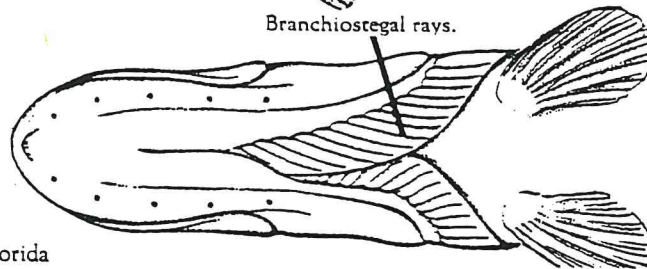
PICKEREL

CHAIN PICKEREL

Esox niger



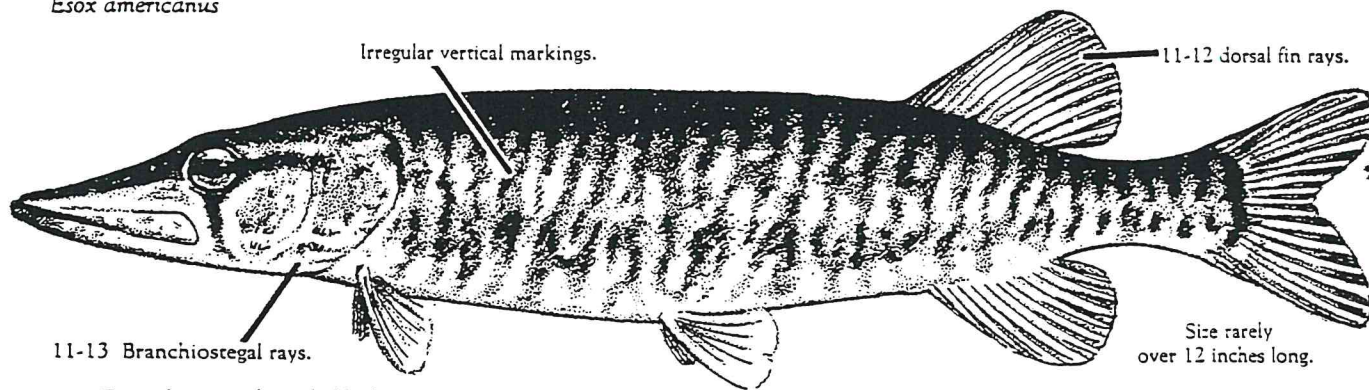
Underside of pickerel head showing branchiostegal rays.



Found in northern half of Florida

REDFIN PICKEREL

Esox americanus

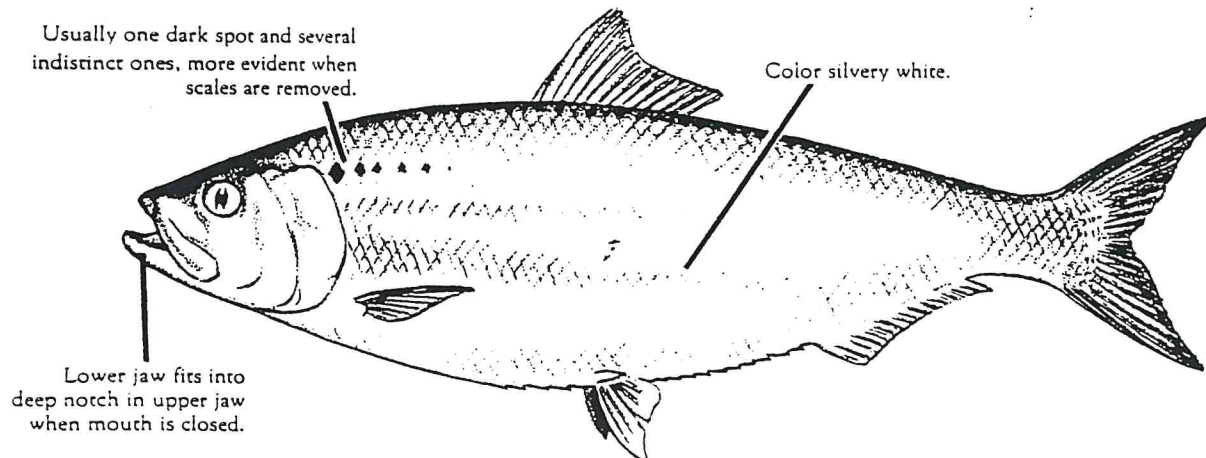


Found in northern half of Florida

SHAD

AMERICAN SHAD

Alosa sapidissima



Found in the St. Johns and St. Marys rivers of Florida's Atlantic Coast.

CATFISH

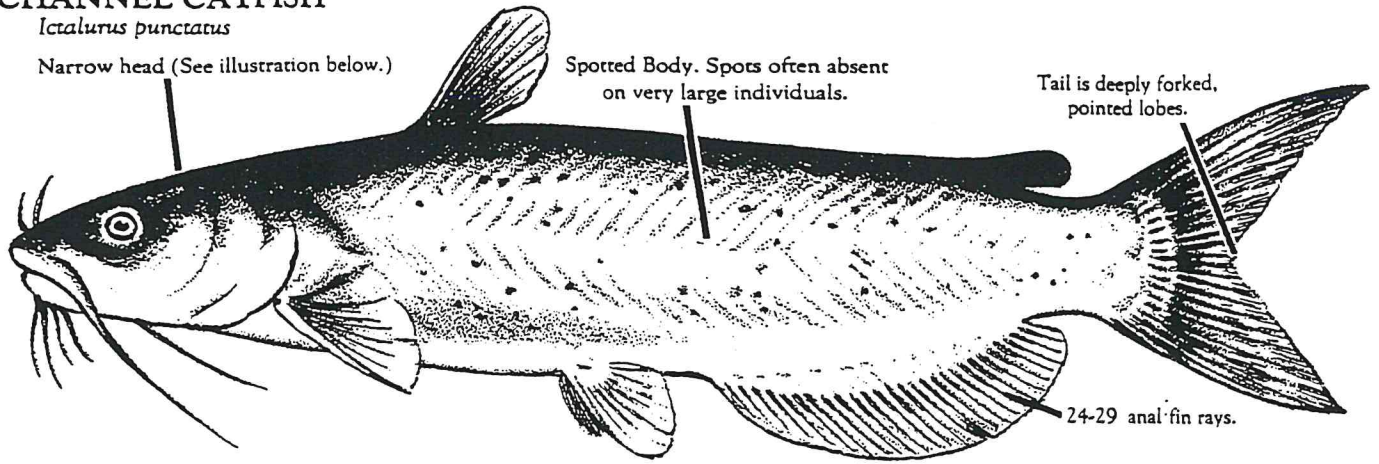
CHANNEL CATFISH

Ictalurus punctatus

Narrow head (See illustration below.)

Spotted Body. Spots often absent on very large individuals.

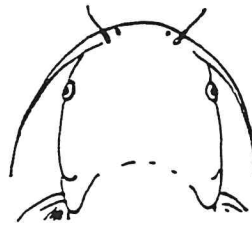
Tail is deeply forked, pointed lobes.



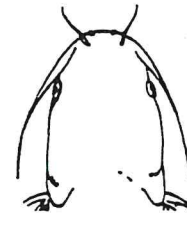
24-29 anal fin rays.

The white catfish has a relatively broader head than the channel catfish.

White Catfish



Channel Catfish



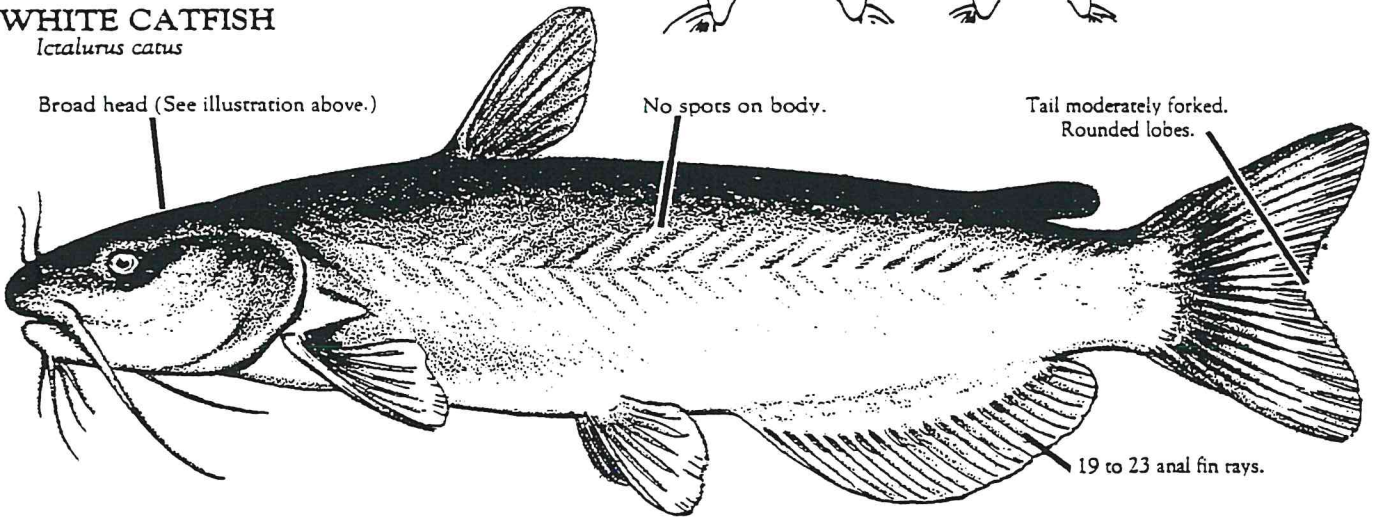
WHITE CATFISH

Ictalurus catus

Broad head (See illustration above.)

No spots on body.

Tail moderately forked. Rounded lobes.



19 to 23 anal fin rays.

CARP

CARP

Cyprinus carpio

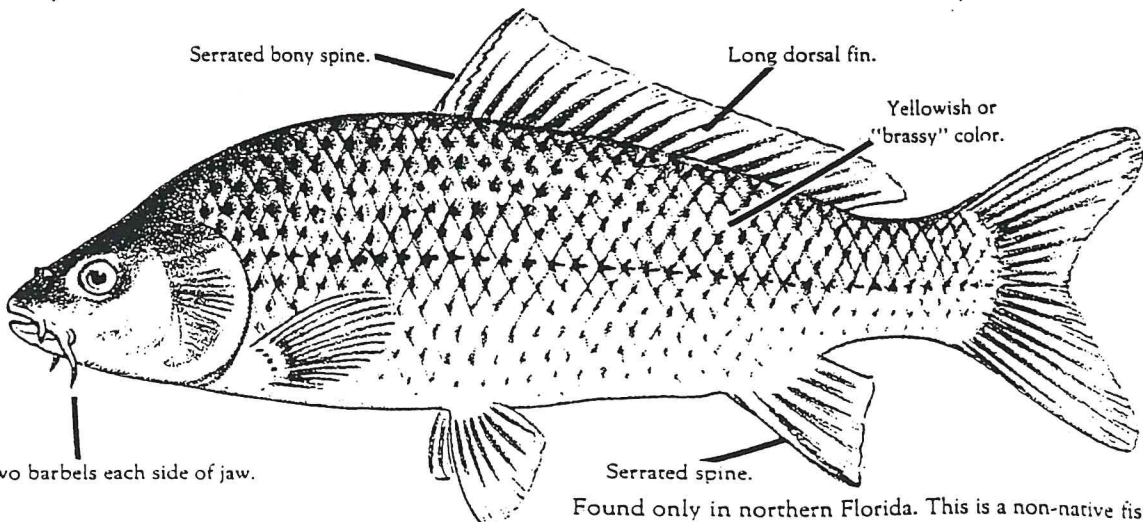
Serrated bony spine.

Long dorsal fin.

Yellowish or "brassy" color.

Two barbels each side of jaw.

Serrated spine.

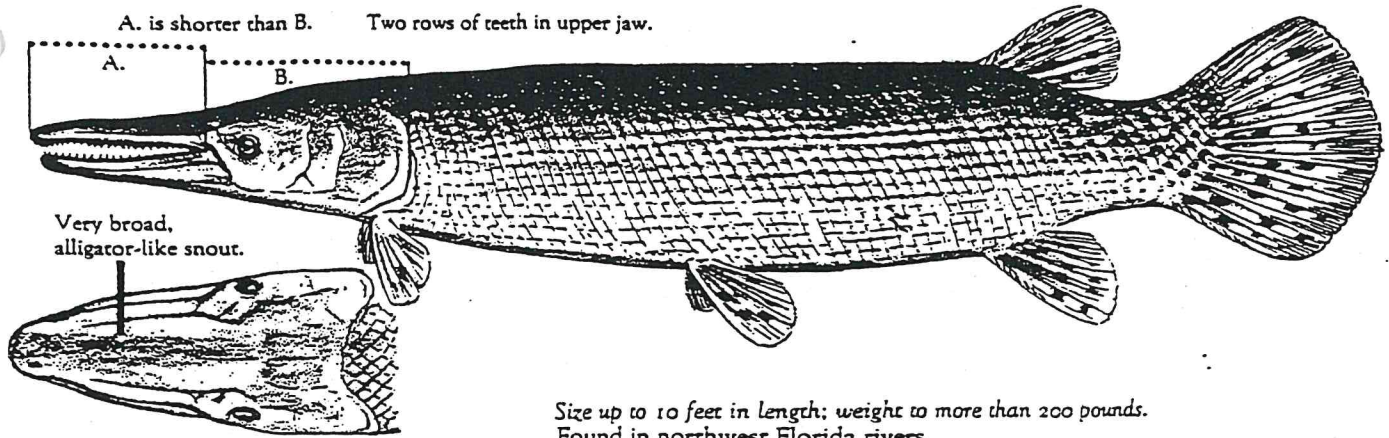


Found only in northern Florida. This is a non-native fish.

GAR

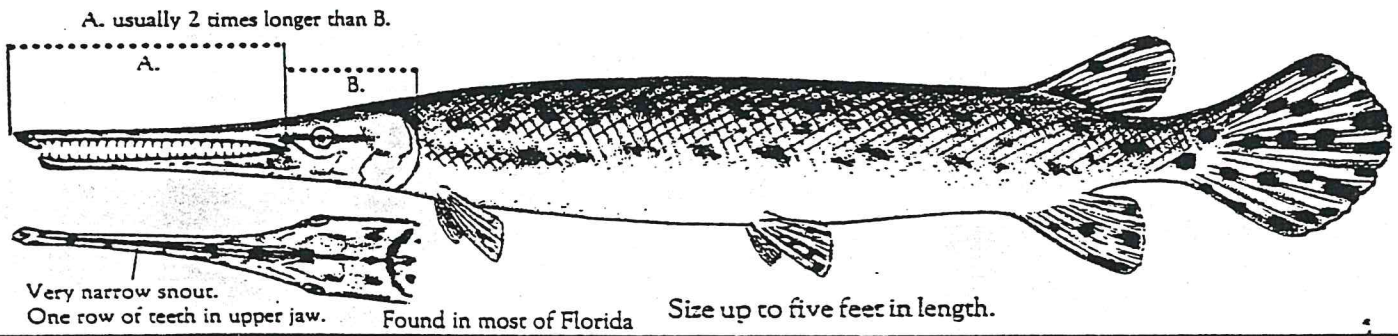
ALLIGATOR GAR

Lepisosteus spatula



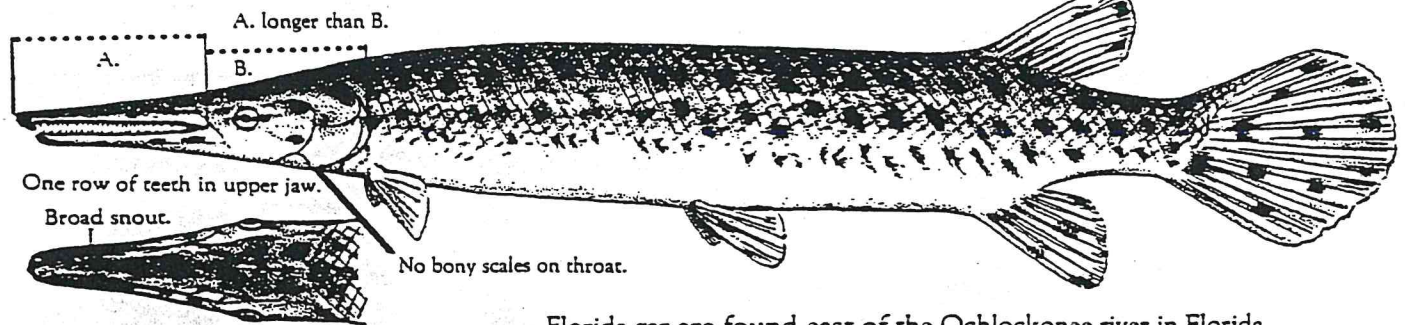
LONGNOSE GAR

Lepisosteus osseus



FLORIDA GAR

Lepisosteus platyrhincus



BOWFIN

BOWFIN (Mudfish)

Amia calva

