



**Brown Trout** (German trout)

- Identification:** • golden brown colour, paler colour in the lakes
- Feaites:** • brown and black spots on its sides, back, and adipose and dorsal fins
- Size:** • a few orange spots with pale haloes on its sides
- Habitat:** • weight ranges from 1.0 to 5.4 kg (2 to 12 lbs.)  
• favours slower stretches of water, eddies in rivers  
• prefers cold clean water (18°C), but is tolerant of warmer water
- Spawning:** • spawns in rivers from October to February
- Habits:** • eggs hatch in spring
- Food:** • does not die after spawning  
• feeds on insects, fish, worms, and spawn  
• surface feed more than other trout
- Angling:** • preferred feeding times are dawn and dusk  
• in streams, takes wet and dry flies, worms, spawn, and spinners  
• in lakes, found closer to the shore than other trout and salmon  
• most often caught by trolling spoons



**Brook Trout** (Speckled trout)

- Identification:** • back is olive green to dark brown; silvery white below
- Features:** • small well-defined spots on sides  
• anal, pelvic and pectoral fins have a white leading edge
- Size:** • averages 0.5 kg (1 lb.)
- Habitat:** • found in cold, clear well-oxygenated streams and lakes  
• prefers summer water temperatures below 20°C (68°F)
- Spawning:** • spawns in the fall
- Habits:** • reaches adulthood at ages 2-3  
• spawns mainly on gravel beds in the shallows of stream headwaters
- Food:** • mainly insect larvae, crustaceans, fish, and worms
- Angling:** • wet or dry flies, spin casting, or live bait  
• trout that most readily accepts angler's bait



**Bowfin** (dogfish, mudfish)

- Identification:** • dark olive, lustrous above, lighter below
- Features:** • yellow brown head with dark horizontal bars  
• black spot twice the size of eye on tail  
• large and rounded tail
- Size:** • average weight 900-1300 g (2-3 lbs.)  
• Can be over 6800 g (15 lbs.)
- Habitat:** • marsh or vegetated bays of warm lakes and rivers  
• can withstand high temperatures and stagnant water
- Spawning:** • spawns at ages 3-5 in the spring
- Habits:** • spawn in shallow vegetated water in lakes and rivers  
• eggs hatch in 8-10 days
- Food:** • aquatic insects, frogs, crayfish, and small fish
- Angling:** • taken using live bait and lures fishing near bottom  
• provides considerable sport when taken with light tackle



**Black Crappie** (crawpie, calico bass, speckled bass)

- Identification:** • depressed forehead
- Features:** • 7 -8 dorsal spines  
• dark spots or blotches on silvery coloured sides  
• dark green to black colour
- Size:** • average weight 230 g (8 oz.), but may reach 0.5 kg (1 lb.)
- Habitat:** • found in shallow, warm water bays having abundant growth of aquatic vegetation  
• prefers clear water with sandy and mud bottoms  
• first spawns at ages 2-4
- Spawning:** • spawns in late spring or early summer
- Habits:** • eggs hatch in 3-5 days  
• aquatic insects, other invertebrates and small fish
- Food:** • takes worms, baitfish, and a variety of artificial lures such as spinners, jigs, and flies
- Angling:** • provides considerable sport on light tackle and fly fishing equipment



**Coho Salmon** (silver salmon, blue back)

- Identification:** • differs from chinook salmon by having white gums in a dark mouth
- Features:** • small black spots confined to the caudal fin and above the lateral line
- Size:** • silver sides, steel grey back, white belly  
• average size 2.2 to 4.5 kg (5 to 10 lbs.)
- Habitat:** • found in Lake Ontario at depths of 16 to 60 m (49-197 ft.)  
• prefers water that is 12-14°C (53-57°F)
- Spawning:** • at ages 3-4, moves into the rivers in the fall to spawn
- Habits:** • does not eat when spawning  
• both males and females die after spawning
- Food:** • feeds on alewife, smelt, insects and crustaceans
- Angling:** • in streams, takes spinners, spawn, and spawn imitations  
• in lakes, may be caught by trolling spoons and salmon baits



**Walleye** (pickerel)

- Identification:** • back is olive brown to golden-brown in colour
- Features:** • undersides milk-white or yellow-white  
• many sharp teeth  
• opaque eye that is very light sensitive
- Size:** • averages 1.4 kg (3 lbs.)
- Habitat:** • prefers large, shallow, turbid lakes  
• often found in up to 15 m (50 ft.) of water
- Spawning:** • spawns in spring or early summer
- Habits:** • spawns on rocky areas in rivers below in-stream obstructions  
• reaches maturity in 2-4 years
- Food:** • mainly small fish, but may eat worms or crayfish
- Angling:** • still-fishing with live minnows  
• artificial lures such as spinners, spoons, plugs, or jigs  
• sunrise and sunset are most productive



**Pumpkinseed** (sunfish, punky, sun bass, yellow sunfish)

- Identification:** • red spot on gill cover
- Features:** • cheeks and gill covered with wavy blue streaks  
• rusty coloured blotches on orange-yellow sides and belly  
• back is greenish olive in colour
- Size:** • average weight 115-215 g (4-8 oz.)
- Habitat:** • found in shallow, sheltered areas of lakes and slow-moving rivers
- Spawning:** • prefers areas with submerged vegetation and brush cover
- Habits:** • reaches maturity in 2 years  
• spawns in late spring to early summer in the shallows of ponds, or slow-moving streams  
• eggs hatch in as little as 3 days
- Food:** • insect larvae, snails, and small fish
- Angling:** • food is taken off the bottom and at the surface  
• easily caught on worms, grasshoppers, small spinners, and flies  
• provides considerable sport on light tackle and fly fishing equipment



**Chinook Salmon** (king salmon)

- Identification:** • black spots on the head, back and both lobes of the caudal fin
- Features:** • mouth lining black with black gums  
• blue green head and back with silver sides
- Size:** • average weight 9.0 kg (20 lbs.)
- Habitat:** • largest caught in Lake Ontario to date was 21.0 kg (47 lbs.)  
• found in Lake Ontario at the depths of 15-60 m (49 -197 ft.)  
• prefers water that is 12-14°C (53 - 57°F)
- Spawning:** • usually spawns at age 4
- Habits:** • moves into the rivers in the fall to spawn  
• does not eat when spawning  
• males and females die after spawning
- Food:** • feeds on alewife, smelt, insects, and crustaceans
- Angling:** • caught in Lake Ontario by trolling spoons, plugs, dodgers, and flies  
• in streams in the fall, readily takes spawn and spinners



**Northern Pike** (great northern pike, jackfish, snake)

- Identification:** • light oval spots on dark green becoming lighter on the side
- Features:** • wavy dark bands on the dorsal, anal, and pelvic fins  
• duck-like jaws  
• 10 pores on underside of jaw
- Size:** • average weight 1-2 kg (2-4 lbs.), but may reach 5 kg (11 lbs.)
- Habitat:** • prefers shallow, well-vegetated areas in warm water  
• frequently found in less than 1m (3 ft.) of water
- Spawning:** • matures at 2-4 years of age
- Habits:** • spring spawner on vegetated floodplains of rivers, marshes, and bays immediately after ice-out  
• eggs hatch in 12-14 days
- Food:** • almost exclusively fish but will eat small animals
- Angling:** • trolling or casting with spoons, plugs, spinners, or spinner baits  
• still-fishing with baitfish at the edge of weed beds



**White Bass** (silver bass, white lake-bass)

- Identification:** • several rows of dark horizontal stripes
- Features:** • back is grey in colour, silvery sides, and white belly
- Size:** • average weight 230 g (8 oz.)
- Habitat:** • prefers clear, moderately deep, cool water with gravel and rock shoals
- Spawning:** • will move into the shallows at night to feed
- Habits:** • first spawns at age 3  
• moves into estuaries or onto shoals to spawn in the spring
- Food:** • eggs hatch in about 48 hours  
• fish, invertebrates, and insects
- Angling:** • feeds in schools  
• spawns in late spring to early summer in the river mouths of ponds, or slow-moving streams  
• spinners and baitfish are most successful  
• at night may be taken with surface lures



**Rock Bass** (red-eye bass, goggle eyes)

- Identification:** • large reddish eyes
- Features:** • dark spots forming horizontal rows on olive brown sides
- Size:** • 11-12 dorsal spines; 5-7 anal spines
- Habitat:** • average weight 115-230 g (4 - 8 oz.)  
• prefers clear pools and protected rocky areas  
• often associated with smallmouth bass and pumpkinseed
- Spawning:** • spawns in late spring to early summer in areas as diverse as swamps and gravel shoals
- Habits:** • eggs hatch in 8-10 days
- Food:** • aquatic insects, crayfish, and small fish
- Angling:** • readily taken on worms, minnows, flies, and small spinners  
• fights hard on light tackle and fly fishing equipment



**Smallmouth Bass** (black bass, brown bass, bronzeback bass)

- Identification:** • jaw extends to mid-point of eye
- Features:** • 8-15 thin vertical bars  
• green to golden-brown back blending into golden sides and a cream-coloured belly
- Size:** • average weight 1 to 1.4 kg (2-3 lbs.)
- Habitat:** • prefers cool clear water
- Spawning:** • often found near rock shoals and areas with a rocky bottom
- Habits:** • reaches adulthood at 3-6 years  
• spawns in late spring and early summer
- Food:** • aquatic insects, crayfish, frogs, and fish
- Angling:** • takes crank baits, plugs, flies, spinners, and spinner baits  
• still-fishing with worms, frogs, crayfish, leeches, and minnows



**Yellow Perch** (lake perch, American perch)

- Identification:** • dark green back blending into yellow sides
- Features:** • 6 to 8 broad dark vertical bars present along sides
- Size:** • average weight 180 g (60 oz.), but may reach 0.5 kg (1.1 lb.)
- Habitat:** • yellow perch are adaptable to a variety of habitats  
• prefers open, clear water with aquatic vegetation and a mud, sand, or gravel bottom
- Spawning:** • first spawns at ages 3-4
- Habits:** • spawns in the spring in lake shallows or tributary rivers  
• eggs hatch in 8-10 days
- Food:** • aquatic insects, crayfish, and small fish
- Angling:** • taken by still-fishing near the bottom with worms or baitfish  
• perch strike lightly and a float may aid in detecting a bite



**Atlantic Salmon** (lake Atlantic salmon, landlocked salmon)

- Identification:** • silvery on sides and below, back and head may be brown, green, or blue
- Features:** • tail and fins may become dark  
• body is very trout like; can be mistaken for brown trout during spawning
- Size:** • average weight 900-1800 g (2-4 lbs.)  
• can be over 16 kg (35 lbs.)
- Habitat:** • found in the shallow upper layers of Lake Ontario following breakup  
• gradually retreating to cooler, deep waters as summer advances
- Spawning:** • as water temperatures cool in the fall, the salmon return to shallower water
- Habits:** • spawns at ages 3-5 in the fall  
• spawns in fresh water streams and rivers  
• does not eat when spawning
- Food:** • eggs hatch in 110 days
- Angling:** • aquatic insects and small fish  
• in streams, takes spinners, spawn, and spawn imitations  
• in lakes, may be caught by trolling spoons and salmon baits



**Largemouth Bass** (black bass, green bass, bucketmouth)

- Identification:** • jaw extends past the eye
- Features:** • broad dark horizontal stripe  
• dark green back blending into lighter green side and belly
- Size:** • average weight 0.5-1.4 kg (1-3 lbs.), but may reach 2.3 kg (5 lbs.)
- Habitat:** • found near weedbeds, logs, stumps, and other sunken objects  
• prefers warm water less than 6 m (20 ft.) deep
- Spawning:** • reaches maturity in 3-5 years
- Habits:** • spawns in late spring to early summer  
• eggs hatch in 3-5 days
- Food:** • aquatic insects, crayfish, frogs, and fish
- Angling:** • caught along weedbeds and sunken objects  
• takes surface plugs, crankbaits, spinners, spinner baits, and flies  
• caught still-fishing with worms, leeches, frogs, and crayfish



**White Sucker** (common sucker, eastern sucker)

- Identification:** • dark gold to brown back and silvery sides
- Features:** • overhanging snout with a thick lipped mouth
- Size:** • average weight 0.5 kg (1 lb.)
- Habitat:** • found on the bottom of rivers and lakes
- Spawning:** • first spawns at 3-4 years old
- Habits:** • in the spring, moves into rivers to spawn  
• eggs are scattered over river bed and adhere to substrate  
• eggs hatch in 2-3 weeks
- Food:** • aquatic larvae, vegetation, and worms
- Angling:** • feeds on the bottom  
• taken by dip nets during the spring spawning run  
• can be caught still-fishing on the bottom with a small hook baited with a worm or doughball  
• best eaten in the spring when taken from cold water



**Rainbow Trout** (Kamloops trout, steelhead)

- Identification:** • heavily spotted along side and the caudal and dorsal fins
- Features:** • back is green to greenish blue; sides silvery  
• often has a pinkish band along its sides
- Size:** • in small bodies of water averages 200 g (7 oz.)  
• in Lake Ontario 0.9 to 6.8 kg (2 to 15 lbs.)
- Habitat:** • prefers cold, clean water (13°C)  
• found in both lakes and streams
- Spawning:** • reaches adulthood in 3-5 years
- Habits:** • mainly spawns in the spring, but also enters rivers in the fall  
• does not die after spawning
- Food:** • insects, fish, and spawn
- Angling:** • in streams, takes wet and dry flies, worms, corn, spinners, spawn, and spawn imitations  
• in lakes, may be taken with minnows, worms, spoons, and plugs



**Lake Trout** (laker, Great Lakes trout, mackinaw trout)

- Identification:** • deeply forked tail
- Features:** • colour varies from greenish grey to pale silver  
• white spots on its sides, head, and caudal and dorsal fins
- Size:** • white leading edge on the pelvic and anal fins
- Habitat:** • weight ranges from 0.9 to 4.5 kg (2 to 10 lbs.)  
• prefers the cold, clear deeper areas of Lake Ontario
- Spawning:** • only uses the shallow shorelines when the water is cold
- Habits:** • adulthood is reached in 5-7 years  
• spawns in the fall on lake shoals  
• eggs hatch in 4-5 weeks
- Food:** • feeds mainly on alewife and other fish
- Angling:** • can be caught using minnows, spinners, jigs, and spoons



**Carp** (German carp, European carp, leather carp)

- Identification:** • two barbels on each side of the upper jaw
- Features:** • saw-edged spiny dorsal fin ray  
• large thick scales
- Size:** • back is dark green to brown becoming yellowish on the belly  
• average weight 2 kg (4 lbs.), but fish over 7 kg (15 lbs.) are common
- Habitat:** • warm, shallow water with much aquatic vegetation
- Spawning:** • carp are tolerant of poor environmental conditions
- Habits:** • reaches maturity in 3 years  
• spawns in early spring and summer in weedy or grassy shallows  
• eggs hatch within 3-6 days
- Food:** • feeds mainly on aquatic vegetation and insects
- Angling:** • taken by fishing the bottom with corn kernels, doughballs, or worms  
• still-fishing with the aid of a float is most effective



**Brown Bullhead** (brown catfish, mudcat, common catfish)

- Identification:** • dark barbels on chin
- Features:** • square tail fin  
• thick saw-toothed spines on dorsal and pectoral fins  
• dark brown becoming creamy on the belly
- Size:** • average weight 230 g (8 oz.) but may exceed 0.9 kg (2 lbs.)
- Habitat:** • found in shallow, warm water near sand or mud bottoms  
• tolerant of very poor environmental conditions
- Spawning:** • first spawns at age 3
- Habits:** • spawns in late spring to early summer in mud or sand  
• eggs hatch in 6-9 days
- Food:** • insect larvae, crayfish, snails, and aquatic vegetation
- Angling:** • feeds at night on the bottom, using barbels to locate food  
• taken by still-fishing with worms, doughballs, stinkbaits and baitfish  
• the reddish colour flesh is surprisingly delicious

