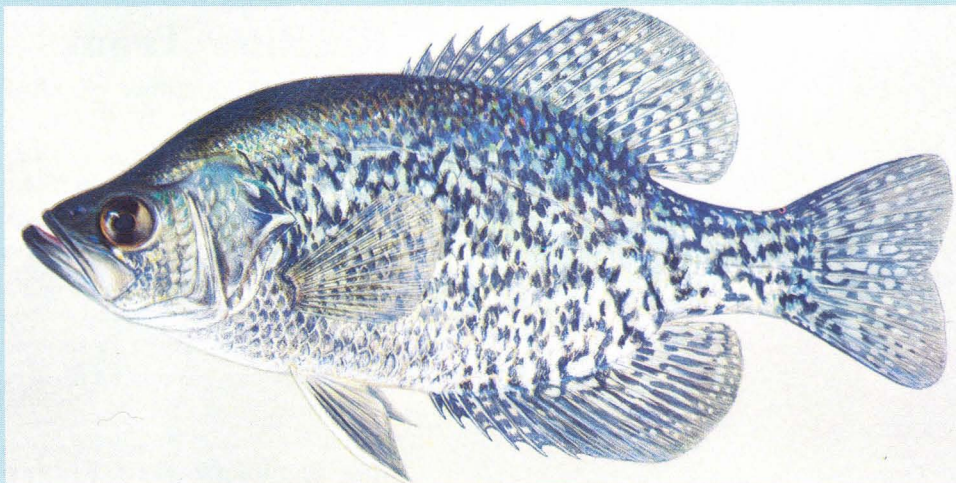


White Crappie

A favorite of Kansas anglers and found in nearly all waters of the state, white crappie closely resemble black crappie. The white crappie has five or six stiff spines in front of the fin located on its back, called the dorsal fin. Body markings include faintly dark vertical bars.

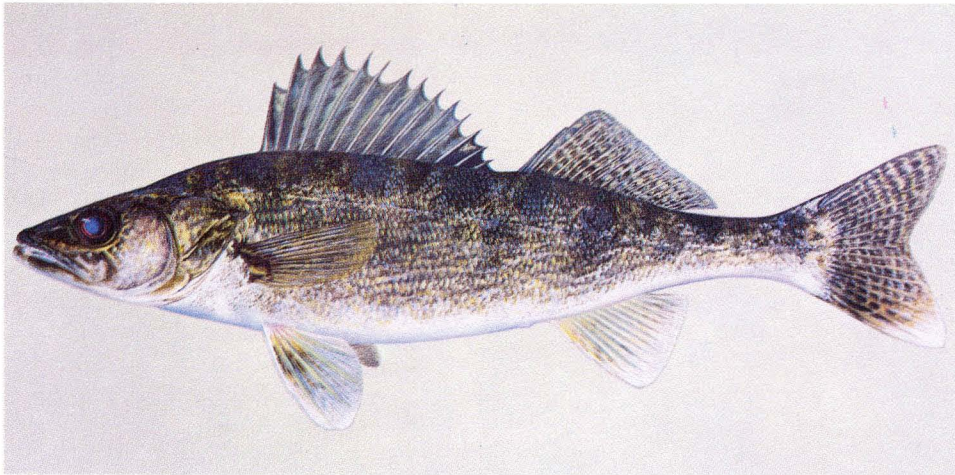
Kansas Fishes

Illustrations by Maynard Reece, courtesy of Iowa Conservation Commission



Black Crappie

Not as abundant as the white, black crappie have seven or eight stiff spines in front of the dorsal fin. The body is peppered with black splotches; no vertical barring. This species seems to prefer clearer, cooler water than the white.

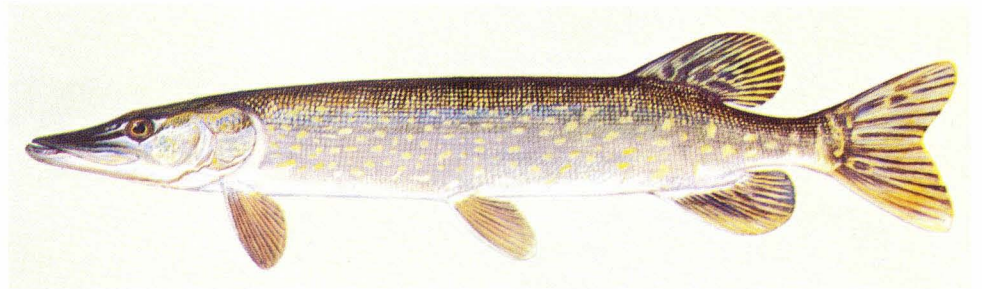


Walleye

Considered one of the kings on the table, the walleye is a much sought after inhabitant of most large federal reservoirs in Kansas. Note the two separate dorsal fins and torpedo-shaped body. This predator has teeth you should avoid while taking out the hook.

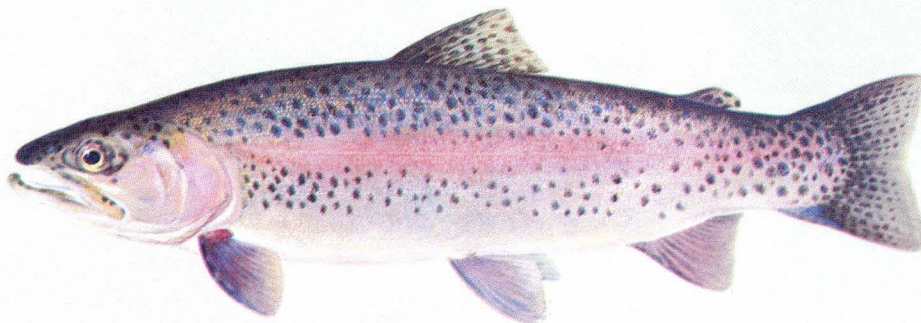
Northern Pike

Another voracious predator, the northern is built for speed. Often called "snake", its trim figure and large teeth are unmistakable.



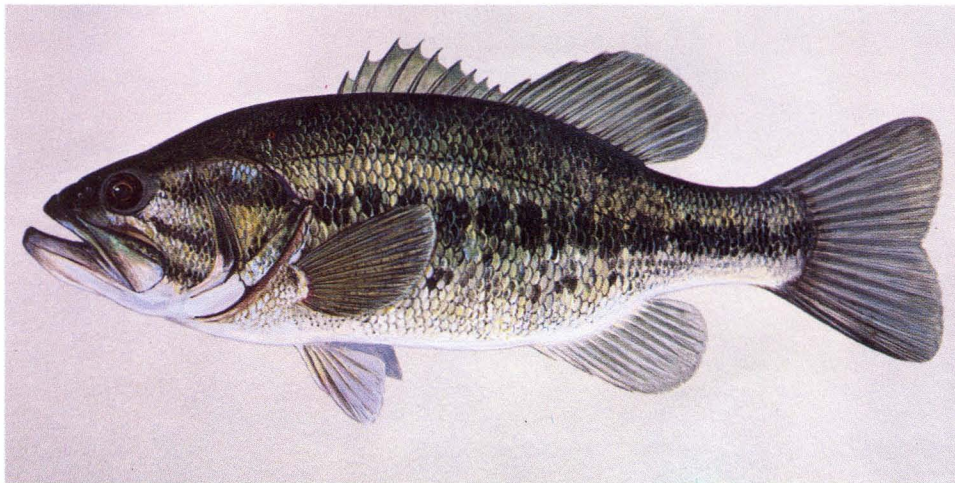
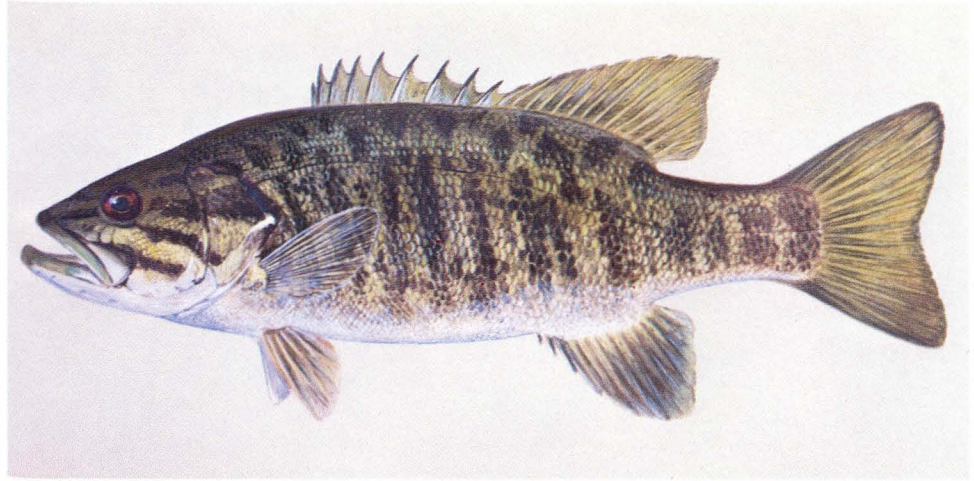
Rainbow Trout

Recent introductions of rainbows by the Fish & Game Commission should establish this species as a real Kansas trophy fish in the future. It has a uniquely colored body and a small fatty fin behind the dorsal. Rainbows have been introduced at Cedar Bluff Reservoir and spillway, Webster Reservoir spillway, below Tuttle Creek Reservoir in Tuttle Puddle, the Rocky Ford Fishing Area, and Wyandotte County Lake.



Smallmouth Bass

Sometimes called “bronze-back”, the smallmouth has vague vertical barring on its sides. Note jaw extending to just below eye. The species is being introduced to more Kansas waters because of its fighting ability but is much more limited in distribution than the largemouth. Populations are developing in Milford and Clinton reservoirs in northeast Kansas.

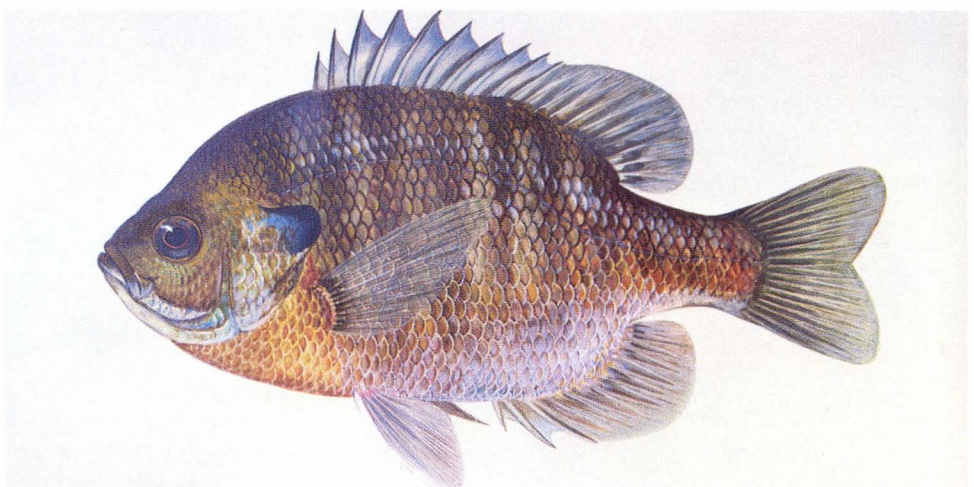


Largemouth Bass

As its name implies, this species has the largest mouth of any bass. The jaw extends behind the eye—not just to the back edge of the eye, but behind it. Body color varies with water and time of year, but generally largemouths are green-backed with light sides and a dusky lengthwise stripe. Not shown is the spotted bass, common to Flint Hills streams and lakes, in which the jaw goes below but not beyond the eye. The spotted bass has a darker more diamond-shaped pattern on its lateral line.

Bluegill

The small mouth and blue-tipped tab on the end of the gill cover are dead giveaways for this panfish. The bluegill's body is rounder than the green sunfish's or warmouth's; it often has faint vertical barring on its sides.



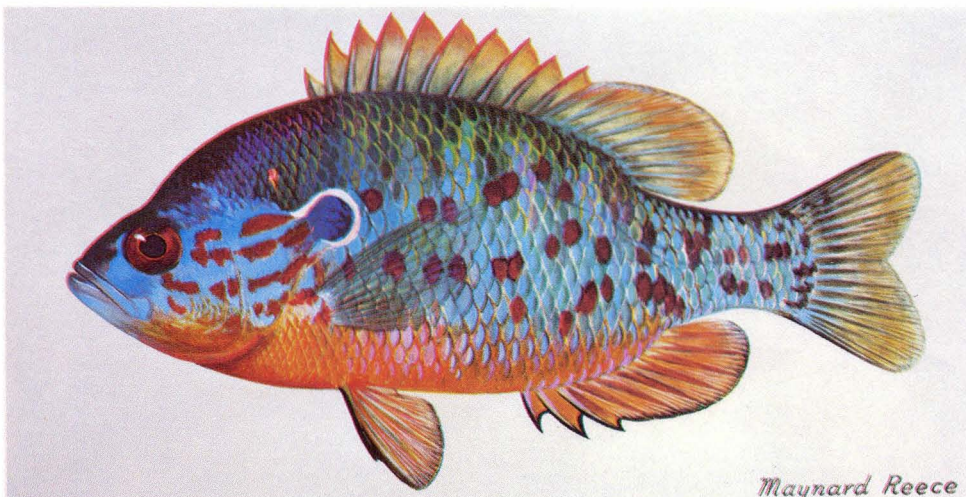


Warmouth

This yellowish-brown panfish has red eyes and a mouth that is considerably larger than the bluegill's. It is mainly found in lakes of eastern Kansas.

Green Sunfish

The green body, large mouth, and usual yellow-edged fins are key identifying marks of the green sunfish, very abundant throughout Kansas. This state ties the world record for green sunfish at two pounds, two ounces taken from the strip pits in southeast Kansas.

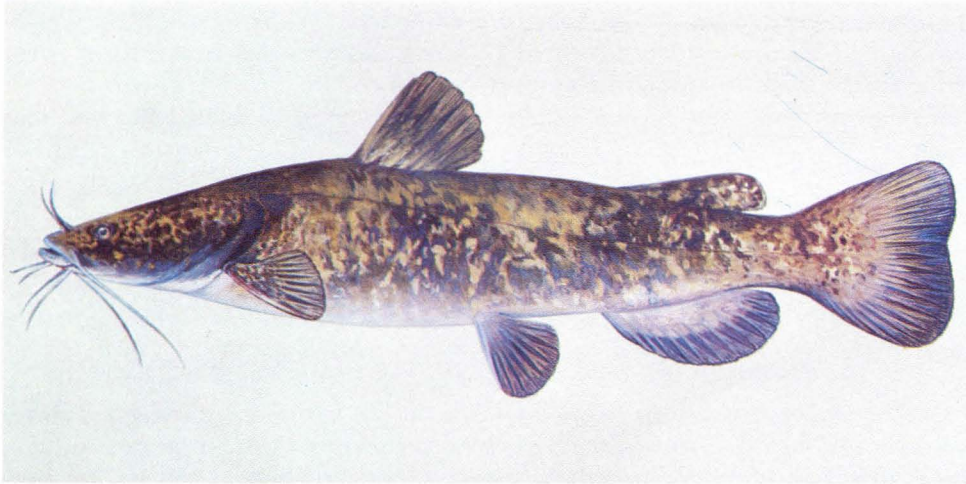
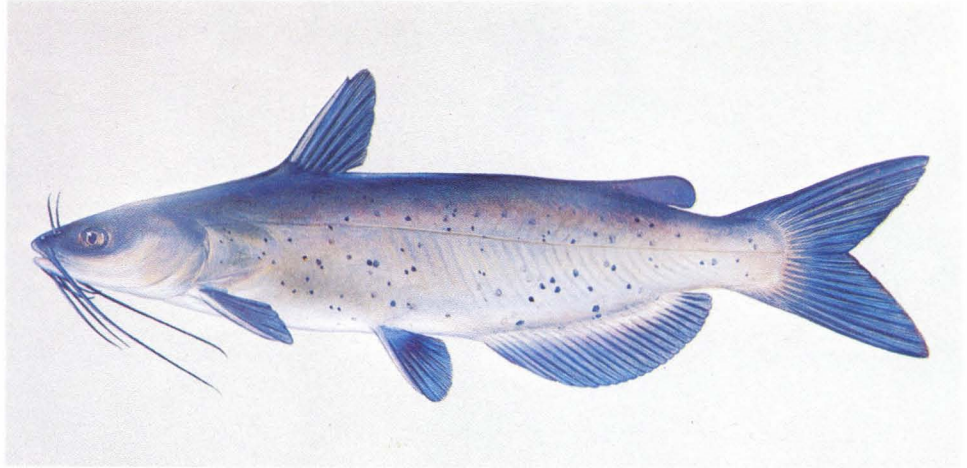


Orangespot Sunfish

Rarely caught by anglers, the orangespot sunfish just doesn't quite make it to eating size. One of the state's most colorful fishes, orangespots are found throughout Kansas.

Channel Catfish

There are no scales on any of the catfish family. The deeply forked tail and general color separates the channel cat from other catfish family members. The blue cat is not shown but resembles the channel except that the blue cat has a heavier body and is usually much more blue or silver in color, with a rear belly fin having about thirty-two rays instead of less than thirty in the channel catfish.

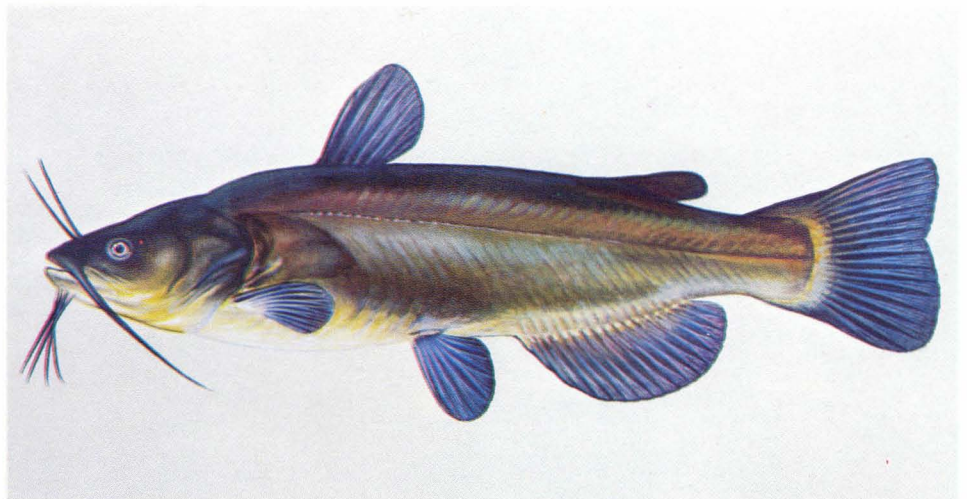


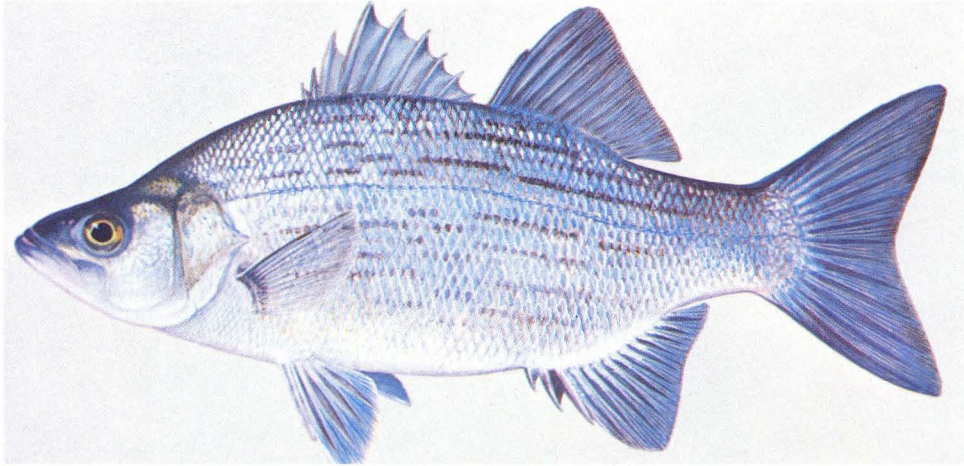
Flathead Catfish

A broad, flat head, with body coloring of yellowish brown mark this species which is often referred to as the “yellow cat”. It may reach 100 pounds or more, preferring pools of large streams and spillways of large reservoirs.

Black Bullhead

This catfish does not have a forked tail. Its barbels under the chin are darker than the skin in that area, distinguishing it from the yellow bullhead, not shown, which has light colored chin whiskers.





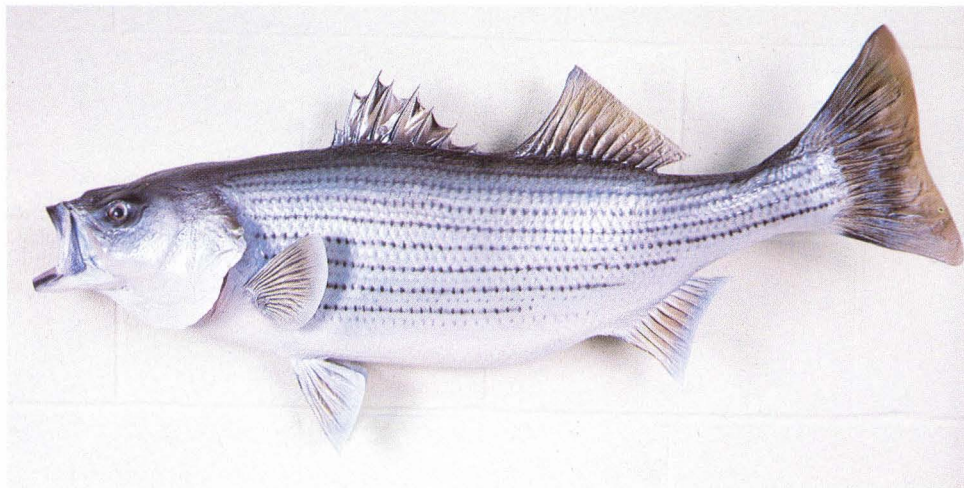
White Bass

An abundant sportfish, existing in large schools in most Kansas federal reservoirs, white bass up to two pounds, can be caught by the dozens. Since recent introductions of the striped bass into these same waters, biologists feel that anglers may be misidentifying some of the smaller stripers, thinking they are white bass. White bass seldom weigh more than three pounds, although Kansas held the world record for many years—a five pound, four ounce from Toronto Reservoir. The lengthwise stripes on white bass are faint and often broken. White bass are deeper bodied than stripers and not nearly so torpedo-shaped. White bass have a single series or a patch of small teeth on their tongues which can be felt with your finger.

Striped Bass

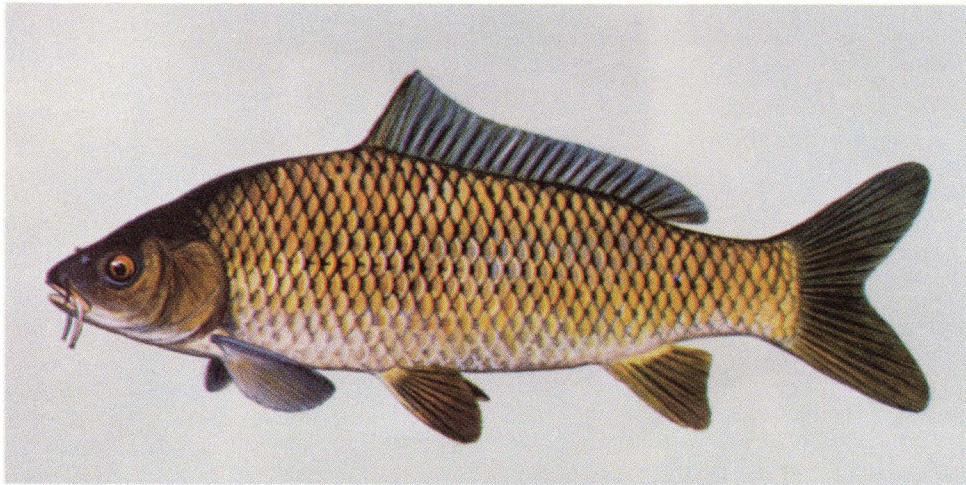
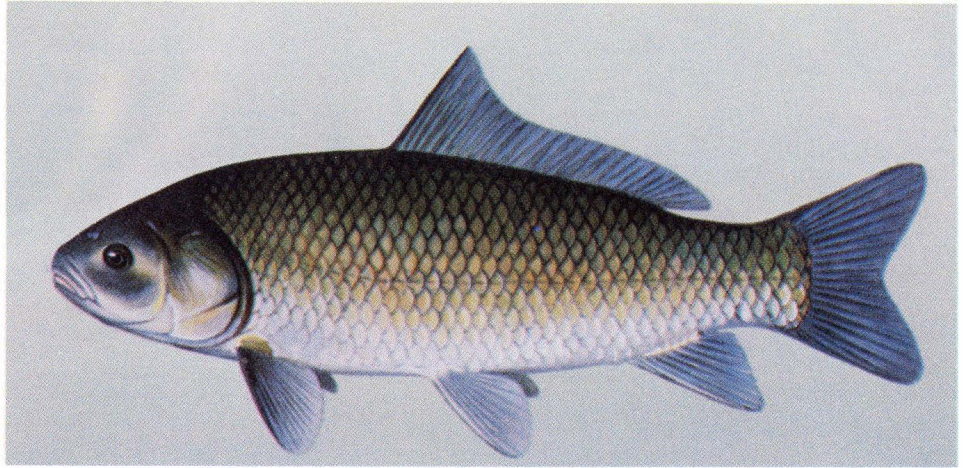
Introduced to many large federal reservoirs in Kansas, the stripers are reaching fifty pounds in Kansas, but when they are less than five pounds, they can be mistaken for white bass. As the name implies, stripers have distinct, unbroken lateral lines on their sides. The tongue of the striper has two parallel patches of small teeth which you can feel with your finger. There is no limit on the number of white bass that can be taken.

Striper-white bass hybrid—Kansas biologists have crossed the striped bass with the white, producing a hybrid known as the “wiper”, not shown. It appears that wipers combine the best characteristics of both the striper and the white bass. The wiper gets much bigger than the white and adapts to varied conditions better than the striper; wipers are stocked in impoundments where stripers won't do well. Wipers look about the same as white bass until they reach three pounds or so. Then they take on the appearance of the striper, except their lateral striping is not nearly as distinct and they are not quite so torpedo-shaped.



Bigmouth Buffalo

Seldom caught by anglers because it eats plankton on the bottoms of streams and lakes, the buffalo lacks the chin barbels found on carp. Buffalo may reach more than fifty pounds in Kansas and are found in the eastern one-third of the state.

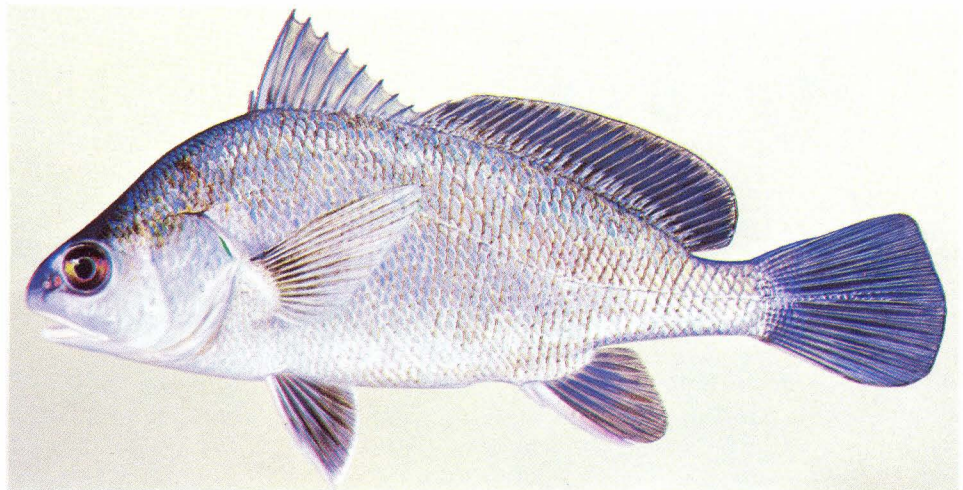


Carp

Found throughout Kansas, the carp is the largest species of the minnow family. Two barbels on each side of the mouth and a saw-edged spine at the beginning of the dorsal fin are key identification marks.

Drum

A highly arched back, straight belly line, and a rounded tail distinguish the drum. It's name comes from a "booming" sound thought to relate to reproductive activities which are largely unknown.



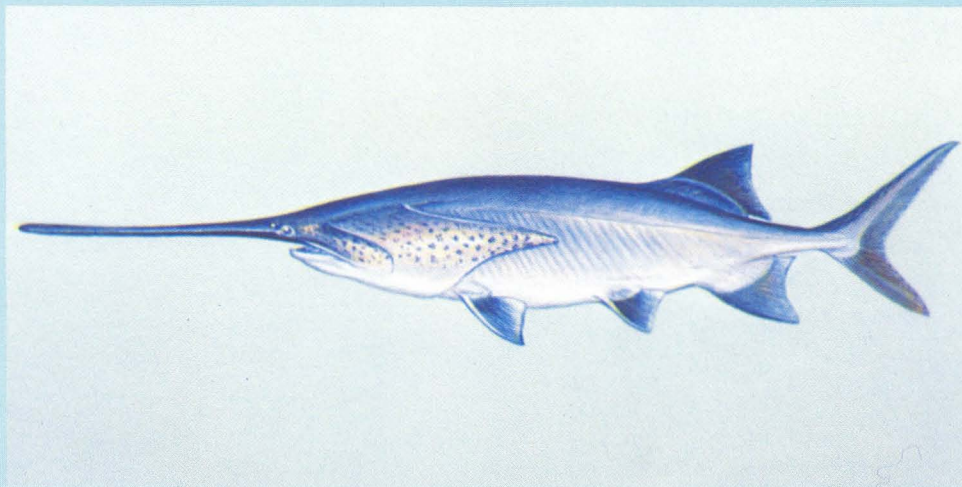
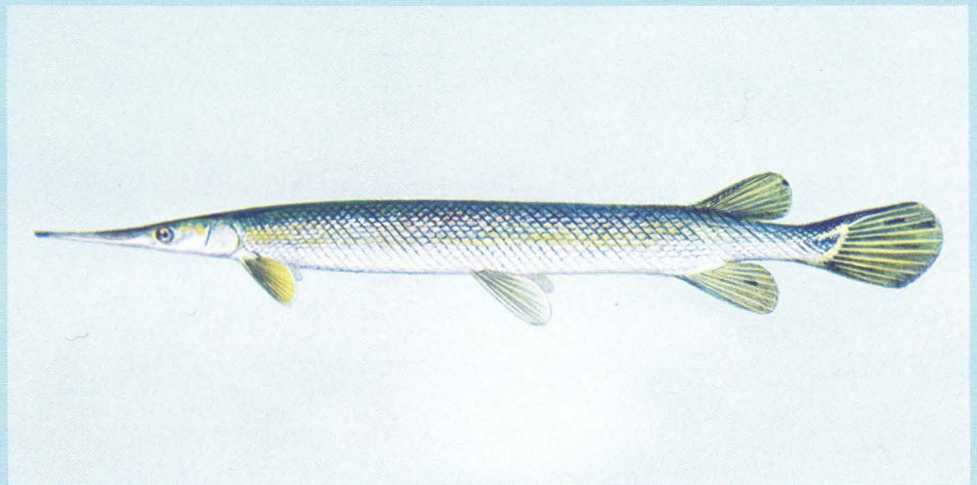


Longnose Gar

Its beak is much more slender and long than the shortnose gar's. This species has reached more than thirty pound in Kansas, compared to the shortnose which seldom get above three or four pounds, and the spotted gar which is usually less than five pounds.

Shortnose Gar

This streamlined predator differs from the longnose gar by having as you may have guessed, a shorter nose. The shortnose gar's jaw is always less than twice as long as the rest of its head. The shortnose differs from another gar, the spotted which is common to some southeast Kansas waters, in that the shortnose never has dark rounded spots on the head.



Paddlefish

Also called the spoonbill for obvious reasons; once you see one, you'll never forget it. This prehistoric species is common in the Marias des Cygnes and Neosho Rivers during spring as it makes upstream spawning runs. Paddlefish may reach more than 100 pounds. They have no teeth, relying on a straining mechanism to feed on microscopic plankton.