

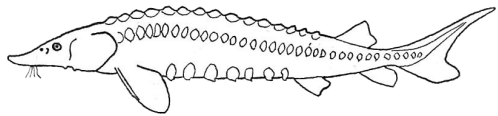
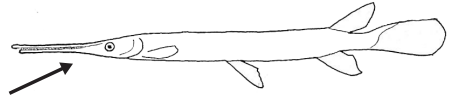
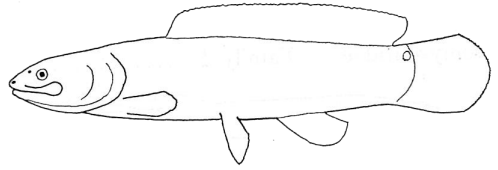
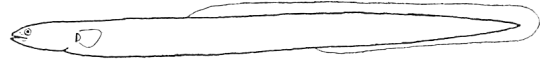


KEY TO OHIO FISH FAMILIES

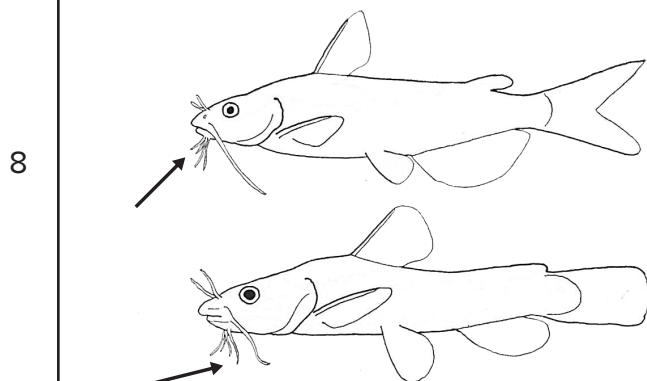
Note: This key is adapted from Trautman's (1981) *The Fishes of Ohio* and is intended for use during aquatic environmental education workshops offered by The Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory.

- 1 [No pectoral or pelvic fins.
LAMPREY FAMILY Petromyzontidae

- 2 [Has pectoral fins and usually pelvic fins.
(Class Osteichthyes, subclass Teleostomi)..... 2
 - 2 [Has heterocercal caudal fin, vertebrae extends to upper lobe of caudal 3
 - 2 [Has homocercal caudal fin, vertebrae end at base of caudal 6
- 3 [Caudal fin forked 4
- 3 [Caudal fin rounded 5
- 4 [Has long paddle-like snout.
PADDLEFISH FAMILY Polyodontidae

- 4 [Has short, rounded or shovel-shaped snout.
STURGEON FAMILY Acipenseridae

- 5 [Has long, narrow, beak-like snout.
GAR FAMILY Lepisosteidae

- 5 [Has short, rounded snout and a gular plate (bony plate under chin).
BOWFIN FAMILY Amiidae

- 6 [No pelvic fins, dorsal-caudal-anal fins continuous
EEL FAMILY Anguillidae

- 6 [Has pelvic fins and distinct dorsal, caudal and anal fins 7

7	Has an adipose fin	8
	No adipose fin	11

Has 8 or at least 4 barbels near mouth. Dorsal and pectoral fins each with a large spine.
No scales.

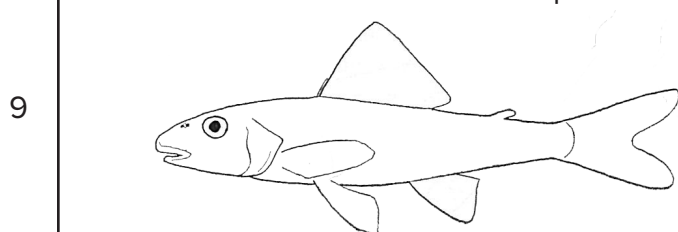
CATFISH FAMILY Ictaluridae



No barbels near mouth. Has scales..... 9

Has ctenoid scales (body stroked backwards feels rough)

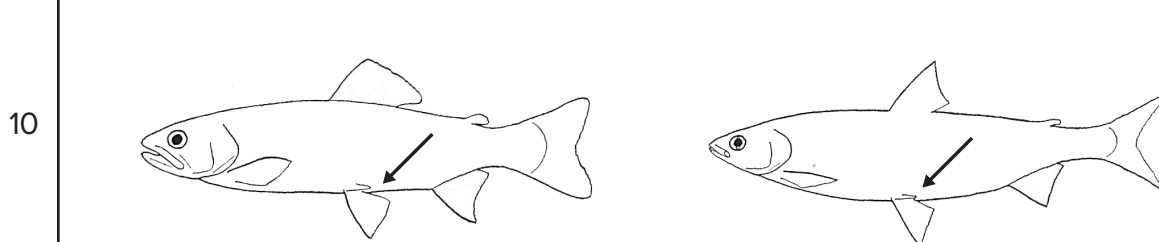
TROUT-PERCH FAMILY Percopsidae



Has cycloid scales. No spines10

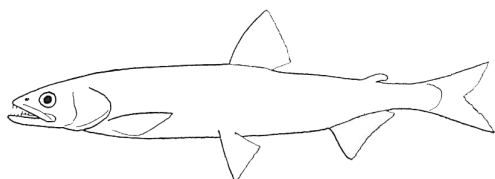
Has pelvic axillary process.

SALMON AND WHITEFISH FAMILY Salmonidae



No pelvic axillary process.

SMELT FAMILY Osmeridae



Has 1 barbel near tip of chin.

FRESHWATER COD FAMILY Gadidae

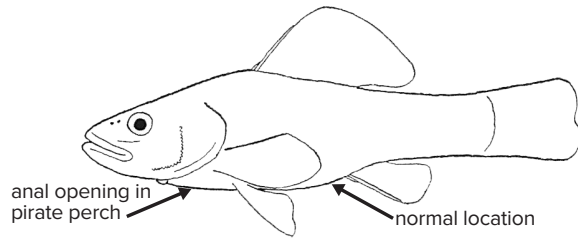


No barbel near tip of chin12

Anal opening in front of pelvic fin.

PIRATE PERCH FAMILY Aphredoderidae

12

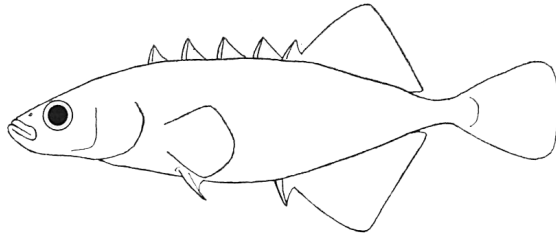


Anal opening in normal location 13

Has 4-6 dorsal spines not connected by membrane.

STICKELBACK FAMILY Gasterosteidae

13



Has dorsal fin without spines or dorsal fin with spines connected by membrane..... 14

14

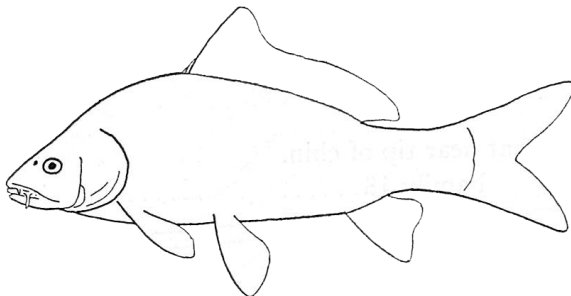
Has dorsal fin without spines or dorsal fin with only 1 stout spine. No pelvic spines..... 15

Has 2 separated dorsal fins or dorsal fin with more than 1 spine..... 23

Has dorsal fin with 1 stout spine.

CARP or GOLDFISH Cyprinidae (in part)

15



Has dorsal fin without spines..... 16

16

No scales on head 17

Has some scales on head and cheeks..... 20

17

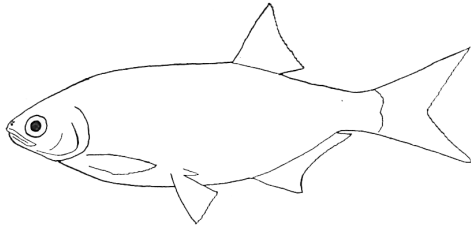
Has pelvic axillary process 18

No pelvic axillary process 19

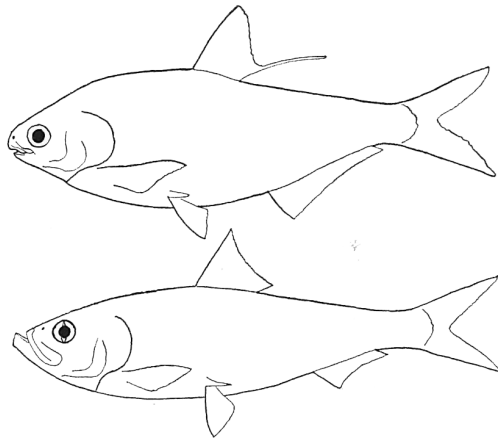
Has lateral line and sharp teeth on tongue.

MOONEYE FAMILY Hiodontidae

18



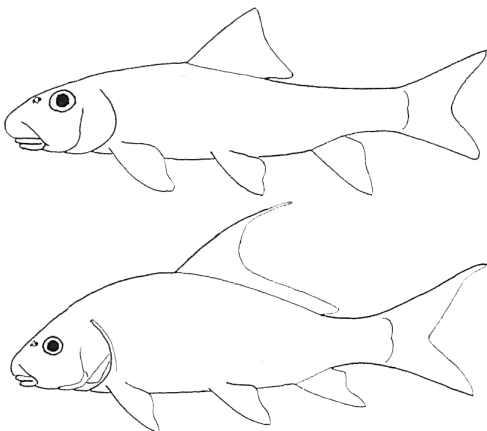
HERRING FAMILY Clupeidae



Has 10 or more dorsal rays and sucker-like mouth (a few exceptions have 9 rays).
Anal fin nearly reaches caudal fin when folded.

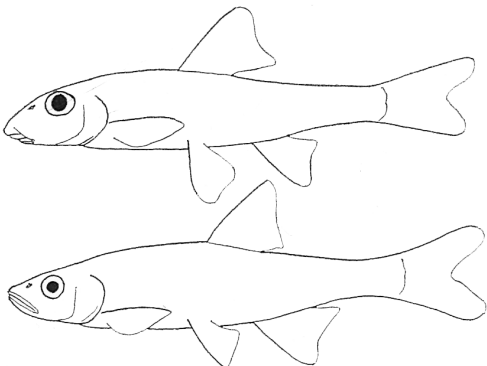
SUCKER FAMILY Catostomidae

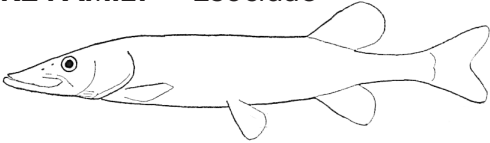
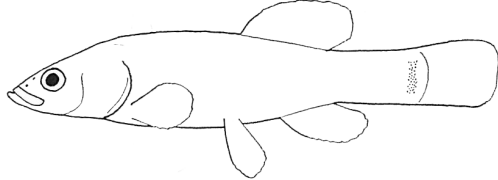
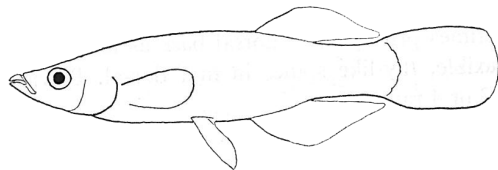
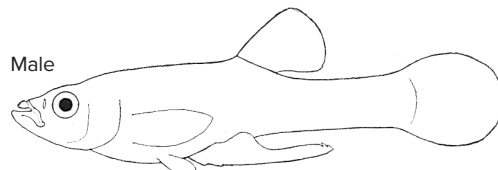
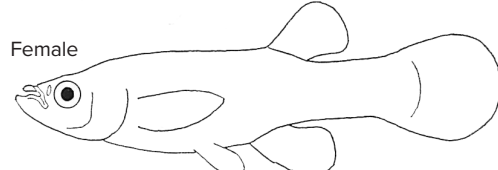
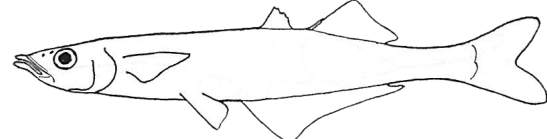

19



Has 8 dorsal rays (or 9 in one exception). Anal fin cannot reach caudal fin when folded.

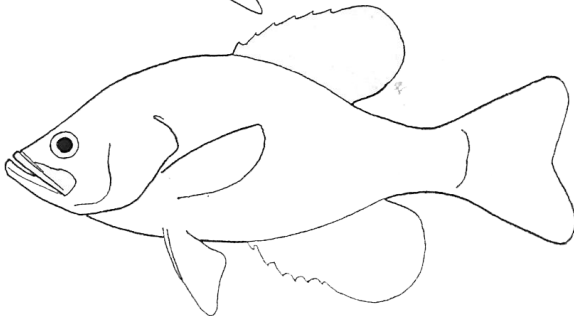
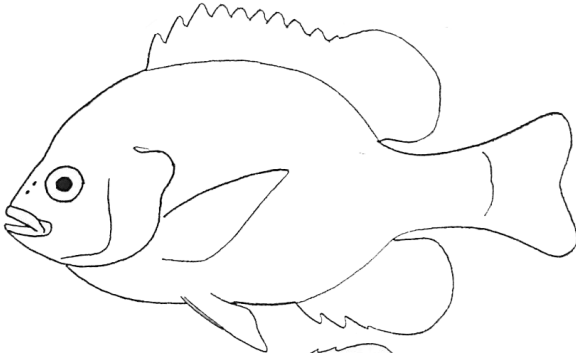
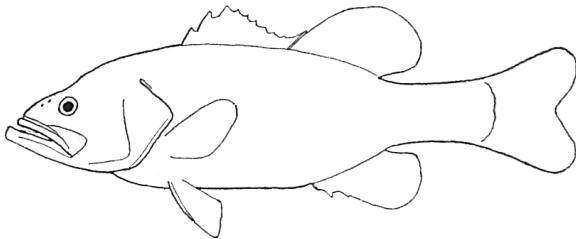
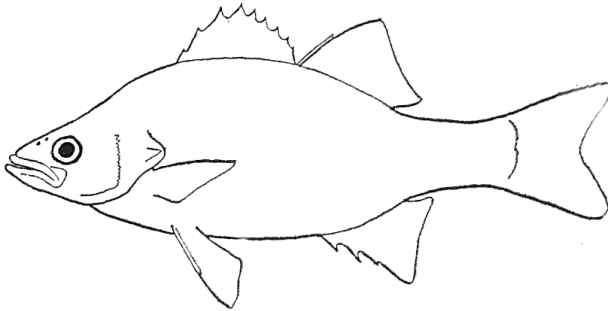
MINNOW FAMILY Cyprinidae (in part)



20	<p>Caudal fin deeply forked. Duck-like snout and large canine teeth.</p> <p>PIKE FAMILY Esocidae</p> 	
21	<p>Caudal fin rounded. Velcro-like teeth</p> <p>Pre-maxillaries not protractile. Origin of pelvic fins closer to base of caudal fin than to tip of nose.</p> <p>MUDMINNOW FAMILY Umbridae</p> 	21
22	<p>Pre-maxillaries protractile. Origin of pelvic fins midway or closer to tip of nose than to base of caudal fin</p> <p>Third anal ray branched. Male and female anal fins alike. Female lays eggs.</p> <p>TOPMINNOW AND KILLIFISH FAMILY Fundulidae</p> 	22
	<p>Third anal ray unbranched. Male anal fin unlike female's.</p> <p>LIVEBEARER FAMILY Poeciliidae</p> <div>  <p>Male</p>  <p>Female</p> </div>	
23	<p>Body has cycloid scales (body stroked backwards feels smooth) or is scaleless. Dorsal fins separated; frail spines in first dorsal.....</p> <p>Body has ctenoid scales (body stroked backwards feels rough). Dorsal fins separated or conjoined with stiff, sharp spines</p>	24 25
24	<p>Body has cycloid scales.</p> <p>SILVERSIDE FAMILY Atherinidae</p> 	
	<p>Body is scaleless or with a few small, spiny prickles.</p> <p>SCULPINS Cottidae</p> 	

- 25 { Has 3 or more anal spines; stiff and sharp26
 { Has 1-2 anal spines; sometimes weak and flexible27

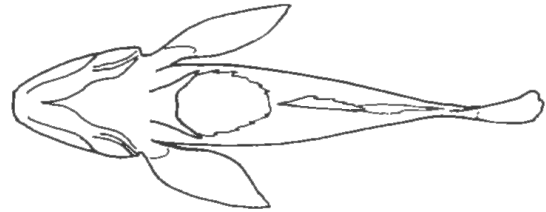
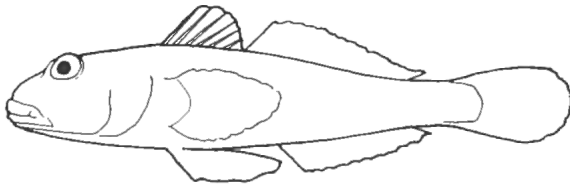
- 26 { Has dorsal fins completely separated or just slightly conjoined at base. Opercle flap with spine.
SEA BASS FAMILY Moronidae
 { Has dorsal fins completely conjoined; separated at most by deep notch. Opercle flap lacks spine.
SUNFISH FAMILY (including Blackbasses) Centrarchidae



Fused pelvic fins.

GOBY FAMILY Gobiidae

27

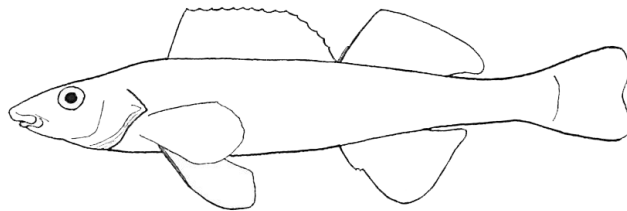
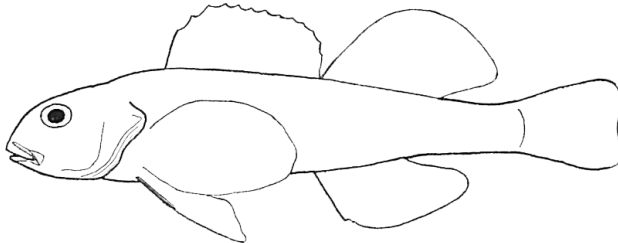
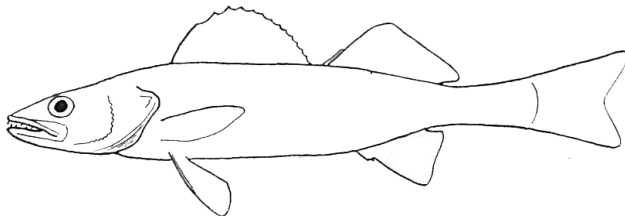


Separate pelvic fins28

Lateral line ends before caudal fin. Torpedo-shaped body; body depth less than head length (except in gravid females). Anal spines weak.

PERCH FAMILY Percidae

28



Lateral line extends onto caudal fin. Slab-sided body; body depth much greater than head length. Second anal spine extremely long and heavy.

DRUM FAMILY Sciaenidae

