

THE
COMMON
FISHES OF
ILLINOIS

ABC

COLORING BOOK



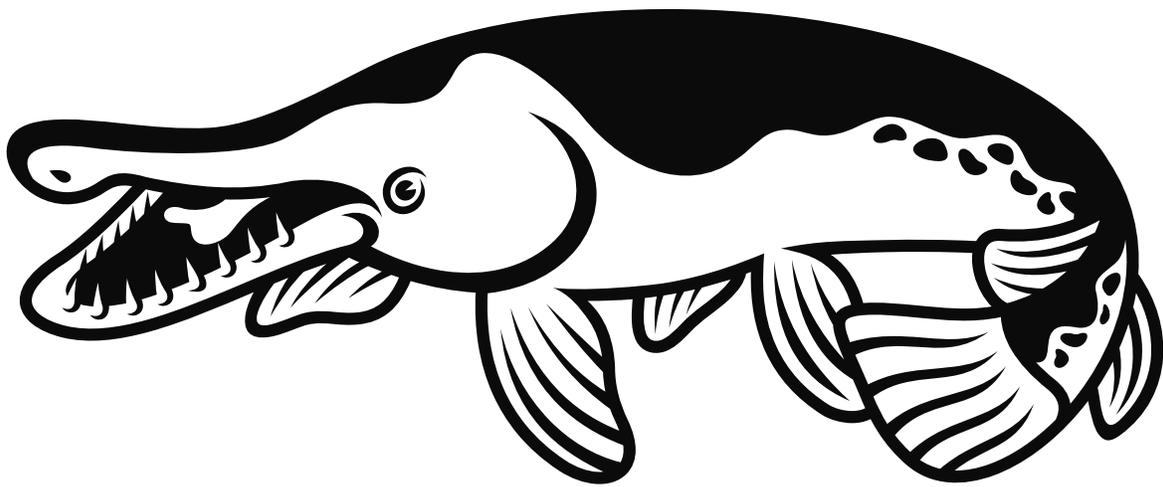
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

IDPH

PROTECTING HEALTH, IMPROVING LIVES

A a

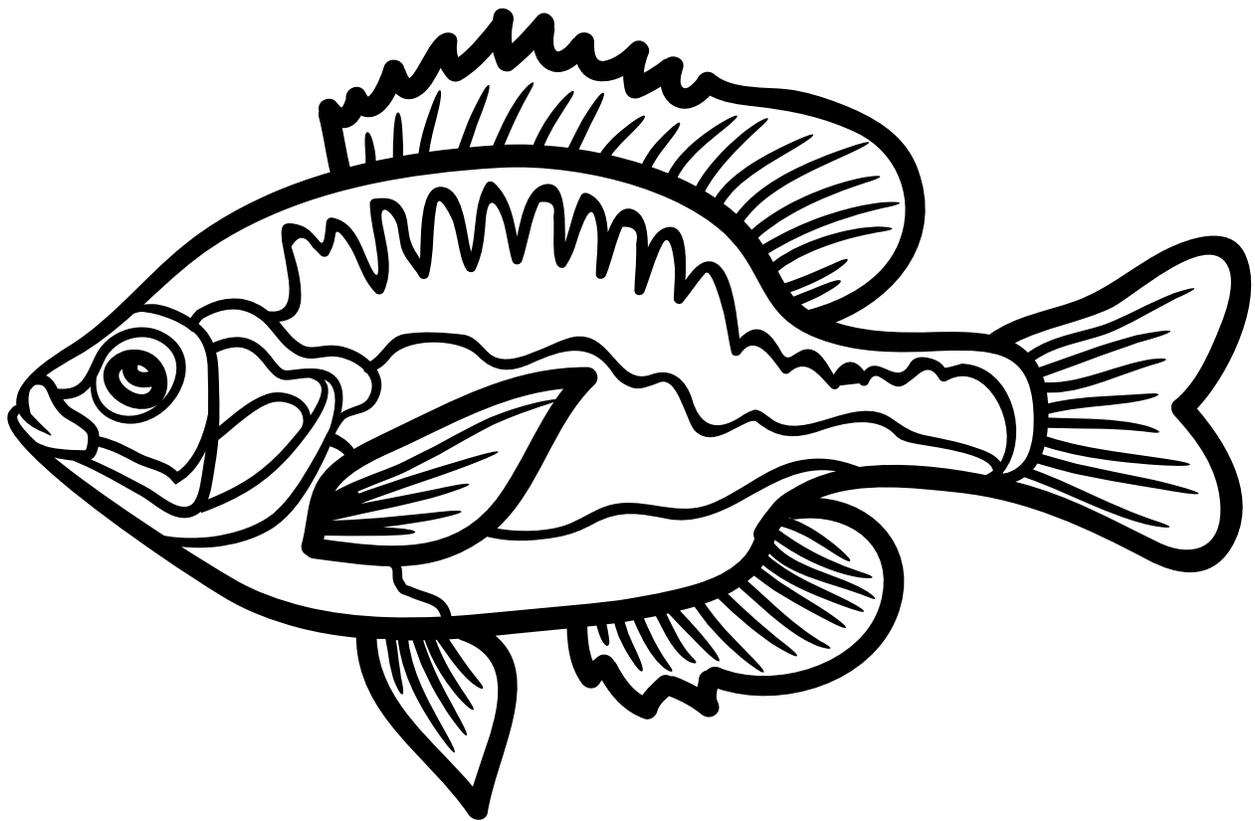
is for
**Alligator
Gar**



Gar, specifically the alligator gar, is the largest fish native to Illinois. In the 1990's, they were officially declared extinct. In 2010, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources began the Alligator Gar Reintroduction Program.

Bb

is for
Bluegill

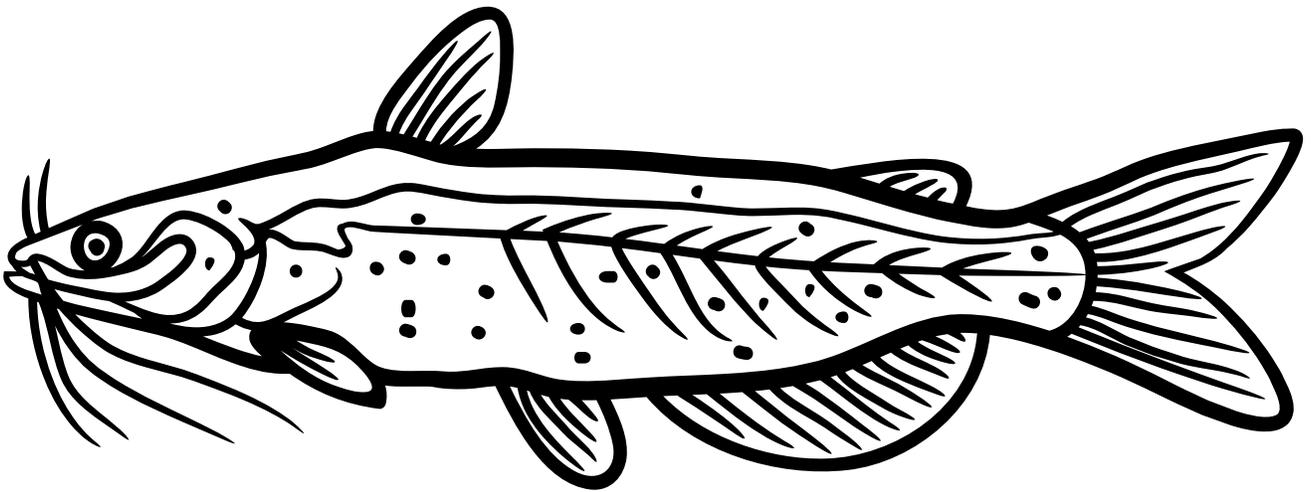


Bluegill, the Illinois state fish, are most abundant in clear lakes with large amounts of aquatic vegetation.

Cc

is for

Catfish

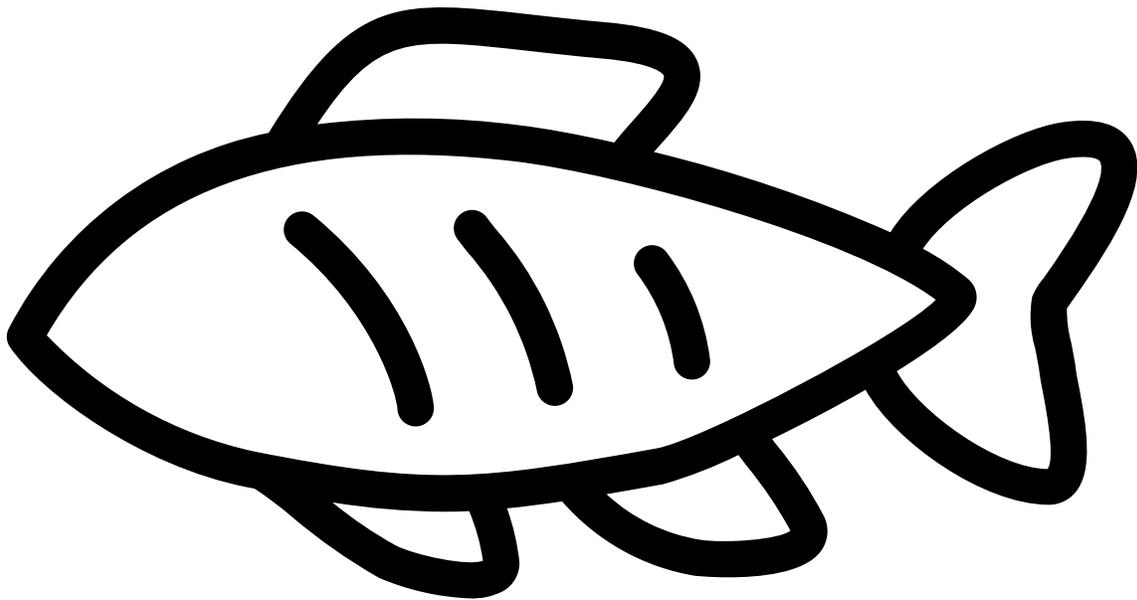


Instead of being covered in scales like most other fish, catfish are covered in taste buds!

D d

is for

**Dorsal
Fin**

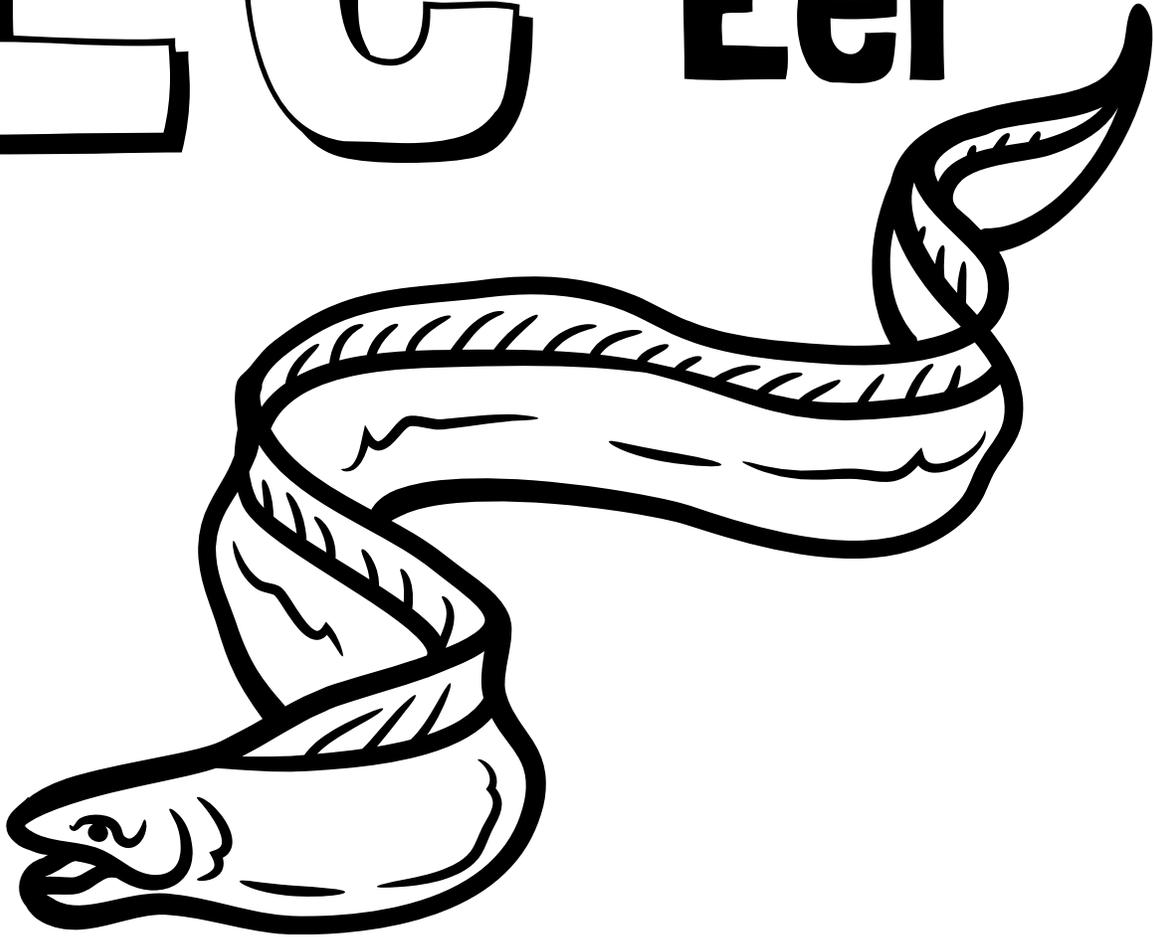


The main purpose of the dorsal fin is to stabilize the fish against rolling and to assist in sudden turns.

E e

is for

Eel

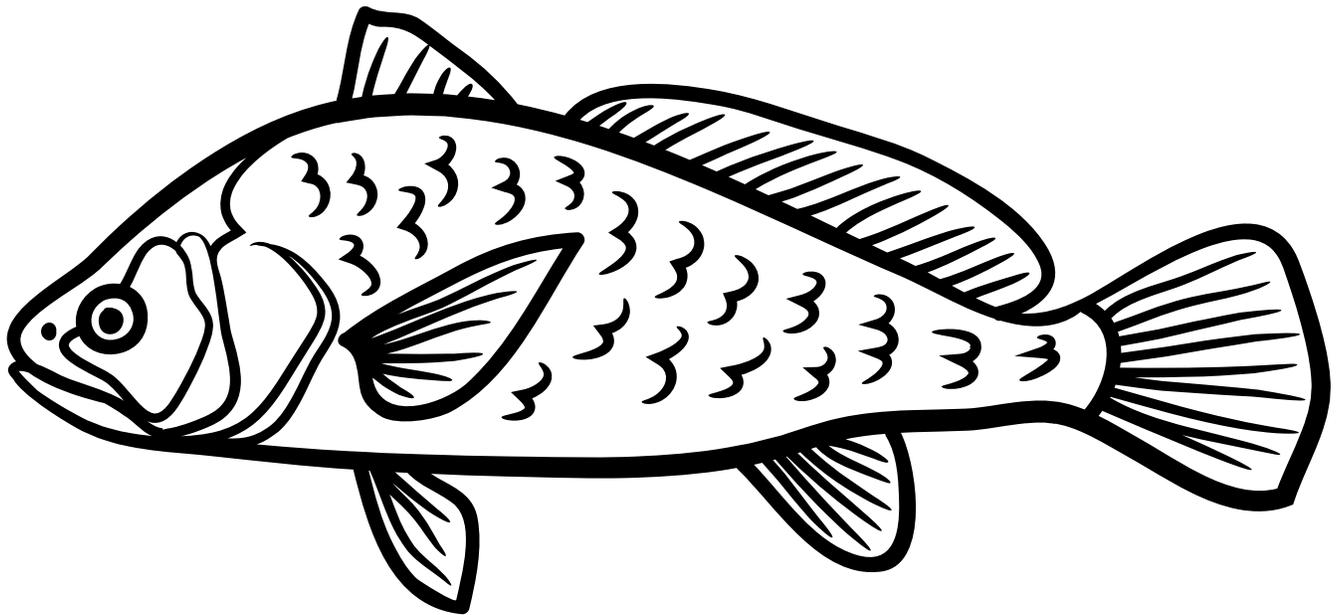


The male eel tends to stay near the coast after maturing, while the female eel travels inland. Any eel found naturally in Illinois is a female.

F f

is for

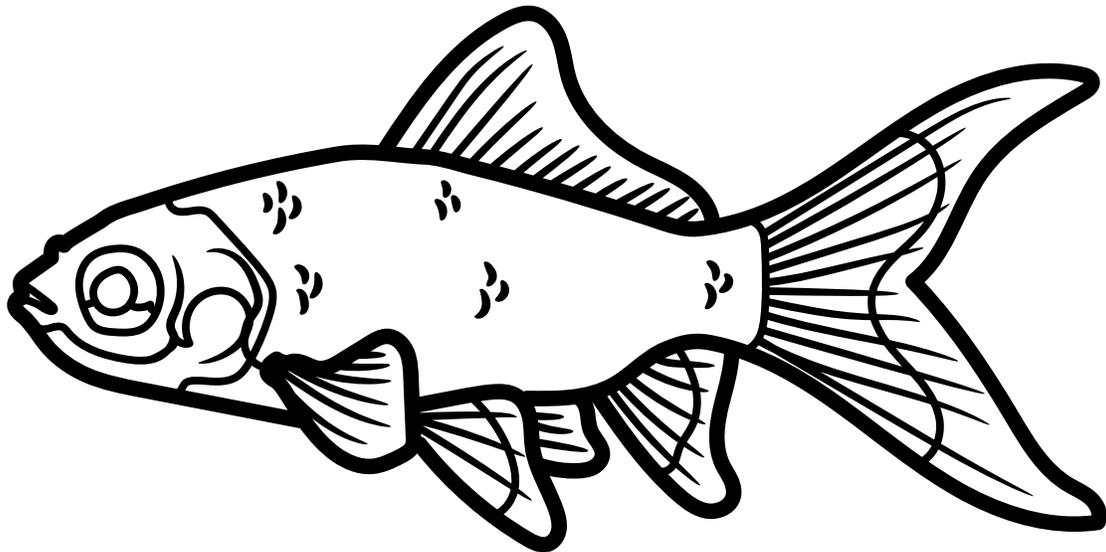
**Freshwater
Drum**



The freshwater drum lives in rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. They live on or near the bottom, and eat insects, fishes, and crayfish.

G g

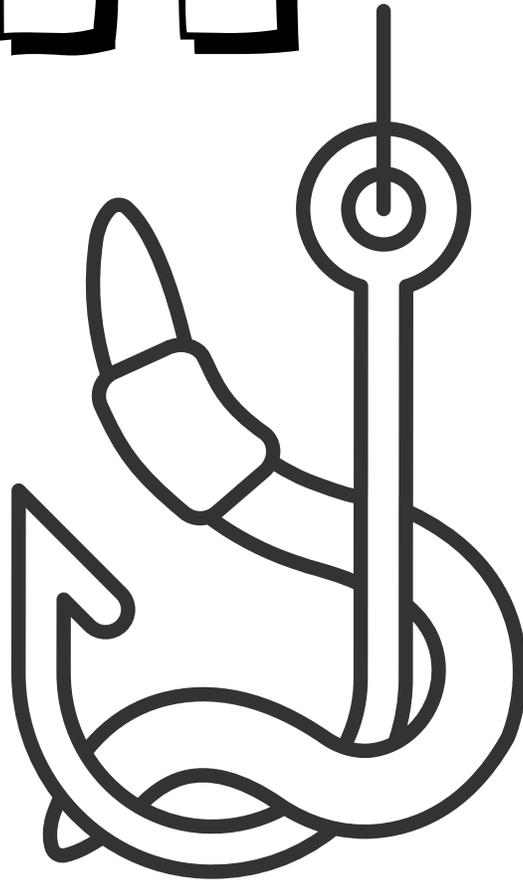
is for
Goldfish



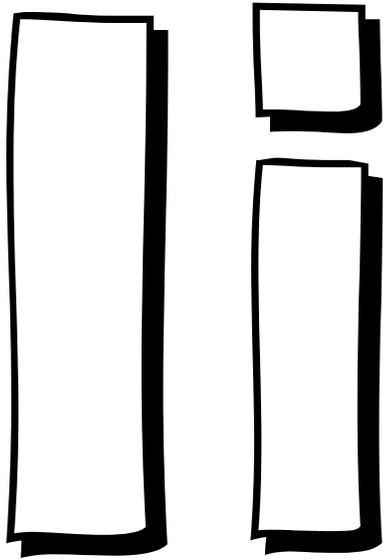
The goldfish is one of Illinois' first invasive species. They are still found in our lakes and rivers, but should never be released into the environment. Be a Hero, Release Zero!

H h

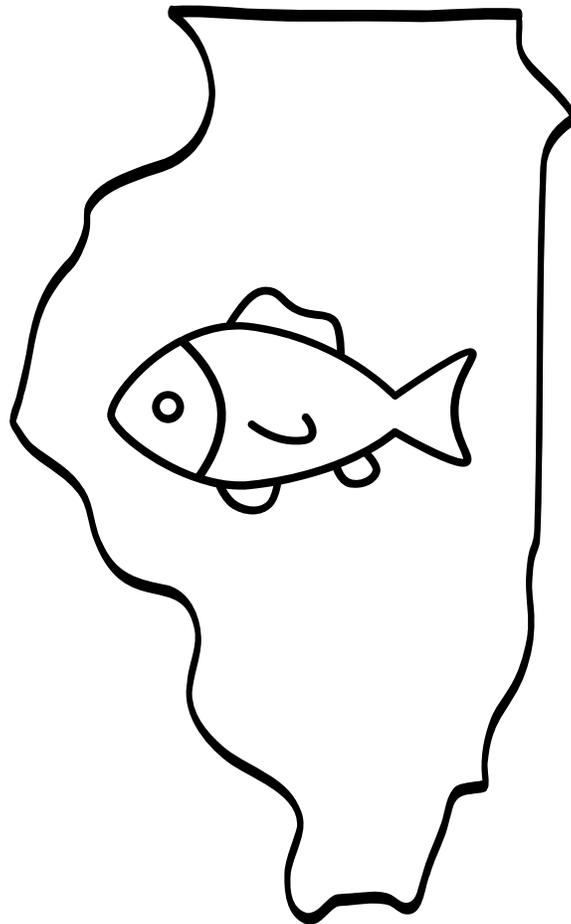
is for
Hook



There are many types of fishing hooks.
The type of hook you choose depends on
how powerful they can hold the line and
the size.



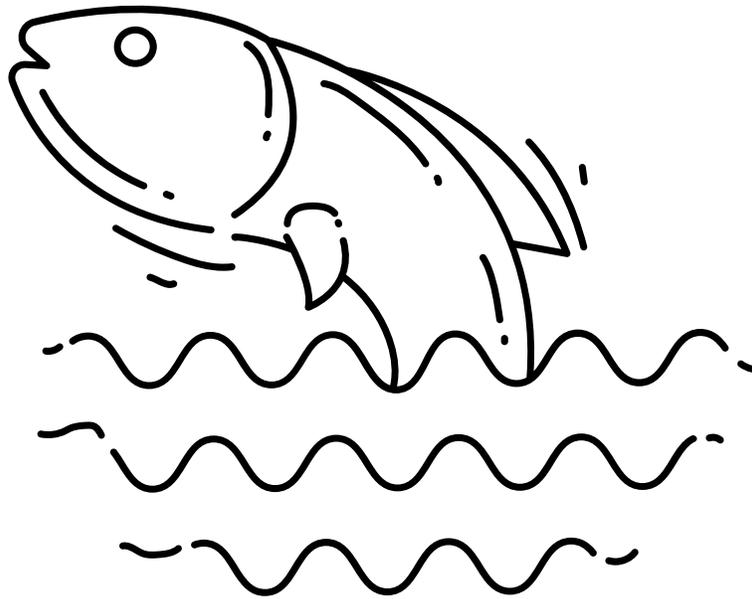
is for the
**Illinois Fish
Advisories**



The Illinois fish advisories are updated each year as a joint effort through the Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program.

J j

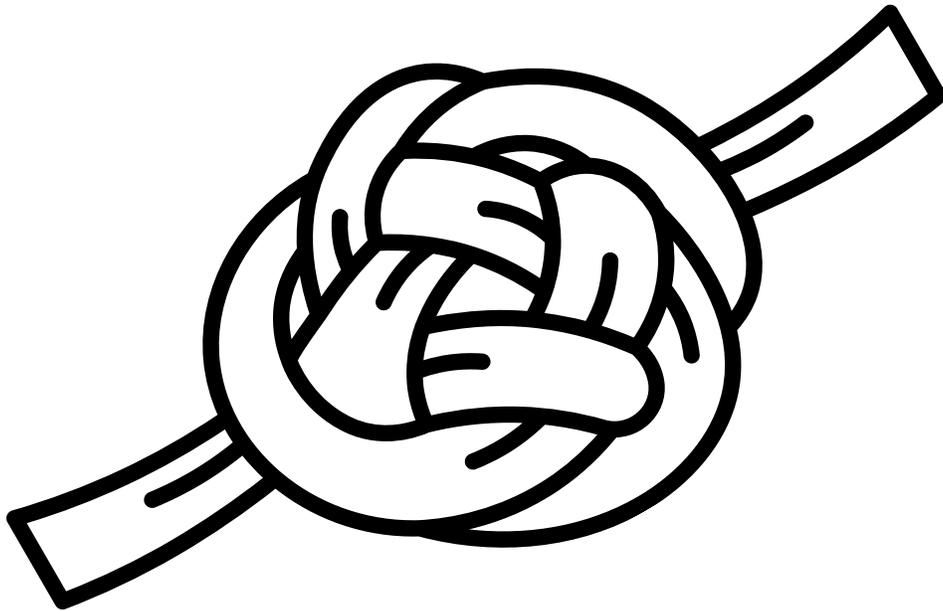
is for
Jump



Silver carp have been known to jump up to 10 feet out of the water. This usually happens when something startles them, such as a boat passing by.

KK

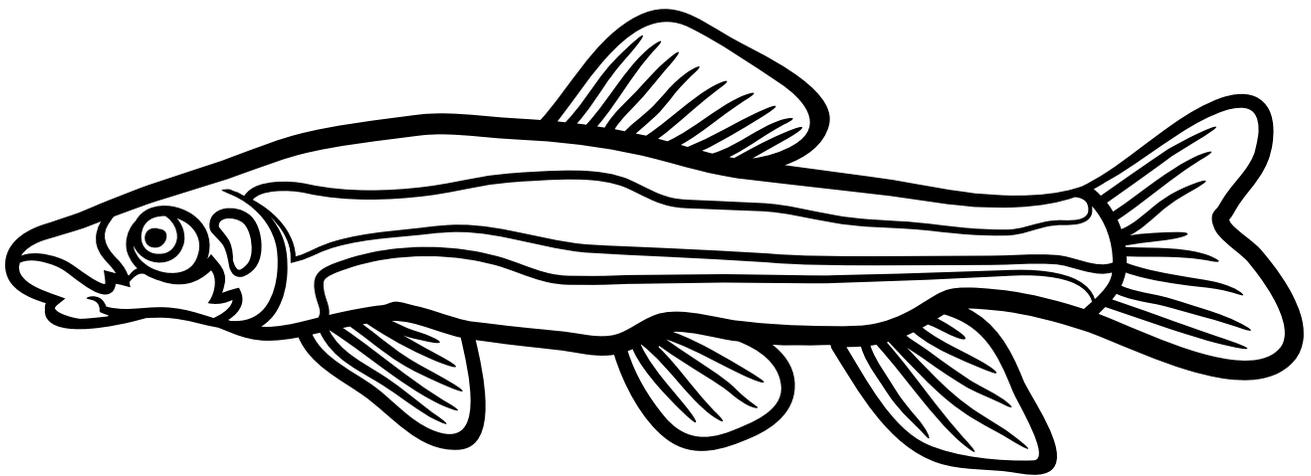
is for
Knot



In most situations, the Palomar knot is
the strongest fishing knot.

L I

is for
**Longnose
Sucker**

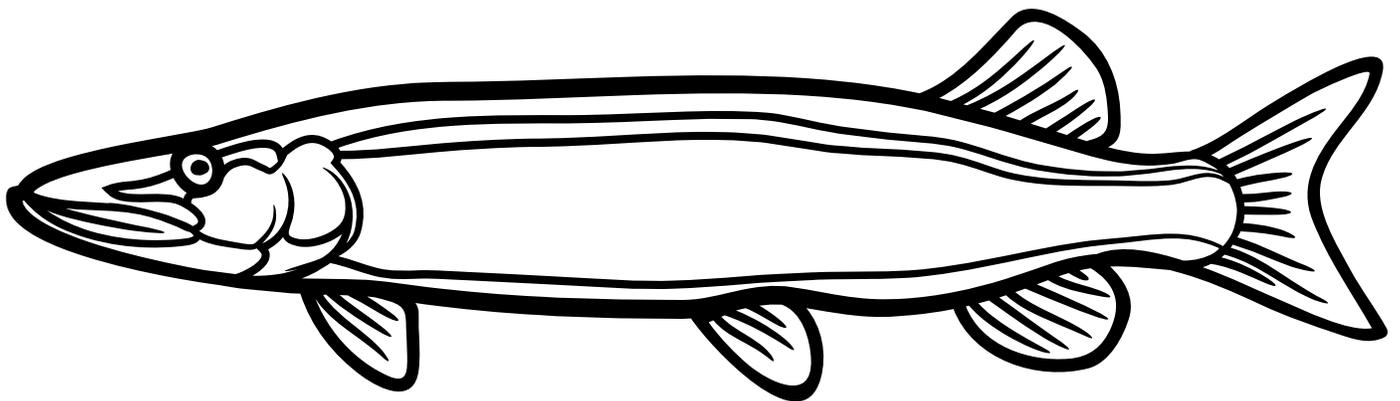


The longnose sucker is typically found in shallow water but may move to the deep water of Lake Michigan.

M m

is for

Muskie

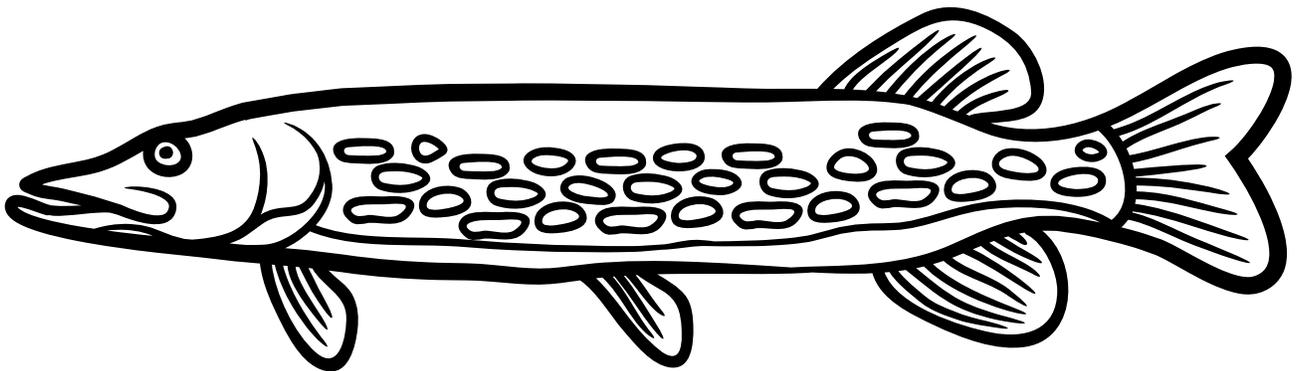


Muskellunge, also called muskie, are solitary predators that are part of the pike family. They are carnivorous and will attack anything that moves in or on the water.

Nn

is for

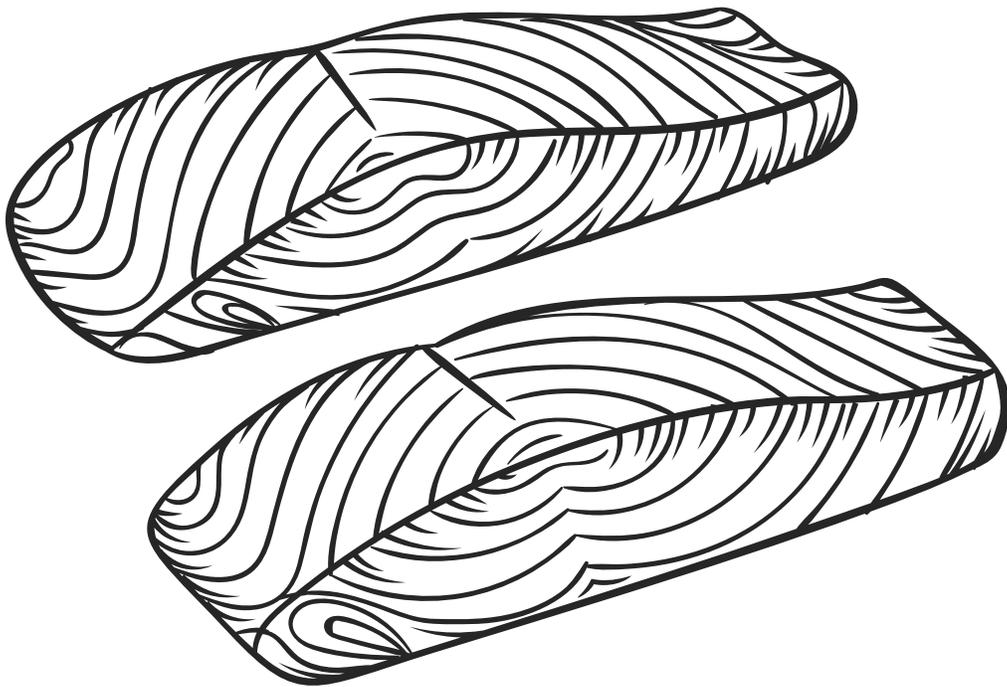
**Northern
Pike**



The northern pike is the only member of the pike family with spots on its side that are *lighter* than the rest of their body.

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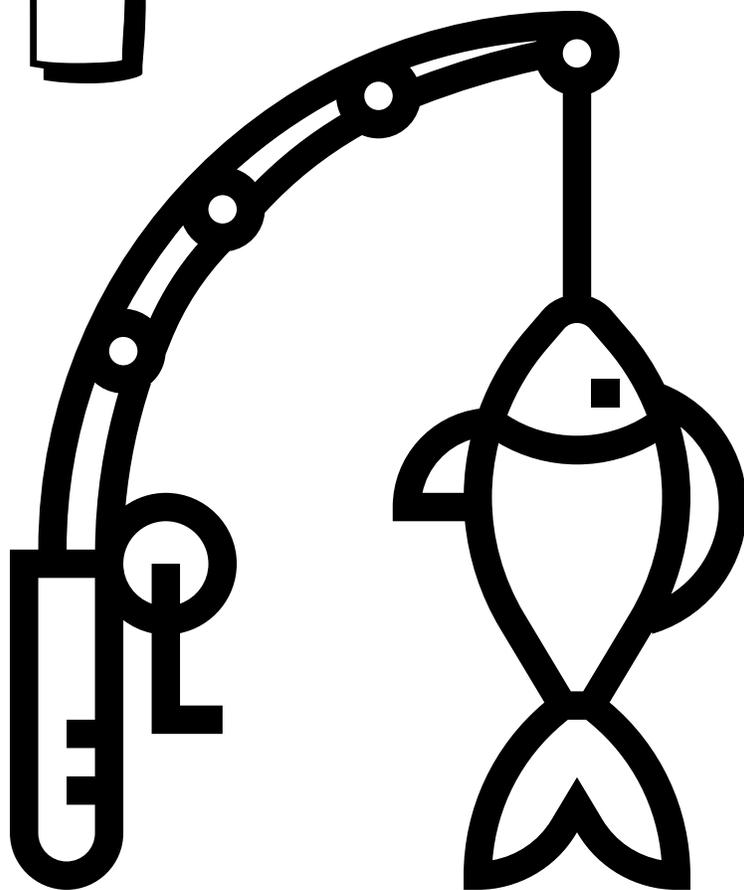
is for
**Omega 3
and 6**



Omega-3 and omega-6 are considered essential fatty acids that are found in fish. Although the body needs them, we cannot produce them ourselves.

Pp

is for
Pole

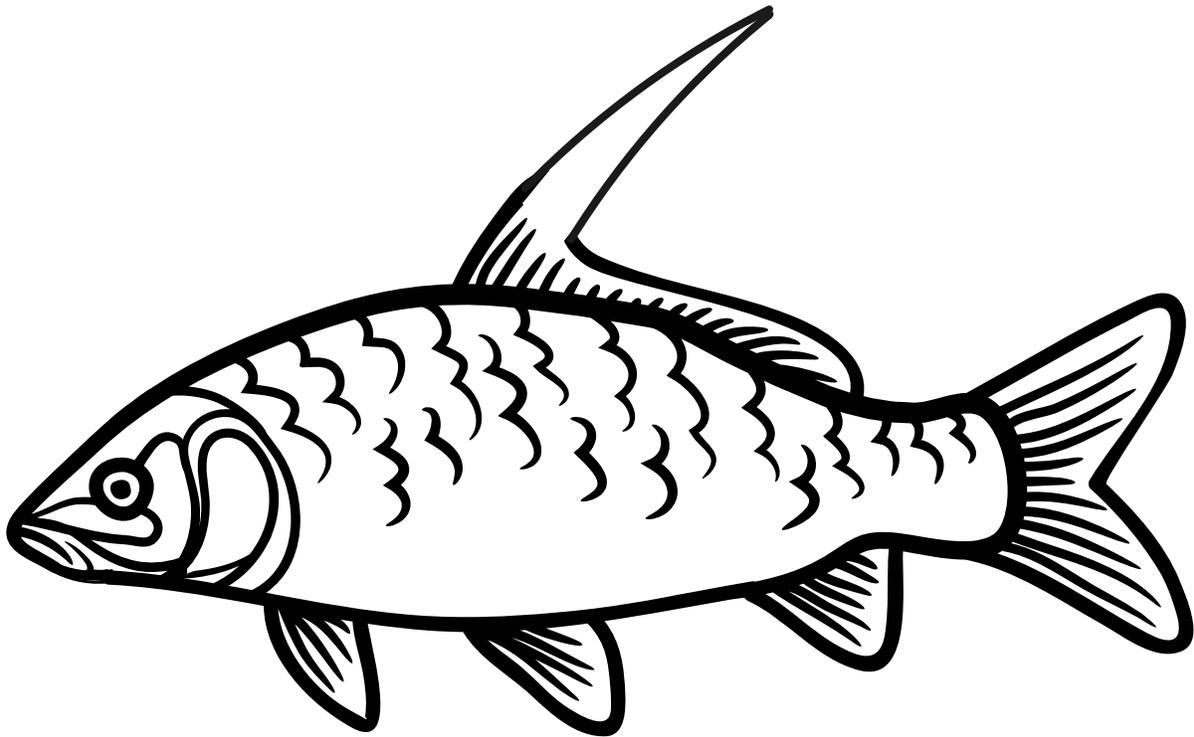


Fishing is one of the oldest human practices dating back nearly 40,000 years!

Q q

is for

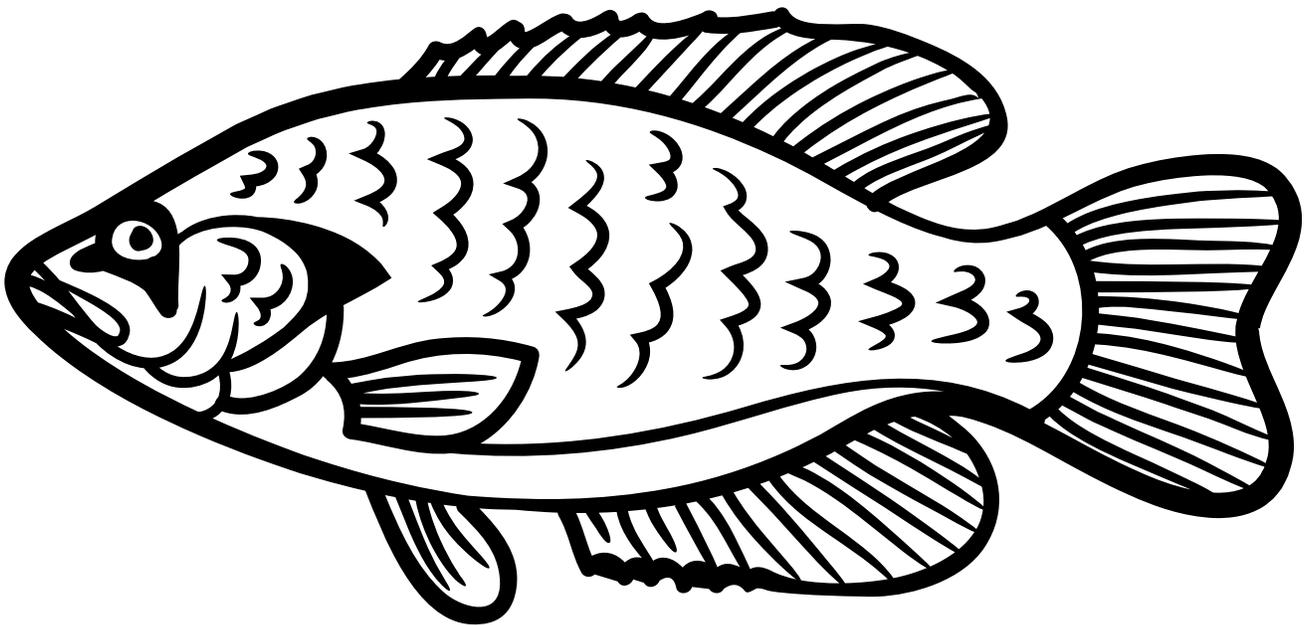
**Quillback
Carp sucker**



Quillback carpsuckers have a very compressed body making them look flattened when viewed from the side.

Rr

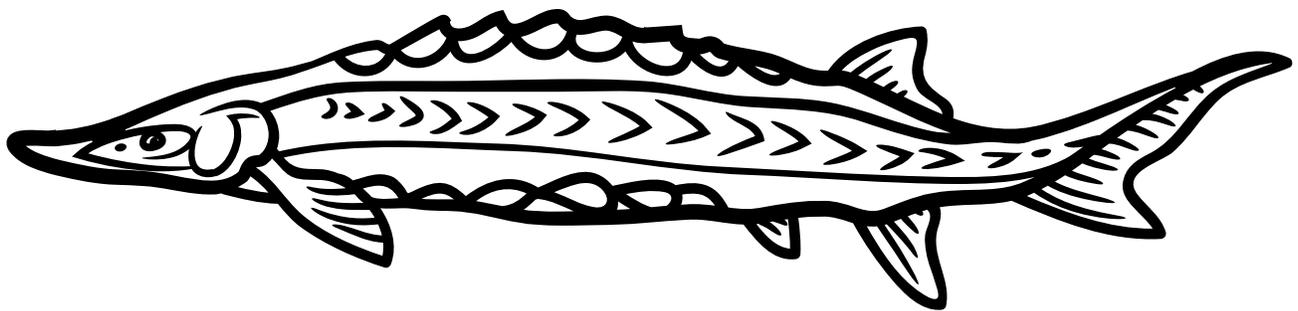
is for
**Rock
Bass**



Rock bass stand out for having red eyes!

S S

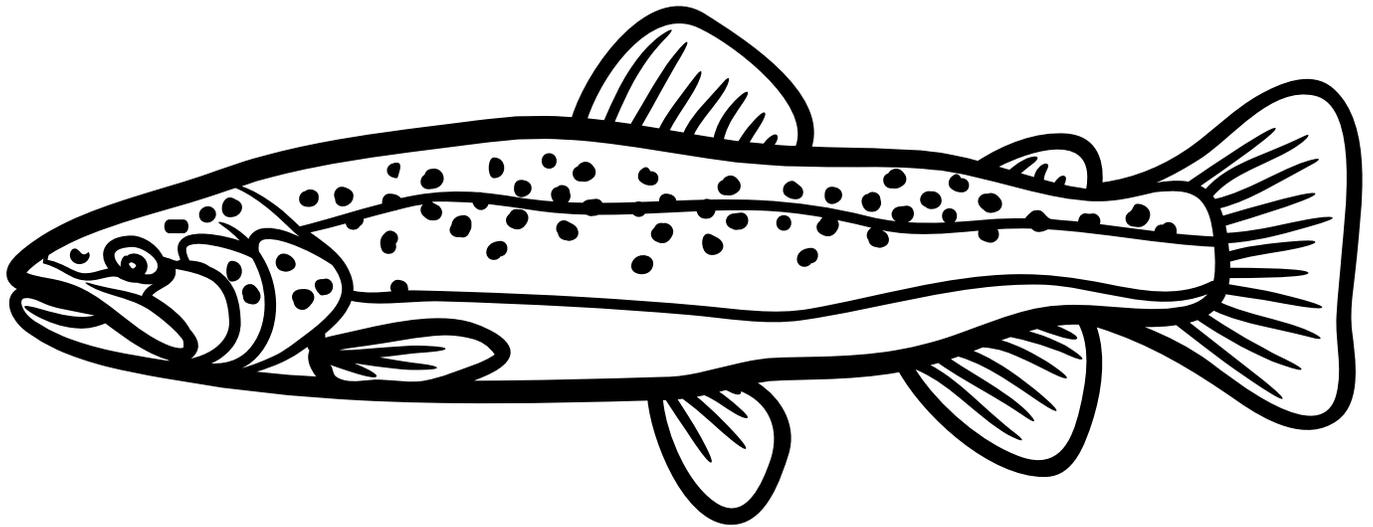
is for
Sturgeon



The state endangered lake sturgeon commonly live 40 years but have been known to live more than 150 years.

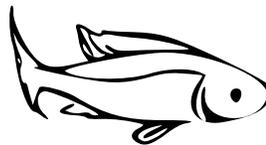
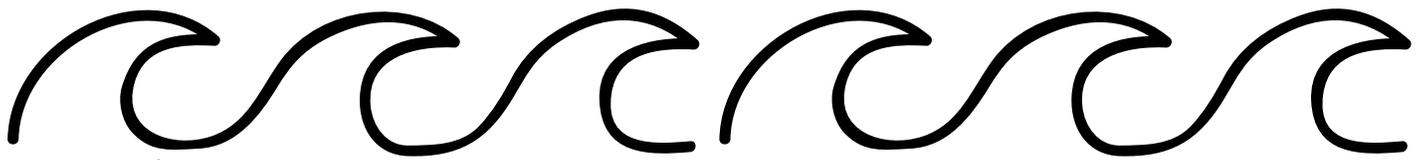
T t

is for
Trout



The rainbow trout lives in Lake Michigan and is stocked in many lakes and ponds throughout Illinois.

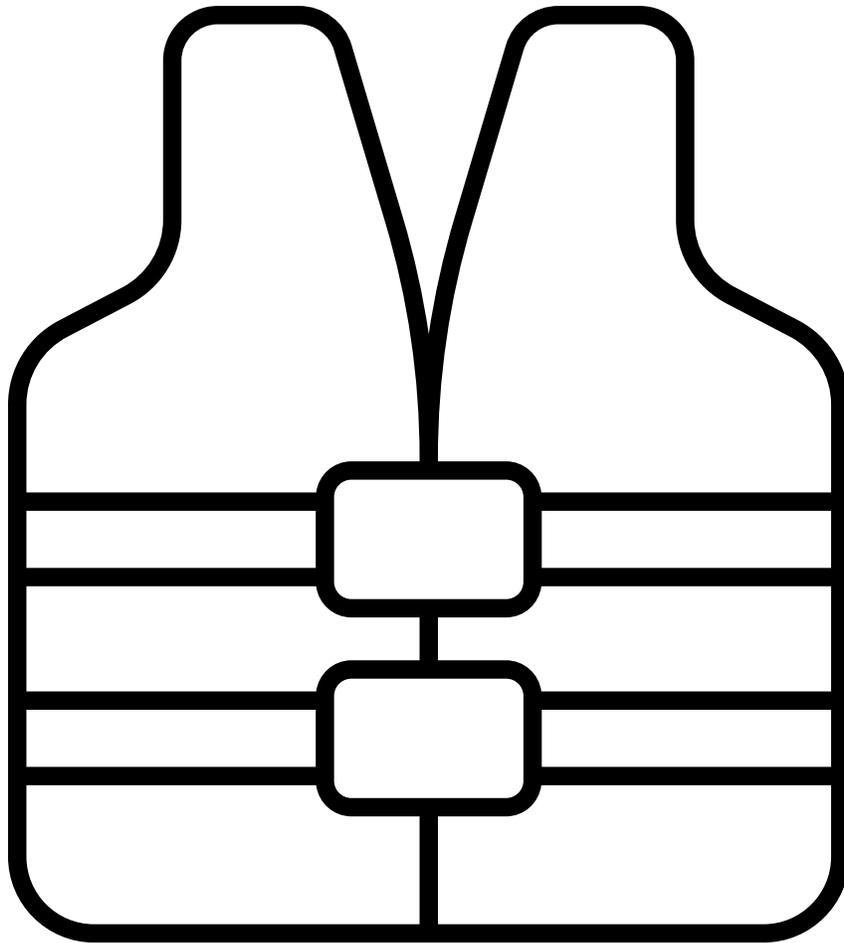
U u is for **Underwater**



Even though fish need water to survive, they also need oxygen. Their gills contain a network of fine blood vessels that diffuse the oxygen throughout the fish's membranes.

V v

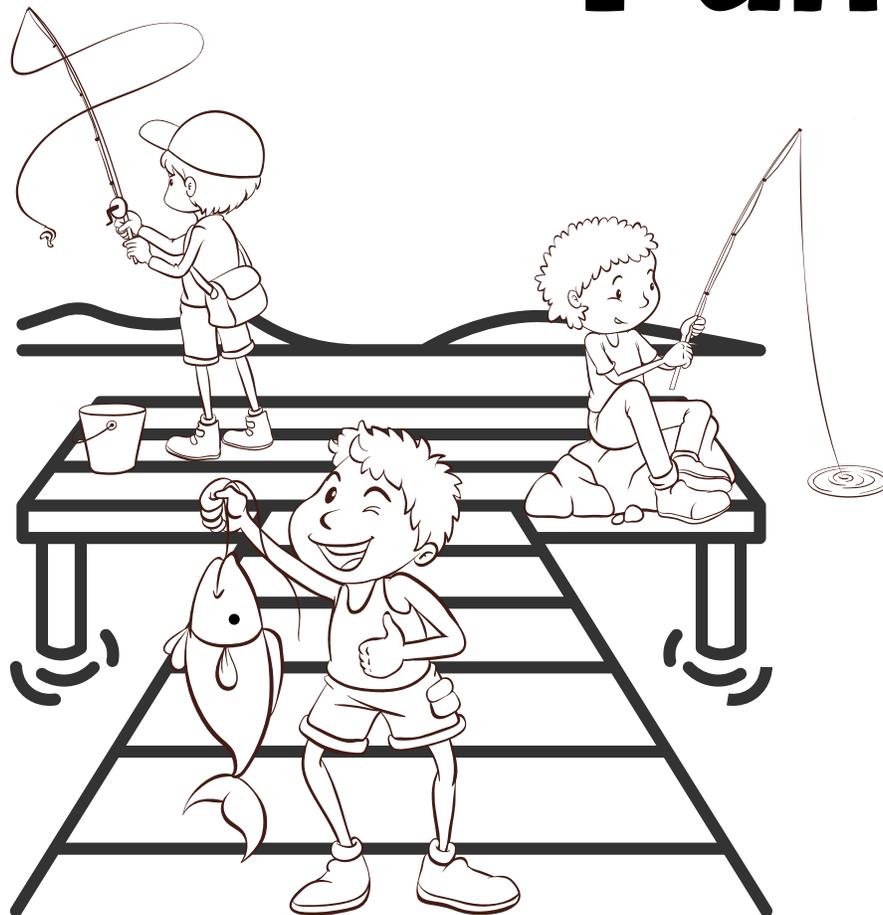
is for
Vest



The first recorded use of a life vest dates
back to 1805!

W W

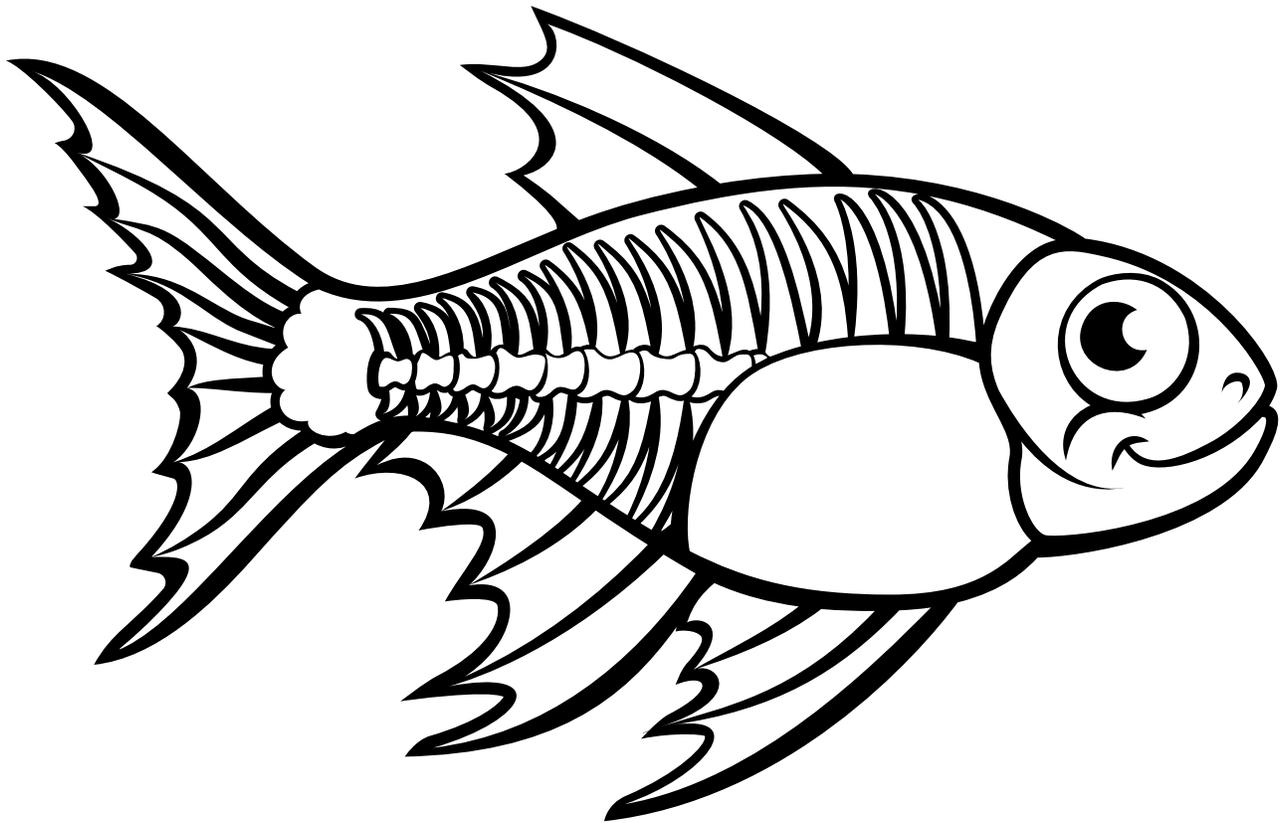
is for
**Whole
Family**



Fishing is a great activity that can be enjoyed by the whole family!

XX

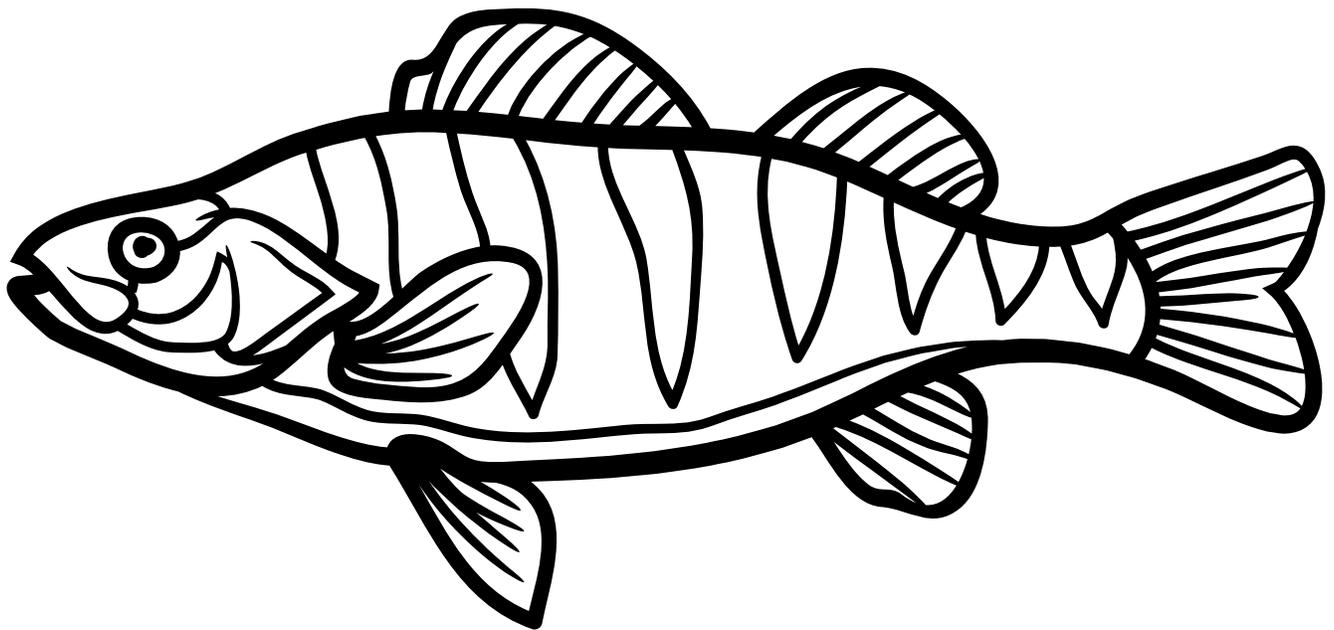
is for
X-ray Fish



Fish are vertebrates, which means they have a backbone or a spine, and a skull - just like humans.

Yy

is for
**Yellow
Perch**

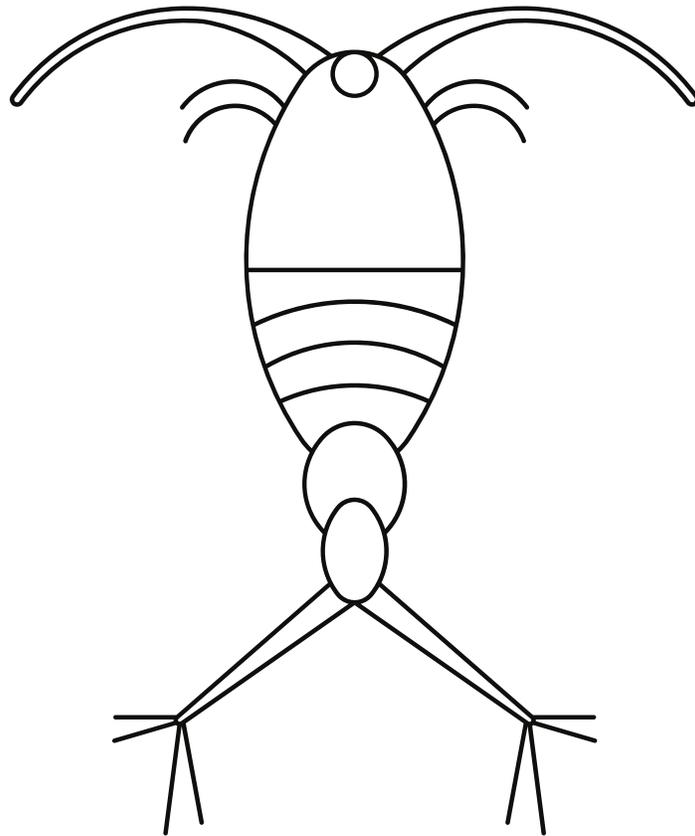


The yellow perch feeds in the morning and evening and rests on the bottom at night. It eats insects and other fish.

Z

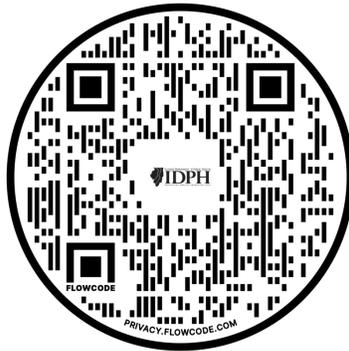
z

is for
Zooplankton



The smallest zooplankton are eaten by
the larger zooplankton which are then
eaten by small fish.

For more information on the Illinois
Fish Advisories, visit
dph.illinois.gov/fish-advisories or
scan the QR Code below.



For more information on the "Common
Fishes of Illinois ABC coloring book," email
DPH.Tox@illinois.gov.

To learn more about Illinois
fish, lakes, and ponds, visit
ifishillinois.org.

