

Here are a few tips for identifying some of Oklahoma's more popular sport fish:

★ For even more fish identification tips and pictures, visit wildlifedepartment.com!

CATFISH

Oklahoma's three most popular catfish species can be identified by either the shape of the anal fin or the shape of the tail. A channel catfish will have a curved anal fin, but the same fin on the blue catfish will be straight across the bottom. Both of these species have a forked tail. In contrast, a flathead catfish's tail will not be forked.



Channel Catfish

• Curved anal fin



Blue Catfish

• Straight anal fin

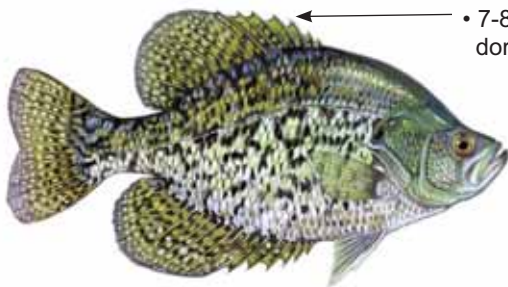


Flathead Catfish

• Tail not forked

CRAPPIE

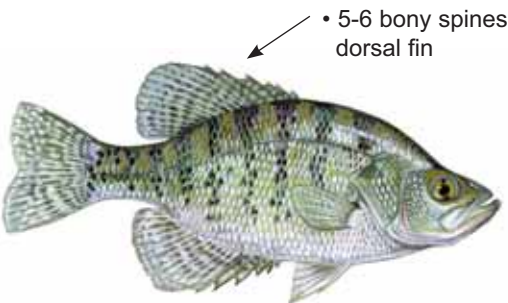
Harvest methods and limits are the same for both black and white crappie, but many anglers simply want to know the difference. The most distinguishing characteristic is the marking patterns or spots on the sides of the fish. A white crappie, the most prevalent crappie in the state, will have distinct vertical bands of blue/gray spots, whereas a black crappie will have only a sporadic, unrecognizable pattern to its black spots. There is also a difference in the number of bony spines in the dorsal fin. White crappie will have 5 to 6, whereas, black crappie will have 7 to 8.



• 7-8 bony spines in dorsal fin

Black Crappie

• No true pattern to black spots



• 5-6 bony spines in dorsal fin

White Crappie

• Distinct vertical bands of blue/gray spots

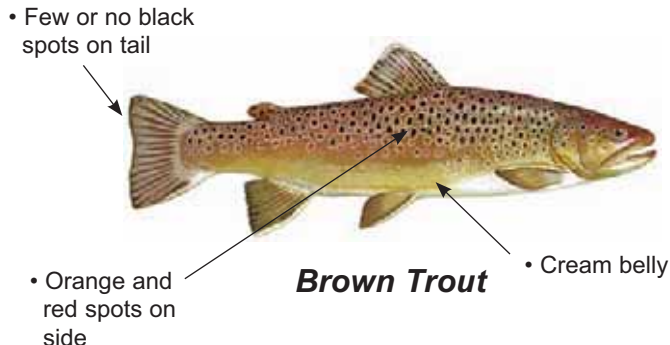
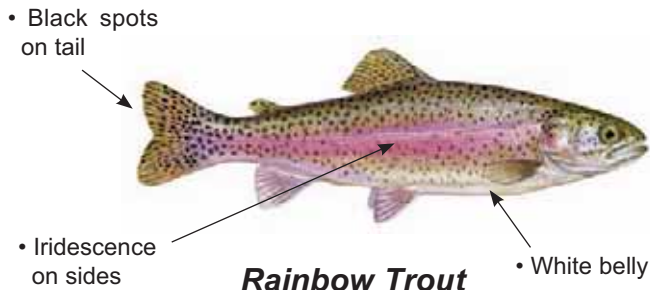
TWO-DAY RESIDENT FISHING LICENSES

At only \$15 (\$10 license + \$5 Fishing and Hunting Legacy Permit), it's the perfect economical alternative for those "occasional" anglers you know. Convince someone new to give fishing a try this year - who knows, they might just get hooked!

OPERATION GAME THIEF — Cash rewards are offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of violators of Oklahoma's game and fish laws. **You can help** by sending tax deductible donations to finance the reward program and by calling this toll free number **1-800-522-8039** (Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) to report violations of game or fish laws that you see or have knowledge of. You will be identified by a code number so that you can collect your cash reward anonymously.

TROUT

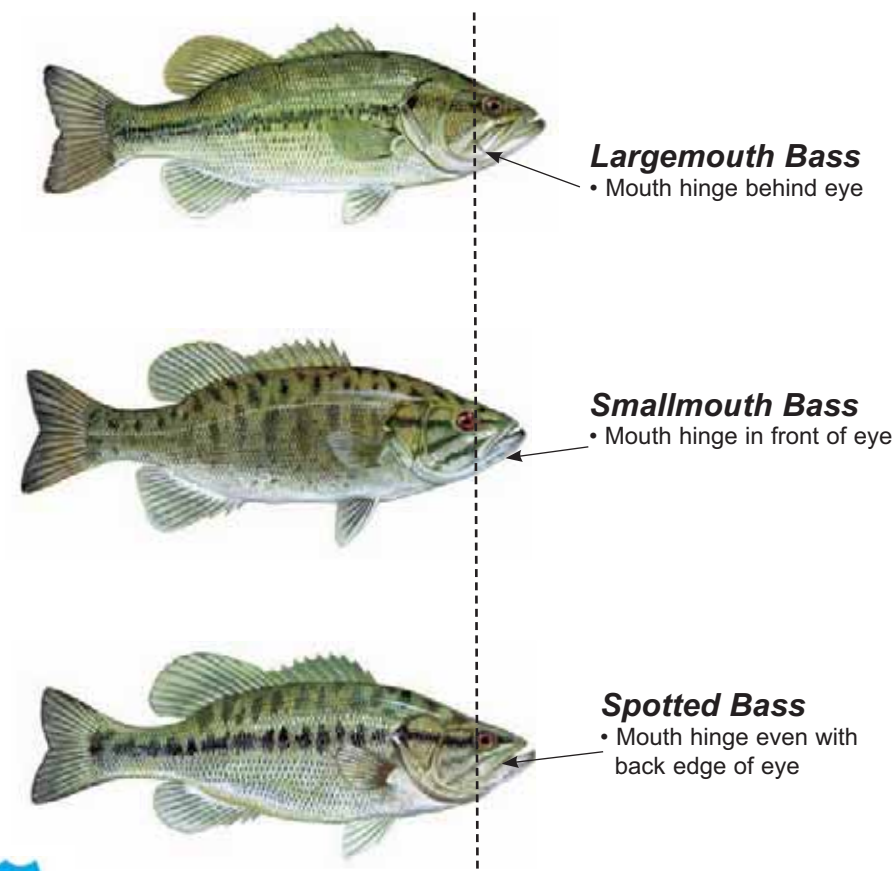
Oklahoma's two trout species can be easily identified. First look at the side of the fish. A rainbow will be iridescent, but the brown trout will have orange and red spots. The rainbow will also have black spots on its tail and a white belly. In comparison, the brown will have few or no black spots on its tail and a cream belly.



BLACK BASS

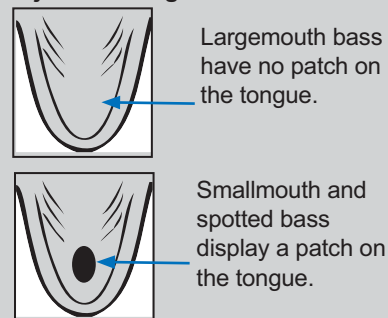
Black bass is a general term referring to largemouth, spotted and smallmouth bass and their hybrids. The three species are similar, but can be easily identified. Since water clarity can affect the color of a fish, color is not a reliable way to tell the basses apart.

The most objective way to tell these species apart is by the relationship of the eye and the mouth hinge. On a spotted bass, the mouth hinge vertically lines up in front of the back edge of the eye; on a smallmouth bass, the mouth hinge vertically lines up in front of the back edge of the eye; and on a largemouth bass, the mouth hinge vertically lines up behind the back edge of the eye.



Tongue Patch: Another way to distinguish black bass is the presence or absence of a tongue patch. Largemouth bass have no patch on their tongue. Smallmouth and spotted bass do have a tongue patch.

Downward view inside the mouth of lower jaw and tongue



With more than 600,000 anglers in Oklahoma, a lot more than fish is being netted!

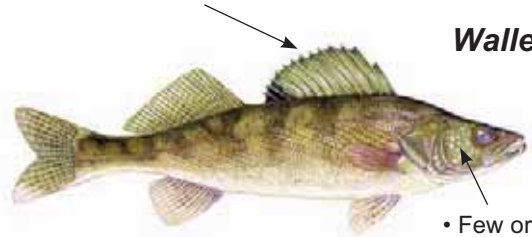
- Each year, anglers spend \$522 million in Oklahoma.
- More than 10,000 jobs that pay \$273 million each year in wages and salaries are supported by Oklahoma anglers.
- The total economic impact of fishing in Oklahoma approaches \$1 billion – \$906 million to be exact!

Keep Fishing, Oklahoma!

WALLEYE, SAUGER, SAUGEYE

Oklahoma is fortunate to have these unique species of the perch family in many of its lakes. To identify them, first look at the spiny dorsal fin. The walleye will have no spots on this fin; the sauger will have distinct spots; and the hybrid of the two species, the saugeye, will have spots and bars in the webbing of its spiny dorsal fin. The color of the fish and the presence or absence of cheek scales may also help identify the difference.

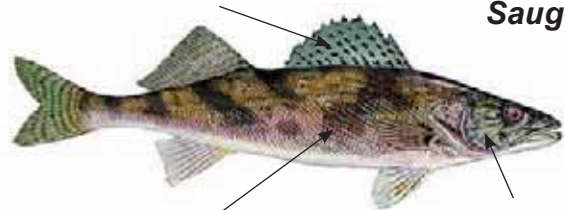
• No spots on spiny dorsal fin



Walleye

• Few or no cheek scales

• Distinct spots on spiny dorsal fin

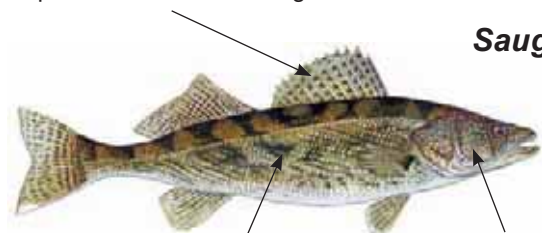


Sauger

• Body tan with distinct brown blotches

• Cheek covered with scales

• Spiny dorsal fin with distinct spots and bars in webbing



Saugeye

• Body gold with distinct brown blotches

• Cheek covered with scales

STRIPERS, HYBRIDS, WHITE BASS

White bass, striped bass and striped bass hybrids offer great fishing opportunities around the state. The white bass can be identified by the distinctive arched back just behind its head. It also has only one tongue patch. The striped bass is not arched at the back and has two distinct tongue patches. It is also identified by the dark, usually unbroken lines on each side. The striped bass hybrid, which is a cross between the white bass and the striped bass, has a slightly arched back and has two tongue patches. The lines on a hybrid are usually broken.

White Bass

• Arched back



• Faint lines, usually unbroken

Downward views inside mouth of lower jaw and tongue

White bass



One round or heart-shaped patch on tongue

Striped bass and Striped bass hybrids



Two long patches on tongue

Striped Bass Hybrid

• Back slightly arched



• Some broken lines

Striped Bass

• Back not arched



• Strong, unbroken dark lines

White bass are also distinguished from striped bass and striped bass hybrids by the tongue patch. White bass have a single tongue patch, striped bass and striped bass hybrids have two tongue patches.