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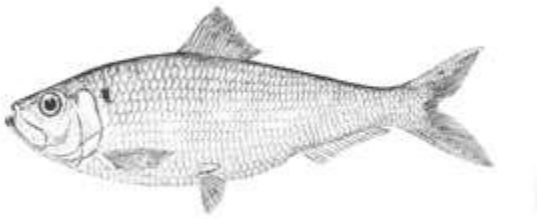
Species Information

Alewife



Latin Name
Alosa pseudolarengus

Alternative Names
bigeye herring, branch herring, freshwater herring, gray herring, grayback, kyak, sawbelly, white herring

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

Habitat

An alewife is a herring-like fish found in the northwest Atlantic, from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to North Carolina. An anadromous fish - it travels between freshwater and marine environments, but spawns in freshwater - Alewives are also found in rivers and streams throughout eastern North America. Landlocked populations also exist in the Great Lakes. In Canada's Atlantic provinces, they are more commonly found in larger rivers. Spawning typically occurs in lakes or slow moving portions of rivers in the late spring.

Species Description

Alewives are slender, with a silvery body, a greyish-green back and a forked tail. They have a black spot on their shoulder behind their eye and scutes (thorny scales) on their belly that form a keel. Saltwater populations sometimes have a brassy hue and are usually less than 30 centimetres long and weigh around 400 grams. Landlocked populations are typically much smaller than their sea-run relatives.

American Eel

Latin Name
Anguilla rostrata

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The American Eel has a wide distribution on the western side of the Atlantic Ocean from Venezuela to Greenland and Iceland, including the Sargasso Sea (southern North Atlantic). Its native Canadian range includes all fresh water, estuaries and coastal marine waters that are accessible to the Atlantic Ocean, from Niagara Falls in the Great Lakes up to the mid-Labrador coast.

Species Description

The American Eel is a freshwater eel with a long, serpentine body with deeply embedded scales. It has a terminal mouth with thick lips and the lower jaw slightly longer than the upper jaw. It has several rows of small teeth on the jaws and roof of the mouth. Juveniles are called "yellow

eels" because they are yellow to greenish-brown on the belly and dark on the back. Adults (silver eels) are grey with a white or cream-coloured belly. Adult females may reach up to 1 m in length; males are smaller at less than 0.4 m. Eels are a long-lived species, living around 20 years or more.

American Lobster

Latin Name
Homarus americanus

Alternative Names
lobster

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

The American lobster is distributed throughout the northwest Atlantic, from the coast of North Carolina to the waters of Newfoundland and Labrador. A nocturnal creature that hides under rocks or in crevices most of the day, the American lobster is generally found in waters less than 50 metres in depth, but have been observed at depths greater than 500 metres. The largest populations are found in the Gulf of Maine and, in Canada, around Nova Scotia and the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Species Description

Like other crustaceans, the American lobster has a hard exoskeleton, or shell. It is brown to olive green and may be flecked with red, orange or black. It is long-lived and can grow to lengths of 60 centimetres and weigh over 18 kilograms. It has a total of five pairs of walking legs, including

the great claws, or chelipeds, as well as two pairs of antennae, an abdomen bearing feathery appendages known as pleopods, and a tail with a central telson and four fins called uropods. The American lobster molts many times during its lifetime, usually in warmer waters.

American Oyster

Latin Name
Crassostrea virginica

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

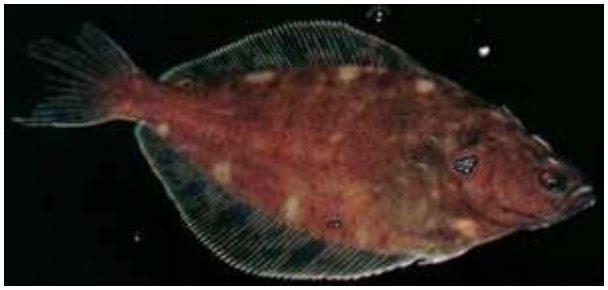
Habitat

The American oyster's habitat stretches from the waters of the Gulf of Mexico to the southern Gulf of the St. Lawrence. The percentage of American oysters in Canadian waters is relatively small with main concentrations found farther south, especially in Chesapeake Bay and off the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Oysters are harvested in the wild and cultivated on leased areas of seabed in the Maritimes.

Species Description

Oysters have hard, rough, oval-shaped shells, typically coloured a reddish-brown or deep purple on the outside, sometimes a little greenish, mixed with grey and white shades. They're smooth and white (sometimes with a bluish tint) on the inside. The oyster's upper valve is flat, while the lower is cupped, creating a very strong seal. American oysters can grow to more than 15 cm in length.

American Plaice



Latin Name
Hippoglossoides platessoides

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

American plaice are found on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, although the eastern Atlantic populations are thought to be a subspecies. In the western Atlantic, they range from southern Greenland and Newfoundland and Labrador down to New England. In the eastern Atlantic, they are found from the northern coasts of Finland and Russia to the English Channel. They can tolerate deep water and can be found at depths of up to several thousand metres, however they are primarily found on continental shelves, mostly above 300 metres. They are considered a cold water species, but have a fairly wide temperature tolerance, ranging from about -1.5° Celsius to above 5° Celsius.

Species Description

Like other flatfish, American plaice are laterally compressed, with a body that is fairly oval-shaped and marked with a relatively straight lateral line. They have a large mouth, a rounded tail and a body covered with small, rough scales. Their coloration varies from brown to reddish-brown, sometimes with darker patches or spots, and is pale white on their underside. They may grow as large as 50 centimetres, but they are typically around 30 centimetres. Females generally live 17-20 years.

American Shad

Latin Name
Alosa sapidissima

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

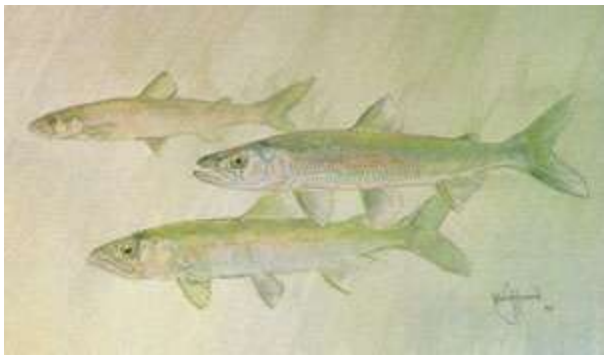
Habitat

American shad are native to the western Atlantic, ranging from Newfoundland and Labrador to Florida. Shad were introduced to the Pacific coast in 1871 in the Sacramento River in California and have become established from Baja, Mexico to Cook Inlet in western Alaska and the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia. They were first seen off the British Columbia coast in the 1800s but are rarely caught in the Fraser River or any other river on the Canadian west coast. Migrants from American. Rivers to the south are caught occasionally in the sea along the British Columbia coast. American shad are anadromous, which means they spawn in freshwater, move in their first year to the ocean where they grow and mature. After four or more years in the ocean, maturing shad return to spawn. Like the Pacific salmon, shad are known to have homing abilities and may return faithfully to the river where they were born.

Species Description

American shad are the largest of the herrings and like all herring are streamlined, silvery fish with deeply forked tails. They have a brown-black through blue-green iridescent back, and one to three rows of dark spots behind the gill cover. They are covered in large scales, with sharp, saw-toothed scutes on the lower margins of their bellies. In freshwater, adults take on a coppery sheen, with males likely to also have a red head and belly. American shad are 40 to 60 centimetres long and weigh one to three kilograms. Females are usually larger than males. Among Canadian populations, adults may spawn up to seven times and live to be 13 years old.

American Smelt



Latin Name
Osmerus mordax

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

Habitat

American smelt is widely distributed on both sides of the North Atlantic, as well as in the Northwest Pacific and Arctic oceans and in many inland bodies of water. It is an anadromous species, like salmon, which means they can travel between freshwater and the marine environment, but spawn in freshwater. Commercial fisheries for American smelt exist in the Atlantic Ocean and in the Great Lakes.

Species Description

Smelt are fairly small, usually less than 20 centimetres long, but can grow to 25 centimetres in length. An elongated fish with a silvery colour, smelt have light or olive-green backs and large scales. When removed from the water, smelt reflect with a pink, purple or blue iridescence, hence the common name rainbow smelt. A dorsal fin is located about midway along their length. Their mouths are relatively large with fang-like teeth and a protruding lower jaw. Males are distinguished during spawning periods by tubercles (small bumps) covering their bodies. They live about five years, with females living longer and growing bigger than males in most cases.

Arctic Char

Latin Name
Salvelinus alpinus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

Habitat

Arctic char are distributed throughout the circumpolar region of the northern hemisphere where they occur as both anadromous (can travel between freshwater and the marine environment, but spawn only in freshwater), and resident freshwater populations. This includes areas such as northern Canada, Greenland, Iceland, northern Europe, Asia and Alaska. They are particularly prevalent in the northern parts of Labrador and Québec, and throughout the Canadian Arctic. In some places, Arctic char are an important commercial fish species, such as in northern Labrador and Nunavut. Resident freshwater forms of char also exist in southern locations such as Newfoundland, southern Québec and the state of Maine. In some locations, different morphological forms of char have also been found where the species exists in deep lakes such as Lake Hazen on the northern Ellesmere Island, and Gander Lake in Newfoundland.

Species Description

Arctic char are similar in shape to salmon or trout, but vary tremendously in colour depending on time of year, location and stage of development. Usually, they will have a dark-coloured back (a dark blue, brown, or green) with silverish sides and a white belly. Their sides and backs are sometimes covered with violet-pink or reddish spots. When spawning, char often take on a brilliant red or orange colour. Sea-run char commonly weigh between 2.3 and 4.5 kilograms, more than their freshwater counterparts, which weigh between 0.2 and 2.3 kilograms.

Arctic Cod

Latin Name
Boreogadus saida

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Arctic cod are thought to range farther north than any other fish. Inhabiting arctic waters circling the pole, they seem to prefer colder temperatures (0 to 4 degrees C), though they are occasionally found in warmer regions. In Canadian waters, Arctic cod are generally distributed from the Beaufort Sea to the Grand Banks. Occasionally, they have been known to stray into the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Species Description

Arctic cod can be distinguished from their warm-water cousins by their elongated body and protruding lower jaw, as well as their v-shaped tail. They are considerably smaller than other cod, growing to only about 30 centimetres in length. They also tend to be smaller the farther south they are found. They have brown backs spotted with black, silvery sides and bellies, and pale lateral lines running along each side of the body from head to tail. Their scales are very small.

Asian Carp

Latin Name
N/A

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Asian carp started populating the Mississippi River basin, causing a lot of damage along the way. There are many connections between the Mississippi basin and the Canadian watersheds, including the Great Lakes.

It seems very likely that Asian carp will invade Canada in the future, probably via the Great Lakes. Some individuals have already been captured in Canadian waters. Efforts are under way to soften the environmental impact of their arrival.

Species Description

Asian carp are a group of five different fish native to eastern Asia: the grass, bighead, silver, black and largescale silver carp. Four of these species were introduced into the southern United States for use in aquaculture and pest control, but later escaped into the wild. As hardy, robust fish able survive a variety of climatic extremes - from frigid Siberia to hot and humid Vietnam - they pose a major ecological threat to North America. Some Asian carps grow to more than 50 kilograms and longer than a metre.

Asian carp have caused considerable damage in the Mississippi River basin, competing aggressively with native species for food and preying on their larvae. Predation has not reduced their numbers because their large size makes it difficult for other fish to prey on them. Asian silver carp also tend to jump out of the water and endanger recreational boaters and water skiers.

Atlantic Cod

Latin Name
Gadus morhua

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

The distribution of Atlantic Cod includes all waters overlying the continental shelf throughout the Northwest and Northeast Atlantic Ocean. In the northeast, Atlantic Cod range from the North Sea to the Barents Sea off Norway and northern Russia. They also occur in the strait separating Scandinavia from Denmark and in the south Baltic Sea. In the west, the Canadian range includes the east coast from Georges Bank and the Bay of Fundy, along the Scotian shelf, throughout the Gulf of St. Lawrence, around Newfoundland, and along the east coast of Labrador and southern Baffin Bay, Nunavut. Four populations are recognized in Canada; Newfoundland and Labrador, Laurentian, Maritimes and the Arctic.

Species Description

The Atlantic Cod have a streamlined body shape typical of fish that are able to swim at moderate speeds over long distances. Their colouration varies between black, brown and red. They have three dorsal fins and two anal fins. Their size at maturity ranges between 45 and 55 cm although the maximum size measured was 157 cm (Ogac Lake, Baffin Island, Nunavut).

Atlantic Hagfish

Latin Name
Myxine glutinosa

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

Atlantic hagfish are found on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, ranging from Greenland to the Gulf of Mexico in the west, and from Norway to Morocco in the east. They live on muddy ocean floors at depth ranges of about 20 to 1000 metres, burying themselves during the day and emerging at night to hunt.

Species Description

Atlantic hagfish are long and serpentine in shape, resembling eels or lampreys. Their skin is particularly slimy because it is covered with with mucus-secreting glands.They have a cartilaginous skeleton-no bones-and instead of a jaw, they have a round mouth filled with horn-like teeth, some on them on their tongue. Their coloration varies depending on the colour of the ocean bottom, but will usually be brown, reddish or purplish-brown, or grey, becoming paler on their underside. Atlantic hagfish are also distinguished by the barbels ("whiskers") around their mouth and nostrils. They are usually 45-60 centimetres long. Their life span is unknown.

Atlantic Halibut

Latin Name
Hippoglossus hippoglossus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

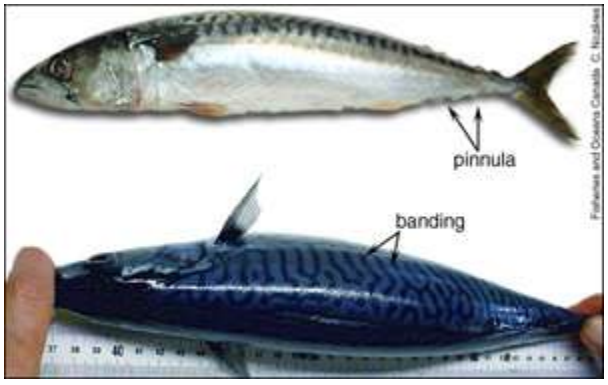
Habitat

Atlantic halibut are distributed widely throughout the northern Atlantic. In the northwestern Atlantic, populations are found from the coast of Virginia to as far north as the Arctic Circle. Significant numbers swim off the coasts of Greenland, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Nova Scotia. In the northeast, Atlantic halibut range from the Bay of Biscay to Spitsbergen and the Barents Sea. Atlantic halibut are a popular game fish and are fished commercially.

Species Description

Atlantic halibut have a compressed, oval-shaped body and usually have both eyes on the right side of their bodies with the left side being totally blind. They are greenish-brown to almost black on their eyed side. Juveniles might be slightly spotted or flecked and have white undersides, which become mottled with grey or reddish spots as they mature. Their mouths are very large and have numerous sharp curved teeth. Atlantic halibut may grow to a length of more than two metres though they typically weigh less than 100 kg.

Atlantic Mackerel



Latin Name
Scomber scombrus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

Atlantic mackerel are a marine fish found on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. In the western Atlantic they range from Newfoundland and Labrador to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. In the east they occur from Norway around the British Isles to Portugal, as well as in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea. Atlantic mackerel are schooling fish, usually spending their time close to shore.

Species Description

Atlantic mackerel have a slender, streamlined body that narrows considerably toward their tail, which is strongly forked. Their coloration is metallic-blue dorsally, becoming a lighter silver on their flanks, and silvery-white on their underside. They are distinguished by a pattern of wavy, dark vertical bars that begin on their dorsal surface and end on their mid-flanks. Atlantic mackerel grow to about 40 centimetres and weigh up to 800 grams. Can live up to 15 years old and more in some cases.

Note: Atlantic mackerel, unlike many of their relatives, do not have a swim bladder. They must keep swimming to breathe.

Atlantic Salmon

Latin Name
Salmo salar

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

Habitat

Inland, this fish favours natural stream channels with rapids, pools and gravelly bottoms in which hatchlings can hide from predators. The fish prefer cool water that is free from chemical and organic pollution, and that maintains temperatures between 15°C and 25°C in summer.

When living in the Bay of Fundy itself, these salmon prefer relatively stable water temperatures- between 1°C and 15°C year round. It is possible that the salmon's low marine survival may in part be due to fluctuations in sea-surface water temperature.

Species Description

With its pointed head, well-developed teeth and silvery sides, the Atlantic salmon is instantly recognizable. When at sea, the salmon's back varies through shades of brown, green and blue, and it has numerous black spots scattered along its body. When spawning, the fish becomes bronze-purple in colour and develops reddish spots on head and body.

Atlantic Walrus

Latin Name
Odobenus rosmarus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

The global range of the Atlantic Walrus includes the central Canadian Arctic to the Kara Sea in the east, Svalbard in the north, and Nova Scotia in the south. Two distinct populations, one east and one west of Greenland, exist within this range. In Canada, the Atlantic Walrus occurs from Bathurst and Prince of Wales islands to Davis Strait, and from James Bay north to Kane Basin. Four distinct Canadian populations still exist: South and East Hudson Bay, Northern Hudson Bay - Davis Strait, Foxe Basin, and Baffin Bay (High Arctic). A fifth Maritime population is considered extirpated.

Species Description

The Atlantic Walrus is a large, sociable marine mammal with a large body and limbs that have developed into flippers. The front flippers support the body in an upright position. They have a moustache made of quill-like whiskers and their upper canine teeth develop into long tusks; longer and broader in males than females. The skin of the Atlantic Walrus is between two and four cm thick and the colour of their hair varies by age - silver grey in newborns and cinnamon brown in adults. Adult males reach up to 1,100 kg in weight and 3.1 m in length; females 800 kg and 2.8 m. Males mature between 7 and 13 years of age and females mature between 5 and 10 years. Scientists believe they may live more than 35 years.

Atlantic Whitefish

Latin Name
Coregonus huntsmani

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

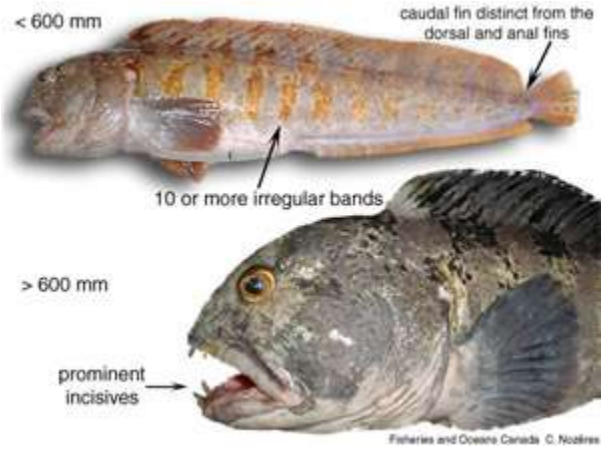
Habitat

Unique to Canada, Atlantic whitefish have been reported only in the Tusket River and Petite Riviere watersheds in southern Nova Scotia. Anadromous Atlantic whitefish were believed to inhabit coastal waters during the summer months. Evidence suggests that they fed on amphipods, small periwinkles and marine worms.

Species Description

The Atlantic whitefish has silvery sides, a silvery-to-white belly, and a dark blue-to-dark green back. The fish has an elongated body and a mouth at the end of its snout rather than under its head. Adult fish range from 18 to 40 cm in length. The Atlantic whitefish's dorsal fin and forked tail fin are dusky in colour; the lower fins are light. The Atlantic whitefish also has a small, fleshy fin between the dorsal and tail fins, which is typical of members of the salmon family.

Atlantic Wolffish



Latin Name
Anarhichas lupus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

In the Arctic, the Altantic Wolffish occurs in the Davis Strait, the northernmost limit of its distribution. In addition, it is widely distributed across the North Atlantic Ocean from southern Newfoundland to the Barents Sea. In the western North Atlantic, it occurs off west Greenland and southern Labrador and in the Strait of Belle Isle. It is also common on the Scotian Shelf and

in the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy. The Atlantic Wolffish is usually found between 50 and 150 m in depth and 0.4° and 6.0° Celsius over rocky and sand bottoms.

Species Description

The Atlantic Wolffish has prominent canine-like teeth in the front of both jaws. This species has a heavy head, a blunt rounded snout, small eyes, and it lacks pelvic fins. The dorsal fin is long and extends to the base of the caudal, with flexible, spiny rays. The caudal fin is small and slightly rounded, while pectoral fins are heavy and rounded. The Atlantic Wolffish has a firm musculataire. The colour of the Atlantic Wolffish varies, from slate blue to dull olive green to purplish brown. The underside of the head and belly are dirty white, tinged with upper body colour. Individuals of this species also bare ten or more darkly coloured transverse bars on their bodies. Adults can weigh over 24 kilograms and reach 1.5 m in length. Maturity is attained between 5 and 11 years of age.

Aurora Trout

Latin Name
Salvelinus fontinalis timagamiensis

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

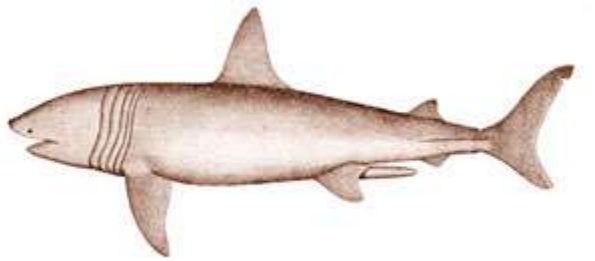
The Aurora Trout is a coldwater species found in clear, cool lakes. This species was native to a few remote, high-elevation lakes in the Temagami district of Ontario. It is now stocked in other lakes in northern Ontario. Natural reproduction by introduced Aurora Trout has been limited in two non-native lakes.

Species Description

The Aurora Trout is a unique variant of the Brook Trout, distinguished by its colouration. It looks similar to Brook Trout, yet adult fish lack the yellow marks throughout the dorsal region and exhibit few to no red spots with blue halos. The dorsal surface is typically olive-green to dark brown with iridescent steel-blue and silver sides and silvery-white underparts that are often

tinged with pink. On the anal, pelvic and pectoral fins there is a white leading edge followed by a dark stripe. The rest of the fins are reddish. The caudal fin is nearly straight or with a shallow indentation. The largest known Aurora Trout was 3500 g and 600 mm long. Aurora Trout have a lifespan of approximately 8 years.

Basking Shark



Latin Name
Cetorhinus maximus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Finfish

Habitat

Basking sharks are found around the world in temperate coastal shelf waters and exist in Canada in both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Along the North American Pacific coast, basking sharks were historically found off California in winter and spring and in particular areas off British Columbia in summer and fall, suggesting a seasonal north-south migration. Basking sharks have rarely been seen in North-American Pacific waters over the last fifteen years. Historically, however, large goupings were observed in nearshore waters along the west coast of Vancouver Island and in one location along the central mainland coast of British Columbia. They spend much of their time near the surface, although there is recent evidence that basking sharks may also use deepwater habitats greater than 1000 m.

Species Description

The basking shark is the second largest fish in the world, with a maximum recorded size of 12.2 m. This filter-feeder is named after its conspicuous behaviour of 'basking' (more accurately feeding) at the surface. The basking shark is typically blackish to grey-brown. It has an extremely large mouth with minute teeth, elongated gill slits, a pointed snout, and a crescent-shaped caudal fin. Gill openings have prominent gill rakers. Longevity is likely about 50 years, while maximum reported length is 12.2 m. Size at birth probably ranges between 1.5 and 2 m.

Males are thought to reach maturity at between 12 and 16 years and females between 16 and 20 years.

Beluga Whale

Latin Name
Delphinapterus leucas

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

It is roughly estimated that between 72,000 and 144,000 belugas live in Canadian waters. These animals are distributed in the western Arctic, high Arctic, eastern Arctic and in the St. Lawrence Estuary. The various populations of belugas are distinguished on the basis of their summer distribution and, for some populations, by measurable differences in genetic and chemical analyses. An aerial survey conducted in the Canadian high Arctic in August 1996 estimated that there are just over 21,000 Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay belugas. This Eastern High Arctic/Baffin Bay population lives in the eastern Canadian high Arctic regions of Lancaster Sound, Barrow Strait, Peel Sound and Baffin Bay during the summer, when the water is open. In the fall, these whales migrate to wintering areas either in the North Water polynya, in the northern end of Baffin Bay, or along the west coast of Greenland.

Species Description

The beluga, meaning "white whale" in Russian, is a sociable and melodic animal. Beluga whales are born with brown or slate-grey colouring and turn completely white once they reach sexual maturity. Their average birth weight is 78 kilograms, and as they grow to adult sizes, their colour changes from brown to bluish-grey, gradually lightening to white when the whales reach six

years of age. Mature males weigh between 450 to 1000 kilograms, and females range from 250 to 700 kilograms. These medium-sized whales average 3.5 metres in length for females, and 3.6 to 4 metres in length for males. In the wild, belugas can live for 75 years or more. Males reach sexual maturity at 12 to 14 years, while females become sexually mature from 8 to 14 years of age.

Bering Cisco

Latin Name
Coregonus laurettae

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

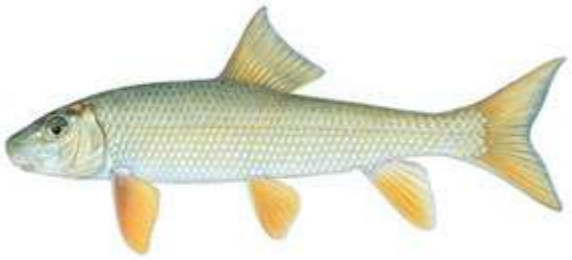
Habitat

Bering cisco spend more time in saline waters than other whitefish, feeding around river mouths/estuaries and brackish lagoons, although they do survive longer periods in salt water. In North America, Bering cisco are most commonly encountered in coastal margins of the Beaufort, Bering and Chukchi seas in Alaska. Bering cisco prefer water that's not too salty.

Species Description

The Bering cisco is a silver coloured whitefish with moderately sized scales. It is a coregonid, meaning a soft-finned fish comprising the freshwater whitefishes, and is often difficult to distinguish from other types. Those found in the Yukon River average about 34 centimetres (males) to 38 cm (females) in length. Not to be confused with other species of cisco, the Bering cisco has almost no colour on its pelvic and pectoral fins and has between 18 and 25 gill rakers-bony projections that stop food from escaping its gills. Bering ciscoes reach sexual maturity between four and nine years of age.

Black Redhorse



Latin Name
Moxostoma duquesnii

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Small compared to other suckers, the black redhorse is found in about a half-dozen Canadian watersheds: the Grand River, Thames River, Bayfield River, Maitland River, Ausable River and Spencer Creek watersheds. The black redhorse is a freshwater fish that favours medium-sized rivers with sandy or gravelly bottoms. The black redhorse is very sensitive to pollution and the water in which it lives must be clean, clear, swift flowing and rich with oxygen. In winter, black redhorses dwell deeper under the surface than they do in the summer.

Species Description

The black redhorse has a grey to olive-green back and blue-silver sides that blend into its silver-white belly. The tail is slate grey and the other of the fins are normally slate grey to orange, but sometimes look reddish. During the spawning season, males have a side-long pink stripe, and their backs and sides are greenish black. Its mouth, like that of most suckers, is found in the lower part of the snout, which allows it to suck up food from the bottom of rivers. The black redhorse looks very similar to other species of redhorse - so much so that biologists tend to confuse them. However, a close inspection of its lips would reveal a straight black edge, as opposed to the "V" formed by the lips of a golden redhorse. This sucker reaches sexual maturity at age four and lives up to 16 years. In Canada, the black redhorse reaches full-size at 30 centimetres and weighs about one kilogram.

Blackstripe Topminnow

Latin Name
Fundulus notatus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

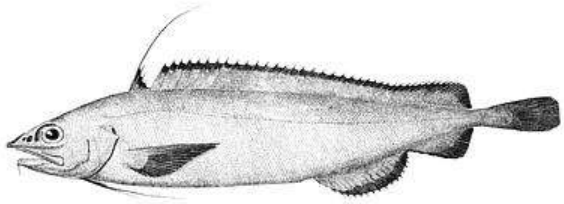
Habitat

The Blackstripe Topminnow occurs in the central United States, ranging from the Gulf states north to the lower Great Lakes. In Canada, it is found only in southwestern Ontario in the Sydenham River and associated creeks. This species is found in slow-flowing creeks and rivers. They use floating aquatic plants and low overhanging terrestrial vegetation for cover.

Species Description

The Blackstripe Topminnow has an elongated body, a small upturned mouth and large eyes. It is small, normally growing to about 5-7 cm long. The top of the head is flattened and the tail fin is rounded. Large round scales are present on the top of the head, cheeks and gill covers. This fish has a prominent black horizontal band from snout to tail and an opal coloured spot on the top of the head.

Blue Hake



Latin Name
Antimora rostrata

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

The blue hake lives in deep waters in every ocean around in the globe. Sometimes found at depths of nearly 3000 metres, it has not been extensively studied by scientists, nor is it particularly attractive as a commercial fish. In Canadian waters, populations exist off the coasts of the Atlantic provinces and Baffin Island. Little is known about the life cycles of these fish, but it is thought that they might migrate into deeper waters to spawn.

Species Description

The blue hake is normally grey-blue or brownish-blue to nearly black, with a flat nose and slightly indented tail. It has two dorsal fins, the second of which spans most of its body length. Females usually grow up to 75 cm, while males may grow to only about half that length.

Blue Shark

Latin Name
Prionace glauca

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

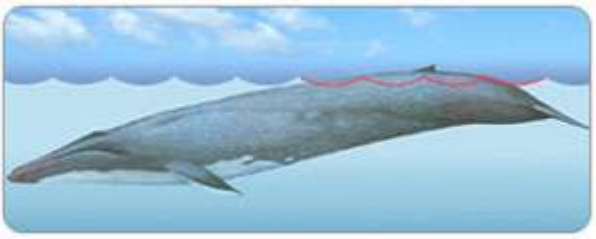
Blue sharks are found worldwide in temperate and tropical oceans, most often in the offshore surface waters. They are found throughout Canada's Pacific waters, and in Atlantic Canada they are found in almost all waters, from northeastern Newfoundland southward, including the Gulf

of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy. Blue sharks are most commonly encountered offshore between the surface and 350 m.

Species Description

Blue sharks are long and slender, reaching 3.8 m in length, with distinctive blue coloration on their backs and sides. Their eyes are large and have a lower eyelid that is able to open and close. They have long pointed snouts and long pectoral fins. Maturity is reached between ages 4-6 and maximum age is between 16-20 years.

Blue Whale



Latin Name
Balaenoptera musculus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

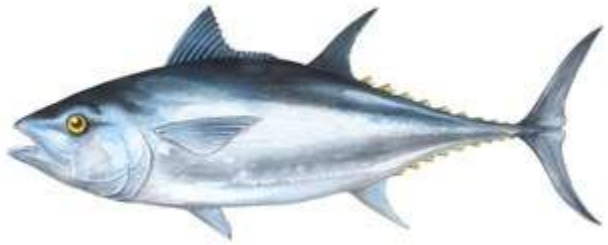
Blue whales live in every one of the world's oceans. There are three subspecies. Those found in Canada belong to the Northern Hemisphere subspecies-of which there are both North Atlantic and North Pacific populations. The Atlantic population of Blue whales frequents waters off eastern Canada: along the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; off eastern Nova Scotia; off the south coast of the island of Newfoundland and in the Davis Strait; and between Baffin Island and Greenland. While they usually go south in winter, some do linger in the St. Lawrence during years of light ice cover. The Pacific population is found off the west coast of Canada; it migrates past Vancouver Island in spring and fall.

Species Description

The Blue whale is the largest animal on Earth today-and the largest known to have ever existed. The Blue whale is a rorqual whale-one of a group that has expanding grooves in the skin of the

neck; these allow it to take in huge volumes of water while feeding. One quarter of its entire length is made up by its head. It has a smallish dorsal fin and pointed pectoral flippers. Despite its name, the Blue whale is actually coloured dark and light grey; every whale has a unique pattern of mottling that makes it identifiable. Living between 70 and 80 years, Blue whales reproduce every two or three years. Calves at birth measure seven metres and weigh some two tonnes. The largest adult on record measured 29.5 metres.

Bluefin Tuna



Latin Name
Thunnus thynnus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System
Tuna Species and Science

NEW View the videos on Canada's Bluefin Tuna Fishery

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

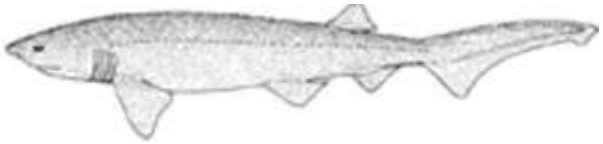
Bluefin tuna are widely distributed throughout the northern hemisphere, in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. In the western Atlantic, they range from Newfoundland and Labrador to Brazil and in the eastern Atlantic, their range stretches from Norway to the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa. Bluefins are also found in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. They undertake extensive migrations, appearing on Canada's Atlantic coast from June to early autumn.

Species Description

Bluefin tuna are hefty fish with a large head and a body that tapers sharply near their tail fin. Their first dorsal fin is long, flat and shaped like a sail, and the second is thin and curved. Their tail fin is very slender and strongly indented. Bluefins are dark blue on their dorsal side,

becoming silvery-white on their flanks and belly. They can grow to more than three metres in length and weigh over 650 kilograms. They are estimated to live about 20 years.

Bluntnose Sixgill Shark



Latin Name
Hexanchus griseus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Finfish

Habitat

Although the bluntnose sixgill shark is found from the surface to depths of 2500 m, it is primarily a deepwater species found in waters below 91 m. The species is mostly found over the outer continental and insular shelves. Young bluntnose sixgill sharks are thought to remain in shallower waters of the continental shelf and uppermost slope until they reach adolescence, at which time they move further down the slope and into deeper water. In Canada's Pacific waters immature bluntnose sixgill sharks regularly make forays into shallow waters in some locales allowing the opportunity for scuba divers to observe them.

Species Description

The bluntnose sixgill shark, with a maximum reported length 4.8 m, is the largest predatory shark regularly encountered in Canada's Pacific waters. The name, sixgill, refers to the presence of six gill slits whereas most other shark species have only five. It is easily distinguished from other sharks as it has only a single dorsal fin, compared to two in all other shark species normally found on Canada's Pacific coast. Its colour is a dark brown or grey to black on their back dorsal side with the colour becoming lighter towards their underside. Its head is broad and depressed with a blunt snout and its eyes are bright green. With this species females grow larger than males. Length at maturity has been reported for females to be 421-482 cm. For males length at maturity is 310 cm. Age of maturity is widely reported at 11-14 years for males and 18-35 years for females as is an estimated longevity of up to 80 years, but these values have not been confirmed through valid aging studies.

Bocaccio

Latin Name
Sebastes paucispinis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

Bocaccio are found in the eastern Pacific Ocean from the Gulf of Alaska to Baja California, Mexico. In Canada, the fish lives along the British Columbia coast, seeming to favour Queen Charlotte Sound and the northwest coast of Vancouver Island.

Species Description

With its distinctive long jaw extending at least as far as its eye socket, adult bocaccio are easy to identify. The fish's back ranges in colour from olive to burnt-orange or brown when mature; its stomach is pink and red. Young bocaccio are light bronze and have small brown spots on their sides. Their colour darkens and the spots disappear as they mature. Typically up to 74 centimetres in length, female bocaccio have been known to grow up to 90 centimetres. Young bocaccio grow rapidly in their first year, often reaching approximately 25 cm in length. The fish is thought to mature at four or five years of age, and to have a lifespan of approximately 40 years. Females are often larger than males.

Bowhead Whale

Latin Name
Balaena mysticetus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

Bowhead whales are distributed throughout the world's arctic regions, but in far fewer numbers than in recent centuries. Today, they are found in the Canadian Arctic from the Bering Sea to the Beaufort Sea in the west, and along the south and west coasts of Banks Island, in Amundsen Gulf, and along western Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula. Bowhead Whales occur in marine waters within areas ranging from open water to thick, pack ice. They break through ice over 20 cm thick with the crown of the head to breathe, and can navigate and communicate under extensive ice fields using their sophisticated acoustic sense.

Species Description

Bowhead Whales are large baleen whales with a barrel-shaped body and a very large head (about 30% of total body length). The blubber layer is thick, from 5.5 cm on the chin to about 28 cm over the trunk reaching a maximum of 50 cm. Flippers are small and paddle-shaped and they have no dorsal fin or dorsal hump. Calves are 4 to 4.5 m long at birth and brownish black in colour and adults are black in colour with patches of white around their chin and tail. They grow and develop slowly, reaching sexual maturity at about 25 years of age. Longevity is estimated to be between 50 and 75 years, with some individuals possibly reaching over 100 years of age.

Bridle Shiner

Latin Name
Notropis bifrenatus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The bridle shiner lives in eastern North America. Its range in Canada reaches from the Bay of Quinte on Lake Ontario to Lac St-Paul, Quebec in the northeast and to Lac Memphrémagog in the south, typically in lowland areas. It prefers the quiet parts of streams and (sometimes) lakes. It is usually found in areas where there is abundant aquatic vegetation, and can survive adequately in moderately muddy water; however, it prefers clear water. The increased clarity brought about by the presence of zebra mussels is thought to have had a positive effect on populations in the upper St. Lawrence River.

Species Description

It has a golden/straw-coloured back, silvery sides that flash green-blue, and a black band that runs from its nose to its tail. The black markings of the band also extend around the fish's snout. As they mature, males develop small tubercles - or wart-like bumps -- on the head, nape and pectoral fins. The bridle shiner's maximum length is 6 cm. Like many small fishes, the bridle shiner does not live long: just two years.

Canary Rockfish

Latin Name
Sebastes pinniger

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Canary rockfish are an eastern Pacific species that typically inhabit rocky bottoms at depths of 70-270 metres from the Gulf of Alaska to Baha California. They live near the ocean floor preferring hard, rocky bottoms near the continental shelf. Juvenile Canary Rockfish tend to remain in shallower water and move into deeper water as they get older.

Species Description

Canary Rockfish are coloured with a blend of grey and a heavy mottling of bright red or orange. They have three orange lines on their head and a grey lateral line. Their mouth is fairly large, with a protruding lower jaw. On their dorsal side they have several hard spines and a flat dorsal fin. Canary Rockfish can be as long as 75 centimetres, but are typically 55-60 centimetres with a maximum weight of 5.7 kg. The Canary Rockfish has late maturity (13 years for females) and a long maximum lifespan (84 years).

Capelin

Latin Name
Mallotus villosus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

Capelin have a circumpolar distribution throughout the arctic and subarctic regions of the world. In the northwestern Atlantic, they range from western Greenland and Hudson Bay in the north to

Maine in the south and are most abundant around Newfoundland. Since the early 1990s, they have been observed in greater numbers in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the Scotian Shelf. In the eastern Atlantic, they are found from the Barents Sea to the coast of Norway, as well as in Icelandic coastal waters. In the Pacific, their range stretches from the Juan de Fuca Strait north along Alaska and across the Bering Sea to Siberia. From there, their range extends south, around Japan and toward Korea. Some stocks of capelin spend the bulk of their lives offshore, moving inshore only to spawn on beaches, while other stocks live their entire lives offshore, spawning on the bottom in deep water such as in the Barents Sea, in Icelandic waters, and on the Southeast Shoal of the Grand Bank.

Species Description

Capelin are small, slender fish that closely resemble smelt. They have a pointed snout with a slightly protruding lower jaw, a large dorsal fin and a small adipose fin behind it. They are silvery under their lateral line and green or olive-green above it, and their underside is silvery-white. During the spawning season, capelin exhibit sexual dimorphism, which means the head and back of males become darker; their pectoral, pelvic and anal fins are well-developed compared to females; and males have 'spawning ridges' consisting of a row of elongated scales just above the lateral line on either side of the body. Mature capelin are generally between 13 and 20 centimetres long, with the largest male found in Newfoundland waters at 25 centimetres long. Mature capelin can weigh as much as 40 and 45 grams, and rarely live longer than five years.

Carmine Shiner

Latin Name
Notropis percobromus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Canadian population of the Carmine shiner occurs only in south-central eastern Manitoba. The Carmine shiner has been recorded "in the Whitemouth River watershed, the Winnipeg River at the mouth of the Whitemouth River; The Old Pinawa Channel at the Pinawa Dam site; Forbes Creek, a tributary of George Lake; Tie Creek, the outlet of George Lake into the Winnipeg River; the Bird River at the mouth of Peterson Creek; and further upstream from Peterson Creek at the first set of rapids on the Bird River." [Source: The Freshwater Fishes of Manitoba (Stewart, Kenneth W., and Douglas A. Watkinson, University of Manitoba Press)]

Species Description

This slim, silvery minnow grows to a length of between 51 and 76 millimetres. It has a large mouth and transparent fins. The Carmine shiner is named for the red tinge that colours the head and pectoral fins of breeding males. (Females can also develop the same red hue, but it is typically paler when it does appear.) Breeding males also develop many small swellings-known as nuptial tubercles-on their snout, lower jaw and anterior pectoral, and sometimes on the upper surfaces of the pelvic, dorsal and anal fins. Similar swellings can appear on the heads of females.

Channel Darter

Latin Name
Percina copelandi

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

In Canada, several separate populations of channel darters live throughout the lower Great Lakes, from the Detroit River to Lake Erie, and in the tributaries of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The channel darter mainly inhabits large clean streams and rivers with bottoms consisting of large rocks, fine gravel and sand. The darter likes enough water current to keep the gravel bottom free of silt. Riffle areas are preferred during spawning and summer feeding, and

deeper, quieter backwaters during the winter. In Ontario, the darter's habitat consists of streams and lakes over wave-washed sand and gravel bottoms, and beaches with slow to sluggish currents.

Species Description

A small elongated fish, the channel darter's sandy or olive colouring provides perfect camouflage with the sandy-bottomed rivers and lakes in which it lives. The darter has a whitish underbelly, brown speckles on its back, and between 10 and 15 dark cross-shaped markings on its sides. A male's body and fins darken during spawning, and his head may turn almost black.During spawning, male channel darters establish small territories-usually centred around one rock-which they defend vigorously against other males. Females move into a male's territory, burrow into the gravel behind the stone, and spawn. Females will spawn successively with many males, laying between four and ten eggs in each nest until up to 400 eggs are laid.

Chinook Salmon

Latin Name
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

Habitat

The Chinook salmon (Okanagan population) are anadromous salmon migrating to and from the Pacific Ocean through the Columbia River and Okanagan Lake. Independent yet "loosely schooling," the Chinook tend to congregate together in areas with underwater structures, such as reefs, rocks, banks, and depressions. While spawning in summer and early fall, they take routes

close to land and generally hole-up overnight in the calm waters close to shore. The Chinook salmon (Okanagan population) once occupied the area from Osoyoos Lake to Okanagan Lake, but McIntryre Dam near Oliver, BC, an irrigation diversion project completed in 1954, now blocks fish from continuing upriver. Currently, the population's northern freshwater limit is the McIntyre Dam and its southern freshwater limit may be the north basin of Osoyoos Lake, immediately north of the BC border with Washington State. Some of the Chinook salmon appear to be non-anadromous, spending their entire lives in Osoyoos Lake.

Species Description

The largest of Pacific salmon species, an adult Chinook salmon is capable of growing to five feet long and weighing 45 kilograms or more. The Chinook is easily distinguished from other salmon, by factors other than its larger size. Anglers often refer to it as the handsomest of the salmon. The Chinook has black gums, giving it the name "blackmouth" in some areas. Black dots extend from its gill plates across its back and tail. Ocean dwelling Chinook have blue-green sides which blacken in summer, and silver undersides. Also, unique in scent, those familiar with salmon can identify the Chinook by smell alone. Chinook are also the only salmon to have two different genetic strains, giving it either white or pink meat. When Chinook are on their spawning run, their colour is red to copper to almost black, depending on locations and maturity. Males have deeper colours than the females.

Chum Salmon

Latin Name
Oncorhynchus keta

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

Habitat

Chum salmon have the widest distribution of all the Pacific salmon, from the Californian coast to Alaska in the eastern Pacific and from Siberia to the Korean peninsula in the western Pacific.

They are also found in Arctic waters, from the Beaufort Sea to the Bering Sea. Chum salmon are born in coastal rivers and streams and migrate into saltwater immediately, swimming out quite far into the open sea. Like pink salmon, chum salmon tend to spawn in small streams close to the ocean. The Chum salmon of the Yukon River are exceptional because they swim over 3000 km upriver from the Bering Sea to spawning grounds in Canada's Yukon Territory.

Species Description

During their marine phase, chum salmon have a silver body flecked with black with a metallic-blue dorsal side. They become whiter on their underside and have a dark, thick stripe running horizontally across its flanks. Their tails are somewhat concave and streaked with silver. As they mature and enter freshwater to spawn, their back will become greenish-brown to nearly black and they will develop purplish streaks on their sides, resembling a calico pattern. They live three to five years and weigh about 4.5 to 6.5 kilograms, but have been known to reach 15 kilograms.

Coho Salmon

Latin Name
Oncorhynchus kisutch

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

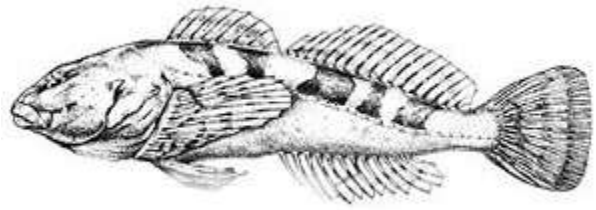
Habitat

One of seven species of the genus Oncorhynchus native to North America, coho salmon are found in most of the coastal streams and rivers of British Columbia. Interior Fraser River coho salmon spend 18 months at sea before returning to freshwater to spawn. The Interior Fraser River watershed includes systems within the Fraser River watershed upstream of Hells Gate in the Fraser River canyon in British Columbia.

Species Description

Adult coho salmon have silvery sides and metallic blue backs with irregular black spots. Spawning males have bright red sides, and bright green backs and heads, with darker colouration on their bellies. The fish have hooked jaws and sharp teeth. Young coho salmon are aggressive, territorial and often vibrantly coloured, with a large orange anal fin edged in black and white.

Columbia Mottled Sculpin



Latin Name
Cottus bairdii hubbsi

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

This species occurs in the Columbia, Flathead, Similkameen and Kettle rivers as well as some of their tributary streams in British Columbia and the adjacent United States. Populations are not overly abundant but seem to be near natural historical levels in the Similkameen River. Only a small portion of the Kettle River in Canada is suitable and populations there are stable but are probably supported by populations in the adjacent portion of the river in the United States. In the Columbia River, populations are low and are very threatened because of hydroelectric dams and reservoirs. The Columbia Mottled Sculpin is generally known from rocky riffle habitats in rivers and streams, but may sometimes occur in lakes as well.

Species Description

The Columbia Mottled Sculpin is a small fish that reaches a maximum 10 to 11 cm in length. It is a typically shaped sculpin with dark mottling on the fins, tail and body. They begin breeding at about two years of age. Females reach maturity when as small as 55mm long, but most individuals become mature when about 75 mm long. Males are generally bigger than females.

Copper Redhorse

Latin Name
Moxostoma hubbsi

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The species occurs nowhere in the world except Canada. The copper redhorse occurs primarily in medium-sized rivers where water temperatures exceed 20°C in summer. Spawning occurs in riffle areas where the current is moderate to slow and the depth ranges between 0.75 and 2 m, over fine to coarse gravel and cobble substrate. Like its congeners, young-of-the-year copper redhorse spend their first growing season in shallow shoreline areas no more than 1.5 m deep, characterized by gentle slopes, vegetation, a very slow current and fine substrate (mix of clay-silt and sand).

Species Description

By comparison with the other redhorse species with which it occurs in sympatry, the copper redhorse has the longest lifespan (over 30 years), is the most fecund and reaches the largest size (over 70 cm). Its spawning period is later than that of its congeners, occurring from late June to early July, when water temperatures range from 18 to 26°C. The species also reaches sexual maturity later than its congeners (at about 10 years). The copper redhorse feeds almost exclusively on molluscs, which it crushes with its very robust pharyngeal apparatus and molariform teeth.

Cultus Lake Sockeye Salmon

Latin Name
Oncorhynchus nerka

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Cultus Lake is located in southwest British Columbia, in the eastern Fraser Valley, south west of Chilliwack. The lake is 112 km upstream from the Strait of Georgia. The salmon live and spawn in the lake and migrate to the North Pacific Ocean through the Fraser River to the Strait of Georgia.

Species Description

Adult sockeye salmon living in saltwater usually have bluish backs and silver sides. When sockeye spawn, their bodies typically turn bright-red and their heads become green. However, it is not possible to identify a Cultus Lake sockeye salmon by appearance alone. Genetic testing must be used to differentiate Cultus Lake sockeye from other sockeye salmon.

Cultus Pygmy Sculpin

Latin Name
Cottus sp.

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

This small, larva-like fish is found only in Cultus Lake in British Columbia. Cultus Lake is a low-level montane lake in southwestern British Columbia's Fraser River watershed; this fish species restricts itself to the deeper parts of the lake.

Species Description

A full-grown adult Cultus pygmy sculpin is roughly 50 millimeters long and resembles a larva. The fish runs brown to grey on top, marked with dark blotches; its bottom is more or less white. Spawning males are darker-coloured and boast an orange band on the first dorsal fin. The species has a large head, heavy body and small pelvic fins, a long anal fin, two soft dorsal fins, and good-sized pectoral fins with small prickles behind them. Two or three dark blotches appear beneath the second dorsal fin. Adult fins have bar-shaped pigments.

Cusk

Latin Name
Brosme brosme

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

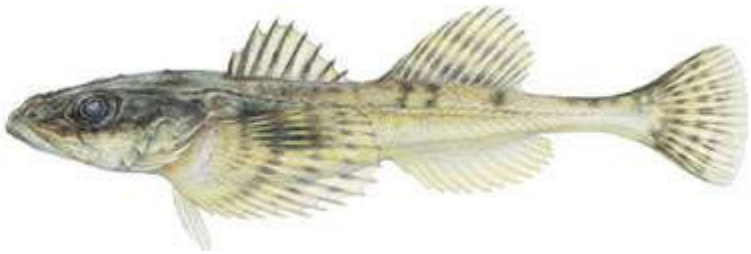
Habitat

In Canada, cusk are found primarily in the Gulf of Maine and on the southeastern edge of the Scotian Shelf. The fish seem to prefer water that is more than 200 metres deep, sometimes swimming to depths of 600 metres. Cusk inhabit areas with a hard, rocky sea floor. They are occasionally found over gravel and mud, but rarely over sand.

Species Description

Essentially northern, deep-water fish, cusk are relatively slow-growing and late-maturing. Males reach sexual maturity at around five years of age; females at seven. A cusk has an elongated body, a large head and a wide mouth. Several rows of sharp teeth line the fish's jaws, and a single barbel-or whisker-adorns the lower jaw. Body colouring varies from reddish- to greenish-brown shading to cream or white on the belly.

Deepwater Sculpin



Latin Name
Myoxocephalus thompsonii

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

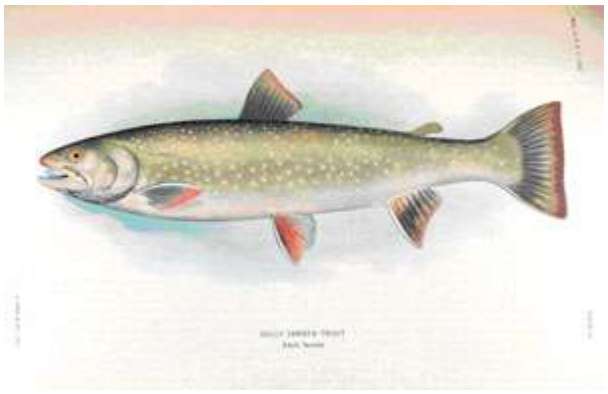
Habitat

The distribution of the Deepwater Sculpin is almost entirely limited to Canada with the exception of the American Great Lakes and a few inland lakes in Michigan and Minnesota. In Canada, its distribution is patchy and limited to cold, deep lakes in areas that were formerly glaciated or with proglacial lake connections. This includes the Gatineau region through the Laurentian Great Lakes, Manitoba and Saskatchewan and northward to Great Bear and Great Slave lakes in the Northwest Territories. An isolated population also exists in Waterton Lake, Alberta. Designated at risk (Special Concern) are the Great Lakes-Western St. Lawrence populations, which are found in only 10 lakes in eastern Canada. In Ontario, this fish occurs in lakes Nipigon, Ontario, Superior, Fairbank, Huron and Erie. In Lake Erie, only larvae (young-of-the-year) have been observed. In Quebec, it occurs in Lac des Iles and in Roddick, Thirty-one-Mile and Heney lakes. Populations in Heney Lake and Lac des Iles are in decline or may even no longer exist.

Species Description

The Deepwater Sculpin is a lake-dwelling sculpin with a flat, long body averaging 51 to 76 mm in length; maximum length of 235 mm. It has a large mouth with small teeth on both jaws, tongue, and roof of mouth. The Deepwater Sculpin has separated dorsal fins; the first has 7 to 10 spines, the second has 11 to 16 soft rays. It is dark grey to brown in colour with dark saddles marking the back; light speckling on sides and a pale belly. The reproductive cycle is not well understood and the time of spawning is not known. Age of maturity has been estimated at three years for females and two for males.

Dolly Varden Char



Latin Name
Salvelinus malma

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

Habitat

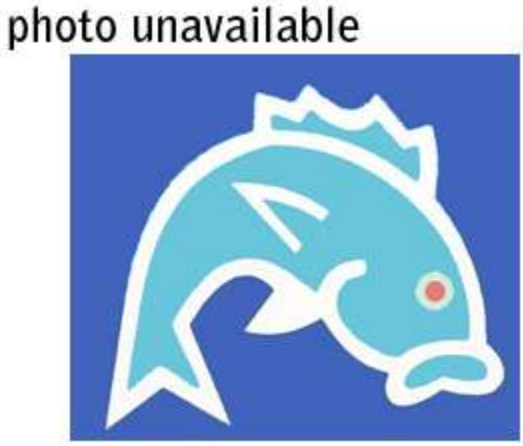
Dolly Varden are char of coastal streams of the northern Pacific Ocean. In the eastern Pacific they range from the Bering Sea to Washington State. In the northwest they range from Siberia to Japan and the Korean Peninsula. They inhabit coastal streams and lakes, although in Canada they are found throughout the Skeena and Stikine Rivers and in isolated and landlocked populations in the headwaters of the Liard, Peace and Fraser Rivers. How they came to live in those rivers is the subject of the fascinating field of study called zoogeography.

There are many different types of Dolly Varden that are distinguished by where they live. One type lives only in streams, which are often very steep and small. This form is usually quite small. Other forms migrate between lakes and streams or migrate within larger rivers. One type is anadromous like the Pacific salmon. Anadromous Dolly Varden spawn in freshwater but grow and mature in the ocean. Unlike the salmon, anadromous Dolly Varden live in the estuary of their home stream and spend only a few summer months there.

Species Description

Dolly Varden resemble other trout and char, especially the bull trout with which they are frequently confused. They have an elongated and moderately compressed body. In their marine phase, they have a dark blue or olive-coloured back, silvery sides and a white belly. Like all char they have light coloured yellow, pink or orange spots on a dark background. Trout have dark spots on a light background. In their freshwater spawning phase, males become much darker on their dorsal side, and their flanks glow a brilliant red. Males grow to about 45 centimetres and females to about 35 centimetres. They live up to eight years

Dover Sole



Latin Name
Microstomus pacificus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Dover sole are deep-water Pacific groundfish that range from the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands down the west coast of Canada to Baja California, Mexico. The most important fishing grounds in Canadian waters are the west coast of Vancouver Island and farther north, off the west coast of the Queen Charlotte Islands and Dixon Entrance. Dover sole live at depths between 10 and 1,200 metres, moving into deeper waters during the winter for spawning.

Species Description

Dover sole are righteye flounders, with a compressed, oval-shaped body, and both eyes on one side. The side with the eyes ranges in colour from brown to greyish-brown, sometimes mottled with darker smudges. On their blind side, they can be off-white to grey. They have a tiny, slightly asymmetrical mouth with flat teeth, and have copious amounts of slime on their bodies making them slippery to handle. They can grow to about six kilograms. Females average around 30 centimetres in length, but can grow to 70 centimetres, whereas males do not grow larger than about 50 cm.

Dungeness Crab

Latin Name
Cancer magister

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

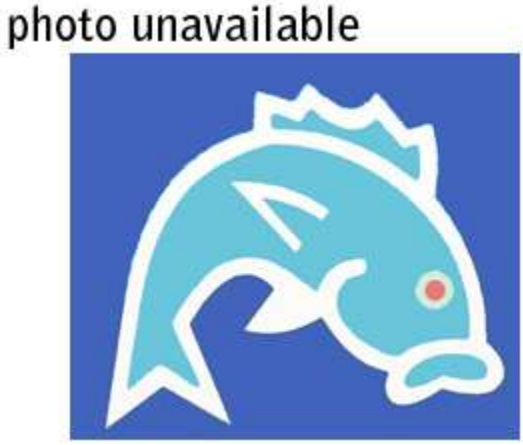
Habitat

Dungeness crab are a west coast species ranging from the Aleutian Islands to southern California. They thrive in colder water, making the ocean off British Columbia a prime fishing area, where they live in bays, inlets and estuaries and on the open coast. Dungeness crab prefer sandy areas and live at variable depths from the intertidal zone to at least 250 metres; however, they are most abundant above 50-metre depths. They feed primarily on live prey including fish, crustaceans, clams and worms but will also scavenge.

Species Description

Dungeness crab have an oval-shaped carapace that is yellow-brown to purplish. They have four pairs of walking legs and a pair of claws. The claws have light-coloured tips, sharp serated teeth and a pronounced hook at the tips, distinguishing it from similar species. Dungeness crab can weigh up to two kilograms and have a shell diameter exceeding 200 millimetres, but crabs of this size are uncommon because of the intensity with which they are fished.

Dwarf Wedgemussel



Latin Name
Alasmidonta heterodon

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

A century ago, the dwarf wedgemussel lived in at least 70 locations in 15 major watersheds along the Atlantic, from New Brunswick to North Carolina. Now, this small mussel is extirpated from Canada and found in only nine American watersheds.

Dwarf wedgemussels continue to live in small freshwater streams and medium-sized rivers in the eastern United States. They prefer bodies of water that have slow to moderate currents, with underlying sand, fine sediment or gravel substrates and streamside vegetation. Waters clouded with suspended silt are inhabitable for dwarf wedgemussels.

Species Description

A typical dwarf wedgemussel is less than 5.5 centimetres long. Like all mussels, it has two hinged shells enclosing a soft inside. Its brown shell is oblong circular and may include yellowish-brown hues. The inside of its shell ranges from bluish to silvery-white, with an iridescent sheen in the back section. It is easy to overlook, as it tends to be half-buried in the river-bottom.

Eastern Pondmussel

Latin Name
Ligumia nasuta

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

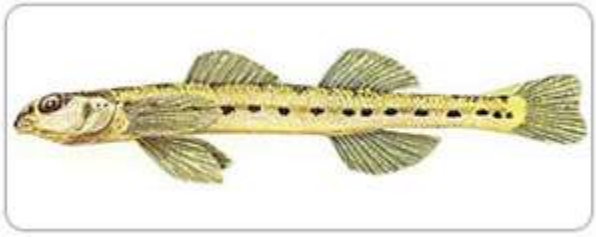
Habitat

The range of the Eastern Pondmussel is limited to eastern North America from the lower Great Lakes to New York, New Hampshire and in coastal rivers to South Carolina. In Canada, only two populations are believed to exist; in the delta area of Lake St. Clair (in the transition zone between wetlands and open water) and in a small tributary of the upper St. Lawrence River, Lyn Creek, near the outlet of Lake Ontario. The preferred habitat of the Eastern Pondmussel is sheltered areas of lakes or slow streams in substrates of sand and mud at depths up to 4.5 m.

Species Description

The Eastern Pondmussel was once among the most common species of freshwater mussels in the lower Great Lakes. It is medium to large in size (average 70 mm) with a long, elliptical, compressed shell, which is thin but strong. Its posterior ridge is well-developed, distinct and angled near the beak; posterior end is bluntly pointed. Beaks are located in the anterior quarter of the shell and are low and slightly raised above the hinge line. The shell colour of juveniles is yellowish or greenish black with narrow green rays at posterior end, whereas the shell of adults is dark brown or black.

Eastern Sand Darter



Latin Name
Ammocrypta pellucida

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

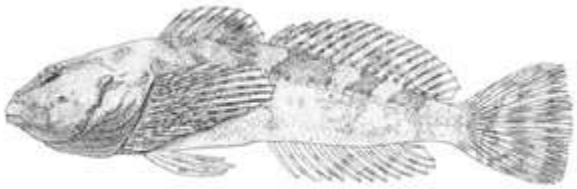
Habitat

In Canada, this species has been found in Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, and in the St. Lawrence River and Lac Champlain. Specimens are still found in Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, and in a number of rivers in southwestern Ontario and Quebec. It prefers waters with sandy bottoms or limestone bottoms, whether clear or murky, still or swift.

Species Description

This small, slender fish has a long, translucent body that is not entirely covered in scales. Its colour is white, yellow or silvery, and its body is marked with dark spots along each side. Full-grown eastern sand darters range in length anywhere from 46 to 71 millimeters.

Eastslope Sculpin



Latin Name
Cottus bairdii

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Eastslope Sculpin has a very limited distribution, found only in the Milk and St. Mary rivers in Alberta, Montana and Wyoming (upper Missouri River system), and in the Flathead River in British Columbia. The Milk River population is widely distributed throughout most of the North Milk River and Milk mainstem, with the exception of the lowermost section close to the international border, where it is absent. The St. Mary population occurs throughout the entire section of the St. Mary River above the St. Mary Reservoir to the international border. The Eastslope Sculpin is found in cool, clear streams with shallow runs and riffles, rock, gravel or cobble substrate, and little to no current. They are usually absent from pools with bottoms of clay or sand. They are nocturnal and remain under cover during the day.

Species Description

The Eastslope Sculpin is a small, freshwater sculpin that has only recently been designated as a new species. Its name is, therefore, provisional until a formal scientific description is made. The Eastslope Sculpin has a large head and its body is heavy and tapers from the head to the tail. They have no swim bladder and their dorsal and pelvic fins have protective spines. The maximum fork length is 114 mm (Milk River), and their longevity is likely less than five years.

English Sole

Latin Name
Parophrys vetulus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

English sole are flatfish that inhabit the Pacific Ocean, from the Aleutian Islands down to Baja California, Mexico. In Canadian waters, the densest populations occur off the coast of British Columbia. They are migratory but usually do not undertake long migrations. They can live at depths of more than 500 metres, but are usually found at depths of less than 150 metres.

Species Description

English sole are diamond-shaped and have flat, compressed, brown to olive-brown coloured bodies, sometimes mottled with white. They are righteye flounders with their second eye set high and visible from the blind side. Their blind side ranges from white to a muted yellow with a brownish tinge. They have small, asymmetrical mouths and pointed snouts, and can grow to more than 50 centimetres in length and weigh more than a kilogram. Females usually are much larger than males and constitute the majority of the commercial catch.

Enos Lake Stickleback

Latin Name
Gasterosteus sp.

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Enos Lake stickleback is restricted to a small lake on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The lake has highly productive benthic and pelagic layers. The climate in the area is hot and dry in summer and cool and wet in winter.

Species Description

The benthic Enos Lake stickleback has adapted in many ways to equip itself for life close to the lake floor. For example, the benthic fish has evolved smaller eyes and a shorter jaw than its limnetic sister.

The limnetic Enos Lake stickleback has adapted in many ways to equip itself for life close to the water's surface. For example, the fish has evolved longer gill rakers than its benthic siste

Euchalon

Latin Name
Thaleichthys pacificus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

Habitat

A species of smelt native to the northeastern Pacific, eulachon range from the eastern Bering Sea and off the Aleutian Islands to the Californian coast. They are anadromous, which means they travel between freshwater and the marine environment and return to several major rivers and numerous streams in British Columbia, Washington/Oregon and Alaska to spawn. In saltwater, eulachon are typically found at depths of 80 to 200 metres. For reasons still unknown, there was a coast-wide decline in the 1990s, and populations have generally failed to recover. Several explanations have been suggested, including climate-driven changes effecting offshore predator-prey dynamics (i.e. Pacific hake and plankton interactions), spawning river hydrology (earlier, smaller spring freshets) and anthropogenic influences (i.e. dredging, pollution, harvesting and unintentional bycatch in trawls).

Species Description

Eulachon are slender, silver fish with a bluish back and a white belly. They have large, canine-like teeth, transparent fins, a forked tail and possess an adipose fin, a small, fleshy fin (without rays) on the median line of the body, near the caudal fin (or tail), characteristic of all smelts and salmonids. At spawning time, eulachon become greyish-brown and are usually toothless, having lost teeth during the latter part of their lives. Spawning males are distinguished from females by tubercles on their heads and near their lateral lines. Eulachon grow to a maximum length of about 25 centimetres.

Euphausiids (Krill)

Latin Name
Meganictyphanes norvegica

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Many different species of euphausiids are found on Canada's east and west coasts. They live in waters that are at least 200 metres deep, although they migrate to less than 50 metres depth during the day.

Species Description

Euphausiids, or krill, as they are commonly called, are tiny crustaceans found throughout the world's oceans. These zooplankton are a very important part of the food chain in the ocean as they serve as prey for countless species of fish and marine mammals. In fact, some whales eat krill almost exclusively. Euphausiids are usually quite small, with the largest species growing to be only a few centimetres. Krill themselves are normally herbivores, though some species are omnivorous.

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Fin Whale

Latin Name
Balaenoptera physalus

Alternative Names
Finback whale

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

Fin whales are found in all oceans of the world, but are more abundant in temperate to polar latitudes. They generally make seasonal migrations from low-latitude wintering areas to high-latitude summer feeding grounds. In Canada, fin whale populations occur in both the North Atlantic and North Pacific. The fin whale was once quite common in Canadian Pacific waters, but commercial whaling activity has greatly reduced their numbers. Fin whales generally travel alone or in small groups far offshore.

Species Description

The fin whale is the second largest whale in the world, after the blue whale. Fin whales are characterized by fast swimming speeds and streamlined bodies. Adult fin whales reach physical maturity at 25 years of age, and range in size from 20-27 metres, and 60-80 tonnes, with northern hemisphere populations tending to be slightly smaller than their southern counterparts. They can live for up to 100 years, and females reproduce at two to three year intervals. The species is often confused with blue, sei and Bryde's whales due to similar sizes and characteristics, though fin

whales can be distinguished by the asymmetrical pigmentation on their lower jaws, which is dark on the left and light on the right.

Geoduck Clam

Latin Name
Panopea abrupta

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

Geoduck clams are found in the waters of the northeast Pacific from Alaska to Baja California. Living at variable depths from the low intertidal zone to more than 100 metres, they burrow into the ocean floor. A developing geoduck digs about a third of a metre per year. After reaching about a metre depth, the adult geoduck settles in for a long uneventful life.

Species Description

Geoduck clams are bivalves, and have two shells that are white and somewhat rectangular in shape. Their equal-sized valves do not conceal their enormous siphon (neck), which is white to reddish-brown in colour. Geoduck clams are the largest burrowing clams in the world, with a shell length that can exceed 20 centimetres. They generally weigh between 0.5 and 1.5 kilograms, but, occasionally, grow as large as 3 kilograms. Geoducks are slow-growing and long-lived, with maximum ages of at least 168 years.

Giant Red Sea Cucumber

Latin Name
Parastichopus californicus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Giant red sea cucumbers are a Pacific species that range from the southern coast of Alaska to Baja California. They live at depths of up to 250 metres, preferring rocky or sandy bottoms. While fairly sedentary, sea cucumbers undergo seasonal vertical migrations.

Species Description

Giant red sea cucumbers have an unusual body configuration that is radially pentamerous-organized in a circle of five sections-and devoid of a head (or brain). They are long and cylindrical, resembling a cucumber, hence their name. Underneath their body are several tube feet that create suction and allow them to walk across the ocean floor. Giant red sea cucumbers are red to reddish-orange, covered with pale-coloured bumps that look like spines but are actually soft to the touch. They have 20 tentacles on the front end of their body, which they use to feed. Giant red sea cucumbers grow to about 60 centimetres and can weigh up to a kilogram, making them the largest sea cucumber on Canada's west coast. Scientists do not know how to calculate sea cucumbers' age, so their longevity remains unknown.

Goldeye

Latin Name
Hiodon alosoides

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Goldeye are freshwater fish native to North America. They range from Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories to Oklahoma in the U.S. South. In Canada, their range begins in northwestern Ontario and ends at the Rocky Mountains. They are most often found in large silty rivers and in shallow lakes connected to them.

Notes: Goldeye are known to migrate great distances, sometimes as much as 1000 kilometres.

Species Description

Goldeye are relatively compressed, deep bodied fish with a small head. Sharp teeth fill their mouth and cover their tongue as well. Their dorsal fin is relatively far back-about three-quarters down their length-and starts just behind the anal fin below. Goldeye are silvery, scaled fish with a blue or blue-green back and a white underside. A distinguishing feature of goldeye is their yellow or gold-coloured eyes, which are designed for low-light underwater conditions. The goldeye is a small fish, averaging 30.5 centimetres and weighing about 450 grams.

Goose Barnacle

Latin Name
Pollicipes polymerus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Goose barnacles are crustaceans native to the west coast of North America, occurring from southeastern Alaska to Baja California. Goose barnacles prefer rocky, exposed coastal areas, occurring in the mid- to high intertidal zone on bare rock, acorn barnacles, or sea mussels, often in distinctive in rosette-shaped clusters.

Species Description

Goose barnacles have a unique shape in comparison to the more common acorn barnacle, resembling the neck and head of a goose. They have a muscular stalk or peduncle which attaches to a substrate with cement glands. The stalk is topped by an oblong head or capitulum covered by white shell plates. Most of the rest of the body is normally brown or grey with the lower stalk, foot and cement glands often bright orange. In some areas, the capitulum may be bright red. They can grow to a length of about 8 centimetres. Like some other crustaceans, goose barnacles are hermaphroditic: with eggs and sperm present at the same time, although they do not self-fertilize. Adults brood young developing embryos and then release planktonic larvae that settle on suitable substrate after 30-40 days. They may live up to 20 years.

Grass Pickerel

Latin Name
Esox americanus vermiculatus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Grass Pickerel is largely restricted to the west of the Appalachian Mountains, in the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basins. It extends from southwestern Quebec southwest to Texas and, in the north, west to Minnesota. In Canada, its range is disjunct and is represented by several populations in southwestern Quebec and southern Ontario. It is known in the lower Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers, as well as in shallow bays and tributaries of eastern and southwestern Lake Ontario, and along the north shore of Lake Erie. Populations occur in Lake St. Clair and some of its tributaries. It is also found in several tributaries in the Lake Huron watershed. The habitat of the Grass Pickerel is characterized by warm, slow-moving streams, ponds and shallow bays of larger lakes, with clear to tea-coloured water, and abundant aquatic vegetation. Bottom substrate is usually mud with exceptions of rock and gravel.

Species Description

The Grass Pickerel has a large mouth, many teeth, forked tail, and posterior dorsal and anal fins. Its long, relatively shallow body is cylindrical to subcylindrical in shape. Grass Pickerel vary in colour but are usually green to brown with 12 to 24 irregular, vertical, narrow, dark bars and a mid-dorsal brown stripe. They also have a dark bar is below the eye. They are usually less than 300 mm in length with a maximum total length of 381 mm and weight of 397 grams. Adults reach sexual maturity by two years of age. The lifespan of the Grass Pickerel is seven years or less.

Gravel Chub

Latin Name
Erimystax x-punctatus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The range of the Gravel Chub is mainly central North America. In Canada, this species was only known in two locations in the Thames River; however, no specimens have been recorded since 1958. More recent attempts to find the species have supported suspicions that these localized

Ontario populations no longer exist. There is no current evidence of reproducing populations in Canada.

Species Description

The Gravel Chub (Erimystax x-punctatus) is a member of the Minnow family (Cyprinidae), with a fragile, small, slender body. The average length of Ontario adults is 76 mm. The snout is rounded, with an overhanging, small mouth and conspicuous barbel. The eye diameter is relatively large. The gravel chub's overall colouration is silvery with olive-green on its back and silvery-white below. Scale margins are randomly outlined in black creating X or Y shaped marks that were usually faint on Ontario specimens, which did not show a prominent caudal spot.

Green Crab

Latin Name
Carcinus maenas

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Green crabs, native to Europe and North Africa, are a commonly-introduced species in many other marine areas of the world. They have invaded coastal regions from South Africa to Australia to the east and west coasts of North America, and the Atlantic Ocean near South America. In Canadian waters, particularly on the east coast, they may pose a threat to the less-aggressive native crab populations. These highly-resilient species compete for prey and have the potential to upset the overall balance of marine ecosystems.

Species Description

Green crabs vary quite a bit in colour. They can have a dark green, dark brown, red, yellow or orange shell (depending on a variety of factors including age and stage of reproductive maturity), with yellowish or off-white granules and black spots on their claws. The length of their carapace is roughly equal to their width (typically 1.3 times the length). They have four pairs of walking legs and two claws.

Green Sea Urchin

Latin Name
Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Green sea urchins have a circumpolar distribution, ranging into the Arctic regions of both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It is found on the east coast of North America as far south as Cape Cod and in deeper waters to New Jersey, while its distribution ranges southwards to Puget Sound, Washington on the west coast. They live mostly in shallow waters, with a preference for rocky bottom in areas that are not subject to extreme wave action, but they have been found at depths of more than 1,000 metres. They tend to move around more frequently than their relative, the red sea urchin, and it is believed they may migrate on a seasonal basis. Green sea urchins are fished commercially for their roe, the majority of which is exported to Asia.

Species Description

Green sea urchins are covered in short, sharp, movable spines that are shorter than the red urchin's and more delicate than the purple urchin's. This species can be pale green, or greenish tinged with purple or brown on their spines. They move using their spines and hundreds of miniature tube 'feet' located under their body, which have tiny suction cups to grip surfaces. Their circular mouth, also located on its underside, has five teeth. As they crawl along the ocean floor, they scrape fine algae off of hard substrate with their teeth, and also feed on kelp and other seaweeds. On the Pacific coast, green sea urchin shells (called tests) can grow to a diameter of about 100 millimetres, although the average size is 50 to 60 millimetres. Aging techniques for B.C. green urchins are currently being developed by the Pacific Biological Station, but green urchins on the Atlantic Coast have been known to live from 20 to 25 years of age.

Green Sturgeon

Latin Name
Acipenser medirostris

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The green sturgeon lives in the Pacific Ocean, from Mexico to Alaska. In Canada, it is occasionally found on the West Coast in marine waters or in the lower reaches of large rivers. Green sturgeon sightings have been reported from the lower Fraser, Nass, Stikine, Skeena and Taku rivers of British Columbia. Green sturgeon tend to lumber along river bottoms and ocean floors. Younger green sturgeon call the lower reaches of coastal rivers home until they reach four years of age, when they are large enough to move out to the ocean. They return to rivers as adults to spawn. Unfortunately, very little is known about abundance and distribution in Canada. Green sturgeon spawning and rearing has not been documented in Canada, only in the US. The species may occur in Canadian waters only for feeding.

Species Description

Green sturgeon have a prehistoric look. Not surprising, since they have pretty much remained unchanged for many millions of years. They are one of the world's most ancient species. Like a smaller sibling to the enormous white sturgeon, the green sturgeon is one of the largest and longest-living species of fish: reaching up to 70 years in age, up to 2.3 metres in length, and weighing as much as 159 kilograms. These dinosaurs of the deep have four barbels-food-sensing whiskers-in front of their mouths, which are located on the underside of their long snouts. And instead of scales, they have denticles-tiny toothlike projections that protect their bodies. But most notable about their appearance are the rows of sharp bony plates that armour their sides and backs, making them look prehistoric. Also, green sturgeon have dark olive-green bodies, with a single dorsal fin located in front of a sharklike tail.

Greenland Halibut

Latin Name
Reinhardtius hippoglossoides

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Greenland halibut are found in the northern reaches of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, in a circumpolar distribution with a high concentration off the west coast of Greenland. In North America, they range from northern Greenland to the Eastern Seaboard of the United States and from Alaska to Baha California. Significant populations exist in the deep waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and Labrador. They prefer cold temperatures and softer substrates consisting of mud and sandy mud.

Species Description

Closely related to the Atlantic halibut, Greenland halibut are a diamond-shaped, right-eyed flatfish with a slight fork in their tail. Their colouration is fairly uniform and ranges from a yellowish to greyish-brown, with a paler underside. Greenland halibut can be distinguished from Atlantic halibut by their straight lateral line (compared with the Atlantic halibut's arched lateral

line). They grow to more than a metre in length and weigh more than 10 kilograms, and can live more than 20 years.

Greenland Shark

Latin Name
Somniosus microcephalus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Finfish

Habitat

Greenland sharks are native to the Arctic and subarctic regions of the northern Atlantic in waters of 0 to 7 degrees C. In the western Atlantic, they are common off Ellesmere and Baffin islands, Baffin Bay and Davis Strait south to Newfoundland and the northern part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and along the edge of the continental shelf of Nova Scotia to the Gulf of Maine. In the eastern Atlantic, they are found from Svalbard and the White Sea southward to France (and possibly as far as Portugal). They have also been reported in the South Atlantic, near South Africa, from Argentina, and from Antarctic waters. Greenland sharks generally live at depths from 180 to 730 metres, but can be found to depths of more than 1200 metres in more southerly waters during summer. They can also be found in shallower waters when the water is cold, especially in winter.

Species Description

Greenland sharks are very large, heavy fish. They have a thick body with a blunted snout, tiny eyes, small pectoral fins, and two spineless, nearly equally small dorsal fins. Greenland sharks are uniformly blackish, coffee brown, or slaty or purplish grey; sometimes with white flecks or indistinct dark crossbars. They average 2.5 to 5 metres in length with a maximum of 7.5 metres, and weigh up to one tonne. There is no reliable information on their lifespan.

Grey Seal

Latin Name
Halichoerus grypus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

Grey seals are found in temperate waters on both sides of the northern Atlantic Ocean, in eastern Canada, northwestern Europe and Norway, as well as in the Baltic Sea. These large marine mammals congregate mainly on sandy and rocky islands, but also haulout along the coast. There are three breeding areas for the grey seal population in Canada. The largest colony occurs on Sable Island where over 50,000 pups are born, however pups are also born on the ice in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence and on coastal island along Nova Scotia. Smaller groups exist farther south, off the coast of New England. Grey seals are not migratory but do exhibit some large scale (1000 km) seasonal movements to feeding areas across the contentinal shelves off eastern Canada where they feed on sandlance, redfish, and a variety of other groundfish.

Species Description

Grey seals have a short coat of fur covering their body, which varies from silver, grey to black brown, and is usually covered with irregular dark spots. Adult males have a horse-shaped head, a long muzzle and small, widely separated eyes, whereas females have a more dog-like head. They can be distinguished from harbour seals by their nostrils which are slanted. Newly born pups have long, soft white coats for the first few weeks of their lives. As they mature, males and females develop differently: males become darker while females develop a lighter, silvery grey coat with irregular dark spots. Adult males are Canada's largest seal -they can grow more than 2.3 metres long and weigh up to 400 kg, whereas females grow to 1.8 metres long and up to 250 kg. Grey seals are the longest lived pinniped, with females living as long as 45 years. Pups are born in January and are weaned after only 16-18 days of care, having tripled their body weight by feeding on milk with 60% fat.

Grey Whale

Latin Name
Eschirichtius robustus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

Historically, grey whales were found along the continental shelf of the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans. But today they are found only in the North Pacific. It is a coastal species that is seldom seen more than 10 km from shore and usually found in shallow waters, less than 60 metres deep. The population that ranges along the west coast of North America is migratory, breeding in warm-water coastal lagoons in Baja California during the winter, and moving to feeding areas as far north as Alaska, Russia and Canada in the spring. Most of this population passes along the coast of British Columbia.

The main feeding grounds of grey whales are found in the northern Bering Sea, between Alaska and Russia. Grey whales tend to feed exclusively over muddy or sandy bottoms, avoiding heavy ice. In temperate feeding grounds such as along the coast of British Columbia, they also feed over rocky bottoms and in kelp beds.

Species Description

The grey whale's skin colour ranges from dark to light grey with varying degrees of mottling. Its skin also carries patches of barnacles, particularly around the head. It is the only large whale in which the upper jaw extends beyond the lower one. Its body is heavily marked with white scars from parasites. The grey whale has no dorsal fin but it does have a row of humps, called knuckles, located in the lower part of the back. The grey whale is a baleen whale. Baleen whales have long thin plates of keratin-baleen-hanging from their upper jaws in place of teeth.

Haddock

Latin Name
Melanogrammus aeglefinus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

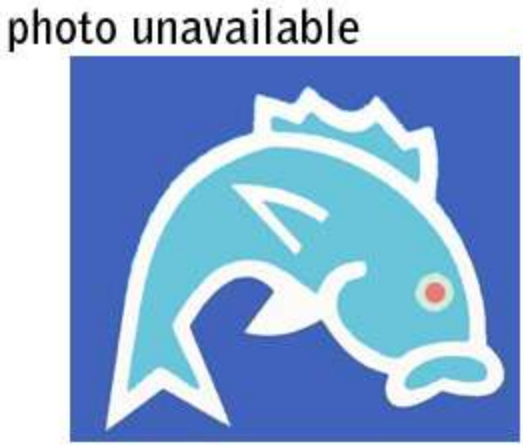
Habitat

Haddock are native to the North Atlantic and occur on both sides of the ocean. In the northwest Atlantic they range from the Strait of Belle Isle to New England, while in the northeast they are found in the Bay of Biscay northwards around Scandinavia into the Russian Arctic. In Canada, the most important populations occur from the Bay of Fundy to Cape Breton and the Grand Banks. A deep-sea fish, haddock usually live at depths of 50-250 m.

Species Description

Haddock are an elongated fish with a forked tail, dark purplish-grey on their head and back and a black lateral line. They have three dorsal fins, the first triangular and the next two squarish. Their coloration gets lighter below their lateral line, becoming silvery grey with a pink tinge and white on their belly and under their head. They have a large, distinctive black spot over their pectoral fins. Their maximum length is about 100 cm and maximum weight around 4 kg.

Hammerhead Shark



Latin Name
Sphyrna zygaena

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

Although several species of hammerhead sharks are found throughout the world, the smooth hammerhead is the only one found in Canadian waters. Smooth hammerheads are found throughout the temperate-and much less frequently, tropical-waters of the world. In the North Atlantic, they range from Nova Scotia to Florida, preferring to lurk inshore in shallow water, at depths typically less than 20 metres. They are extremely rare in Canadian waters, where they are only found offshore in the Gulf Stream.

Species Description

Hammerheads are easily recognized by the unique shape of their head, which resembles a flattened, double-sided hammer. They have a U-shaped mouth filled with triangular teeth and eyes on the sides of their head. They are olive-brown or grey-brown on their dorsal surface and white below. Sometimes their pectoral fins have dark tips. Hammerheads can grow to over four metres in length and weigh more than 400 kilograms.

Harbour Porpoise (Atlantic)

Latin Name
Phocoena phocoena

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

Northwest Atlantic harbour porpoises are spread out over the northern hemisphere's continental shelves (the shallower coastal areas of the ocean, generally within 250 kilometres of shore). But as their name implies, they are often sighted close to shore, seeking out harbours and bays -- especially in summer months. In Canada, the northwest Atlantic harbour porpoise ranges from the Bay of Fundy north to northern Labrador, with three distinct populations in Newfoundland-Labrador, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine. These groups regularly travel down to American waters and back to Canada.

Species Description

The harbour porpoise has a noticeably rounded head that lacks an obvious beak or snout. It has a small, triangular dorsal fin that sits approximately in the middle of its back. Their sides are mottled grayish-white, which becomes almost fully white on their bellies. It looks like they wear a black 'cape' over their backs and sides, but the look of the cape varies quite a bit among individuals. Northwest Atlantic harbour porpoises also may have dark patches on their faces. Males and females usually look the same in terms of colour, but young porpoises are typically darker. Harbour porpoises average just 1.6 metres in length and weigh about 50 kg. Females tend to be larger than the males, and both genders live relatively short lives: few harbour porpoises live to 20 years.

Harbour Porpoise (Pacific)

Latin Name
Phocoena phocoena

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

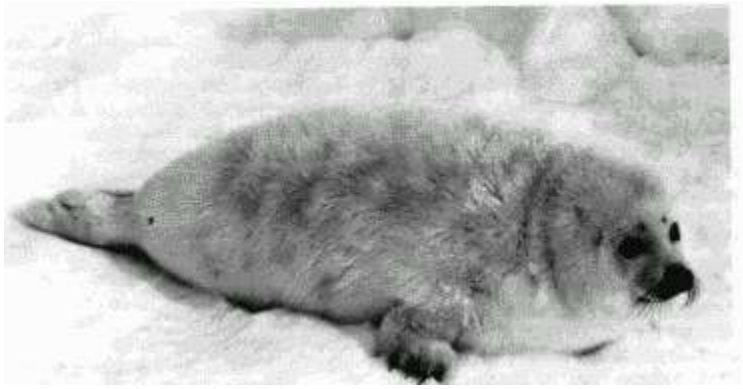
There are two harbour porpoise populations in Canada. The Pacific Ocean population is found in shelf-waters throughout the province, year round. They dwell primarily over continental shelves as the population density appears to be lower in deep-water basins. True to their name, they are also known to spend time in bays and harbours during summer.

They tend to stay in areas close to small schooling fish prey, but they have been known to move quickly between areas of suitable habitat, separated by tens, or even thousands of kilometres. Harbour porpoises are rarely seen in highly developed areas, leading us to believe that they avoid human activity.

Species Description

Rarely reaching lengths greater than 1.7 metres, harbour porpoises weigh an average of 90 kilograms. Females grow more quickly and are larger than males. Porpoises have rounded heads and a small triangular dorsal fin at the middle of their backs. Its mottled greyish-white sides fade to almost white along its belly, helping it blend well into the marine environment. A black 'cape' extends over the back and sides of the harbour porpoise. Some may also have dark patches on the face. There is no difference in coloring between males and females; however calves are usually darker than adults. The harbour porpoise is a short-lived, shy species; there are no estimates of the annual survival rates of the harbour porpoise but it's understood that their lifespan is relatively short as few live to the age of 20.

Harp Seal



Latin Name
Phoca groenlandica

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

Harp seals are marine mammals, which are broadly distributed throughout North Atlantic arctic waters during summer. Three breeding populations are recognized: one in the White Sea off the coast of northern Russia, and a second occurs near Spitsbergen, northwest of the Norwegian mainland and the third is native to Canada. Here harp seals are born in late February and early March on sea ice in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off northeastern Newfoundland. All populations undergo large scale season migrations, with the Canadian population travelling to the Canadian high Arctic and west Greenland in summer where the feed on sandlance and Arctic cod.

Species Description

Harp seals have elliptical bodies covered with thin fur. They have a canine-like snout, large, dark eyes and, like all true seals, have no external ears. Their front flippers are small but equipped with sharp claws for efficient movement across ice and powerful hind flippers used during swimming. Harp seals get their name from the dark harp-shape pattern on their back (although some adult females retain the spotted juvenile coat). Their fur is light grey, becoming white on their underside and black on their face and tail. Harp seals can grow to 1.6 meters in length and weight up to 180 kg, averaging 130 kilograms. They may live about 35 years. Pups are weaned for only 12 days of feeding on energy rich milk.

Hotwater Physa

Latin Name
Physella wrighti

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

The Hotwater physa makes its home in Liard River Hotsprings Provincial Park, northern British Columbia. In the stream where it lives-Alpha Stream in Liard River Hotsprings Provincial Park-the Hotwater physa spends its time on mats of Chara and on the waterway's soft sediments.

Not only are Hotwater Physas restricted to one stream in all of Canada, but in fact to a two-meter-wide section of that stream (called Alpha Stream). As its name implies, this mollusc prefers warm water temperatures-up to and even beyond 36°C. Recent estimates suggest its population is comprised of about 1,735 snails, and that its numbers have been fairly stable since its discovery in 1973.

Species Description

The Hotwater Physa has a small, high-spired shell that ranges between 3.25 and 9.1 mm in size. The opening in the shell is ear-shaped, with an outer lip callus and a curved perimeter.

Humpback Whale

Latin Name
Megaptera novaeangliae

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

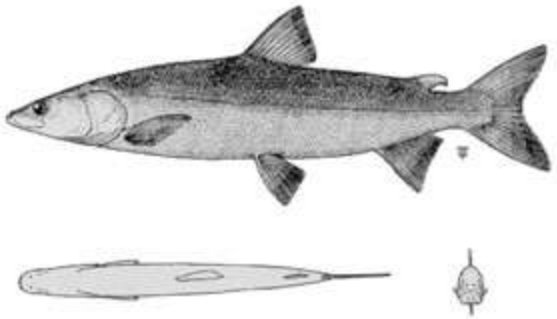
Habitat

Traveling from the frigid waters of Alaska to the tropical seas off Hawaii, humpback whales migrate through Canadian waters twice a year. The whales generally follow the coastline and take advantage of seasonal currents during their migrations. In the fall, the whales head south to winter and breed in tropical waters; in spring they return to their northern feeding grounds for the summer. During the breeding season, humpback whales prefer water temperatures between 24° and 28°C. The whales favour areas that offer protection against prevailing winds and which have flat ocean beds at a depth of 15 to 60 metres.

Species Description

With its black back and white belly, deeply grooved throat, and huge fluke, the humpback whale is easy to identify. Small bumps are found on the whale's head and neck, and a small dorsal fin near the centre of its back. Adults are between 14 and 19 metres long and weigh between 34,000 and 45,000 kilograms. The fluke of a male humpback can measure up to 80 centimetres across. The underside of each whale's fluke is colored black and white in a pattern that is as unique as a fingerprint. Humpback whales can live to between 45 and 50 years of age.

Inconnu



Latin Name
Stenodus leucichthys

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

Habitat

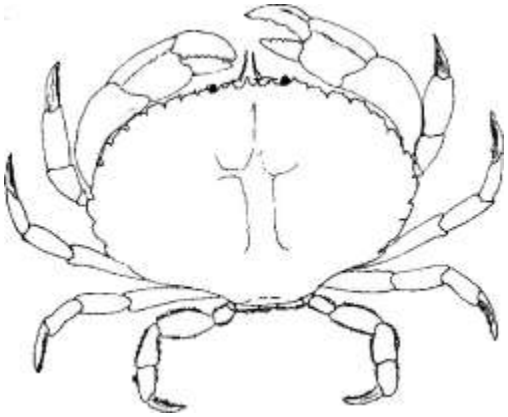
Inconnu are closely related to whitefish and are found in the arctic drainages of northwestern North America and Asia. Very little is known about the habits of this fish in North America. Inconnu are found in and around Teslin Lake in the upper Yukon River, the Peel River and the large shield lakes of the Northwest Territories. It seems that the populations in the large lakes of the Yukon and Mackenzie drainages the fish spawn in the lake tributaries and grow and mature in the lakes. Populations found in smaller coastal rivers are anadromous, meaning that they spawn in freshwater and spend some part of their lives in the ocean. Inconnu are thought to spend very little time in the ocean in close proximity to their native stream. They inhabit coastal brackish water during summer and freshwater rivers and lakes throughout the year. In some large rivers, inconnu are known to undertake large seasonal migrations from winter habitats in the lower reaches to summer and spawning habitats in the headwaters.

Species Description

Inconnu are large whitefish, measuring up to 1.5 meters. They can weight 9- 14 kilograms, although most adults are 30 to 70 cm long and between two to seven kilograms. Inconnu have a distinctive appearance, with a long, tapered body, a long, broad head, and a lower jaw that juts out beyond the upper jaw. At the tip of the lower jaw there are rows of tiny, densely-packed teeth. Inconnu have large fins with dark tips and a strongly forked tail fin. Inconnu have an adipose fin, a soft, fleshy fin on the back just in front of the tail. Inconnu are bright silvery fish with green to pale brown on their backs, silver sides and silvery white below. Inconnu appear to

take at least seven years to mature or at least twice as long as most other whitefish, trout and salmon.

Jonah Crab



Latin Name
Cancer borealis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Jonah crabs are found along the Atlantic coast of North America. Their range begins near Nova Scotia and extends southward, at least as far as South Carolina and possibly Bermuda. Jonah crabs are found from the intertidal zone to about 640 metres, although they usually found in depths of 50-300 metres and at temperatures of 8-14° Celsius. They live in a variety of ocean beds, including rocks, clay, sand and mud.

Species Description

Jonah crabs have an oval-shaped carapace with a rough texture. They have two large, powerful pincers and eight short, thick legs. Their colour is usually red on top and yellowish on their underside, sometimes with a mottling of yellow and red on their legs. Jonah crabs can grow to a maximum carapace width of about 180 mm, with males growing larger than females.

Kidneyshell

Latin Name
Ptychobranchus fasciolaris

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

In Canada, the kidneyshell is currently restricted to a 100 km section of the East Sydenham River, a 25 km stretch of the Ausable River, and the coastal margins of the St. Clair delta. The kidneyshell lives mainly in small to medium-sized rivers and streams, and appears to prefer shallow areas with clear, swift-flowing water. River and stream beds are usually firmly packed sand and gravel. The kidneyshell is often found buried deep in the substrate, frequently near beds of water willow.

Species Description

The kidneyshell is easily distinguished from other mussels by its elongated, yellowish, yellow-green, yellow-brown or medium-brown shell. The shell has wide, interrupted green rays that resemble square spots. Old kidneyshells may be dark brown in colour and rayless. The inside of the shell is white to bluish-white, but can be pinkish-white in young kidneyshells. A freshwater mollusc that can grow to 10 centimetres in length, the kidneyshell is a moderately long-lived mussel that can live for at least 10 years.

Killer Whale

Latin Name
Orcinus orca

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

Killer whales are found in all three of Canada's oceans, as well as occasionally in Hudson Bay and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is not limited by such habitat considerations as depth, water temperature or salinity. They have been seen in water ranging from shallow (several metres deep) to open ocean depths. The offshore population is small and is poorly studied. Some individuals have been sighted as far south as central California and as far north as Alaska.

Resident killer whales live in separate northern and southern communities. The northern community lives off northern Vancouver Island and the mainland coast as far north as southeast Alaska. Southern residents are found off southern Vancouver Island.

Species Description

The killer whale's size—seven to nine metres long and between four and five tonnes in weight—and distinctive black and white pattern makes its unmistakable. The first sight of a killer whale is often the tall dorsal fin, which may reach up to 1.8 metres in height in mature males. In females and young whales, the fin is smaller and crescent-shaped. Behind the dorsal fin is a grey area called a saddle patch. The shape of the dorsal fin and saddle patch, as well as natural nicks and scars on them, are unique to each killer whale. Calves are born measuring 2.5 metres but grow to reach lengths of up to 7.7 metres (females) to 9 metres (males). With no natural predators, killer whales can live to between 50 and 80 years of age. However, mortality between the ages of birth to six months can be as high as 50 per cent. High levels of mortality among newborn whales leads to average life spans of only 17 years for males and 29 years for females. Sexual maturity of killer whales is reached by approximately 15 years of age.

Lake Chubsucker

Latin Name
Erimyzon sucetta

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

This member of the sucker family is mainly found in the southeastern United States, but also resides in the drainages of the Niagara River and Lake Huron, and in Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair in southwestern Ontario. Lake chubsuckers prefer clear waters with abundant aquatic plants: marshes, stagnant bays, floodplain lakes and drainage ditches, for example.

Species Description

The lake chubsucker is described as robust and deep-bodied. It has a wide head, blunt snout, and small, protruding mouth, and sports dark-edged scales along its sides. Its back is deep olive to greenish-bronze; its underside, green-yellow to yellow-white. In Ontario, this fish tends to grow to lengths of 254 mm; elsewhere it can reach 410 mm in length.

Lake Sturgeon

Latin Name
Acipenser fulvescens

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Lake Sturgeon are bottom-dwelling fish found in large rivers and lakes, at depths generally between 5 and 10 m, sometimes greater. Spawning occurs in the spring in fast-flowing water at depths between 0.6 and 5 m over hard-pan clay, sand, gravel and boulders.

Species Description

The Lake Sturgeon has a cartilaginous skeleton and shark-like caudal fin. It has external bony scutes rather than scales on larvae and juveniles; less pronounced on larger fishes with a ventrally located mouth. The Lake Sturgeon is dark to light brown in colour on back and sides, with a lighter belly. They may live to over 100 years (oldest known specimen, about 154 years old from Lake of the Woods, Ontario). Sexual maturity is reached at 18 to 20 years in males and 20 to 24 years in females.

Lake Trout

Latin Name
Salvelinus namaycush

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Lake trout are a species of char with a wide distribution in the cooler northern regions of North America. They are found throughout Canada, from the Atlantic provinces to the Great Lakes and all the way to the West Coast, including in the Rocky Mountains. Lake trout are also found quite far north, even occurring on arctic islands. They tend to prefer cold water (about 10 degrees Celsius), and live mostly in large, deep lakes, though occasionally they are found in shallower bodies of water and large rivers.

Species Description

Lake trout resemble other char or trout in shape, with a fairly elongated body, a large mouth and an indented tail. Their coloration varies from olive to grey or brown, dappled with white or yellowish spots. Normally they are darker on their dorsal side and lighter on their flanks, becoming white on their underside. Lake trout can grow to nearly a metre in length and weigh more than 20 kilograms, but they average 38 to 51 centimetres and 4.5 kilograms. Lake trout often live to more than 20 years of age.

Lake Utopia Dwarf Smelt

Latin Name
Osmerus sp.

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Lake Utopia is a coldwater lake that is frozen from early December until the first or second week in April. The two wide tributaries that the dwarf smelts uses for spawning are at the northwestern end of the lake. Neither tributary connects to another lake. Meech Lake affords similar conditions.

Species Description

Named for the lake in which they live, Lake Utopia dwarf smelts are freshwater fish that spawn in one of two slow-flowing streams. A slender, streamlined fish, the Lake Utopia dwarf smelt is approximately 12 centimetres in length with a fairly long head. The smelt's back varies in hue from pale green to dark blue; its silvery sides have a blue, purple and pink sheen.

Lake Whitefish

Latin Name
Coregonus clupeaformis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

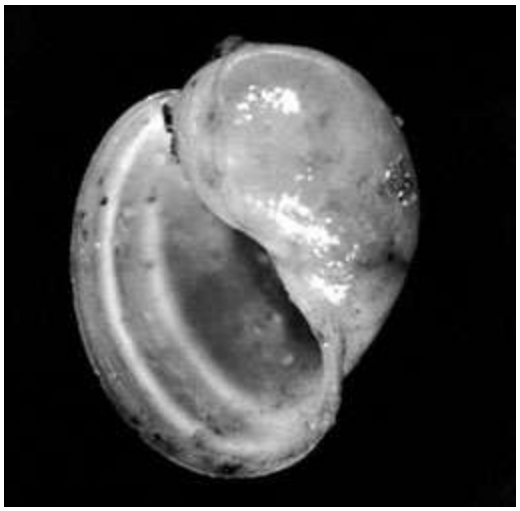
Habitat

Lake whitefish are freshwater fish native to Canada and the northern United States. They occur in lakes and rivers all across Canada, from Newfoundland and Labrador to British Columbia, in the Great Lakes and throughout the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon. Lake whitefish prefer cool water and live mostly in large lakes and rivers.

Species Description

Lake whitefish are related to salmon and bear many similarities to them. They are relatively elongated, with a small head and a body ending in a forked tail. Older fish may have a hump behind their head. Covered with large scales, lake whitefish are silver on their sides and greenish-brown to almost black dorsally, with a silvery-white underside. Their fins are typically transparent or light-coloured, but are darker in specimens from northern regions. Lake whitefish can grow to about 50 centimetres in length and weigh up to two kilograms.

Lake Winnipeg Physa Snail



Latin Name
Physa sp.

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

This snail appears to occur only in Lake Winnipeg. The Lake Winnipeg Physa is found in shallow water (less than 1 m deep) on medium to large algae-coated rocks in windswept areas close to shore. The lake bottom is typically gravel, sand and rocks.

Species Description

The Lake Winnipeg Physa snail has a flattened globe-shaped shell that makes the snail appear relatively wide. The fragile shell, which is usually less than 11 mm in length, is a dull bluish-grey colour and often pitted. Living snails have light grey skin marked with a few black spots. The snail has an extremely delicate shell, and frequently does not live for more than one year.

Leatherback Turtle

Latin Name
Dermochelys coriacea

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

Ranging further than any other reptile, the leatherback turtle can be found in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans, and also in the Mediterranean Sea. In Canada, leatherbacks have been sighted off the coasts of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The turtle has also been seen-though far less frequently-off the coast of British Columbia.

Leatherbacks nest on the warm tropical beaches of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. After mating with a male just off shore, the female waits for nightfall before clambering up the beach, digging a shallow pit in the sand, and depositing her eggs. The female then buries the eggs with her hind flippers and compacts the sand with the weight of her body before crawling back to the sea. Although females lay between 60 and 90 eggs at time, only a few hatchlings will survive to grow to adulthood and breed. Those turtles that survive will spend 10 to 15 years at sea before returning to breed at the same beach where they hatched.

While we know that life is perilous for tiny hatchling leatherback turtles and that few survive to adulthood, we don't know where hatchlings go between the time they first enter the ocean and the time they return to their nesting beaches as adults. Sightings of young turtles are extremely rare.

Species Description

The world's largest reptile, the leatherback turtle's upper shell-or carapace-can grow to more than two metres in length. The leatherback is also the only sea turtle that does not have a hard shell. Instead, its carapace (which is a dark bluish-black color) is covered with leathery skin: hence the turtle's name. The skin covers a thick layer of fat, tissue and bony plates that fit together like a jigsaw.

The leatherback turtle has front and rear flippers, but unlike other sea turtles these flippers have no claws. The turtle's front flippers are often half as long as its carapace. The leatherback's body is teardrop-shaped, tapering at the rear. The bottom of the turtle's shell is pinkish white.

Each leatherback turtle has a pink patch on the top of its head. While we know that each pink patch is as unique as a person's fingerprint, we don't know what purpose it serves. Some scientists believe the patch might help the turtle sense light or determine its location in the ocean.

Lingcod

Latin Name
Ophiodon elongatus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Native to the northeastern Pacific, lingcod occur from Alaska's Kodiak Island down to Baha California, with a particularly large concentration near the coast of British Columbia off Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands, and in the Strait of Georgia, Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound. Lingcod prefer rocky areas, living on the bottom of the ocean from intertidal depths to about 100 metres.

Species Description

Lingcod are not a true cod. They have an elongated body with a long dorsal fin, and are generally a mottled brown, but can be grey, green or reddish-brown-even bluish. Their colouration gets

lighter on their underside. Scales cover their body except for their head. Highly predatory, lingcod also have a very large mouth filled with sharp teeth. They can grow to more than a metre in length and weigh more than 30 kilograms, with females growing significantly larger than males (which rarely exceed 90 centimetres). Males live to about 14 years and females live to about 20 years.

Littleneck Clam

Latin Name
Protothaca staminea

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

Littleneck clams range from the Aleutian Islands to Baja California, though they are only abundant north of Oregon. Commonly found in bays and estuaries along the coast of British Columbia, littleneck clams live at low- to mid-intertidal depths, burrowing up to 15 centimetres into the beach.

Species Description

Littleneck clams are round in profile, with concentric rings (which can be used to determine age) and radial ribs on the surface of the shell. Their colouration varies from white, off-white or cream, mottled with brown, to grey. Littleneck clams have separate sexes and a re broadcast spawners. Littleneck clams grow to a maximum size of 70 millimetres shell length and live to a maximum age of approximately 14 years.

Longspine Thornyhead

Latin Name
Sebastolobus altivelis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Longspine thornyhead lives in the Pacific Ocean where it ranges from the southern tip of Baja California in Mexico up to the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, at depths from 370 m to 1600 m. In British Columbia, this species occurs along the continental slope at depths between 500 and 1,600 m. The predominant population group can be found in DFO fisheries management region WCVI (West Coast Vancouver Island), with two smaller observed groupings in the Tidemarks and Rennell regions further north.The species prefers soft sand or mud bottoms in deep-water environments characterized by low productivity (slow growth), high pressure, and reduced oxygen concentrations.

Species Description

Longspine thornyhead, a rockfish species belonging to the scorpionfish family, is a slow growing fish that is adapted for survival in deep waters where oxygen concentrations are minimal and water pressure is high. This species has a reddish body and some black on its fins, grows to 35 cm in length, and features large eyes and strong, sharp head spines. Longspine thornyheads stop growing at a length of about 30 cm and an estimated age of 25 to 45 years. It is not yet known how long longspine thornyheads can live, although estimates range from 45 to 70 years.

Lumpfish

Latin Name
Cyclopterus lumpus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Lumpfish are marine fish found on both sides of the Atlantic. In the western Atlantic, they are found from Newfoundland and Labrador (and in Hudson Bay) to New Jersey. In the eastern Atlantic, their range extends from Spitsbergen in the north to Portugal in the south. Lumpfish also occur off Iceland and Greenland. They prefer colder water and live near the ocean bottom, usually on hard, rocky areas with plenty of vegetation.

Species Description

Lumpfish are short and stubby, with a small mouth and a body that is covered in tubercles (lumps) and ends in a small, slightly rounded tail. Their pectoral fins are covered with circular folds of skin that create a sort of suction cup. They use these fins to stick to hard surfaces. Lumpfish are blue to grey to yellowish- or greenish-brown. During spawning, males become reddish on their sides, fins and underside. Lumpfish grow to about 60 centimetres and 10 kilograms, with females larger than males.

Manila Clam

Latin Name
Venerupis philippinarum

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

Manila clams are native to Japan, accidentally introduced to Canadian waters during the 1920s or 1930s. They now range from the central coast of British Columbia (particularly beaches in the bays and estuaries in Georgia Strait and the west coast of Vancouver Island) to California. They make shallow burrows in the sand, gravel or mud in the mid-intertidal zone. However, because they do not migrate after they have settled in a beach and they do not burrow deeply, they can experience increased mortality during the winter when they are exposed to frost and cold winds.

Species Description

Manila clams are oval in profile, narrower at the anterior end. Colouration ranges from off-white to yellow, brown or grey; they often display strips of red, blue or black when small. The inside of the shells is white or yellow with a purple stain on the posterior margin. They have concentric rings (which can be used to determine age) and radial lines on the surface of the shells. Manila clams have separate sexes, and are broadcast spawners. They can grow to 75 centimetres and live up to 14 years.

Mapleleaf

Latin Name
Quadrula quadrula

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

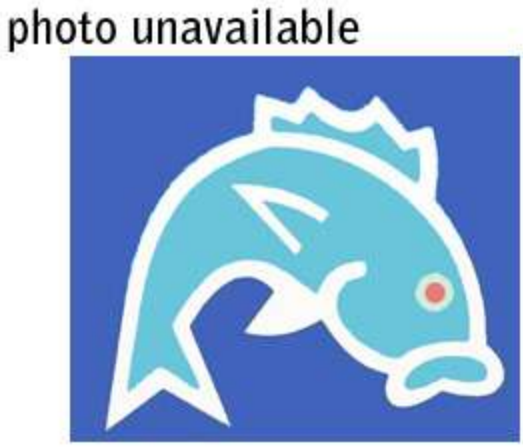
The Mapleleaf is usually found in medium to large rivers with slow to moderate currents and firmly packed substrate of sand, coarse gravel or clay/mud. In the United States, the Mapleleaf occurs from Texas to Alabama. Its northern distribution includes the Great Lakes drainage in Minnesota and Wisconsin to New York and extends into the Red River drainage in Minnesota and North Dakota. In Canada, the Mapleleaf is restricted to the Red River drainage (Manitoba) and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence watershed (Ontario).

Species Description

The Mapleleaf is a medium to large freshwater mussel. It has a thick, square-shaped shell and reach 125 mm in length, 100 mm in height and 50 mm in width. They have heavy hinged teeth. Their colour varies: young specimens are yellowish green to light brown and older specimens are greenish brown to dark brown.

The lifespan of the Mapleleaf is long; specimens from Manitoba have lived up to 64 years of age but average 22 years.

Monkfish



Latin Name
Lophius americanus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Monkfish are bottom-dwelling fish native to the western Atlantic. They range from Newfoundland and Labrador in the north to Florida in the south. In Canada, monkfish are found primarily on the Grand Banks, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, on the Scotian Shelf and in the Bay of Fundy. They can be found at depths ranging from just below the tide line to about 700 metres; though more typically at depths of less than 100 metres. Monkfish prefer to live on sandy or gravelly ocean bottoms.

Species Description

The Monkfish has a rounded body with a large, dorsally-compressed head bearing a very large mouth with a projecting lower jaw, and has a small tail. It has two small eyes on top of the head, and a movable "fishing rod" tipped with a leaflike flap of skin or 'lure', which it uses to attract prey. Their colour is dark olive-brown, with blackish edges on its pectoral and tail fins. On the underside, it is pinkish to dirty white in colour. Monkfish can grow to more than a metre in length and can weigh over 20 kilograms. Its life span reaches a maximum at 11 years. Monkfish females lay eggs in a 'veil', which is a clear, ribbon-like mucous sheet containing a million tiny, pink eggs. After a female sheds it, this sheet floats at the ocean's surface, and may be 6 to 12 metres long and between 0.15 to 1.5 metres wide. Floating egg veils and those falling out of captured females are seen annually by fish harvesters at sea in NAFO Divisions 3NO from June to July.

Moonsnail

Latin Name
Euspira heros

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

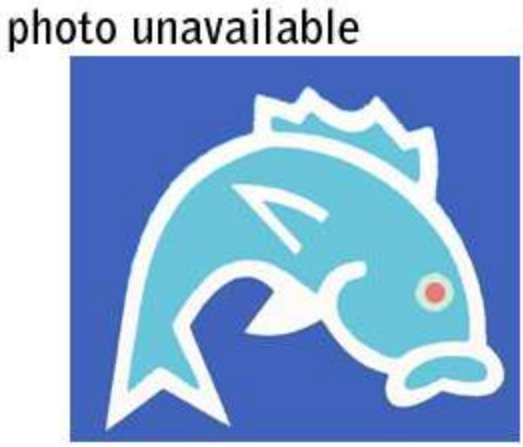
Habitat

The common moonsnail is the largest of several species of moonsnails that occur on the Atlantic coast. Moonsnails are saltwater snails that are found in many parts of the world. Moonsnails range from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to North Carolina, burrowing into sand, mud or gravel on the ocean bottom, usually at depths of 30-75 metres.

Species Description

Common moonsnails have a rounded shell that is smooth to the touch and an enormous foot that they use to dig into the ocean floor. Their shell is off-white to tan. Common moonsnails grow quite large, to a diameter of about 10 centimetres. Moonsnails are infamous for preying on clams by drilling a hole into their shell and injecting them with a digestive juice that dissolves their flesh.

Morrison Creek Lamprey



Latin Name
Lampetra richardsoni

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

A rare form of the widely distributed Western Brook lamprey, the Morrison Creek lamprey lives exclusively in the Morrison Creek watershed on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Morrison Creek is a small, freshwater stream flowing into the Puntledge River at Puntledge Park, Courtenay, British Columbia. The specific habitat required to support the Morrison Creek lamprey is not known. However, Morrison Creek is a cool, clean, year-round stream with relatively constant temperature and flow rate.

Species Description

The most unique and interesting characteristic of the Morrison Creek lamprey is that it produces two different life forms from a single population-those with teeth (parasitic) and those without (non-parasitic). Morrison Creek Lampreys range in size from 10 to 15 centimetres in length. The parasitic form can be distinguished from the non-parasitic form by its silver upper body, white lower body and prominent teeth. Parasitic Morrison Creek lampreys live for several months longer than non-parasitic lampreys, which mature, spawn and then die.

Mudpuppy Mussel

Latin Name
Simpsonaias ambigua

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

In Canada, this species has always been restricted to a small area of southwestern Ontario. It is known historically in the Sydenham, Thames and Detroit Rivers, as well as Lake St. Clair. The species now appears confined to a 50 km reach of the East Sydenham River in the Lake St. Clair drainage of Ontario; 17 live specimens were found at four different sites during extensive surveys conducted in 1997-99.

Species Description

The Mudpuppy mussel is a small freshwater species with a maximum shell length of 50 mm. Its oval shell is thin and smooth-a yellow/tan colour that can also be dark brown. It has no markings. As in all mussels, the two halves of the shell are joined together by a hinge. The Mudpuppy m

Muskellunge

Latin Name
Esox masquinongy

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Muskellunge are a freshwater fish with a distribution throughout eastern North America. In Canada they occur in Ontario and Quebec, including in the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes, as well as a introduced populations in Manitoba. In the United States, they are found mainly in the Midwest. Muskellunge prefer warm, heavily vegetated lakes and in rivers with slow-moving currents.

Species Description

Muskellunge have long, streamlined bodies. A carnivorous fish, they have a flattened, pointed snout and a large mouth filled with sharp teeth. Their dorsal fin is located far back, and they have a pointed tail fin with a strong indent. Their coloration varies considerably, but typically consists of dark, wavy vertical bands and other markings on a lighter background. Dorsally, they are light brown to brassy greenish-brown. On their sides they can be anything from greenish-brown to grey, sometimes silvery, while their underside is white. The average muskellunge grow to about 71-122 centimeters and weigh 2.3-6.3 kilograms.

Narwhal

Latin Name
Monodon monoceros

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

Narwhals live in Arctic waters. In summer, Narwhals tend to occupy protected, deepwater coastal areas for either calving or feeding opportunities. In the fall and winter, they favour waters that range in depth from 1,000 to 5,000 m. Overall, the quality of the ice habitats, especially areas of open water and the density of pack ice, seems to be a key aspect of habitat selection.

Species Description

Narwhals, also known as sea unicorns, are toothed whales. They are medium-sized whales with no dorsal fin. Newborns are grey or bluish grey and change to black after weaning; with age, white streaks develop on the underside and flanks. Adults are white to creamy yellow on the belly and grey-black on the back. The very old, especially males, are almost completely white. Adults have only two teeth. In most males, the right tooth remains embedded in the skull; the left forms a spiral tusk that can extend over 3 m. Females with a tusk, males with no tusk, and two tusks are rare occurrences. Newborns weigh about 80 kg and are 1.6 m long. Adult males can reach 5.4 m in length and about 1,935 kg in weight; females 4.9 m and about 1,552 kg.

Neon Flying Squid

Latin Name
Ommastrephes bartrami

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Neon flying squid are distributed throughout the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans. In the Pacific, they range from the Aleutian Islands to Central America in the east and from Kamchatka to China in the west, with a separate population occurring near Australia. In the eastern Atlantic, they range from Scandinavia to the western coast of Africa, and in the western Atlantic, from Newfoundland and Labrador to the northern coast of South America. A population also exists in the southern Atlantic. Neon flying squid are found in the western Indian Ocean as well. Flying

squid generally collect near cold-water fronts when feeding near the surface at night and descend to depths greater than 300 metres during the day.

Species Description

Like other squid, neon flying squid have large eyes, 10 arms and two feeding tentacles. They have a thick, muscular mantle and short tentacles. They are mauve, with silver or gold on their underside. Females grow to a maximum mantle length of about 50 centimetres and weigh 5.3 kilograms (females are larger than males). They live for only about a year.

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Nooksack Dace

Latin Name
Rhinichthys sp

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

In British Columbia, the Nooksack dace is found in three small streams that feed into the Nooksack River in lower Fraser Valley around Abbotsford, Aldergrove and Clearbrook. Its range reaches all the way into northwestern Washington. Adult members of the species are usually found in riffles-shallow parts of streams where water flows brokenly-with gravel or stony bottoms. Young dace are found most often in shallow, slow waters with sandy or muddy bottoms.

Species Description

The Nooksack dace is grayish-green in colour on top and dirty to silvery-white underneath, with a brass-coloured stripe over the lateral line and (sometimes) a black stripe in front of the eyes. The fish may have speckles on its lower side, and has distinctive pale markings at the base of its dorsal fin that are visible from above. The dace is rounded on top and flat underneath, with a long nose that overhangs its mouth. Fully grown, the Nooksack dace averages 10 cm in length.

North Atlantic Right Whale

Latin Name
Eubalaena glacialis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

Right whales inhabit the temperate and sub-polar waters of the Atlantic. The whale is commonly seen in the Bay of Fundy, the Western Scotian Shelf and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, but is also found off the coasts of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Species Description

The right whale has a huge head that takes up nearly a quarter of the length of its stocky, black body. In front of the whale's blowholes, are crusty white, orange, yellowish and pink lumps called callosities. The largest of these lumps is called the bonnet. Each whale has a very distinctive callosity pattern that enables scientists to recognize individual whales easily. Right whales live at least 75 years. Right whales, which can grow up to 18 metres in length, have narrow tails, large flippers and no dorsal fin. Females are generally larger than males. The whales' skin is black and occasionally mottled, with white patches on throat and belly.

North Pacific Albacore Tuna

Latin Name
Thunnus alalunga

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System
Tuna Species and Science

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

Albacore tuna have a wide distribution throughout the oceans of the world, including the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans, as well as the Mediterranean Sea. They prefer warmer waters and are known to migrate great distances. In Canada, they are found primarily on the Pacific coast of British Columbia, and are found at depths of up to 600 metres, though they are generally found at 250 to 350 metres.

Species Description

Albacore tuna are a hefty fish with a fairly short body that becomes quite narrow near their tail, which is quite slender. They have two dorsal fins, the first of which is dark and the second pale yellow. Albacore tuna have dark blue backs and a whitish underside with a faint blue iridescent line running across their flanks. Albacore tuna are distinguished from similar species by their very long pectoral fins. They can grow to well over a metre in length and weigh more than 50 kilograms.

North Pacific Right Whale

Latin Name
Eubalaena japonica

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

Information on the North Pacific right whale is lacking; its distribution patterns and migratory routes are not clearly known. What is known through historical whale hunting logbooks, however, is that right whales once occupied British Columbia waters from April to October, most likely feeding or en route to calving grounds. Important locations included the southeastern Bering Sea slope and shelf, the eastern Aleutian Islands, and the Gulf of Alaska slope and abyssal plain. In general, right whales like coastlines and large bays, but spend most of their time in the open sea. These days, sightings and studies of the North Pacific right whale typically occur in the 'right whale box', a specific area in the eastern Bering Sea, off the coast of Alaska.

Species Description

If you do spot one you may have just won the marine mammal lottery. No one has seen a North Pacific right whale in Canadian waters in the last 50 years. North Pacific right whales are large and stocky, with square lower jaws. They are usually entirely black, although some have a bit of white on their bellies. The North Pacific right whale has two obvious identity clues: a highly arched jaw, and a series of white growths of thickened skin on its head called callosities. The North Pacific right whale is up to 17 metres long-the length of three minivans-and weighs up to 90,000 kilograms.

Northern Abalone

Latin Name
Haliotis kamtschatkana

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

The northern abalone lives along the Pacific coast from Baja, California to Alaska. The northern abalone can be found clinging to rocks along exposed and semi-exposed coasts. Adult abalone prefer good water circulation and are typically found within 10 metres of the surface. Adults may move only a few hundred metres during their lifetimes, which in many cases can be up to 50 years.

Abalone larvae are free-swimming and use tiny hair-like cilia to propel themselves through the water. After a week or ten days of surfing the currents, larvae settle to the bottom, shed their cilia, start to grow a shell, and begin their more sedentary adult lives.

Species Description

The shell of the northern abalone is mottled reddish or greenish in colour, with areas of white or blue. Flat and oval-shaped, the shell is often camouflaged by growths of algae. The interior of the shell is pearly white with a faint pink and green sheen.

Northern Bottlenose Whale

Latin Name
Hyperoodon ampullatus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

The Scotian Shelf population of bottlenose whales lives in relatively small deep water areas at the entrance to prominent underwater canyons-such The Gully-off the southeast coast of Nova Scotia. The whales rarely inhabit waters less than 800 metres deep. In the offshore waters of Atlantic Canada, there are several known centres of abundance of northern bottlenose whales - on the edge of the Scotian Shelf and the Davis Strait, off Labrador. The Scotian Shelf population is distinct from the Labrador population.

Species Description

A medium-sized whale, the northern bottlenose grows to between six and nine metres in length, and weighs between six and eight tonnes. The whale's bulbous forehead sits above a distinctive beak, with the lower jaw extending slightly further than the upper. Male whales generally have much larger but flatter foreheads than females; males also have teeth, which in females rarely erupt through the gums.

Young bottlenose whales are dark brown to black in colour; older whales are light to yellowish brown with whitish beaks and foreheads. Occasionally, old males can become entirely yellow-white to grey.

Northern Brook Lamprey

Latin Name
Ichthyomyzon fossor

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

In the United States, the distribution of the Northern Brook Lamprey includes Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennyslvania, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. In Canada, this fish occurs in Ontario, southwestern Quebec and southeastern Manitoba, a distribution that comprises two freshwater biogeographic areas: Great Lakes - Upper St. Lawrence and Saskatchewan - Nelson. Specimens have been found in tributaries to lakes Nipissing, Superior, Huron, and Erie, as well as in the Winnipeg, Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers. The distribution of four other lamprey species overlaps with the Northern Brook Lamprey in Canada.

Species Description

The Northern Brook Lamprey is distinguishable from other lamprey species within its Canadian range by its comparatively small size, single dorsal fin and its unique teeth patterns. It has an eel-like appearance with smooth, scale-less skin. It has small eyes and teeth, a single, continuous dorsal fin and seven pairs of gill openings. Adults are dark greyish brown on the back and sides, pale grey or silvery white on the belly. Post-spawning colouration becomes slate blue to black on the back and sides, and white or whitish grey on the belly. Pre-spawning females may have an orange-tinted belly, through which the eggs may be visible. Adults can reach 160 mm in length.

Northern Madtom

Latin Name
Noturus stigmosus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Northern Madtom lives in eastern North America, ranging from Ontario south to Mississippi and Tennessee, west to Michigan. It is a globally rare species, with less than 100 known occurrences worldwide. In Canada, the Northern Madtom is found in Lake St. Clair, and the Detroit River, as well as the Thames and Sydenham Rivers. The Ontario population is unusual in that individuals have been caught in deep waters in the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair, whereas typically, the Northern Madtom prefers large creeks and small rivers. It usually avoids extremely silty situations and prefers areas with little cover and a moderate current and rocky substrate.

Species Description

The Northern Madtom is a member of the Bullhead Catfishes family. It has four pairs of characteristic "barbels" (or whiskers) at the mouth and is usually 51-76 mm long. This species has sharp pectoral spines with poison glands and a single spine is also located on the dorsal fin. The tissue connecting the adipose fin with the caudal fin is deeply notched (fins appear separate). The Northern Madtom is a mottled olive-gray colour dorsally with three dark saddle bands.

Northern Pike

Latin Name
Esox lucius

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Northern pike are a freshwater fish occurring in countless lakes, rivers and streams in both North America and Eurasia. In Canada, their range begins in Quebec and extends through Ontario (including the Great Lakes) and the Prairie provinces to British Columbia, and north to Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Pike are also common throughout the United States. They are aggressive, territorial predators that like heavily vegetated areas of the water from which they can ambush prey.

Species Description

Northern pike have a long, streamlined body and a flat, pointed snout that resembles a duck's bill. Their mouth is large and filled with sharp teeth. Pike have a dorsal fin quite far down their length, close to their tail fin and mirrored by their anal fin. On top, their colour ranges from brown or olive-brown to bright green, with white blotches along their flanks. On their underside they are white. Pike average about 50-75 centimetres in length and 0.9-2.3 kilograms in weight, though northern pike weighing 6.8-9.0 kilograms are not uncommon.

Northern Riffleshell

Latin Name
Epioblasma torulosa rangiana

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

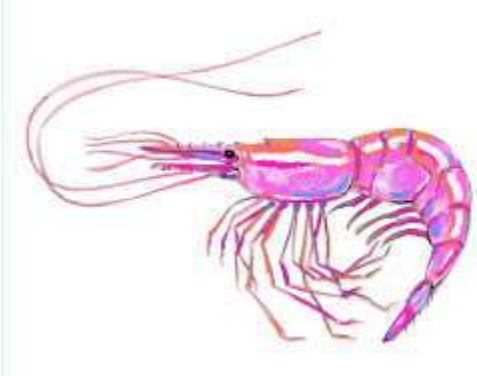
Habitat

The Northern riffleshell lives in highly oxygenated riffle areas of rivers or streams. In the past, it could be found throughout the Ohio River system and in portions of the Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair drainages, but its range has been drastically reduced. In Canada, there are 20 known records of the species.

Species Description

Adults' shell lengths range from 4.5 - 7.6 cm. The shell of this mollusc is brownish yellow to yellowish green with diffuse, fine green rays. Adult females have a broadly rounded expansion of the shell that makes them easy to identify and distinguish from the males. Unlike other species of freshwater mussels, it lives for a fairly long time-15 years or more, in some cases.

Northern Shrimp



Latin Name
Pandalus borealis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Northern shrimp have a wide range throughout the northern Atlantic and Pacific oceans, thriving in colder water temperatures between 2 to 6 degrees C. They are found mainly on soft and muddy bottoms. In the Atlantic Ocean, they occur from the Davis Strait south to the Gulf of Maine; in the eastern Pacific, they range from the Aleutian Islands to Oregon and in the west, from Siberia down to Japan. In Canada, the main fisheries are off the east coast of Nova Scotia,

in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and in Davis Strait and off the coasts of Labrador and northeastern Newfoundland.

Species Description

Northern shrimp are crustaceans with a hard exoskeleton. Their colour ranges from a light to a reddish-pink. They have a muscular body with four feeding legs and six walking legs, and a tail with attached pleopods (fins) that enables them to swim and escape danger quickly. Northern shrimp can grow to a length of about 15 centimetres, though they average about half this, and they are known to live for more than eight years in some areas.

Northern Wolffish

Latin Name
Anarhichas denticulatus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

This charmingly ugly fish is found across the North Atlantic Ocean from north of Russia to the Scotian Shelf, off Nova Scotia.

Adult northern wolffish are observed to make limited movements and are non-migratory. The northern wolffish favours open continental-shelf water that is cold-usually between 2°C to 5°C-and mainly at depths between 400 and 1000 metres. The fish is thought to prefer a rocky or muddy sea floor but is found over all types of ocean bottoms.

Species Description

The northern wolffish is thick and heavyset, with a large head and teeth at the front of the jaw that are smaller and sharper than the other two wolffish species found in Atlantic Canada. The

shape and size of its mouth and teeth allow it to capture moving (pelagic) prey. It can grow to 145 centimetres in length and almost 20 kilograms in weight. The northern wolffish has a more uniform body colour than the other wolffish species, ranging from grey to dark chocolate, sometimes with a light violet sheen.

Octopus

Latin Name
Bathypolypus arcticus

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

In Canada, octopuses are found in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The giant Pacific octopus ranges from California through the Bering Sea to Japan and from the intertidal zone to at least 100 m depth. They can be found on most bottom types, particularly when foraging for food, and generally occupy rocky dens, which can be indicated by the presence of a midden of numerous shells from prey items. They are opportunistic predators with a wide range of reported prey; they feed primarily on crabs, bivalve and gastropod mollusks, shrimp and marine fish.

Species Description

Octopuses are marine invertebrates with eight arms (sometimes mistakenly called tentacles). They are highly evolved and intelligent, if a bit reclusive, creatures that feed primarily on fish and shellfish. Octopuses seize their prey with their tentacles and can crush even the hardest of shells with their powerful beaks. In Canada, octopuses are found in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Many of them do not live very long (the giant Pacific octopus lives for only three to five years). Their short life-cycles, coupled with their notorious shyness, make them difficult to study. Much remains to be learned about these fascinating creatures.

Olympia Oyster

Latin Name
Ostrea conchaphila

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

The Olympia oyster lives along the west coast of North America, between southern Alaska and down to Panama. It typically makes its home in protected saltwater coves, lagoons and estuaries (saltwater rivers) where it is not disturbed by rising and falling tides. It is usually attached to submerged rocks and hard ground in shallow waters. In British Columbia, the Olympia oyster is found along the Georgia Strait, the west coast of Vancouver Island, and around Queen Charlotte Strait and Sound.

Species Description

Smaller than most oysters, the Olympia oyster will be at most nine centimetres in length and more likely just six centimetres. It is oval, and like all oysters, has two shells connected by a hinge. Its larger lower shell is rounded like a cup, while the slightly smaller upper shell is flat - with its edges tucking inside the rounded shell. Its outer shell ranges in colour from white to dark purple while its inside shell can be white, iridescent green and purple.

Opal Squid

Latin Name
Loligo opalescens

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Opal squid are found along the west coast of North America from southern Alaska to Baja California, with the most significant populations occurring off the coast of California. Opal squid live at depths from the intertidal zone to about 250 metres.

Species Description

Opal squid have an elongated, tapered mantle with two triangular fins and a head with large eyes, eight arms and two feeding tentacles. When at rest, their flesh is a translucent white, with a faint bluish tinge and blue-green opalescent patches. However, they can change their colouration when their mood changes or when they are trying to blend in with their surroundings -anything from an angry red to a mottled gold. Opal squid grow to an average of 15 to 20 centimetres in length (not including tentacles) and weigh between 14 and 70 grams. They live less than two years, and males grow larger than females.

Pacific Cod

Latin Name
Gadus macrocephalus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

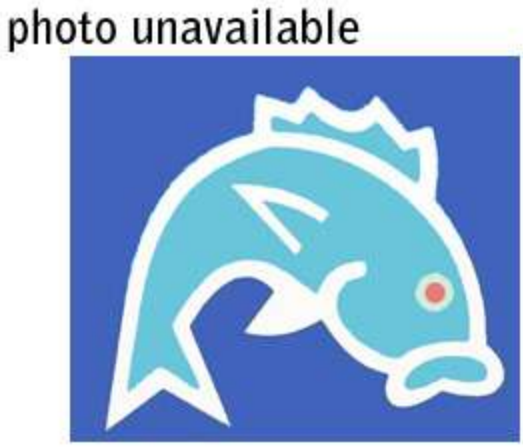
Habitat

Pacific cod are found on both sides of the northern Pacific Ocean, with their range beginning near southern California and stretching north to Alaska. From Alaska, they are distributed along the Aleutians and westward into Asia, from the Bering Strait south to Japan and the Yellow Sea. Pacific cod live at variable depths, ranging from three to more than 1000 metres. They are an important commercial fish in Canada and are considered equivalent to Atlantic cod in the marketplace.

Species Description

Pacific cod resemble their Atlantic counterpart, with a fairly elongated body and a brown to grey coloration on their dorsal side, generally becoming a lighter shade spotted with brown on its flanks. Their underside is pale grey to white. They have a long chin barbell, three dorsal fins and a squarish tail. Pacific cod can grow to more than a metre in length and weigh more than 20 kilograms (though they average between 2.5 to 4.5 kilograms). More southerly populations live six to seven years; farther north, they live to eight or nine years.

Pacific Hagfish



Latin Name
Eptatretus stoutii

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Pacific hagfish are native to the northern Pacific Ocean, with a distribution that extends from Baha California to Alaska. While some species of hagfish live at great depths-as much as 5000 metres-Pacific hagfish are typically found in shallower water, at depths of about 100 to 500 metres. They live on the ocean bottom, preferring soft beds such as mud or sand into which they can burrow. Pacific hagfish are thought to be fairly sedentary, but some populations migrate over short distances.

Species Description

Pacific hagfish are elongated and serpentine in shape, resembling eels or lampreys. They have a highly flexible cartilaginous skeleton. On their head, they have a pair of tiny eyes, one nostril and a jawless mouth, as well as a few barbels (or "whiskers"). Pacific hagfish range from grey to dark brown, sometimes with a bluish or purplish tinge, and are lighter on their underside. They grow to a maximum length of 60-70 centimetres.

Pacific Halibut

Latin Name
Hippoglossus stenolepis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Pacific halibut are native to the north Pacific, occurring in the northeast from the Bering Sea and Alaska to Baja California. In the northwest, they range from Siberia to the northern coast of Japan. They live on the ocean bottom at depths of up to 1000 metres. Younger fish live near the shore while adults live farther out. They are a valuable commercial catch and most abundant off the coasts of Alaska and British Columbia.

Species Description

Pacific halibut have a flat, diamond-shaped body, slightly more elongated than their relatives, with a lateral line that becomes curved near their pectoral fin. They have a large mouth with pointed teeth and a square tail. On their eyed side, their body usually assumes the colour of the ocean bottom, ranging from grey to brown to almost black, often mottled with a lighter colour. Their underside is much paler, a white or off-white shade. Pacific halibut are the largest flatfish in the world, reaching a length of 2.7 metres and a weight of 300 kilograms. Females grow faster and live longer than males - the oldest recorded female was 42 years old with the oldest male at 27 years old.

Pacific Herring

Latin Name
Clupea pallasi

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

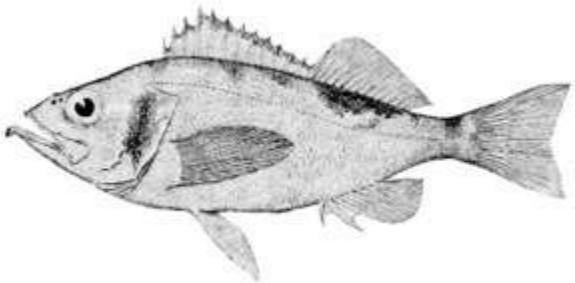
Habitat

Pacific herring are distributed widely throughout the north Pacific, from the Beaufort Sea to Baha California in the east and from Siberia to the Korean Peninsula in the west. Their range also extends westward into the Russian Arctic, overlapping with that of the Atlantic herring. A pelagic, schooling fish, Pacific herring are migratory, and move closer to the coast during spawning. In Canada, they are fished commercially for food (including for their roe, a delicacy in Japan) and for bait.

Species Description

Small and slender silver fish with an elongated body and a forked tail, Pacific herring closely resemble Atlantic herring. They have a bluish to olive-green coloured back, becoming iridescent silver on their sides and belly. Their body is covered with large scales. They can grow to about 30 centimetres, and live to approximately 15 years.

Pacific Ocean Perch



Latin Name
Sebastes alutus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

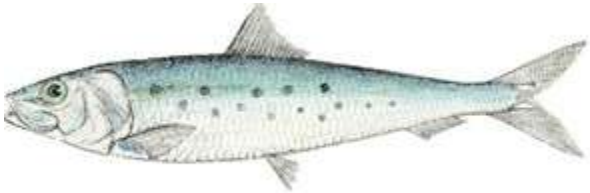
Habitat

Pacific Ocean perch are a species of rockfish native to the Pacific Ocean. Along the west coast of North America they are distributed from California in the south to the Bering Sea in the north, and are often found near the walls of underwater canyons. They inhabit depths ranging from about 40 to 600 metres.

Species Description

Pacific Ocean perch have a short, laterally compressed body that tapers toward their tail starting about midway down their length. They have a large mouth with a protruding lower jaw. They have several sharp dorsal spines immediately followed by a flat dorsal fin and a tail with a slight indent. Pacific Ocean perch are bright red, mixed with blotches of olive. They grow to a maximum length of around 50 centimetres and weigh 0.5-1.4 kilograms. Pacific Ocean perch can live for as long as a century.

Pacific Sardine



Latin Name
Sardinops sagax

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

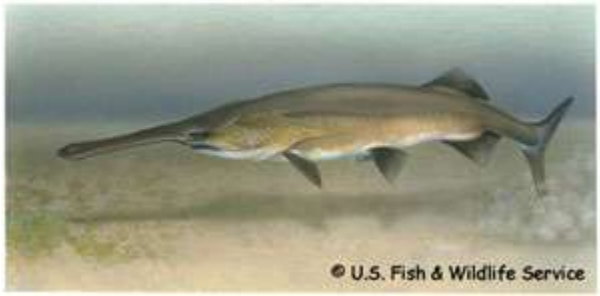
Habitat

Sardines are widespread throughout the oceans of the world. In the Pacific, their range includes Chile, Mexico, United States, and Canada in the east and Japan, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand in the west. Sardines also occur in the northeastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea and in the Indian Ocean, from western equatorial Africa around the Cape of Good Hope to Madagascar. In the eastern Pacific, they migrate northward every year to feeding grounds off Vancouver Island. They are pelagic fish that prefer warmer waters, so they migrate farther and farther north as temperatures rise.

Species Description

Pacific sardines have a dark blue or blue-green back that becomes silver on their sides and belly. They are distinguished by the bony striations on their gill covers and the dark spots that run along their flanks. They have an elongated shape, with a dorsal fin midway down their body's length and have a forked tail. Pacific sardines can grow to a maximum length of about 30 centimetres.

Paddlefish



Latin Name
Polyodon spathula

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

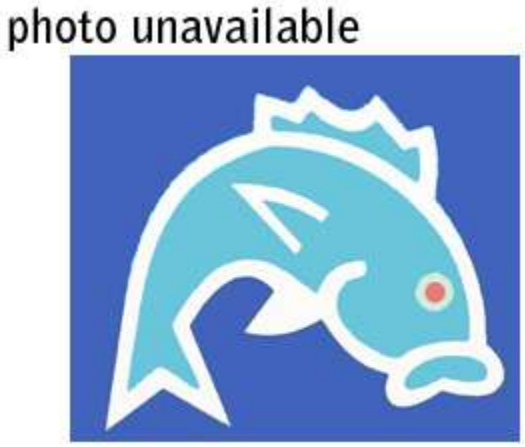
Habitat

The present range of the Paddlefish is the Mississippi River system from Montana to Louisiana, and some smaller rivers draining into the Gulf of Mexico. In Canada, Paddlefish were last reported about 90 years ago when they were thought to have occurred in Lake Huron near Sarnia, the Spanish River, Georgian Bay, and in Lake Helen on the Nipigon River. Paddlefish are highly migratory and live in slow-moving sections of large rivers and lakes, but migrate to large, fast flowing rivers for spawning.

Species Description

The Paddlefish is a member of the Paddlefish family, one of the most primitive groups of fishes in North America. This fish has a long, spatula-like snout which is longer than the remainder of the head, with a large, toothless mouth. It generally measures 50 - 125 cm and weighs 1-9 kg, but is known to grow up to 2 m long and weigh over 70 kg. The skin is smooth and scaleless. Dorsal surfaces are bluish-gray or bluish-olive, while the ventral surfaces are lighter and silvery in colour. The Paddlefish have a lifespan of at least 30 years.

Paxton Lake Stickleback (Benthic)



Latin Name
Gasterosteus sp.

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

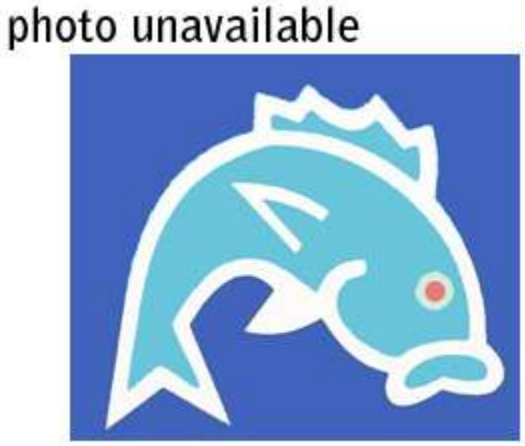
Habitat

The benthic Paxton Lake stickleback lives in Paxton Lake on Texada Island. The island is located between Vancouver Island and mainland British Columbia. This small lake is approximately 15 metres deep, and is isolated from the sea by a series of small waterfalls that drop about 80 metres. There is no permanent surface water flow into the lake. Usually to be found in the littoral zone-the part of the lake closest to the shore-in summer, the benthic Paxton Lake stickleback prefer to swim close to some sort of cover. The fish is often found around sunken logs; nests are found in aquatic vegetation. Spawning occurs in shallower waters. In winter, the sticklebacks disperse over the entire lake floor.

Species Description

Up to nine centimeters in length when fully mature, the benthic Paxton Lake stickleback is a lean fish with an elongated body that tapers to a slender tail. The fish has a wide mouth and fewer spines than other species of stickleback.

Paxton Lake Stickleback (Limnetic)



Latin Name
Gasterosteus sp.

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Social fish, limnetic Paxton Lake sticklebacks gather in large numbers during the day, usually swimming close to the surface of the water in the littoral zone. To protect themselves from predators, they congregate where there is a lot of surface cover or in areas of tall vegetation. At night, however, the sticklebacks prefer the deeper, open waters of the limnetic zone. When they spawn, they choose open areas away from any form of cover.

Species Description

Only 45 mm is length when fully mature, the limnetic Paxton Lake stickleback is a small, lean fish with an elongated body that tapers to a slender tail. The fish has lateral plates that provide some protection against predators, a narrow mouth and three dorsal spines. The lateral line on

this fish is complete and positioned high on the sides. For reasons as yet unknown to scientists, a small number-about five percent-of limnetic Paxton Lake sticklebacks don't have pelvic girdles.

Periwinkle

Latin Name
Littorina littorea

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

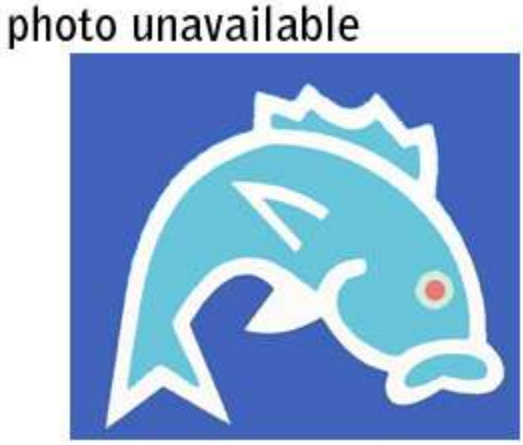
Habitat

Periwinkles are marine snails found in the North Atlantic. They occur along the northeastern coast of North America, with a range that begins in Newfoundland and Labrador and ends in New Jersey. Periwinkles are abundant within their range, found at depths ranging from the intertidal zone to 40 metres below. They live near the shore on various ocean bed materials, usually rock, and less often, on sand or mud. Periwinkles tolerate low levels of salinity quite well and can be found living in the brackish waters of coastal estuaries.

Species Description

Periwinkles grow to a maximum shell diameter of 4 centimetres. Their shells are rounded or globular with an opening relatively flat and a uniform edge. They are a mixture of brown, grey, black and olive shades, and have a dark operculum (shell hatch or "door"). Periwinkles may live from three years to five years.

Petrale Sole



Latin Name
Eopsetta jordani

Alternative Names
brill, California sole, Jordan's founder, round-nosed sole.

Group Name
Groundfish

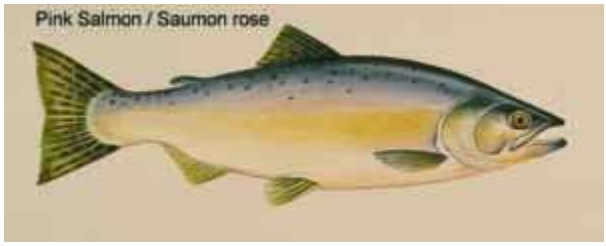
Habitat

Petrale sole are native to the Pacific, ranging from the Bering Sea to Baja California. They are most abundant off the west coast of the United States and less common in the northern parts of its range. Petrale sole adults inhabit depths from 80 to 550 metres and show tolerance for a wide range of bottom temperatures across their range. They occupy the waters of the continental shelf and slope. Both adults and juveniles show an affinity for sand, sandy mud and occasionally muddy substrates. Juveniles feed primarily on mobile prey, such as cumaceans, carideans, and gammarid amphipods. Adults are piscavores. Petrale sole populations off the west coast of Canada were depleted by the 1980s but some rebuilding had occurred by the late 1990s.

Species Description

Petrale sole are a compressed, oval-shaped fish with a large mouth and a square tail. On their eyed side, their skin has a smooth texture and uniform colour, usually a light to dark brown, becoming white on its underside. They have faint blotches on their dorsal and anal fins. Petrale sole grow to a maximum length of approximately 60 centimetres, and they can live to 30 years.

Pink Salmon



Latin Name
Oncorhynchus gorbuscha

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

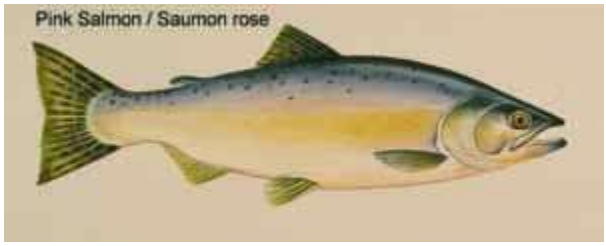
Habitat

The most abundant among the Pacific salmon, pink salmon are found throughout the northern Pacific. In the eastern Pacific, their range stretches from northern Alaska to southern California. Pink salmon seem to be colonizing Canada's western arctic and are now reported as far east as the Mackenzie River. In the west, they range from the Siberian coast to the waters off Korea and Japan. Pink salmon are also found in the Russian arctic as far as the White Sea. In the Great Lakes, pink salmon occur in Lake Erie to eastern Lake Ontario and in Lakes Huron and Superior, where they were accidentally introduced in the 1950s. Pink salmon, like all of the Pacific salmon, are born in freshwater rivers and streams but do most of their growing in the ocean. After swimming far out into the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, pink salmon return faithfully to their birthplaces to spawn.

Species Description

Pink salmon are the smallest of the Pacific salmon, averaging between 1.5 to 5 kilograms and growing to about 50 centimetres in length. They are silver with a streamlined body and a slightly indented tail. Pink salmon have tiny scales and their tail is heavily marked with large oval spots. Sea-run pinks have blue or bluish-green backs. During spawning, males grow a large hump and both sexes change from their blue and silver colouring to pale grey. Males' dorsal area darkens and their flanks become red with brownish-green patches during spawning. Spawning females undergo a similar but less pronounced colour change. They have a fixed, two-year lifespan-after spending 18 months in the ocean or Great Lakes, maturing fish return to the rivers where they were born to spawn and die.

Pink Salmon



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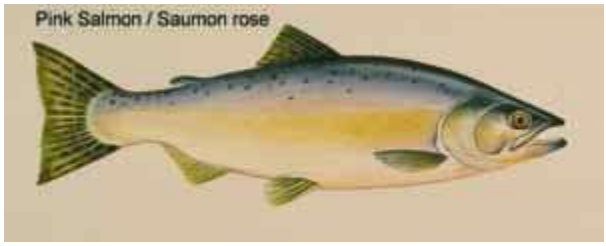

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Pollock

Latin Name
Pollachius virens

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

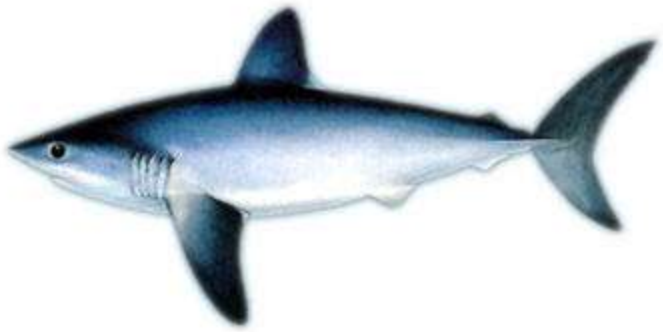
Habitat

Pollock are a deepwater Atlantic species, with a western Atlantic distribution from the Hudson Strait to the coast of North Carolina. Populations also exist near the southwestern corner of Greenland. In the eastern Pacific they are found from the Barents Sea to the Bay of Biscay and around Iceland. Pollock are believed to migrate to some extent, particularly during spawning. They are an important fish to commercial fishing operations and prized by anglers throughout Canada.

Species Description

As members of the cod family, pollock have a fairly elongated body, with three dorsal fins and a slightly indented tail. Their dorsal area is greenish-brown, fading slightly and becoming yellowish or olive-green on their sides and silver-grey on their belly. They have a pale lateral line running across their body. Pollock are distinguished from similar fish by their projecting lower jaw with a small barbel and their pointed snout. They typically grow to 30-110 cm in length and weigh 7 kg, though they can weigh up to 32 kg. Pollock live up to 25 years.

Porbeagle Shark



Latin Name
Lamna nasus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Finfish

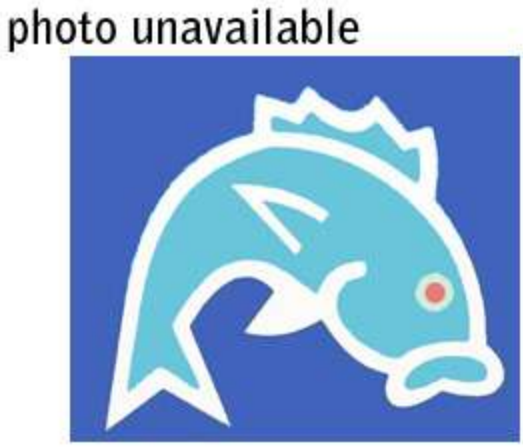
Habitat

The Porbeagle Shark is a large coastal and oceanic shark that lives in cold to temperate waters. It is found in the North Atlantic Ocean and, globally, in the South Atlantic Ocean, South Indian and South Pacific oceans. In the northwest Atlantic Ocean, the Porbeagle is found in the waters off Greenland, Iceland, Canada, and the United States. In Canada, this species occurs in an area extending from Newfoundland to the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Scotian Shelf and the Bay of Fundy. The Porbeagle Shark is found at surface waters and to depths of up to 1400 m. Although more commonly encountered on continental shelves, it is also found in ocean basins far from land and, occasionally, closer to shore. Mating in the Northwest Atlantic is thought to occur on the Grand Banks, off southern Newfoundland, at the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and on Georges Bank.

Species Description

This very active swimmer has a powerful streamlined body that reaches a maximum length of approximately 3 m. The back of the Porbeagle Shark is dark grey to bluish black in colour and its belly is white. The head is stout, the snout is pointed and the eyes are large. The mouth has rather large, pointed blade-like teeth with smooth edges that are identical on both jaws. Males reach maturity at age 8 and females at age 13. The Porbeagle Shark's typical life expectancy is estimated to be between 25 and 46 years.

Porcupine Crab



Latin Name
Neolithodes grimaldi

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Porcupine crabs are found on both sides of the Atlantic, though their exact distribution is not fully understood. They are generally found in deep water, anywhere from 100 to 2000 metres below the surface, and usually at least 300 metres down. In Canada they occur in several pockets in the Scotian Shelf. They are not found in high concentrations within their range.

Species Description

Porcupine crabs are also referred to as spiny spider crabs, a name that reflects their appearance very well. They are strikingly spider-like in shape, with a small carapace and 10 long, slender legs. Porcupine crabs resemble the stone crab, a related species, but are distinguished by the long (2.5-5 centimetres), sharp spines that cover their body. They are bright red. With their legs spread out, they can measure up to 76 centimetres and weigh 1.4 kilograms.

Prawn

Latin Name
Pandalus platyceros

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Prawns are found along the Pacific coast of North America from Alaska to southern California. Their range also extends to Asia, with significant populations off the coasts of Korea and Japan. Prawns live in subtidal sandy and rocky habitats, at ocean depths ranging from the intertidal zone to 400 metres below, but normally at a depth of at least 70 metres.

Species Description

Prawns vary in colour from a dark red to an orange-red or pink; juveniles are sometimes green or brown. Running horizontally across their head are several white lines. They have a smooth, glossy body with an abdomen divided into several segments, the first and fifth bearing a distinctive white spot. They are a hermaphroditic species that begins life as male and becomes female in its later years. Prawns grow to about 20 centimetres, and live for four years.

Pugnose Minnow

Latin Name
Opsopoeodus emiliae

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Pugnose Minnow lives in central North America in the rivers and streams of the Mississippi River basin and is widespread in the southern United States. In Canada, small populations are limited to southwestern Ontario in Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and the drainages of Lake Erie.

The Pugnose Minnow prefers clear, warm, well-vegetated rivers and creeks with little to no current but may live in more turbid environments. Wetland areas are also used by this species.

Species Description

The Pugnose Minnow has a small, slender and elongated body. Its average adult size is approximately 50 mm long. Its head bluntly rounded and it has a very small and nearly vertical mouth.It has a silvery colour with a distinct black lateral band along each side, or is translucent straw-coloured or hase olive overtones.

In late spring, females lay eggs on the underside of flat surfaces and the males guard the nest and eggs from predators. Up to 120 eggs are laid (in a single layer) per spawning session, which is repeated over 6-7 days.

Pugnose shiner

Latin Name
Notropis anogenus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Currently found in only two regions in Ontario, the pugnose shiner has an extremely limited distribution and is often absent from potentially suitable habitat within its range. In eastern Ontario, the fish is found only in the upper St. Lawrence River. In southwestern Ontario, it has been found in the Old Ausable Channel, Lake St. Clair and four areas of Lake Erie. However, the fish is already likely extirpated (locally extinct) from two of the Lake Erie sites. The pugnose shiner prefers slow-moving streams and the marshy bays of lakes and ponds. The fish enjoys clear water and plenty of vegetation.

Species Description

The Pugnose Shiner is a member of the Minnow family and is usually 38 to 51 mm long. The body is fragile, slender, small and somewhat compressed laterally. The Pugnose Shiner has an extremely small, upturned mouth. The eye diameter is relatively large and the snout length slightly smaller than eye diameter. All fins are transparent and the tail is forked. The overall colouration is silvery with pale yellow tints on back and silvery below. Distinct, dark mid-lateral bands extend around the snout, through the eye to the caudal peduncle.

Quahaug

Latin Name
Arctica islandica

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

Quahaugs are a species of clam native to the Atlantic Ocean. In the western Atlantic they are distributed from the Arctic to the coast of North Carolina, while in the east, they occur from the Arctic to as far south as Spain. Quahaugs are also found around the British Isles and near Iceland. They live at depths from only a few metres to about 250 metres, occasionally deeper. They burrow just under the ocean bottom, preferring sandy or muddy beds.

Species Description

Quahaugs are fairly oval and have a heavy shell. Their colour varies from yellowish-brown to black (it is thought that they become darker as they age). They can grow quite large, to a shell diameter of 13 centimetres. Quahaugs are also very long-lived, some specimens reaching ages of more than 200 years. They are among the slowest-growing clams that are harvested commercially.

Quillback Rockfish

Latin Name
Sebastes maliger

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Quillback rockfish are an inshore rockfish native to the Pacific Ocean. They occur from southeastern Alaska to southern California. As their name implies, they typically live near rocky areas in the ocean-particularly those with vertical relief, like reefs or ridges-typically at depths of 50-100 metres, although they have been found as deep as 275 metres.

Species Description

Quillback rockfish are stocky fish with a sloped head, a large mouth and large eyes. They are dark brown mottled with yellow or orange, and their head or lower flanks may be flecked with small yellow or orange spots. They are distinguished by their long, sharp dorsal spines and the light-coloured "saddle" patch that reaches across their dorsal fin. They can grow to about 60 centimetres and live up to 95 years.

Rainbow

Latin Name
Villosa iris

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

The Rainbow is most abundant in shallow, well-oxygenated reaches of small to medium-sized rivers and sometimes lakes, on substrates of cobble, gravel, sand and occasionally mud.

Species Description

The Rainbow is a small, freshwater mussel. It has a compressed, long and elliptical in shape with an average length 55 mm; maximum length roughly 85 mm. The Rainbow has medium-sized and well developed hinge teeth. Its colour is yellow, yellowish green or brown shell with many broken, dark green rays of differing widths.

Rainbow Trout

Latin Name
Onorhynchus mykiss

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Rainbow trout are closely related to salmon and arctic char. They exist in two different forms, a Pacific Ocean sea-run strain known as steelhead and a smaller, landlocked (freshwater) variety. The species is native to Pacific Ocean drainages from Mexico to Alaska and northeast Asia. In their natural habitat, rainbow trout prefer cold, clear water with a fast current.

Species Description

Rainbow trout have a slender, elongated body distinguished by an iridescent pink or red lateral line. They are generally silvery on their sides (sometimes with a greenish tinge in landlocked specimens), with a dark blue to olive back and a white underside. Their flanks and all of their fins (including their tail) are sprinkled with dark spots. Rainbow trout grow to about 15-40 centimetres and seldom exceed 1 kilogram in streams or 3 kilograms in lakes. There is much more food in the ocean so steelhead grow larger, typically 50 to 75 centimetres in length and four kilograms in weight. The Gerrard rainbow trout of Kootenay Lake in south-central British Columbia are famous for their large size with adults typically exceeding 10 kilograms.

Rayed Bean

Latin Name
Villosa fabalis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

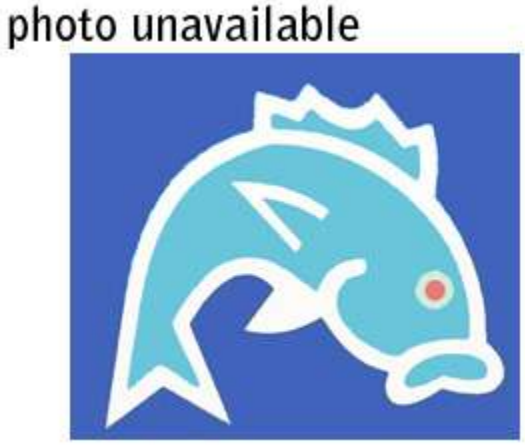
Habitat

The Rayed Bean was historically known from 11 states and the Province of Ontario. In Canada, this species was known from western Lake Erie, the Detroit River and the Sydenham and Thames Rivers in the Lake St. Clair drainage however, it is now restricted to the middle reach of the Sydenham River. The Rayed Bean is usually found in or near riffle areas of headwater and small tributaries of river systems. It is typically found deeply buried in the sand and gravel substrate among the roots of aquatic vegetation, generally in low flow areas.

Species Description

The shell of the Rayed Bean is very small, thick and sub-elliptical in shape. Females tend to be more inflated and more broadly rounded posteriorly than males. The outside of the shell is normally light or dark green with crowded, wavy, darker green rays and the inside of the shell is silvery white and iridescent. The Rayed Bean has a narrow beak, slightly elevated about the hinge line and not excavated. It has a fine beak sculpture with five crowded double-looped ridges. The hinge teeth are heavy with serrated triangular teeth and shorter, elongated teeth. The Rayed Bean is a moderately long-lived, sexually-dimorphic species with a lifespan of at least 10 years.

Red Crab



Latin Name
Chaceon quinquedens

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Red crabs are native to the western Atlantic Ocean, occurring from the Scotian Shelf and the Bay of Fundy south to the Gulf of Mexico. Populations are most dense on mud, sand and hard bottoms at water temperatures of 5-8° C. Their range may extend farther south, but this has not yet been confirmed. The movements of these crabs are not yet fully understood, partly because of the depths at which they live. Red crabs are found as far down as 1800 metres on the continental shelf and slopes of the Atlantic.

Species Description

Red crabs are dark red or orange red. They have a squarish carapace distinguished by its five spines and long, thin walking legs with two claws of roughly equal size. The carapace of the males can reach 180 mm in diameter and they can weigh 1.7 kg, while females grow to a maximum of about 140 mm, and are typically 0.7 kg. They may live for 15 years or more.

Red Rock Crab

Latin Name
Cancer productus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Red rock crabs are native to the Pacific Ocean. They range from Alaska to southern California. They live in rock, gravel or kelp beds in bays, estuaries and rocky areas of the ocean from the low intertidal to at least 90 metres depth - although they have been caught in traps as deep as 230 metres. Red rock crabs often shelter in rocks or bury themselves in the sand to avoid predators such as river otters, sea otters, large fish and other crabs.

Species Description

Adult red rock crabs are a dark, brick red colour with a white underside. They have a wide carapace that is quite smooth to the touch and two large claws of equal size with black tips. Red rock crabs may attain shell widths of 160 millimetres across the shell but are generally smaller than dungeness crabs. The legal harvest width in British Columbia is 115 millimetres across the widest part of the shell. Females are smaller, seldom exceeding 100 millimetres carapace width. Juveniles look strikingly different from adults-they are cryptically camouflaged and may be white or red with white stripes.

Red Sea Urchin

Latin Name
Strongylocentrotus franciscanus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

Red sea urchins are found in the Pacific Ocean, from the coast of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands to Baja California in the east, and in the west, from Siberia to the northern reaches of Japan. They prefer rocky, protected areas of the ocean in shallow water close to shore, though occasionally they are found as deep as 100 metres. In Canada, the main fishery is located off the coast of British Columbia.

Species Description

Red sea urchins are spherical, covered with a tough shell bristling with pointy spines. Their colour varies from red to reddish-brown, dark burgundy or purple. They move around using special tube feet underneath their bodies that create suction. Also on their underside is a mouth with five teeth. Their shell-or "test"-can grow to a maximum of about 18 centimetres.

Redfish

Latin Name
Sebastes Marinus

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

Redfish, members of the scorpion fish family, are found in the north Atlantic Ocean. Redfish comprise two major species, Sebastes marinus and Sebastes mentella, the latter of which is further subdivided into two species (S. mentella and S. fasciatus). Generally speaking, all of these fish are treated as one and the same by everyone outside of the scientific community-they are virtually impossible to tell apart. In the western Atlantic, redfish range from Baffin Island to

New Jersey, living in rocky areas at depths of up to 700 metres (S. mentella is usually found in shallower water than S. marinus, however).

Species Description

Also called ocean perch, even though it isn't a perch at all, redfish have a short body with a large head and wide, gaping mouth. They have a row of short dorsal spines followed by a flat dorsal fin and a small tail with a shallow indent. Adults range in colour from bright orange (S. marinus) to bright red (S. mentella). S. marinus grow to a maximum length of about 70 centimetres, while S. mentella grow to about 60 centimetres. Much as the age of a tree is calculated by counting the rings in its trunk, the age of a redfish is determined by counting the rings on the otoliths (small bones in the fish's middle ear). They often live to be 40 years old.

Redside Dace

Latin Name
Clinostomus elongatus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Redside Dace is a coolwater species found in pools and slow flowing areas of small headwater streams with a moderate to high gradient. Overhanging grasses and shrubs, as well as undercut banks, are an important part of their habitat, as are instream boulders and large woody debris. Substrate is variable and includes silt, gravel and boulders.

Species Description

The Redside Dace is a very colourful minnow. It has a large mouth with a protruding lower jaw. Adults develop a wide, bright red stripe along the front half of the body; a bright yellow stripe

above extends to near the tail fin. Fish mature at around two years of age and reach a maximum length of 12 cm. In May, spawning occurs in shallow riffle areas and eggs are often deposited in the nests of other minnows. There is no parental care; however, the nest-guarding male and the nest itself may provide some protection to the eggs. The lifespan of the Redside Dace is generally four years or less.

Redstripe Rockfish

Latin Name
Sebastes proriger

Group Name
Groundfish

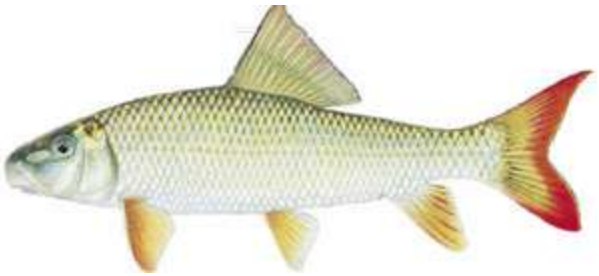
Habitat

Redstripe rockfish are inshore rockfish found in the North Pacific Ocean. Like many other members of the rockfish family, they have a range that extends from Alaska in the north to California in the south. They live at depths ranging from about 10-400 metres, usually congregating in schools, but occasionally alone.

Species Description

Redstripe rockfish have a short, deep body with a large head. Along their back is a row of pointy dorsal spines followed by flatter, softer dorsal rays, which together cover most of their length. Redstripe rockfish grow to a length of about 60 centimetres, though in Canadian waters they rarely reach more than 50 centimetres. They can live for about 50 years.

River Redhorse



Latin Name
Moxostoma carinatum

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

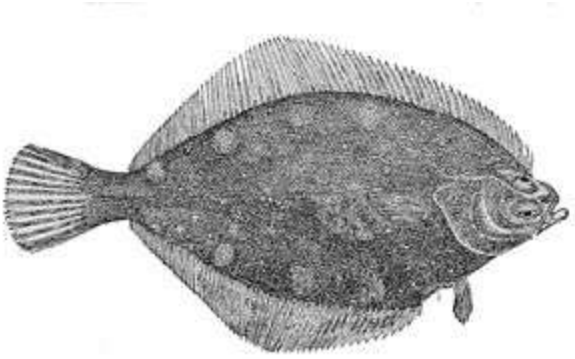
Habitat

The River Redhorse occurs throughout the central and eastern Mississippi River system and the Gulf Slope from Florida to Louisiana. In Canada, its distribution is characterized by disjunct populations in southern Ontario and Quebec. This species has declined considerably over much of its range in the last 100 years. Populations still occur in the Grand, Trent, Thames, Mississippi, Gatineau and Richelieu rivers, and recent data suggest a wider distribution in the Ottawa River than previously documented. However, this fish appears to no longer exist in the Ausable, Châteauguay and Yamaska watersheds and has declined dramatically in the St. Lawrence River. In Canada, the River Redhorse lives in medium- to large-sized rivers. In the late spring, fish migrate from pool habitats with slow currents and abundant vegetation to shallow areas with moderate to swift flow, riffle-run habitats and coarse (gravel, cobble) substrates.

Species Description

The River Redhorse has a large, laterally compressed body. Adults are generally over 500 mm in total length, sometimes exceeding 700 mm. They have a white belly, a brown or olive green back, and brassy, yellowish-green or coppery sides with dark, crescent-shaped spots on each scale. The age at maturity is older than in southern populations, ranging between five and ten years. Maximum age is 28 years in Canada.

Rock Sole



Latin Name
Lepidopsetta bilineata

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Rock sole are Pacific Ocean groundfish that are classified as two different species, a northern population referred to as Lepidopsetta bilineata and a southern population known as Lepidopsetta petraborealis.

L. petraborealis is the more common of the two, and range from southern California to the Bering Sea. L. bilineata, meanwhile, have a distribution that begins in Washington State and stretches north and then west across the Pacific Ocean to Japan. Rock sole are commonly found on gravelly bottoms at depth ranges of 10-120 metres. They prefer bottom temperatures of 7.5-10.5˚ Celsius.

Species Description

Rock sole have a flattened body shaped somewhat like an arrowhead that easily skims along the ocean floor. They have a small, pointed head, a rounded, fan-like tail, and long, flat fins on each side of their body. Their colouration varies, but is usually a mottling of brown and grey, a pattern that blends in well with the ocean floor. Rock sole can grow to about 50 centimetres. They live up to 21 years.

Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel

Latin Name
Gonidea angulata

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

The Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel occurs from southern British Columbia to southern California and eastward to southern Idaho and northern Nevada in the United States. In Canada, this species is limited to the Columbia River system and its tributaries, including the Okanagan and Kootenay rivers. This species is probably also present in other similar areas in southern British Columbia.

The Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel lives in fresh water. It is found in various sizes of lakes and streams in shallow water where the flow is constant and especially where the bottom is composed of fine material. The species seems to avoid murky, nutrient-rich water. This mussel will attach itself to gravel or firm mud on the bottom so long as this bottom also contains a small amount of fine material such as sand or clay; depending on how fine the bottom is, the mussel may bury itself partially or completely. It is not unusual to see individuals of all non-larval age classes together at a single location.

Species Description

The Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel is a large freshwater mussel. Its shell is trapezoidal and up to 12.5 cm long and 0.4 cm wide. It is typically rather thin, but can be up to 6.5 cm high toward the posterior. Like that of all other mussels, the shell of the Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel is composed of two parts, known as valves, connected by a hinge. This hinge is medium-sized and has small, irregular, indistinct anterior teeth. The surface of the shell is marked by well-defined growth rings, and the dorsal valve is distinguished by a sharp, prominent ridge at the beak. In juveniles of this species, the outside of the shell is greenish or ochre, while adults are typically darker, becoming bluish-black. The inside of the shell is white tinged with coppery blue.

As with all freshwater mussels, the survival rate of the larvae is low. According to counts of annual growth rings, it is estimated that the adult can live up to 30 years.

Rougheye Rockfish - Type I & II

Latin Name
Sebastes aleutianus type I / Sebastes aleutianus type II

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Rougheye rockfish are widely distributed and occur on both sides of the Pacific Ocean: in North America from Alaska to southern California, and in Asia from northern Japan up to the Bering Sea. In British Columbia, they occur along the continental slope, and are typically found at depths between 170 and 660 m.

Highest densities of rougheye rockfish occur on the sea floor with soft substrates, in areas with frequent boulders and on slopes greater than 20°. Boulders may act as territorial markers, current deflectors, or structures that help them hunt for prey.

Species Description

Rougheye rockfish belong to the family Scorpaenidae and its name - rougheye - refers to a series of spines along the lower rim of the eyes. Rougheye rockfish are possibly among the longest lived fish species on earth. In Alaska, scientists aged one specimen to 205 years.

It has recently been discovered that rougheye probably comprise two distinct species with possibly different depth distributions. The two types have similar appearances with slight variations in colour. Scientifically, they are currently known simply as Type I and Type II.

Rougheye rockfish appear red with dark or dusky blotches of pigment in the back dorsal region. It has a light red lateral line and all but the pectoral fins are usually marked with black ends. Rougheye rockfish can attain lengths up to 100 cm.

Round Hickorynut

Latin Name
Obovaria subrotunda

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

The Round Hickorynut was historically known in 12 states and the Province of Ontario. In Canada, this species was found in western Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair and the Welland, Grand, Sydenham, Thames and Detroit Rivers. It has been lost from Lake Erie, the Detroit River, and the offshore waters of Lake St. Clair due to impacts of the Zebra Mussel (Dreissena polymorpha). It has apparently been lost from the Grand and Thames Rivers and has significantly declined in the Sydenham River. This species prefers rivers with steady, moderate flows, and sand and gravel substrates at depths of up to 2 m.

Species Description

The Round Hickorynut is easily distinguished by its almost perfectly round shape. The shell is thick and solid, and dark-brown in colour with a lighter band along the posterior-dorsal surface. The inside of a Round Hickorynut's shell is silvery white with an occasional tinge of blue or pink.

Adults are relatively small, growing to about six cm in length, and live attached to gravel and sand substrates in rivers and shallow lake region. The Round Hickorynut is a moderately long-lived mussel that has a lifespan of approximately 10 years.

Round Pigtoe

Latin Name
Pleurobema sintoxia

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

The current distribution of the Round Pigtoe is similar to its historical range: New York and Ontario, west to South Dakota, Kansas and Oklahoma, and south to Arkansas and Alabama. In Canada, it occurs only in Ontario, in lakes Erie and St. Clair and in the Detroit, Grand, Niagara, Sydenham and Thames rivers. Currently, it is extant in the Grand, Thames and Sydenham rivers and in Lake St. Clair.

In small rivers, this species can be found in areas of moderate flow on substrates of gravel, cobble and boulder. In larger rivers, it is found in mud, sand and gravel at varying depths.

Species Description

The Round Pigtoe is a mollusc belonging to the Family Unionidae. It is a medium to large freshwater mussel, which reaches lengths between 75 and 130 mm. This species is somewhat

rectangular in shape but may vary with habitat type. The beak is compressed and slightly elevated beak. The shell of the Round Pigtoe is relatively thick and solid with a roughened surface and concentric rest lines. It is tan in colour (juveniles), darkening to a deep reddish brown with age. Lifespan is unknown, however, other members of the genus may live for over 30 years.

Sablefish

Latin Name
Anoplopoma fimbria

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Sablefish are found near the continental shelf and slope of the Pacific Ocean, their eastern range beginning near Baja, California and extending north to British Columbia and Alaska, then westward over the Bering Strait to Kamchatka and Japan. Adult sablefish are found near bottom over soft substrate, living at depths of up to 2,700 metres; juveniles migrate inshore for several years, where they can be found in shallow waters, and then migrate offshore as adults.

Species Description

Sablefish have a slim, elongated body covered with small scales. They have a large mouth filled with very small teeth and a tail with a slight indent. On their dorsal side, sablefish are dark grey or greyish-green, often with paler blotches, and have two widely separated dorsal fins. Their underside is pale grey to white. Sablefish can grow to be quite large, to more than a metre in length and can weigh between 11 and 25 kilograms. They are long-lived, with some reaching over 80 years of age.

Salish Sucker

Latin Name
Catostomus catostomus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

A remnant of the ice age, the Salish sucker is found only in a few small lakes and streams in and around Puget Sound in Washington State and in British Columbia's Fraser Valley. In British Columbia, Salish suckers are found in the headwaters of small streams. Adult suckers enjoy the slow waters of relatively deep pools with plenty of aquatic and bank-side vegetation. Young suckers are found in more shallow areas with abundant vegetation in the stream.

Species Description

Considerably smaller than other suckers, Salish suckers reach approximately 25 centimetres in length. An inconspicuous fish, the sucker is dark green, mottled with black on top with dull grey-green flanks that bloom to a deep red during spawning. Its fleshy mouth is under the snout, well placed for bottom-feeding. Salish suckers live to about five years of age.

Sauger

Latin Name
Stizostedion canadense

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Sauger are a freshwater fish native to central and eastern Canada. Their range begins in the St. Lawrence River system and the Great Lakes and extends westward to Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and north to Hudson Bay. They tend to live in shallow large, slow-moving rivers and large, turbid lakes with silt, sand or clay bottoms.

Species Description

Sauger resemble their close relative, the walleye, but are smaller and more slender. They have a pointed head and streamlined body with two triangular dorsal fins and a tail with a deep indent. They are usually brown or grey on their back and flanks with a mottling of yellow, and become white on their underside. Sauger can be identified-and distinguished from walleye-by the two or three rows of black spots found on their dorsal fin. They can grow to about 40 centimetres and weigh up to 900 grams.

Sea Lamprey

Latin Name
Petromyzon marinus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

Habitat

Sea lampreys are native to the Atlantic Ocean, are found along the North American coast from Newfoundland and Labrador to Florida, and also inhabit the eastern North Atlantic and the Baltic, Adriatic, and Mediterranean seas. Sea lampreys live in marine environments but spawn in freshwater rivers and streams. However, in Lake Champlain, the Finger Lakes, and the Great Lakes, they live their entire lives in freshwater. First documented in Lake Ontario in 1835, by 1921 sea lampreys had entered Lake Erie through the Welland Canal, and were established in all five Great Lakes by 1938. They inflicted catastrophic damage to native lake trout and whitefish stocks in lakes Superior, Michigan, and Huron. Since 1956, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission has administered a bi-national sea lamprey control program with DFO as the Canadian agent.

Species Description

Sea lampreys resemble eels in shape, but lack paired fins and jaws, and have a cartilaginous, rather than bony, skeleton. They attach to fish using a sucker mouth lined with teeth, rasp away scales and skin with their tongue, and feed on blood and body fluids of their prey. The maximum length and weight of sea lampreys in marine environments is 120 cm and 2.5 kg, respectively, but land-locked individuals rarely exceed 64 cm and 0.6 kg.

Sea Otter

Latin Name
Enhydra lutris

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

The smallest marine mammals in North America, sea otters occupy chilly coastal waters in the central and north Pacific Ocean. Sea otters favour shallow, coastal waters, seldom ranging more than one or two kilometres from shore. All otters, particularly mothers with pups, seem to prefer areas with kelp canopies, but seaweed is not an essential habitat requirement. Habitat use varies with weather and marine conditions. Otters have been known to move offshore during extended periods of calm, and congregate in sheltered, inshore areas during storms.

Species Description

Averaging 1.2 metres in length, male sea otters typically weigh about 45 kilograms, females are slightly smaller. Otters have large, flat heads, large teeth to crush shells, and blunt noses with long, stiff whiskers. The animals have black eyes, very small ears, and a short, stout tail. Their front legs are small and fairly weak; their rear legs are also small, but much stronger as they are used for paddling. The otters' thick fur varies in colour from rust to dark brown to black, and is lighter on the head, throat and chest. Female sea otters mature at five to six years of age, and bear a single pup-very occasionally two-at one or two year intervals. Pups are usually born in the water.

Sei Whale

Latin Name
Balaenoptera borealis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

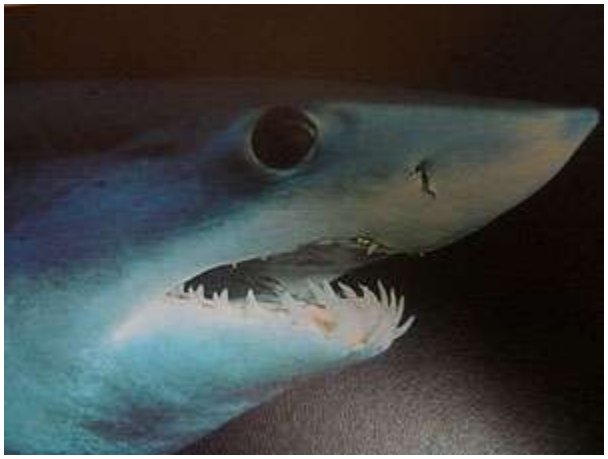
Habitat

Sei whales are a cosmopolitan species with a patchy oceanic distribution. The whales seem to favour deep offshore habitat and do not usually enter icy waters. Little is known about the whales' wintering grounds.

Species Description

The third largest baleen whale, seis can weigh up to 40 tons and grow to between 18 and 21 metres in length; females are generally half a metre longer than males. The whale has dark grey skin with variable white undersides and light-coloured patches over its upper body. The dorsal fin is curved and the undersides of flippers and tail flukes are dark grey or bluish in colour. The sei whale can be identified easily by its inverted v-shaped spout, which reaches six to eight feet into the air.

Shortfin Mako Shark



Latin Name
Isurus oxyrinchus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Finfish

Habitat

Shortfin mako are found around the world from temperate to tropical waters. In the northwest Atlantic, they have been found both inshore and offshore, from Bermuda to the waters east of Newfoundland. In Canadian waters, where they are considered at the edge of their range, they

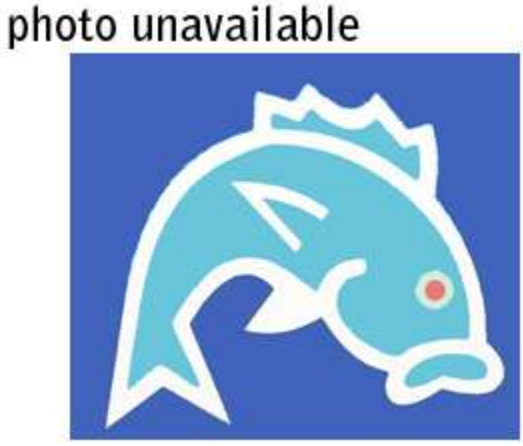
have been recorded from the Grand Banks off Newfoundland, along the Scotian Shelf and down to Georges Bank. Tagging studies indicate that shortfin makos are highly migratory, with distribution apparently dependent on water temperatures which they prefer between 17 and 22o C. They migrate to the Atlantic coast of Canada generally in the late summer and fall where they are usually associated with the warm waters of the Gulf Stream. They are extremely adaptable and able to withstand significant changes in temperature as well as changes in food availability over its wide range.

Species Description

The shortfin mako (Isurus oxyrinchus) is one of five species in the family commonly known as mackerel sharks which includes the great white shark and basking shark. The mako shark is described as spindle shaped, deep blue to purple above and white below, with a conical head, sharply pointed snout and crescent shaped caudal fin. The u-shaped mouth has large sharp teeth that protrude outside of the mouth even when closed. It can reach a maximum length of over 4 m.

Females mature at lengths of 2.7 to 3 m (corresponding to an age of about 17 years) and give birth to a litter size of 4 to 25 pups after a gestation period of approximately 15 to 18 months. Pups are approximately 70 cm at birth. Although males mature slightly at a slightly smaller length of 2 to 2.2 m, their age of maturity is much lower at 7 to 9 years. The minimum lifespan has been estimated at 24 years with a maximum life expectancy of up to 45 years.

Shorthead Sculpin



Latin Name
Cottus confusus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Canadian range of this species extends along just 68 kilometres of rivers and streams in southeast British Columbia's Columbia River Basin-specifically the Kettle River, Slocan River, Beaver Creek and Norns Creek. It prefers small rivers with moderate to swift currents and fairly cool water. The fish is also found in the United States.

Species Description

A dull, mottled yellow-brown, the Shorthead sculpin is most easily recognized by its large mouth and fan-shaped pectoral fins. It has a relatively large head and a conical body that's just over 100 millimeters long on average. The Shorthead sculpin is also a fairly short-lived fish. Members of the species reach sexual maturity after two years and tend not to live any longer than five.

Shortjaw Cisco

Latin Name
Coregonus zenithicus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Shortjaw Cisco has a widespread distribution in Canada ranging from the Laurentian Great Lakes throughout central Canada to the Northwest Territories. In the Great Lakes, it is currently found in lakes Superior and Nipigon and has recently been reported from Lake Huron. It is believed to be extirpated from lakes Michigan and Erie, and is in serious decline in lakes Superior and Huron. Lake Nipigon populations have also been reduced but appear to be stable. The Shortjaw Cisco generally inhabits deep waters between 55 and 180 m of large lakes.

Species Description

The Shortjaw Cisco is silver in colour with olive or tan on the back and white on the stomach. It has an elliptically shaped body that is laterally compressed and covered with large, smooth scales. The mouth is small and toothless and the lower jaw is usually shorter than or even with the upper jaw. Gill rakers number between 32 and 46 (comblike structure on the inner surface of the bony arch supporting the gill). The maximum length is highly variable, ranging from 400 mm to less than 100 mm. The Shortjaw Cisco's weight is generally less than 300 g, although exceptionally large specimens can reach 1 kg. Its lifespan is generally between 10 and 13 years but may be as short as three.

Shortnose Sturgeon

Latin Name
Acipenser brevirostrum

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

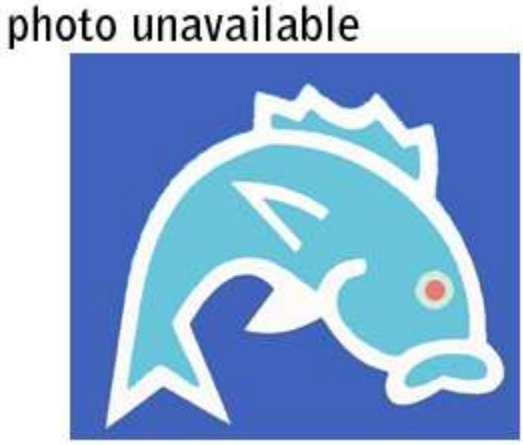
There are 19 population segments of shortnose sturgeon along the east coast of North America from New Brunswick south to Florida. Its only known occurrence in Canada is in the Saint John River system, New Brunswick. The Saint John River shortnose sturgeon is the most northerly population of the species and evidence suggests that they may also be the most genetically distinct.

The shortnose sturgeon spawns in fast flowing water over a boulder and gravel bottom. They generally over winter in the lower reaches of the Saint John River and in the spring migrate upstream as far as the Mactaquac Dam to spawn.

Species Description

The shortnose sturgeon is an ancient and long lived species that occurs in only one river system in Canada - the Saint John River in New Brunswick. Its long cylindrical shape is said to be "armoured" with 5 rows of boney plates or "scutes". It has a thick, leathery skin that is olive green to brown above and white below. A darker mottled chain pattern runs along the top of the head area. Shortnose sturgeon are very similar in appearance to the Atlantic sturgeon and since they inhabit the same areas, are often misidentified. Shortnose sturgeon have been recorded at lengths of over a meter and at ages in excess of 60 years.

Shortraker Rockfish



Latin Name
Sebastes borealis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Shortraker rockfish are deepwater marine fish found in the North Pacific Ocean. Their range covers both sides of the Pacific, beginning in Japan and extending north and east across the Bering Strait to Alaska, then south to California. They live in rocky areas along the continental slope, near boulder fields and on silted or cobbled bottoms, at depths between 25 and 900 metres.

Species Description

Shortraker rockfish have short, stocky bodies with a large head and a prominent row of sharp dorsal spines followed by a long, flat fin on their back. Their mouth is large and has a protruding

lower jaw. They have fairly rounded fins and a tail that is squarish with a slight indent. As the largest of the slope rockfish, shortraker rockfish can grow up to a metre in length. They are also one of the longest lived, as much as 120 years.

Silver Chub

Latin Name
Macrhybopsis storeriana

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Silver Chub lives in central North America, especially in the lakes of the Mississippi drainage area from the Gulf Coast north to the Laurentian Great Lakes, east to the foothills of the Appalachians and as far west as the Great Plains. In Manitoba, it occurs in the Red and Assiniboine River systems and in the south basin of Lake Winnipeg. Throughout its range, the Silver Chub is primarily found in streams and rivers. Substrate preferences range from gravel to silt.

Species Description

The Silver Chub is a member of the Minnow family. The body is stout and thick, with an average length of 100 to 150 mm long. The eye diameter is relatively large and the overall colouration is silvery with olive green on the back and silvery white below, and a faint lateral band is usually present. The caudal fin on the Silver Chub is distinctly forked and lightly pigmented except for the lower three to four rays, which are white.

Silver Hake

Latin Name
Merluccius bilinearis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

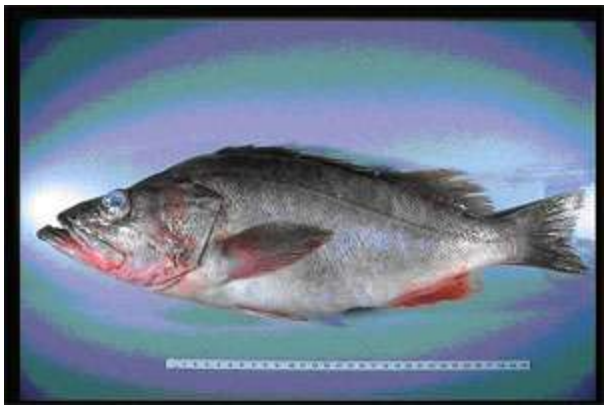
Habitat

Silver hake are bottom dwellers found in the warmer waters of the Atlantic, with a range that extends from Newfoundland and Labrador to South Carolina's Cape Hatteras. They live at variable depths, about 50-400 metres, but occasionally as deep as 900 metres. Silver hake tend to migrate inshore during the warmer months and into deeper waters in winter. They are abundant on the Scotian Shelf and the Georges Bank.

Species Description

Silver hakes resemble other fish in the cod family. A few features distinguish them, such as their lean, elongated body and two dorsal fins (instead of three). Silver hake also have a protruding lower jaw that lacks the chin barbell many of their relatives have. Covered with large scales, their body is silver-grey on its sides, becoming darker on their dorsal region and lighter on their underside. Their shiny colour fades quickly once they are removed from the water, however. Silver hake grow to about 75 cm, weighing on average about 750 grams. Males live to about 10 years and females live to about 12 years.

Silvergrey Rockfish



Latin Name
Sebastes brevispinis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

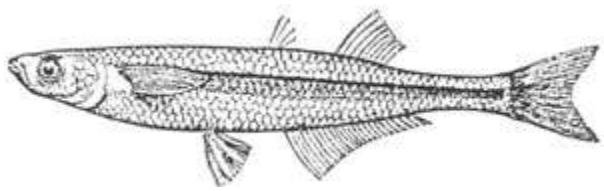
Habitat

Silvergrey rockfish are native to the northeast Pacific Ocean. Their range begins in Alaska and extends southward to California. They are found along the west coast of Canada, living in hard-bottomed, high-relief areas and underwater troughs near the continental shelf at depths of 100-400 metres. Adults seem to congregate into groups near the ocean bottom, but it is not clear whether they migrate in groups, or, like other species of rockfish, remain in their home areas for most of their life.

Species Description

Silvergrey rockfish have a short, heavy-set body with a sloping head and a large, gaping mouth with a protruding lower jaw. Their dorsal fin is hard and spiny anteriorally, followed by soft rays. As their name implies, they are silvery-grey along their flanks, but are white on their underside and a darker grey or olive on their back. Silvergrey rockfish can grow to about 75 centimetres and weigh as much as 5 kilograms. They can live more than 80 years.

Silversides



Latin Name
Menidia Menidia

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

Habitat

The silverside ranges from the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence to Florida. Prince Edward Island has the only commercial silverside fishery in Canada. Most silversides in PEI spawn in coastal ponds and rivers.

Species Description

Silversides are part of a large family that includes many small, minnow-like fish that travel in schools. The species commonly found in Canadian waters are referred to as the New World silversides and include the Atlantic silverside, the only silverside species that is harvested for commercial purposes in Canada. Silversides usually live near the shore in brackish ponds and estuaries along the coast. They are prey for many larger fish, birds and marine mammals and rarely live past 2 years.

Snow Crab

Latin Name
Chionoecetes opilio

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

The Atlantic variety of snow crab occurs in the northeastern Atlantic, near the west coast of Greenland and south to the Gulf of Maine. Snow crabs prefer cold water temperatures and occur at a wide range of depths, from 20 to 2000 metres, most often on sandy or muddy bottoms.

Species Description

Snow crabs are spider-like in shape, with a flat, round carapace (shell) and long, slender legs. Their colour changes as they age. Soon after they moult, snow crabs will be reddish on top and white on the bottom. As they get older, this red will fade to a duller olive shade and their underside will become yellowish. Snow crabs can grow to a maximum carapace width of about 15 centimetres, with males growing more than twice as large as females (females are not harvested commercially for this reason). They have a maximum life span of 12-13 years.

Snuffbox

Latin Name
Epioblasma triquetra

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

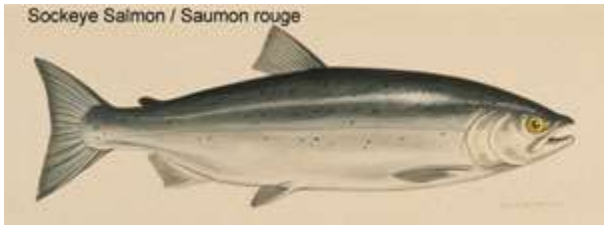
The Snuffbox has disappeared from roughly 60 percent of the rivers and streams it once occupied in North America. Its surviving populations are fairly small and isolated. Today, the species is limited in Canada to a 50 km reach of the East Sydenham River and an unknown

portion of the Ausable River. It prefers shallow depths and swift-moving clear water, and like many mussels, buries itself in the substrate.

Species Description

The Snuffbox has a thick, solid shell that is triangular in males and inflated in females. Male Snuffbox grow to lengths of 70 millimetres; females to 60 millimetres. The raised part at the top of the shell-called the beak-is swollen and sculptured with three or four faint double-looped ridges. The shell is rounded at both ends; its colour is yellowish to yellow-green and marked with numerous dark green rays that are often broken into triangular spots. The elongated teeth along the inside of the hinge are short and straight, raised and notched: there are two on the left side and one on the right. The Snuffbox enjoys a relatively long life-about ten years. The Snuffbox is sexually dimorphic, meaning that males and females have distinctly different physical characteristics.

Sockeye Salmon



Latin Name
Oncorhynchus nerka

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Cultus Lake Sockeye Salmon is found in Cultus Lake, which is located in southwest British Columbia, in the eastern Fraser Valley, south west of Chilliwack. The lake is 112 km upstream from the Strait of Georgia.

The Sakinaw Lake Sockeye Salmon live and spawn in Sakinaw Lake and its watershed, located northwest of Vancouver on the Sechelt Penninsula. The fish migrate to the ocean through Johnstone Strait in mid-June to late July.

Species Description

Adult sockeye salmon living in saltwater usually have bluish backs and silver sides. When sockeye spawn, their bodies typically turn bright-red and their heads become green. Genetic testing must be used to differentiate the sockeye salmon.

Sowerby's Beaked Whale

Latin Name
Mesoplodon bidens

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

Sowerby's beaked whales are found only in the North Atlantic. Their distribution is poorly known, as few at-sea sightings have been confirmed. From these limited data and shore stranding locations, they are considered to be the most northern North Atlantic species of the genus Mesoplodon (beaked whales), and range offshore from Cape Cod to Davis Strait in the western Atlantic, and from Norway to Spain in the eastern Atlantic. In the mid-Atlantic the species ranges from Iceland to the Azores and Madeira.

This species is most often sighted in deep water, along the continental shelf edge and slope. Sowerby's beaked whales are only rarely seen in coastal waters.

Species Description

The Sowerby's beaked whale is a small- to medium-sized toothed whale of the family Ziphiidae. An adult Sowerby's beaked whale is typically 4.5-5.5 m long and dark grey in colour. They have a small head with a long, narrow beak and a small triangular dorsal fin approximately 2/3's of the way back from the beak to flukes. Their tail flukes generally have no center notch, and they have relatively long pectoral fins.

Speckled Dace

Latin Name
Rhinichthys osculus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

In British Columbia, adult speckled dace are found in shallow waters with slow to moderately strong current. The fish seem to prefer mountain streams with stony beds that are cleaned by spring flood-waters. Young dace are generally found among polished stones at the river's edge where the current is slower and the water shallower.

Species Description

Speckled dace have moderately elongated and rounded bodies with flat bellies. The fish is grey-brown or olive in colour with dark speckles that often obscure the dark lateral stripe. The dace's lower parts are yellowish-white. During spawning, males develop reddish lips, snout, and fin bases. In Canada, the speckled dace reaches lengths of between five and six centimeters.

Spiny Dogfish

Latin Name
Squalus acanthias

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Finfish

Habitat

Spiny dogfish are distributed throughout the world. In Canada, they are found off both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. In the western Atlantic, they range from Newfoundland and Labrador to Florida. In the eastern Pacific, they occur from Alaska to southern California. Spiny dogfish prefer temperate waters and are most common from Nova Scotia to North Carolina in the Atlantic, and in Puget Sound and the Georgia Strait in the Pacific. They are usually found at depths of 50-200 metres, though sometimes as deep as 350 metres.

Species Description

Spiny dogfish resemble other species of shark, with a pointed snout and a slender, streamlined body. On their dorsal side they have a spine before each of the two triangle-shaped dorsal fins, the first of which is large and the second small. Their tail fin has an upward directed lobe. They are brown or grey on top and white or greyish-white on their underside. Juveniles will have speckles of white on their back and sides. Spiny dogfish can grow to a maximum length of about 1.5 metres. They live 25 to 30 years in the Atlantic, and up to 80 years in the Pacific.

Spotted Gar

Latin Name
Lepisosteus oculatus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Spotted gar live in quiet bays and backwaters along Lake Erie's north shore in Long Point Bay, Point Pelee and Rondeau Bay. The gar seems to prefer areas with abundant aquatic vegetation and a lake floor that's composed of soft mud and organic debris. Spotted gar can survive well in areas of warm water and low dissolved oxygen.

Species Description

A streamlined predator, the spotted gar has a long, beak-like mouth packed with sharp teeth. The gar's body is long and cylindrical; olive-brown on top and grey underneath. The fish usually grows to between 28 and 60 centimetres in length, but individual gars have been known to grow to over one metre. And as its name suggests, it has distinctive spotting on its head, body and fins. Male spotted gars mature when they are two or three years old; females at three or four years.

Spotted Sucker

Latin Name
Minytrema melanops

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Spotted Sucker lives in eastern and central North America from the lower Great Lakes east to Pennsylvania, south to the Gulf Coast and Florida, and west to Texas. In Ontario, the species has been reported in Lake St. Clair and western Lake Erie as well as the Detroit, St. Clair, Sydenham and Thames rivers. The Spotted Sucker prefers clear lakes, creeks and small rivers with sandy, gravely, or hard-clay bottoms without silt.

Species Description

The adult body of the Spotted Sucker is rather elongated and somewhat compressed laterally, while it is more cylindrical when young. The average length of Ontario adults is 22 to 28 cm and weight rarely exceeds 1 kg. This species has a small, protrusible, suctorial mouth with no teeth and the pharyngeal teeth are short. The Spotted Sucker has distinctive rows of square, brown-black spots on the base of the exposed portion of each scale that are more conspicuous on sides, forming eight to ten rows along the body beyond the head. The dorsal surface and upper sides are dark olive to brown while the sides of the body are mostly bronze green, coppery or silvery.

Spotted Wolffish

Latin Name
Anarhichas minor

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

Spotted Wolffish occur in the Arctic Ocean and on both sides of the North Atlantic Ocean from Labrador to the Barents Sea. Its northern limit in Canada is Baffin Bay, although its presence is rare. In the western North Atlantic, it is found off east and west Greenland, on the Labrador Shelf and Grand Banks and less commonly on the Scotian Shelf.

This species is found offshore in cold, deep water, usually below 5oC and between 50 and 800 m in depth but as shallow as 25 m (Canadian arctic populations).

Species Description

Spotted Wolffish are large marine fishes with prominent canine-like teeth in the front of both jaws. This species has a heavy head with a blunt, rounded snout and small eyes. The body is long and stout with no pelvic fins. The dorsal fin is long and extending to the base of the caudal, with flexible spiny rays. Colour is variable from pale olive to deep brown with upper parts sprinkled with irregularly shaped blackish-brown spots. The maximum length is over 1.8 m and weight reaches 23 kg. Fish become mature at seven years of age or older and can live to 21 years.

Steller Sea Lion

Latin Name
Eumetopias jubatus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Marine Mammals

Habitat

The North Pacific dwelling Steller can be found along the coasts of California to the Bering Strait, and along the coasts of Asia and Japan. The world population is divided into two groups; the Eastern and the Western. The Canadian dwellers are part of the Eastern population. In Canada, British Columbia's coastal islands are home to three main breeding areas for the Steller, located in the Scott Islands, at Cape St. James and offshore from Banks Islands.

Species Description

The shiny-pelted Steller is called a "sea lion" because of the light mane of coarse hair found on the neck and chest of the male, resembling a lion mane. The sea lion is sometimes mistaken for the seal; however, it's easy to tell the difference. Unlike the seal, the steller sea lion's outer ear flaps close over its ears to protect them from water. Stellers also have a bony structure which allows them to walk on all flippers while supporting their entire weight; making them much better climbers than seals. As the world's largest sea lion, the adult Steller can reach lengths of two to three metres. Females weigh between 200 to 300 kilograms, while males have been found to reach up to 800 kilograms. One massive steller weighed-in at almost one tonne. The average steller sea lion pup weighs about 20 kilograms at birth.

Striped Bass

Latin Name
Morone saxatilis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Diadromous

Habitat

The natural range of the striped bass extends along the Atlantic coast of North America, from the St. Lawrence Estuary to the St. Johns River in northeast Florida. Native striped bass populations have also existed in the tributaries of the Gulf of Mexico, from the Suwannee River in northwestern Florida to Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana.

There is historical evidence of striped bass spawning in five rivers of Eastern Canada: the St. Lawrence Estuary, the Miramichi River in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the Saint John, Annapolis and Shubenacadie rivers, which all drain into the Bay of Fundy. Striped bass still spawn in the Miramichi (southern Gulf) and Shubenacadie (Bay of Fundy) rivers. The Bay of Fundy is also frequented by striped bass that breed in rivers in the United States. The species is typically associated with estuaries and coastal waters.

Species Description

The striped bass was once commercially important in Eastern Canada and is still highly prized by anglers. It is an anadromous species - meaning that it spawns in fresh water before moving downstream to brackish and salt water to feed and mature. It is dark olive green on the back with paler silvery sides and white on the belly. Seven or 8 dark stripes run horizontally down its sides. Striped bass is a long lived fish, reaching up to 30 years of age. Although it has been recorded at lengths up to 1.8 m, it rarely reaches 1 m in Canadian waters.

Surf Clam

Latin Name
Mactromeris polynyma

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

Surf clams are found in the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans, as well as in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In the western Atlantic, their range begins near Baffin Island and extends south to Rhode Island. In the Pacific, they are distributed from Puget Sound, Washington, north to Alaska and across the Bering Sea to Asia, where they range from Siberia to Japan. Surf clams live in ocean areas with sandy bottoms in which they can burrow, at depths from the intertidal zone to about 100 metres.

Species Description

Surf clams are bivalve clams with an oval or sometimes triangular shell. Their shell is rough and has concentric lines running across it. Surf clams are white or off-white and covered with yellow or yellowish-brown periostracum, which is the hard, outer shell. They grow to a maximum length of about 150 millimetres, but typically are between 75 and 130 millimetres. They are long-lived-it is believed that some unharvested populations regularly reach 40 years of age.

Surf Smelt

Latin Name
Hypomesus pretiosus

Group Name
Pelagics

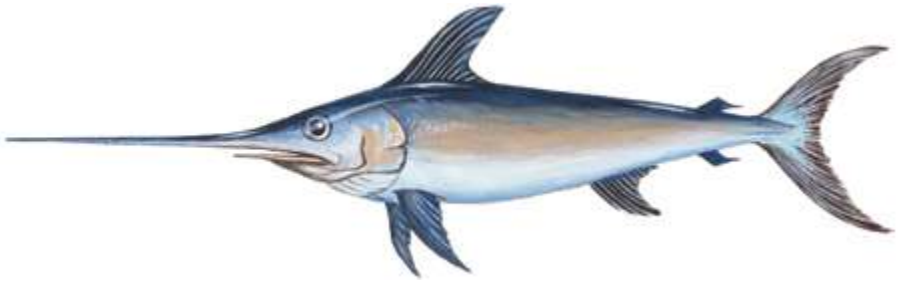
Habitat

Surf smelt are small marine fish native to the north Pacific. Their range begins in southern Alaska and extends down the coast of North America to southern California. Surf smelt often live quite close to shore, especially as juveniles. A schooling fish, they are found in many coastal estuaries along the Pacific coast, spawning in water as shallow as half a metre, usually on coarse sand or fine gravel beaches.

Species Description

Surf smelt are small, silvery fish with a streamlined body. They have two dorsal fins, the first of which is flat and about midway down their length. The second is very small and close to their tail fin, which is strongly forked. Males and females differ in their colouration, with males having a brown back and yellowish underside and females a bright green back and white underside. Males are also distinguished by the tubercles on their flanks. Both sexes have a dark line that runs down their sides. Surf smelt can grow to about 20 centimetres in length.

Swordfish



Latin Name
Xiphias gladius

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

Swordfish are a species of tuna with a wide distribution in the Atlantic Ocean. They range from Newfoundland and Labrador to Argentina in the western Atlantic, and from Norway to South Africa in the eastern Atlantic. They are also found in the Mediterranean Sea. Swordfish make extensive migrations as the seasons change, and appear in Canadian waters from spring to fall, mostly in the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and the Scotian Shelf.

Species Description

Swordfish are large, robust fish distinguished by their very long, pointed snout, from which they take their name. Aside from this feature, they generally resemble other species of tuna. They have a thick body that tapers considerably towards their tail fin, which is long and slender. On their back side is a large, curved dorsal fin close to their head, with two thin pectoral fins opposite it. Swordfish are olive brown on their dorsal side and white underneath. They can grow quite large, weighing as much as 100 kilograms.

Tanner Crab

Latin Name
Chionoecetes bairdi/tanneri/angulatus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Invertebrates

Habitat

There are three species of Tanner crab in British Columbia. Chionoecetes bairdi is the nearshore, relatively shallow water species, native to the Pacific coast of North America from Alaska to

Oregon and is not generally found in the eastern Pacific, although there are reports of them occurring off Japan. Their major abundance in British Columbia appears to be the northern mainland inlets where they were fished commercially until 1993. There currently is no commercial fishery and recreational harvesters rarely encounter them because of their depth.

The other two species, Chionoecetes tanneri and Chionoecetes angulatus, are deepwater spider crabs (500 to 3000 metres) and are found along the continental slope from California, around the Aleutian chain, to Japan. Attempts to develop a commercial fishery for these two species in British Columbia have been unsuccessful.

Species Description

Tanner crabs are large, spider crabs with four pairs of slender, pointed walking legs and a pair of claws about the same size as their legs with two narrow, curved pincers. Their carapace (shell) is round and flattened, with two 'horns' on the front.

Chionoecetes bairdi - the shallowest of the three species - is brown in colour and has a rough, bumpy surface. Their undersides are pinkish orange to cream. These nearshore Tanner crabs grow to a maximum carapace width of about 140 millimetres in British Columbia, with males considerably larger than females. It is believed that they live up to 14 years.

The deepwater species, Chionoecetes tanneri (grooved Tanner crab) and Chionoecetes angulatus (angle Tanner crab) have bright orange shells with enlarged lobes over the gill region.

Tiger Shark

Latin Name
Galeocerdo cuvier

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Finfish

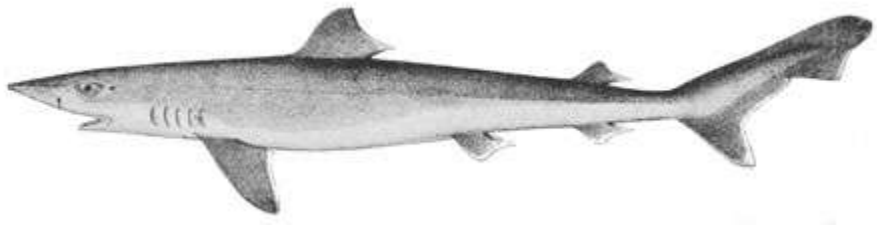
Habitat

Tiger sharks have a cosmopolitan distribution in the world's oceans. In North America, they are found off both coasts, ranging from New England to Florida in the western Atlantic, and from California southward in the eastern Pacific. They are especially common in the Caribbean Sea. Tiger sharks are not normally found in Canadian waters, but a good number of strays turn up here, some of which are caught accidentally by fishing operators on the east coast. Tiger sharks' preferred habitat is in shallow coastal areas near river mouths, where prey is abundant.

Species Description

Tiger sharks have a streamlined body with a short, blunt snout and a mouth filled with curved teeth. They have two dorsal fins, the first of which is large and halfway down their length, and the second small and close to their tail fin. Tiger sharks range in colour from blue-grey to greyish-green, with an off-white or yellowish underside. Juveniles have a mottled pattern on their dorsal side, which develops into a striped, tiger-like scheme in adults. Tiger sharks can grow to more than five metres in length and weigh over 600 kilograms.

Tope (Soupfin Shark)



Latin Name
Galeorhinus galeus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Tope are widespread throughout the world, living in temperate and subtropical seas between 68°N - 55°S latitude. It is assumed that Tope found in Canada are part of a larger, highly

migratory population, which is known to move north during the summer, and south into deeper waters during the winter. Tope are found in the eastern Pacific from northern British Columbia (no records from Alaska) to the Gulf of California as well as waters off Peru and Chile.

Although Tope are rarely seen today in Canadian waters, Tope are known to occur in Canada's Pacific continental shelf waters along Vancouver Island, Queen Charlotte Sound, and into Hecate Strait.

Tope are also found in the southwestern Pacific Ocean off Australia and New Zealand; in the western Atlantic Oceans from southern Brazil to Argentina; in the eastern Atlantic from Iceland to South Africa, including the Mediterranean Sea; and the in western Indian Ocean, in waters off South Africa.

Species Description

Tope is a Pacific coast shark, commonly referred to as soupfin shark, and is one of 39 species belonging to the family Triakidae or houndsharks. Tope is the only representative from the family Triakidae on Canada's Pacific coast. It is a dark bluish grey in colour on its dorsal side (back side) which shades to white on the underside. Based on studies in Australia and New Zealand, tope are slow growing, reach a maximum age of about 45 years and mature at ages of 13-15 years and 12-17 years for females and males respectively. In eastern Pacific waters, females are mature at 150 cm total length and males are mature at 135 cm. In the northeast Pacific, maximum length of females is 195 cm and 175 cm for males.

Vananda Creek Stickleback

Latin Name
Gasterosteus sp.

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

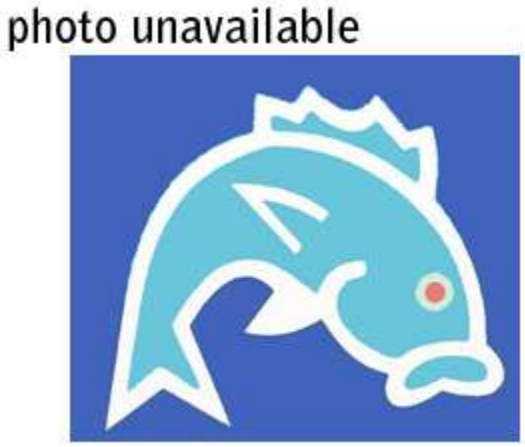
Habitat

The benthic Vananda Creek stickleback lives in Balkwill, Emily and Priest lakes on Texada Island. The island is located between Vancouver Island and mainland British Columbia. These small coastal lakes are connected by marshes or streams, enabling the fish to move between them. Dense beds of aquatic plants cover the littoral zone of the lakes in the summer.

Species Description

Only 35 to 55 mm in length when fully mature, the benthic Vananda Creek stickleback is a lean fish with an elongated body that tapers to a slender tail. The fish has delicate fins and a wide mouth. Protected by calcified lateral plates, the stickleback's body varies from silver through to mottled green and brown. Males become completely black or develop bright-red throats when they reach sexual maturity.

Vancouver Lamprey



Latin Name
Lampetra macrostoma

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

This lamprey inhabits two Vancouver Island lakes. It spawns in gravel areas where the water is shallow and travels up creeks occasionally, remaining near the mouth where the creeks drain into the lake.

Species Description

This cylinder-shaped fish is blue-black or dark brown, with lighter underparts. Its mouth (or funnel) and tongue are filled with sharp teeth. The Vancouver lamprey has small eyes located high on its head; two dorsal fins, a small caudal fin, and a low anal fin. The Vancouver lamprey can be distinguished from other species of lamprey because of its large, oral, disc-like mouth. The species is at least 300 million years old, making it one of the most primitive and successful fishes in the world.

Walleye

Latin Name
Sander vitreus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The natural distribution of walleye are the Arctic river basins from Labrador to the Mackenzie River drainage in the Northwest Territories, the St. Lawrence River drainage including the Great Lakes and the Missippi River basin south to Alabama. Walleye have been introduced elsewhere in North America and in particular are now invading the Canadian portions of the Columbia River drainage. Walleye are large predators adapted to low light and are found in large, shallow turbid lakes and the deeper waters of clear lakes. Walleye form a dominant part of the fish fauna of central Canada, particularly in the boreal forest zone.

Species Description

Walleye are perciform or perch-like fish. A characteristic of these fish is a dorsal fin (the fin on the top or back of the fish) that is divided into two parts. The anterior or front part is spiny and the posterior or rear part is soft. Walleye have a dark green back, golden yellow sides and a white belly. In French, the common name is doré, which means golden. In English Canada, walleye are commonly called yellow pickerel or simply pickerel. Walleye can easily be confused with their close relative the sauger. Only walleye have a white margin on the lower lobe of the caudal (tail) fin and only sauger have several rows of black dots on their dorsal fin.

Why the unusual name? The eyes of walleye are like those of cats and have a reflective layer that enables them to see well in the dark. Out of the water, the reflective layer gives the eye a whitish or glassy appearance. A "wall-eye" is one where the iris is whitish and is most often seen in horses and so these fish with their whitish eyes were called walleye.

Adult fish average about l kg but the record is in the vicinity of 11 kg.

Warmouth

Latin Name
Chaenobryttus gulosus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

The Warmouth is widespread in the eastern United States, ranging from the lower Great Lakes south to Florida, and west to Kansas. In Canada, the species has only been reported in Lake Erie in southwestern Ontario at Rondeau Bay, Long Point Bay and Point Pelee. A warmwater species, the Warmouth prefers siltfree marshes, ponds and lakes with abundant aquatic plant cover and mucky substrates.

Species Description

The Warmouth is a small sunfish (up to 30 cm long) with an oval, compressed shape. The mouth is large with a projecting lower jaw and a band of tiny teeth on the tongue. The dorsal fin comprises both soft and spiny rays. There are approximately five dark lines radiating from the snout and eye across the cheek. Dark markings on the sides are suggestive of vertical bands. Usually, the colour is yellow or brown above fading to yellow or white on the underside.

Waved Whelk

Latin Name
Buccinum undatum

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

Whelk are a species of marine snail native to the North Atlantic. They have a distribution that starts in Newfoundland and Labrador and extends south to New Jersey, including populations in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Whelk are abundant within their range. They are found at varying depths, from the intertidal zone to about 40 metres below. They do not move around very much over their lifetimes, and are usually found partially buried in the ocean bottom. A small fishery for whelk exists on Canada's east coast.

Species Description

Whelk have a heavy, spiral-shaped shell with a pointed tip. Their shell is covered with wavy lateral lines, and their operculum (or shell opening) is somewhat ovate in shape. Their shell

colour varies considerably, and can be anything from grey to a yellow or tan, while their foot is white with a mottling of black. Whelk can grow to a maximum diametre of about 10 centimetres.

Wavy-Rayed Lampmussel

Latin Name
Lampsilis fasciola

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

The mussel's entire Canadian population is located in the upper Grand River and in limited sections of the Thames, Sydenham, and possibly the Ausable rivers of Ontario. It appears to have been extirpated (locally extinct) from western Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River due to competition from Zebra mussels. Its distribution in the Grand River has become restricted to a 40 km stretch of the upper river. The mussel inhabits clear rivers and streams of a variety of sizes where the water flow is steady and the substrate is stable. It is most abundant in small to medium-sized streams; its presence at sites that support a great diversity of other mussel species suggests it cannot tolerate sub-optimal conditions.

Species Description

This mussel is easily distinguished from others by its yellow or yellowish-green colour and numerous thin, wavy green rays. These rays may be narrow and individual or coalesced into wide rays, but they are always wavy with multiple interruptions. The inside of its shell is white or bluish white. The creature's shell is smooth except for concentric wrinkles and growth rests, and is rounded at both ends. The triangular teeth at the front edge of the hinge are short and divergent; there are two in each half of the shell. The Wavy-rayed lampmussel lives at least 10 years but usually less than 20.

Western Silvery Minnow

Latin Name
Hybognathus argyritis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

This little fish lives in Alberta's Milk River, as well as in the backwaters of other large streams in the Mississippi/Missouri River Basin in the United States. The Western silvery minnow prefers the backwaters and pools of larger, northern streams where the bottom is not covered by silt and the water is fairly quiet and rich with phytoplankton. Spawning occurs in more heavily vegetated backwaters.

Species Description

The Western silvery minnow has an elongated body with a stout narrow section just before the tail. Its head is short, blunt and triangular, with a rounded snout that hangs over its mouth. Its single dorsal fin has eight rays; its pelvic fins have seven or eight rays as well. The anal fin occasionally has nine rays instead of the usual eight. The caudal fin is forked. Pectoral fins are relatively short with 15 or 16 rays. Apart from spawning males, which are light yellow along the sides and lower fins, this fish is otherwise silvery in colour with a broad, slaty mid-dorsal stripe.

Westslope Cutthroat Trout

Latin Name
Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Westslope Cutthroat Trout are found in a wide range of habitats but do best in cold, clean, moving water with various forms of cover such as undercut banks, pool-riffle habitat and riparian vegetation. The Westslope Cutthroat Trout has a disjunct distribution on both sides of the Rocky Mountains. In the United States, it occurs in drainages in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Wyoming. In Canada, it is restricted to the upper Kootenay, upper Columbia and South Thompson drainages in British Columbia. The native Alberta population occurs in the Bow and Oldman drainages of the South Saskatchewan River. The Westslope Cutthroat Trout has also been widely introduced in many naturally fishless lakes and rivers.

Species Description

The Westslope Cutthroat Trout is a member of the Salmonidae family. It has a streamlined body shape with small, irregularly shaped dark spots. It has a series of small basibranchial teeth at the back of the throat. The Westslope Cutthroat Trout's colour ranges from silver to yellow green with red on the front and sides of the head. Spawning fish often develop a bright red colouration over the entire body. It is typically small in size at 150 to 230 mm (28 to 142 g); larger individuals rarely exceed 460 mm (1400 g).

White Hake

Latin Name
Urophycis tenuis

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

White hake are distributed throughout the western Atlantic, ranging from southern Labrador, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Grand Banks southward to North Carolina. White hake are groundfish that live their adult lives in depths of a few metres to almost 1000 metres, preferring sandy and muddy bottoms.

Species Description

White hake are similar in appearance to cod, though somewhat leaner. They have an elongated body with two dorsal fins. The first dorsal fin is small and pointed with a long filament and the second long and flat, covering more than half of their body. The coloration of white hake varies, but they are dark on their dorsal side, usually brown or purplish-brown, and paler on their flanks, sometimes with a bronze tinge. Their belly is typically off-white or yellowish white. White hake can grow to about 70 cm, in rare cases growing to almost twice this length. They can live up to 10 years.

White Shark

Latin Name
Carcharodon carcharias

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Finfish

Habitat

The White Shark occurs in both inshore and offshore waters. It ranges in depth from just below the surface to just above the bottom, down to a depth of at least 1,280 m. It occurs in the breakers off sandy beaches, off rocky shores, and readily enters enclosed bays, lagoons, harbours, and estuaries, but does not penetrate mixed fresh and salt waters (brackish) or fresh waters to any extent. The species is highly mobile, and individuals in Atlantic Canada are likely seasonal migrants belonging to a widespread Northwest Atlantic population.

Species Description

The White Shark is the most famed of shark species, known worldwide for its large size, predatory nature and reputation for occasionally attacking humans. It is recognizable by its immense size, conspicuously black eye and the sharp contrast between its backside and underside colouration changing from dark grey, or even black, to white. It has a heavy spindle-shaped body, a moderately long conical snout, and large triangular teeth with blade-like serrations.

At birth, white sharks are between 1.09 m and 1.65 m. This large size at birth prevents predation from most marine animals. They ultimately grow to a total length of between 3.8 to 6 m and possibly longer, and typical lifespan of this apex predator is estimated between 23-60 years.

White Sturgeon

Latin Name
Acipenser transmontanus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

These fish are an important part of British Columbia's natural heritage, residing primarily in the Fraser and Columbia river watersheds. Within those systems, six distinct populations of white sturgeon occur in the lower, middle and upper Fraser River, Nechako River, Columbia River and Kootenay River.

Species Description

White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus) is the largest freshwater fish species in Canada. Their armour-plated, torpedo-shaped bodies can exceed six metres in length and weigh up to 635 kilograms. Individuals can live to be more than 100 years of age, and this unique species has persisted relatively unchanged for millions of years.

White Sucker

Latin Name
Catostomus commersonii

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

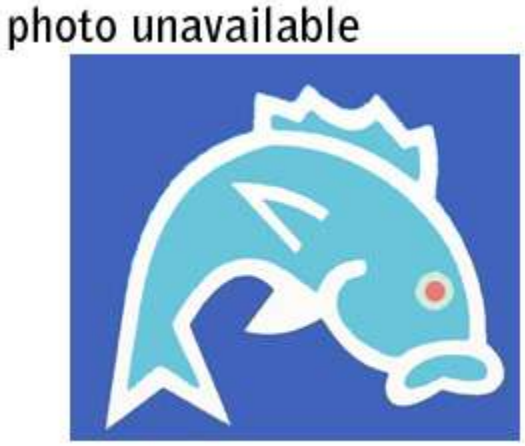
White suckers are freshwater fish native to North America. They occur all across Canada, from Newfoundland and Labrador to British Columbia, as well as in the Yukon and Northwest Territories and in all of the Great Lakes. They are found in both lakes and rivers, usually in shallow water where they feed on bottom on worms, clams, insect larvae and occasionally fish eggs. White suckers are robust and adaptable fish, surviving many adverse water conditions that other fish could not tolerate. This coupled with their high abundance and widespread occurrence

has lead to the use of white suckers as environmental monitors for toxic chemicals and pulp mill effects, and various diseases including papillomas and liver tumours. They are not usually fished except for bait. White sucker serve as food for pike, muskellunge, bass, walleye, burbot, Atlantic salmon, brook trout and a variety of birds and mammals.

Species Description

White suckers are a bottom-feeding fish with the downturned snout characteristic of other suckers. Their mouth is round and rimmed with thick lips. They have a streamlined body with a single, flat dorsal fin, and a tail fin with a strong indent. White suckers are normally olive-coloured on top and cream-coloured on their underside. During spawning they will become darker. Spawning occurs in the spring at a temperature of 10ºC when runs numbering as high as the thousands ascend small streams with females spawning from 20,000 to 50,000 eggs each over gravel substrate. They can grow to about 50 centimetres in length and 2 kg in weight.

Widow Rockfish



Latin Name
Sebastes entomelas

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Pelagics

Habitat

Widow rockfish are a marine species of fish found off the west coast of North America. They range from Alaska to southern California, living in rocky, high relief areas close to the

continental shelf. Widow rockfish occur at depths ranging from about 50 to 400 metres. Like other rockfish on the Pacific coast, widow rockfish have a high commercial value. They are fished extensively in Canada, particularly off the northern coast of Vancouver Island and in Queen Charlotte Sound.

Species Description

Widow rockfish have a fairly short, robust body with a large head and a mouth with a protruding lower jaw. They have a dorsal fin made up of a rough and spiny portion and a smoother, flat portion which is angled forward. They have large pectoral fins and a tail fin with a slight indent. Widow rockfish can live for as long as 60 years.

Winter Flounder

Latin Name
Pseudopleuronectes americanus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

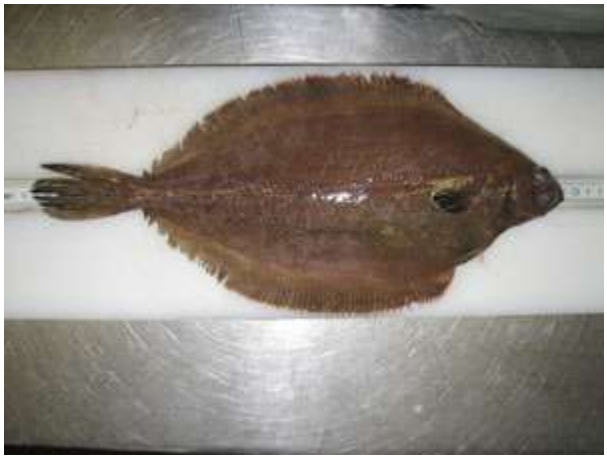
Winter flounder are distributed from the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador in the north to Georgia in the south. Their range is limited to the western Atlantic. Winter flounder live on a variety of substrates: muddy, sandy or pebbled bottoms at fairly shallow depths (usually less than 100 metres). They have been known to venture into the brackish waters near rivers or estuaries.

Species Description

Winter flounder are oval-shaped fish, strongly compressed and with a fairly straight lateral line leading to a rounded tail. They have a small mouth with few teeth (sometimes none at all). Their

body colour varies according to that of the ocean floor. Usually winter flounders are brown, reddish-brown or olive green-nearly black in some cases-with a pale white underside. Sometimes they are mottled or speckled. On the eyed side, their scales are rough. They can grow to a length of 50 cm or more. They have an average lifespan of 11 years for males and 12 years for females.

Witch Flounder



Latin Name
Glyptocephalus cynoglossus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Witch flounders are a species of flatfish found in the north Atlantic Ocean. In the western Atlantic, their range begins in Newfoundland and Labrador and ends in North Carolina. In Canada, they are found in the Gulf of Maine, the Scotian Shelf, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the Grand Banks. Witch flounders typically live at depths of 100 to 400 metres, though individuals have been found as deep as 1,600 metres. They prefer soft substrates such as sand, clay or mud.

Species Description

Witch flounders are strongly, dorsally compressed and oval in shape. Their head and mouth are very small and, like other flounders, they have both eyes on their upper side. A straight lateral line runs across their body length. Witch flounders are a dark greyish-brown on top and greyish-white on their underside, and have dark rims around their fins. They can grow to a maximum length of about 75 centimetres and a weight of about four kilograms.

Yellow Lampmussel

Latin Name
Lampsilis cariosa

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Molluscs

Habitat

In Canada, the yellow lampmussel is only known in two locations: the Sydney River, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia and the lower Saint John River near Fredericton, New Brunswick. Blackett's Lake, formed when the Sydney River was dammed in 1902, is the main centre of the yellow lampmussel population in Nova Scotia. Most of the Canadian population of yellow lampmussel is found below the head-of-tide in the main Saint John River, including five of its large tributaries and several large lakes.

Species Description

The yellow lampmussel has an oval-shaped shell and an exterior glossy surface that varies in colour from bright yellow to reddish brown. The interior is coloured white to pink and has several strong hinge teeth. The soft parts of the body, called the mantle, are visible between the shell valves in living animals. The visible edges of the mantle are smooth and pigmented with grey streaks and dots. Although the yellow lampmussel has been observed as large as 110 mm in length, it is typically approximately 75 mm. The yellow lampmussel can live up to 17 years.

Yellow Perch

Latin Name
Perca flavescens

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Freshwater

Habitat

Yellow perch are a freshwater fish with wide distribution throughout the northern hemisphere. They are abundant in North America. In Canada, they range from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, with a high concentration in the Great Lakes region. They also occur quite far north, up to the Northwest Territories and Great Slave Lake. Commonly found in lakes with clear water and some vegetation, yellow perch also thrive in rivers, streams and ponds of all sizes across the continent.

Species Description

Yellow perch have a slender body with a blunt snout and a rounded tail with a slight indent. They have two dorsal fins separated by a small gap, the first hard and spiny and the second softer and blunted. Their body colour varies from golden-brown to olive to bright green on their dorsal side. This darker upper colouration splits into thick vertical bands that run down their sides, which are yellowish-green. Yellow perch can grow to a maximum length of about 30 centimetres and a weight of about half a kilogram.

Yelloweye Rockfish

Latin Name
Sebastes ruberrimus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Yelloweye rockfish are found in the northeastern Pacific Ocean. Their range begins in the Aleutian Islands and extends southward down the coast of Alaska and British Columbia to Baja California. Their preferred habitat is boulder fields and other rocky high-relief areas of the ocean, such as caves or crevices. Yelloweye rockfish usually live at depths of around 150 metres, but are occasionally found as deep as 550 metres.

Species Description

Yelloweye rockfish are shaped like a typical rockfish, but their colouration is distinctive. They are a robust fish with spiny fins common in rockfish. Overall, their body is red or reddish-orange; often with a white stripe running down their flanks (juveniles will have two). As their name suggests, their eyes are yellow. Yelloweye rockfish are one of the largest species of rockfish off the Pacific coast, growing to as much as 91 centimetres and weighing 11 kilograms.

Yellowmouth Rockfish

Latin Name
Sebastes reedi

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Yellowmouth rockfish are a species of slope rockfish found on Canada's Pacific coast. They range from the Gulf of Alaska to northern California. In Canada, they are most abundant off the northern coast of Vancouver Island and in Queen Charlotte Sound, typically living at depths of 100 to 400 metres. A major commercial fishery exists, with yellowmouth rockfish considered second only to ocean perch in commercial importance as rockfish.

Species Description

Yellowmouth rockfish have a short, stocky body with a sloping forehead and a large head. They have a wide, gaping mouth and large eyes. On their dorsal side they have a series of sharp spines immediately followed by softer and finer rays. Their tail fin is pointed and slightly indented. Yellowmouth rockfish can grow to a maximum length of about 60 centimetres and can live for at least 70 years, possibly as long as a century.

Yellowtail Flounder

Latin Name
Limanda ferruginea

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

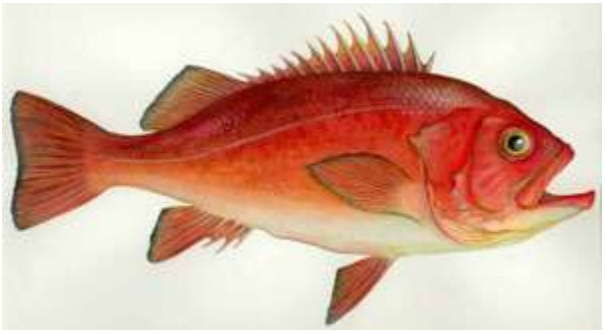
Habitat

Yellowtail flounders are found along the east coast of North America. Their range begins in Newfoundland and Labrador and stretches south to Chesapeake Bay. In Canada, yellowtails occur mostly along the continental shelf in the Grand Banks and the Georges Bank. They are usually found at depths of about 40-70 metres, rarely at more than 100 metres.

Species Description

Yellowtail flounder is a species of Atlantic flatfish. They are flat and ovate in shape, with a small, upturned mouth and eyes on the upper side of their body. They have a lateral line running across their body that arches after their gill opening. Their tail fin is rounded and, like their name implies, yellow. Yellowtails are good at camouflaging themselves, and their body coloration varies according to that of the ocean bottom. They are usually olive-brown mottled with reddish blotches on their upper side and yellowish-white on their lower side. They grow to 38-40 centimetres and 0.5-0.6 kilograms. In Canadian waters, some yellowtail flounders as old as 12 have been caught, but they rarely make it past 10 years.

Yellowtail Rockfish



Latin Name
Sebastes flavidus

Taxonomy details
Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Group Name
Groundfish

Habitat

Yellowtail rockfish are marine fish found in the northeastern Pacific. They range from southern Alaska to southern California, typically living at depths between 100 and 200 metres. The behaviour of yellowtail rockfish is not fully understood by researchers, but it appears that they

live both close to the ocean bottom and in mid-water, and some individuals migrate great distances.

Species Description

Yellowtail rockfish have a short body and a large head with a sloped brow. Their mouth is large and has a protruding lower jaw. Their dorsal side has several hard dorsal spines, immediately followed by softer rays. Their tail fin is slightly indented. Yellowtail rockfish grow to about 4 kilograms and can live up to 50 years.