



**NAMES OF**  
**MICHIGAN**  
**FISHES**

Fisheries Division, 2002  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources



## NAMES OF MICHIGAN FISHES

This list of names for the fishes of Michigan has been prepared by Dr. Reeve M. Bailey, Curator Emeritus of Fishes, and Dr. Gerald R. Smith, Curator of Fishes, University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology. The list consists of 154 kinds of fishes (153 species) that represent 28 families. Taxa established through direct or indirect intervention of humans, families (4), or species (26), are denoted by asterisks. The status of a species in Michigan (taken from Michigan's 1999 Endangered and Threatened Species List) is denoted by a letter or letters: (T)–Threatened, (En)– Endangered, (Ep)– Extirpated from Michigan waters, or (Ex)– Extinct, after the common name.

**Altogether Michigan has nearly four times as much water area as any other of the 48 contiguous states. All of its more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes coast, 11,000 inland lakes, and 36,000 miles of rivers and streams are freshwater and hospitable to fish from the tiny stream darters to the large lake sturgeon.**

**Of the total numbers of fish, anglers concentrate their efforts on only 30 or so of those species. The others, however (except for a few introduced species which cause problems), are important in that they are links in the aquatic chain-of-life, even though they may have no direct sport or commercial value.**

**The purpose of this publication is to provide a complete list of fishes found in Michigan, along with scientific names and, as well, common names that are recognized by the American Fisheries Society as formal, anglicized appellations that may be used in lieu of the latinized scientific names of the species.**

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This publication is available in alternative formats.



*Printed under authority of Michigan Department of Natural Resources*  
*Total number of copies printed 1,000 — Total cost \$583.50 — Cost per copy \$0.58*

Common name	Scientific name	Other common or localized names
<b>Lampreys</b>	<b>Petromyzontidae</b>	
chestnut lamprey	<i>Ichthyomyzon castaneus</i> Girard	lamprey, eel
northern brook lamprey	<i>Ichthyomyzon fossor</i> Reighard & Cummins	lamprey, eel
silver lamprey	<i>Ichthyomyzon unicuspis</i> Hubbs & Trautman	lamprey, eel
American brook lamprey	<i>Lampetra appendix</i> (DeKay)	lamprey, eel
sea lamprey	* <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> Linnaeus	lamprey, eel
<b>Sturgeons</b>	<b>Acipenseridae</b>	
lake sturgeon (T)	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i> Rafinesque	sturgeon
<b>Paddlefishes</b>	<b>Polyodontidae</b>	
paddlefish (Ep)	<i>Polyodon spathula</i> (Walbaum)	
<b>Gars</b>	<b>Lepisosteidae</b>	
spotted gar	<i>Lepisosteus oculatus</i> (Winchell)	gar-pike
longnose gar	<i>Lepisosteus osseus</i> (Linnaeus)	gar-pike
<b>Bowfins</b>	<b>Amiidae</b>	
bowfin	<i>Amia calva</i> Linnaeus	dogfish
<b>Mooneyes</b>	<b>Hiodontidae</b>	
mooneye (T)	<i>Hiodon tergisus</i> Lesueur	
<b>Freshwater eels</b>	<b>Anguillidae*</b>	
American eel	* <i>Anguilla rostrata</i> (Lesueur)	eel
<b>Herrings</b>	<b>Clupeidae</b>	
skipjack herring	* <i>Alosa chrysochloris</i> (Rafinesque) <sup>1</sup>	river herring
alewife	* <i>Alosa pseudoharengus</i> (Wilson)	shad
gizzard shad	<i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i> (Lesueur)	hickory shad, shad
<b>Carp &amp; minnows</b>	<b>Cyprinidae</b>	
central stoneroller	<i>Campostoma anomalum pullum</i> (Agassiz)	
goldfish	* <i>Carassius auratus</i> (Linnaeus)	
redside dace (En)	<i>Clinostomus elongatus</i> (Kirtland)	
lake chub	<i>Couesius plumbeus</i> (Agassiz)	
spotfin shiner	<i>Cyprinella spiloptera</i> (Cope)	shiner
common carp	* <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> Linnaeus	carp, German carp
brassy minnow	<i>Hybognathus hankinsoni</i> Hubbs	shiner
striped shiner	<i>Luxilus chrysocephalus</i> Rafinesque	shiner
common shiner	<i>Luxilus cornutus</i> (Mitchill)	shiner
redfin shiner	<i>Lythrurus umbratilis</i> (Girard)	shiner
silver chub	<i>Macrhybopsis storeniana</i> (Kirtland)	
northern pearl dace	<i>Margariscus nachtriebi</i> (Cox) <sup>2</sup>	
hornyhead chub	<i>Nocomis biguttatus</i> (Kirtland)	horned dace
river chub	<i>Nocomis micropogon</i> (Cope)	horned dace
golden shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i> (Mitchill)	
bigeye chub (Ep)	<i>Notropis amblops</i> (Rafinesque) <sup>3</sup>	
pugnose shiner	<i>Notropis anogenus</i> Forbes	shiner
emerald shiner	<i>Notropis atherinoides</i> Rafinesque	shiner
silverjaw minnow	<i>Notropis buccatus</i> (Cope)	shiner
ghost shiner	* <i>Notropis buchanani</i> Meek <sup>4</sup>	shiner
ironcolor shiner (Ep)	<i>Notropis chalybaeus</i> (Cope)	shiner

Common name	Scientific name	Other common or localized names
<b>Carp &amp; minnows (cont.)</b>	<b>Cyprinidae (cont.)</b>	
bigmouth shiner	<i>Notropis dorsalis</i> (Agassiz)	shiner
blackchin shiner	<i>Notropis heterodon</i> (Cope)	shiner
blacknose shiner	<i>Notropis heterolepis</i> Eigenmann & Eigenmann	shiner
spottail shiner	<i>Notropis hudsonius</i> (Clinton)	shiner
silver shiner (En)	<i>Notropis photogenis</i> (Cope)	shiner
rosyface shiner	<i>Notropis rubellus</i> (Agassiz)	shiner
sand shiner	<i>Notropis stramineus</i> (Cope)	shiner
weed shiner (Ep)	<i>Notropis texanus</i> (Girard)	shiner
mimic shiner	<i>Notropis volucellus</i> (Cope)	shiner
pugnose minnow (En)	<i>Opsopoeodus emiliae</i> Hay	shiner
suckermouth minnow	* <i>Phenacobius mirabilis</i> (Girard)	
northern redbelly dace	<i>Phoxinus eos</i> (Cope)	
southern redbelly dace (En)	<i>Phoxinus erythrogaster</i> (Rafinesque)	
finescale dace	<i>Phoxinus neogaeus</i> Cope	
bluntnose minnow	<i>Pimephales notatus</i> (Rafinesque)	
fathead minnow	<i>Pimephales promelas</i> Rafinesque	
longnose dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i> (Valenciennes)	
western blacknose dace	<i>Rhinichthys obtusus</i> Agassiz <sup>5</sup>	
creek chub	<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i> (Mitchill)	horned dace
<b>Loaches</b>	<b>Cobitidae*</b>	
Oriental weatherfish	* <i>Misgurnus anguillicaudatus</i> (Cantor)	
<b>Suckers</b>	<b>Catostomidae</b>	
quillback	<i>Carpiodes cyprinus</i> (Lesueur)	
longnose sucker	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i> (Forster)	redside, sturgeon sucker
white sucker	<i>Catostomus commersonii</i> (Lacepède) <sup>6</sup>	chubsucker
western creek chubsucker (En)	<i>Erimyzon claviformis</i> (Girard) <sup>7</sup>	chubsucker
lake chubsucker	<i>Erimyzon sucetta</i> (Lacepède)	chubsucker
northern hog sucker	<i>Hypentelium nigricans</i> (Lesueur)	hogmolly
bigmouth buffalo	* <i>Ictiobus cyprinellus</i> (Valenciennes) <sup>8</sup>	buffalo
black buffalo	* <i>Ictiobus niger</i> (Rafinesque) <sup>8</sup>	buffalo
spotted sucker	<i>Minytrema melanops</i> (Rafinesque)	corn cob sucker
silver redhorse	<i>Moxostoma anisurum</i> (Rafinesque)	redhorse
river redhorse (T)	<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i> (Cope)	redhorse
black redhorse	<i>Moxostoma duquesnei</i> (Lesueur)	redhorse
golden redhorse	<i>Moxostoma erythrurum</i> (Rafinesque)	redhorse
shorthead redhorse	<i>Moxostoma macrolepidotum</i> (Lesueur)	redhorse
greater redhorse	<i>Moxostoma valenciennesi</i> Jordan	redhorse
<b>Bullhead catfishes</b>	<b>Ictaluridae</b>	
black bullhead	<i>Ameiurus melas</i> (Rafinesque)	bullhead
yellow bullhead	<i>Ameiurus natalis</i> (Lesueur)	bullhead
brown bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i> (Lesueur)	bullhead
channel catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i> (Rafinesque)	catfish
stonecat	<i>Noturus flavus</i> Rafinesque	
tadpole madtom	<i>Noturus gyrinus</i> (Mitchill)	
marginated madtom	* <i>Noturus insignis</i> (Richardson)	
brindled madtom	<i>Noturus miurus</i> Jordan	
northern madtom (En)	<i>Noturus stigmosus</i> Taylor	
flathead catfish	<i>Pylodictis olivaris</i> (Rafinesque)	

Common name	Scientific name	Other common or localized names
<b>Pikes</b>	<b>Esocidae</b>	
grass pickerel	<i>Esox americanus vermiculatus</i> Lesueur	mud pickerel
northern pike	<i>Esox lucius</i> Linnaeus <sup>9</sup>	pike
muskellunge	<i>Esox masquinongy</i> Mitchell <sup>9</sup>	musky
<b>Mudminnows</b>	<b>Umbridae</b>	
central mudminnow	<i>Umbra limi</i> (Kirtland)	
<b>Smelts</b>	<b>Osmeridae*</b>	
rainbow smelt	* <i>Osmerus mordax</i> (Mitchill)	smelt
<b>Trouts</b>	<b>Salmonidae</b>	
cisco (T)	<i>Coregonus artedi</i> Lesueur <sup>10</sup>	lake herring
lake whitefish	<i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i> (Mitchill)	whitefish
bloater	<i>Coregonus hoyi</i> (Milner) <sup>11</sup>	chub
deepwater cisco (Ex)	<i>Coregonus johanna</i> e (Wagner)	chub
kiyi	<i>Coregonus kiyi</i> (Koelz)	chub
shortnose cisco (Ex)	<i>Coregonus reighardi</i> (Koelz)	chub
shortjaw cisco (T)	<i>Coregonus zenithicus</i> (Jordan & Evermann)	chub
pink salmon	* <i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i> (Walbaum)	humpback
coho salmon	* <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> (Walbaum)	silver
rainbow trout	* <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> (Walbaum)	steelhead, bow
Chinook salmon	* <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> (Walbaum)	king
pygmy whitefish	<i>Prosopium coulteri</i> (Eigenmann & Eigenmann) <sup>6</sup>	
round whitefish	<i>Prosopium cylindraceum</i> (Pallas)	Menominee
Atlantic salmon	* <i>Salmo salar</i> Linnaeus <sup>12</sup>	Atlantic
brown trout	* <i>Salmo trutta</i> Linnaeus	brownie
brook trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> (Mitchill) <sup>13</sup>	speckled trout
lake trout <sup>14</sup>	<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i> (Walbaum) <sup>13</sup>	Mackinaw, siscowet
Arctic grayling (Ep)	<i>Thymallus arcticus</i> (Pallas)	Michigan grayling
<b>Trout-perches</b>	<b>Percopsidae</b>	
trout-perch	<i>Percopsis omiscomaycus</i> (Walbaum)	
<b>Pirate perches</b>	<b>Aphredoderidae</b>	
pirate perch	<i>Aphredoderus sayanus</i> (Gilliams)	
<b>Cods</b>	<b>Gadidae</b>	
burbot	<i>Lota lota</i> (Linnaeus)	lawyer, eel pout
<b>Killifishes</b>	<b>Fundulidae<sup>15</sup></b>	
western banded killifish	<i>Fundulus diaphanus menona</i> Jordan & Copeland	
starhead topminnow	<i>Fundulus dispar</i> (Agassiz)	
blackstripe topminnow	<i>Fundulus notatus</i> (Rafinesque)	
<b>Silversides</b>	<b>Atherinidae</b>	
brook silverside	<i>Labidesthes sicculus</i> (Cope)	skipjack
<b>Sticklebacks</b>	<b>Gasterosteidae</b>	
brook stickleback	<i>Culaea inconstans</i> (Kirtland)	
threespine stickleback	* <i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i> Linnaeus	
ninespine stickleback	<i>Pungitius pungitius</i> (Linnaeus)	

Common name	Scientific name	Other common or localized names
<b>Sculpins</b>	<b>Cottidae</b>	
mottled sculpin	<i>Cottus bairdii</i> Girard <sup>6</sup>	
slimy sculpin	<i>Cottus cognatus</i> Richardson	
spoonhead sculpin	<i>Cottus ricei</i> (Nelson)	
deepwater sculpin	<i>Myoxocephalus thompsonii</i> (Girard) <sup>6</sup>	
<b>Striped basses</b>	<b>Moronidae</b> <sup>16</sup>	
white perch	* <i>Morone americana</i> (Gmelin)	
white bass	<i>Morone chrysops</i> (Rafinesque)	
<b>Sunfishes</b>	<b>Centrarchidae</b>	
rock bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i> (Rafinesque)	goggle-eye
green sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i> Rafinesque	green
pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i> (Linnaeus)	sunfish
warmouth	<i>Lepomis gulosus</i> (Cuvier)	redeye, goggle-eye
orangespotted sunfish	* <i>Lepomis humilis</i> (Girard)	sunfish
bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i> Rafinesque	sunfish
redeer sunfish	* <i>Lepomis microlophus</i> (Günther)	shellcracker
northern longear sunfish	<i>Lepomis peltastes</i> Cope <sup>17</sup>	sunfish
smallmouth bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i> Lacepède	bronzeback
largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i> (Lacepède)	bigmouth bass
white crappie	<i>Pomoxis annularis</i> Rafinesque	croppie, speck
black crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i> (Lesueur)	croppie, speck, strawberry bass
<b>Perches</b>	<b>Percidae</b>	
western sand darter	<i>Ammocrypta clara</i> Jordan & Meek <sup>18</sup>	
eastern sand darter (T)	<i>Ammocrypta pellucida</i> (Putnam)	
greenside darter	<i>Etheostoma blennioides</i> Rafinesque	
rainbow darter	<i>Etheostoma caeruleum</i> Storer	
lowa darter	<i>Etheostoma exile</i> (Girard)	
fantail darter	<i>Etheostoma flabellare</i> Rafinesque <sup>19</sup>	
barred fantail darter	<i>E. f. flabellare</i> Rafinesque	
striped fantail darter	<i>E. f. lineolatum</i> (Agassiz)	
least darter	<i>Etheostoma microperca</i> Jordan & Gilbert	
johnny darter	<i>Etheostoma nigrum</i> Rafinesque	
orangethroat darter	<i>Etheostoma spectabile</i> (Agassiz)	
banded darter	<i>Etheostoma zonale</i> (Cope)	
ruffe	* <i>Gymnocephalus cernuus</i> (Linnaeus) <sup>20</sup>	
yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i> (Mitchill)	perch
northern logperch	<i>Percina caprodes semifasciata</i> (DeKay)	
channel darter (En)	<i>Percina copelandi</i> (Jordan)	
blackside darter	<i>Percina maculata</i> (Girard)	
river darter (En)	<i>Percina shumardi</i> (Girard)	
sauger (T)	<i>Sander canadensis</i> (Smith) <sup>21</sup>	pickerel
walleye <sup>22</sup>	<i>Sander vitreus</i> (Mitchill) <sup>21</sup>	pickerel, walleyed pike
<b>Drums</b>	<b>Sciaenidae</b>	
freshwater drum	<i>Aplodinotus grunniens</i> Rafinesque	sheepshead
<b>Gobies</b>	<b>Gobiidae</b> *	
round goby	* <i>Neogobius melanostomus</i> (Pallas)	
tubenose goby	* <i>Proterorhinus marmoratus</i> (Pallas)	

Since the last printing of this checklist (1991) two species have been deleted and four added. Blackfin cisco (*Coregonus nigripinnis*) is believed to be a variation of lake herring (*Coregonus artedii*). Western mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*), introduced in 1941 to control mosquitoes, survived briefly but is no longer believed to be present in the state. As noted in the footnotes below, skipjack herring (*Alosa chrysochloris*) has entered Lake Michigan by canal, ghost shiner (*Notropis buchanani*) has spread into southeastern Michigan from Ontario, western sand shiner (*Ammocrypta clara*) has been discovered to inhabit the Menominee River, and ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*) is an inadvertent introduction.

- <sup>1</sup> An addition to the Michigan list; an invader through the Chicago Drainage Canal.
- <sup>2</sup> Formerly *Margariscus margarita*.
- <sup>3</sup> Status is changed from endangered to extirpated because not captured since 1941.
- <sup>4</sup> An addition to Michigan list; natural spread from Ontario where perhaps introduced from an unknown source.
- <sup>5</sup> Formerly *Rhinichthys atratulus*.
- <sup>6</sup> The 1999 International Code of Zoological Nomenclature has clarified the disputed spelling of patronyms for species-group names ending in -i or -ii by ruling that original spelling shall prevail. The endings of four Michigan fish names are thus corrected from i to ii in *Catostomus commersonii*, *Prosopium coulterii*, *Cottus bairdii* and *Myoxocephalus thompsonii*.
- <sup>7</sup> Formerly *Erimyzon oblongus*.
- <sup>8</sup> Previously thought to be native; present evidence indicates that these species were introduced in the Great Lakes.
- <sup>9</sup> Tiger muskellunge, a hybrid, *Esox lucius* x *E. masquinongy*, was formerly stocked in Michigan.
- <sup>10</sup> Lake Michigan "blackfin cisco" (*Coregonus nigripinnis*), now extinct, is removed from the list as a probable synonym of the lake herring.
- <sup>11</sup> The author of *C. hoyi* is corrected from (Gill) to (Milner).
- <sup>12</sup> Although not a confirmed, self-replacing species in Michigan, Atlantic salmon are regularly planted in the St. Marys River and Torch Lake; many are caught by anglers.
- <sup>13</sup> Splake, a hybrid, *Salvelinus fontinalis* x *S. namaycush*, is commonly stocked in Michigan.
- <sup>14</sup> The name siscowet is applied to a stock of lake trout, characterized by a high content of body fat, living in deep water of Lake Superior. Although genetically identifiable, it is not recognized as a species.
- <sup>15</sup> Formerly Cyprinodontidae.
- <sup>16</sup> Formerly Percichthyidae. The name striped basses is more appropriate than temperate basses for this now restricted group.
- <sup>17</sup> Formerly *Lepomis megalotis*. This dwarf stock is now treated as a full species.
- <sup>18</sup> An addition to the list; now known from the Menominee River, Menominee County.
- <sup>19</sup> *E. f. flabellare* occurs only in the Lower Peninsula; *E. f. lineolatum* occurs only in the Upper Peninsula.
- <sup>20</sup> An addition to the list; known from two introduced populations of this Eurasian invader: (1) natural spread from the Duluth area of Lake Superior, at least as far as Ontonagon, Michigan, and (2) a separate ballast-water escape into Lake Huron near Alpena.
- <sup>21</sup> *Sander* has priority over *Stizostedion* for sauger and walleye and therefore replaces that time-honored name. Since *Sander* is masculine, the adjectival species names are corrected.
- <sup>22</sup> The name blue pike was applied to a genetically identifiable stock of *Sander* from lakes Erie and Ontario before its catastrophic extinction in the 1960's. Authorities disagree as to whether it was a distinct species (*glaucus*), a subspecies of walleye, or a mutant stock not systematically separable from walleye. Confirmed Michigan records are wanting.

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