

lake whitefish *Coregonus clupeaformis*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Salmoniformes

Family: Salmonidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The lake whitefish has a small head with a short snout. Two flaps are present between the nostril openings. The body shape is deep laterally, and an adipose fin is present. The back color is green to olive-gray. The sides and belly are silver. The average size for an adult lake whitefish is about two feet in length and five pounds in weight.

BEHAVIORS

Lake whitefish swim in schools. They hunt for food near the bottom of the lake. This species eats plankton, crustaceans, mollusks and insect larvae. Spawning occurs in shallow water during November and December. The eggs hatch in April or May.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

Lake Michigan

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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