

rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Salmoniformes

Family: Salmonidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, nonnative

FEATURES

The average life span of a rainbow trout is six years. Its average weight is one pound in streams and five pounds in Lake Michigan and the average length is 10 to 15 inches. The back of this fish is olive green, the sides are silvery with a pink stripe and the belly is silvery. Spots are present on the back, dorsal fin and caudal fin. The tail is forked. The adipose fin has a black edge.

BEHAVIORS

The rainbow trout lives in Lake Michigan and is stocked in many lakes and streams. This fish reaches maturity at age three. Spawning occurs in spring. The female deposits 500 to 9,000 eggs that are buried in gravel. Eggs hatch in 30 to 100 days. It eats insects, snails and small fishes. The rainbow trout is native to the Pacific coast of North America but is widely stocked throughout Illinois.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; Lake Michigan; rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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