A number of 22,000 fish species inhabit the earth, with about 30% species found in the fresh waters of the United States and Canada. More than 200 fish species are known from Illinois' aquatic habitats. The large variety of species means that fishes occupy almost all available aquatic habitats and have many strategies for doing so. This poster depicts 22 taxa. The large variety of species means that fishes 200 fish species are known from Illinois' aquatic habitats and their associated food webs.

Families include:
- Acipenseridae
- Amiidae
- Anguillidae
- Aplodinotidae
- Hiodontidae
- Lepisosteidae
- Polyodontidae
- Petromyzontidae
- Scaphirhynchus
- Siluridae
- Salmonidae
- Salmonidae
- Urolophidae
- Valenciennesiidae

This poster was made possible by:
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Species List
- Species are not drawn in proportion to actual size.

Kingdom Animalia  Phylum Chordata

Family Actinopterygii
- Lepisosteidae
- Polyodontidae
- Petromyzontidae
- Scaphirhynchus

Family Aplodinotidae
- Aplodinotidae

Family Anguillidae
- Anguillidae

Family Acanthomaiidae
- Acanthomaiidae

Family Acipenseridae
- Acipenseridae

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Family Aplodinotidae
- Aplodinotidae
Structure

Species Descriptions

Fishes

Descriptions of applicable fishes are included to illustrate the types of species that are able to reside in Illinois waters. Fishes play a major role in the transportation of nutrients and energy within aquatic systems. They are also a significant source of food for many wildlife species and are important for understanding the overall health of aquatic ecosystems. Fishes are also important to Illinois fishermen, who harvest a variety of species for sport, food, and commercial purposes. A diverse and healthy fish community is a sign of a well-functioning aquatic ecosystem.

Illinois Fishes Volume I

Page References

Illinois Fishes, Volume I

References

Agency Resources

More information about Illinois fish faunas is available from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at http://www.dnr.state.il.us/fish or by contacting Fish and Wildlife Services, 101 E. Monroe St., Room 503, Springfield, IL 62701. The Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) at http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu also provides information about Illinois fish species. INHS is an agency of the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign.

Conservation

Fishes face tremendous natural challenges, with many of them imposed by humans. Degradation of their habitat is no doubt the most significant threat to fishes. Changes in water quality and quantity, loss of habitat, alteration of natural stream flows, and removal of native fishes are just some of the problems that can become serious threats to Illinois fishes. Illinois' cold-water fishes are particularly vulnerable to these environmental changes.

Fishes in Illinois are protected by the Illinois Natural Heritage Survey (INHS), which monitors and documents the status of Illinois fishes and their habitats. The INHS is an agency of the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign. The INHS has monitored the status of Illinois fishes since 1962, and its data are used to inform conservation efforts. The INHS also conducts research on Illinois fishes and their habitats, and it produces reports and publications on these topics. In addition, the INHS provides technical assistance to local and state agencies in Illinois.

Vol. 1: Hardhead silversides, Lake St. Clair stickleback, and Roach-tered stickleback

Lake St. Clair stickleback (Pungitius pungitius) - Lake St. Clair sticklebacks are small fish that are typically found in freshwater environments. They are characterized by their elongated bodies and long, spiny fins. Lake St. Clair sticklebacks are adapted to live in a variety of habitats, including lakes, rivers, and streams. They are primarily omnivores, feeding on invertebrates, small fish, and other aquatic organisms. Lake St. Clair sticklebacks have a life span of about 10 years, and they are believed to be long-lived species. They are threatened by habitat degradation, pollution, and overfishing.

Roach-tered stickleback (Pungitius pungitius) - Roach-tered sticklebacks are small fish that are typically found in freshwater environments. They are characterized by their elongated bodies and long, spiny fins. Roach-tered sticklebacks are adapted to live in a variety of habitats, including lakes, rivers, and streams. They are primarily omnivores, feeding on invertebrates, small fish, and other aquatic organisms. Roach-tered sticklebacks have a life span of about 10 years, and they are believed to be long-lived species. They are threatened by habitat degradation, pollution, and overfishing.

Illinois Fishes, Volume I

Page References

Illinois Fishes, Volume I

References

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Illinois Fishes, Volume I

Page References

Illinois Fishes, Volume I

References

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