

**FEATURES OF SOME COMMON MINNESOTA FISH FAMILIES**

**Catfish Family**

- Channel catfish**: Barbels (whiskers, not stingers), Grayish body, Deeply forked tail.
- Flathead catfish**: Brown mottled body, Mouth with "underbite", Slightly forked or flat tail.
- Black bullhead**: Brown to black body, No "underbite", Slightly forked or flat tail.
- Yellow bullhead**: No "underbite", Yellow barbels, Slightly forked or flat tail.
- Brown bullhead**: No "underbite", Brown mottled body, Slightly forked or flat tail.

**Sunfish Family/Panfish**

- Bluegill sunfish**: Black gill flap, Black gill flap with orange spot.
- Pumpkinseed sunfish**: Black gill flap with yellow to white margin, Bluish-green color.
- Green sunfish**: Silvery body with black spots.
- Black crappie**: Silvery body with black spots arranged in vertical bars.
- White crappie**: Silvery body with black spots arranged in vertical bars.

**Sunfish Family (continued)**

- Largemouth bass**: Green body with horizontal dark strip, Jaw past eye, Brownish body with vertical dark stripes.
- Smallmouth bass**: Jaw not past eye.
- Pike Family**:
  - Northern Pike**: Light colored spots on dark body, Duck-billed shaped mouth, Rounded tips on tail, Forked tail.
  - Muskellunge**: Dark colored spots or bars on light body, Duck-billed shaped mouth.



**Perch Family**

- Yellow perch**: Dark vertical bars, Bottom tip of tail has no white spot.
- Walleye (Minnesota's State Fish)**: Large, milky-colored eyes, Bottom tip of tail has white spot.
- Sauger**: Spots on dorsal fin, Bottom tip of tail has no white spot.

**Salmon/Trout Family**

- Rainbow trout (non-native)**: Pink strip down its side, Gray to black back.
- Lake trout**: Light underside, Light spots, Forked tail.
- Brook Trout**: Black spotted dorsal fin, Light spots on dark background, Square tail. Note: Like Lake trout - Brook trout have white leading edge on bottom fins.
- Brown trout (non-native)**: Light brown body, Dark spots on light background, Square tail.

**Other Sport Fish**

- Common carp (non-native)**: Bronze to greenish color, Orange dorsal and pectoral fins, Two barbels, one on each side of mouth, Large scales, Six or more dark lateral lines.
- White bass**: Silvery color, Long, wavy dorsal fin.
- Bowfin (Dogfish)**: Olive colored, Black spot on caudal peduncle.
- Freshwater drum (Sheephead)**: Silvery, gray colored, Mouth points down, Rounded tail.

For more information on Minnesota fishes, please visit: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/index.html>

**Land a Luncker?**

Submit a photo to the **Cass Lake Times, Northwoods Press - Nevis or Sebeka Menahga Review Messenger** for publication.

Please include: Name(s) of person(s) in the photo and general information about your successful catch.

E-mail photo and information for:  
**Cass Lake Times to: [cltimes1@arvig.net](mailto:cltimes1@arvig.net)**  
**Northwoods Press to: [info@northwoodspress.com](mailto:info@northwoodspress.com)**  
**Sebeka Menahga Review Messenger to: [remess@wcta.net](mailto:remess@wcta.net)**

