An aerial photograph of a lake system, likely in the Lauderdale Lakes area, with a color gradient overlay ranging from dark blue on the left to bright green on the right. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

What Lurks Below the Surface of Lauderdale Lakes

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

CORKY AND DEETZ, FISH COMMITTEE

LAUDERDALE LAKES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

A look at the species and habitats of Lauderdale Lakes



Largemouth Bass



The largemouth bass is an olive-green to greenish gray fish, marked by a series of dark, sometimes black, blotches forming a jagged horizontal stripe along each flank. The upper jaw (maxilla) of a largemouth bass extends beyond the rear margin of the orbit.

The largemouth bass is the largest of the black basses, reaching a maximum recorded overall length of 29.5 in (75 cm) and a maximum unofficial weight of 25 lb 1 oz (11.4 kg). Sexual dimorphism is found, with the female larger than the male.

Largemouth bass prefer habitats with abundant littoral vegetation and generally maintain relatively small home ranges in lakes. They have an average lifespan of 10 to 16 years in the wild.

Largemouth bass usually reach sexual maturity and begin spawning when they are about a year old.[22] Spawning takes place in the spring season when the water temperature first remains continuously above 60 °F (16 °C) for a sufficient period of time.

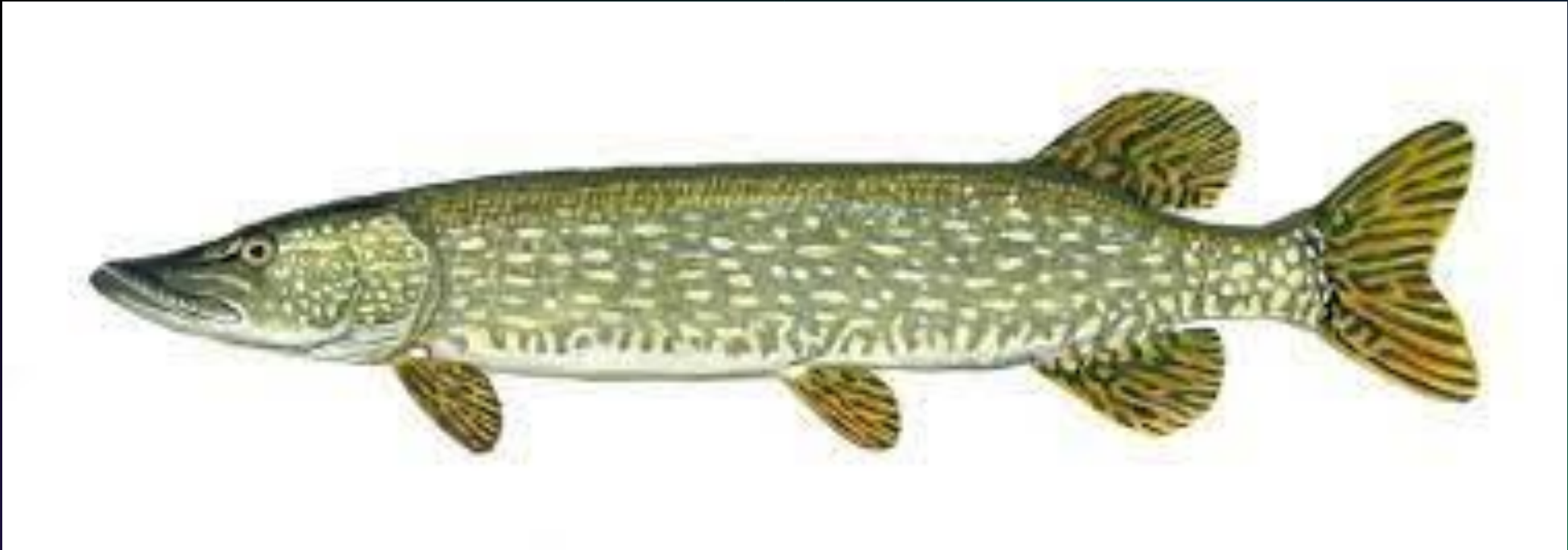
Smallmouth Bass



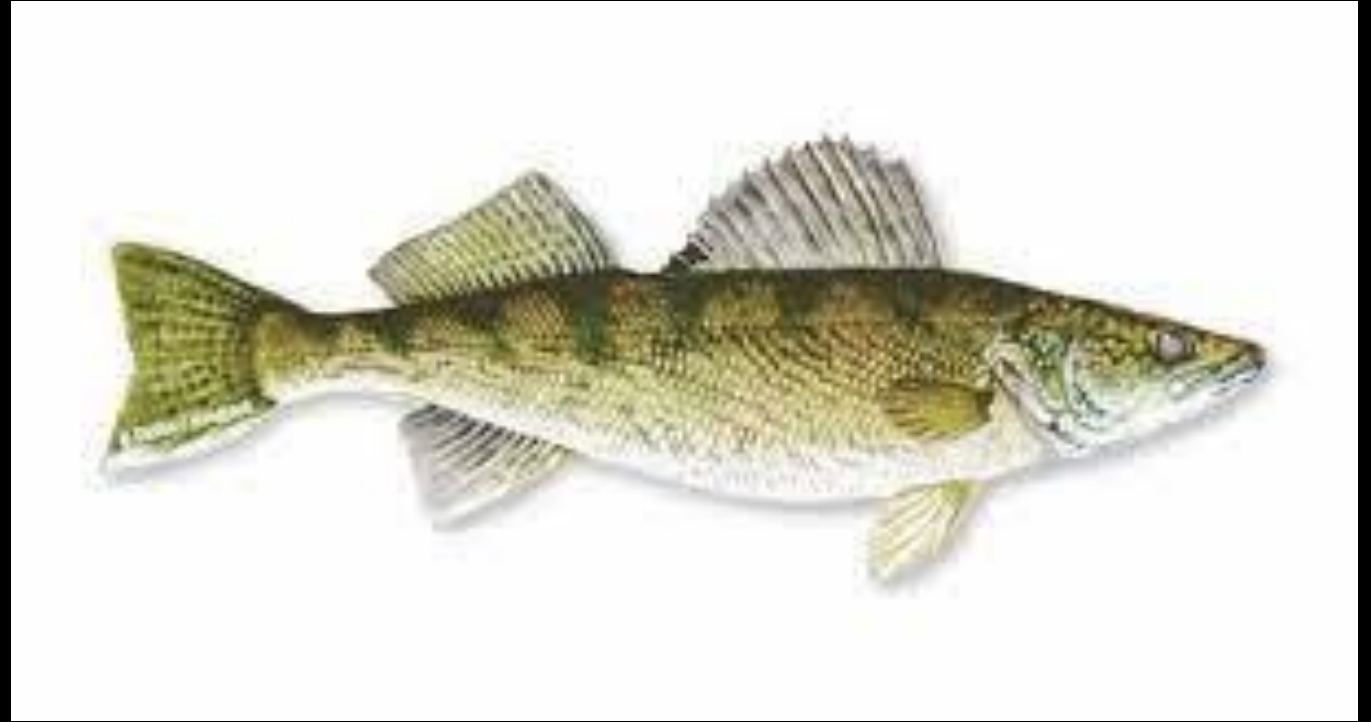
Smallmouth have a slender but muscular fusiform body shape making them powerful swimmers. The coloration of the smallmouth bass' ctenoid scales range from golden-olive to dark brown dorsally which fades to a yellowish white ventrally with dark brown vertical bars or blotches along the body and dark brown horizontal bars on the head. The smallmouth bass is found in clearer water than the largemouth, especially streams, rivers, and the rocky areas and stumps and also sandy bottoms of lakes and reservoirs. Smallmouth generally begin spawning patterns in spring or early summer when water temperatures are between 15-18 °C (59.0-64.4 °F), which is heavily dependent on latitudinal location. Smallmouth require clean stone, rock, or gravel substrate for a successful spawn.

Northern Pike

- Northern pike are most often olive green, shading from yellow to white along the belly. The flank is marked with short, light bar-like spots and a few to many dark spots on the fins. Sometimes, the fins are reddish. Younger pike have yellow stripes along a green body; later, the stripes divide into light spots and the body turns from green to olive green. Northern Pike typically live to 10-15 years, but sometimes up to 25 years. Pike are found in sluggish streams and shallow, weedy places in lakes and reservoirs, as well as in cold, clear, rocky waters. Pike are physically capable of breeding at an age of about two years, spawning in spring when the water temperature first reaches about 9 °C (48 °F). They have a tendency to lay a large number of eggs.

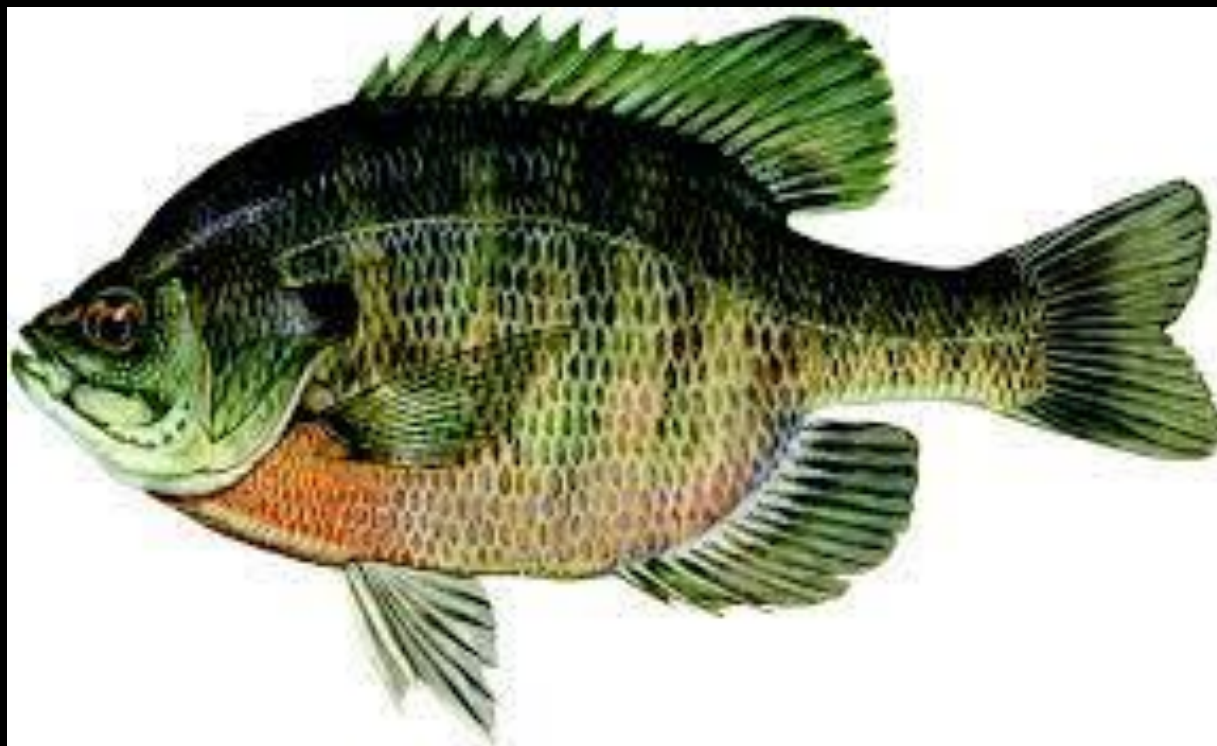


Walleye



Walleyes are largely olive and gold in color. The dorsal side of a walleye is olive, grading into a golden hue on the flanks. The olive/gold pattern is broken up by five darker saddles that extend to the upper sides. The color shades to white on the belly. The mouth of a walleye is large and is armed with many sharp teeth. Adults migrate to tributary streams in late winter or early spring to lay eggs over gravel and rock, although open-water reef or shoal-spawning strains are seen, as well. Some populations are known to spawn on sand or vegetation. Spawning occurs at water temperatures of 6 to 10 °C (43 to 50 °F). A large female can lay up to 500,000 eggs, and no care is given by the parents to the eggs or fry.

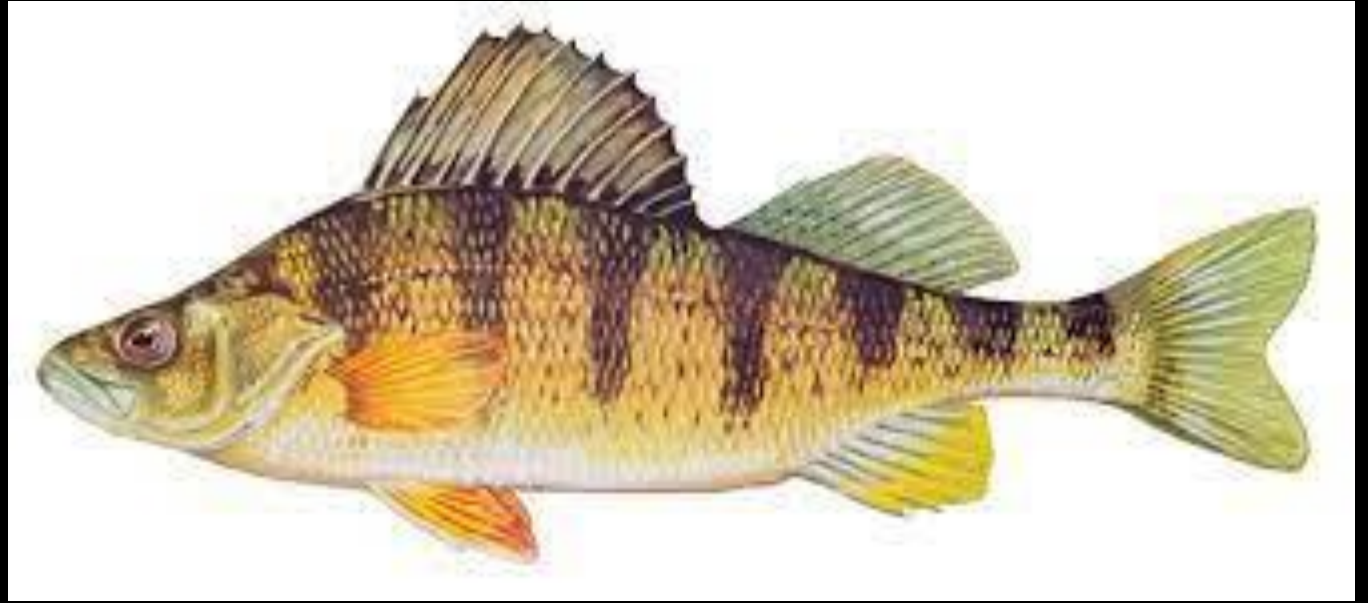
Bluegill



Crappie



Yellow Perch



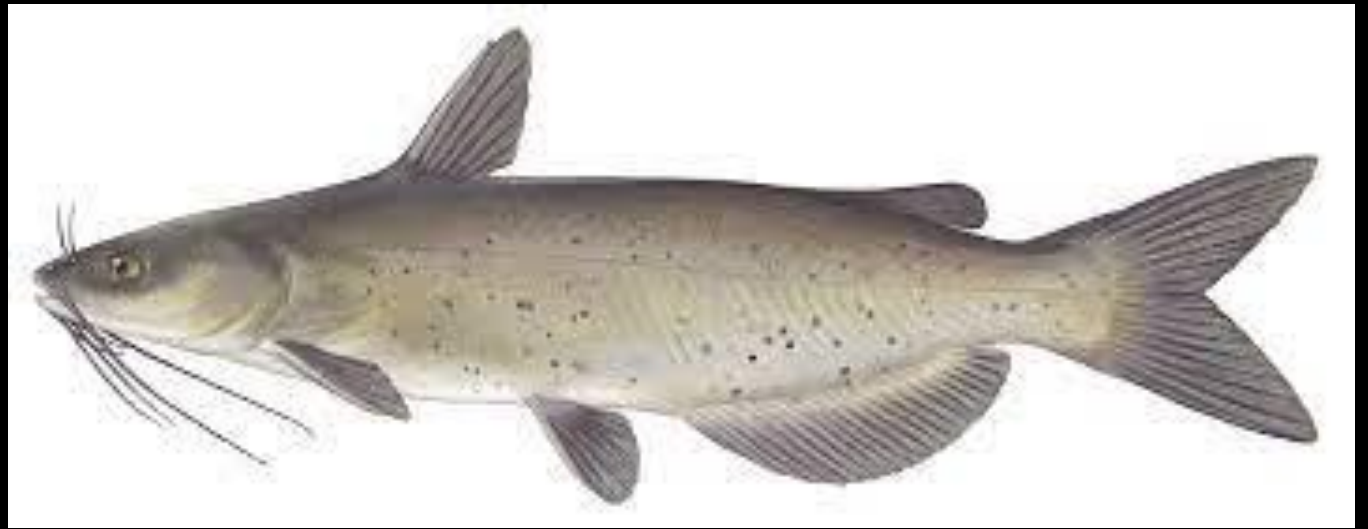
Rock Bass



Brown Bullhead



Channel Catfish



Common Carp



Bowfin



Map of the Lauderdale Chain
 1:50,000 Scale
 1970



Lauderdale Chain
 (JAMAICA, WEST INDIES)
 1:50,000 Scale
 1970

Map Description:
 This map shows the Lauderdale Chain in Jamaica, West Indies. It covers an area of approximately 100 square kilometers. The map is based on aerial photography and ground surveys. The scale is 1:50,000. The map shows the Blue Mountains and the surrounding areas. The map is titled 'Lauderdale Chain' and 'JAMAICA, WEST INDIES'. The scale is 1:50,000. The year is 1970.

The Lakes

LLIA Fish Management Plan



LLIA Fish Committee Goals



Our plan is to continue stocking efforts of predator fish, Walleye and Northern Pike. Our stocking efforts have been paying off, we are seeing a good catch rate of Walleye from many year classes, suggesting that the Walleye we stock are surviving and there is also some minimal natural reproduction as well. Our stocking of Northern Pike will continue to help in the efforts to reduce the stunted Bass population. With that said, the new regulations for this year will also assist in those efforts. This, along with increased predation by Northern Pike and Walleye, will help in reducing the stunted Bass as well as return brood stock sized year classes of Bass back into the fishery. The goal is twofold, promoting larger genetics contributing to the population and reducing numbers of undersized, stunted growth Bass. The regulation also allows for one "trophy" or "memorable" Bass over 18 inches harvested per day, if an angler chooses to do so. Please harvest your 5 Bass under 14 inches daily. I understand it may take some convincing of the lake community to keep these smaller Bass, but let me assure you it will greatly benefit the fishery and they are very tasty as well! Stunted panfish such as Bluegill and Perch will also benefit from increased predation by all predators within the lakes.

Lauderdale Current Regulations



BASS

(Largemouth & Smallmouth)

- under 14" - five (5) fish may be harvested daily
- 14" to 18" - ALL MUST be immediately released
- over 18" - one (1) fish may be harvested daily

Lauderdale Lakes New Fishing Regulations 2018

*Provided by the Fish Committee
of the Lauderdale Lakes
Improvement Association*



WALLEYE

- up to 18" - ALL MUST be immediately released
- 18" and over - three (3) fish may be harvested daily

Note: Please harvest your 5 Bass under 14" to help reduce the stunted bass population and increase the overall health of the Bass population

Fish Habitats

A scenic landscape photograph of a calm body of water, likely a lake or pond, under a clear blue sky. The water reflects the sky and the surrounding trees. In the background, a dense line of trees borders the water. On the right side, a person is visible in the distance, possibly fishing or walking along the shore. The foreground is framed by bare, dark tree branches, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

Fish Crib Video



Another Video



Fish Stocking



LLIA Fish Committee Activities

LINKS

FISH

FISHAPALOOZA

HARDWATER
HEROES 2024

KIDS FISHING
JAMBOREE

KIDS FISHING
JAMBOREE
REGISTRATION

SCHOOL OF
FISH
REGISTRATION

FISH PSD
SURVEY

FISHING
JAMBOREE
2022

FISH CRIBS

WDNR Connections

- Travis Motl - District Biologist for Lauderdale Lakes
- Comprehensive Population Survey completed spring / fall 2023
- Fisheries management
- <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>
- 2013 Comprehensive Survey:
 - https://p.widencdn.net/hurzxm/Reports_WalworthLauderdale2013Comprehensive

Thank you from the LLIA
Fish Committee



Fish Committee Fun!

