

KNOW YOUR CATCH

Your Guide to Fish Identification

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT
OF CONSERVATION

FIS 018 01/2020

Largemouth bass

scales on cheek are same size as on body

two fins not well connected

smooth tongue

upper jaw extends beyond back of eye

dark horizontal stripe



Smallmouth bass

very small cheek scales

two fins connected

upper jaw does not extend beyond back of eye

side plain with a series of separate vertical bars



Spotted bass

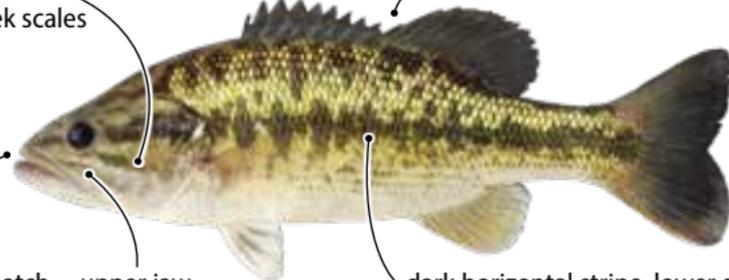
very small cheek scales

two fins connected

rough patch on tongue

upper jaw does not reach back of eye

dark horizontal stripe, lower side with series of dark horizontal streaks



White bass

teeth on back of tongue
in a single patch

horizontal stripes

deep body is more than
 $\frac{1}{3}$ total body length

seldom exceeds 3 pounds

Striped bass

teeth on back of tongue
in two parallel patches

horizontal stripes

slender body is less than
 $\frac{1}{3}$ the total body length

commonly reaches 20 pounds

White bass-striped bass hybrid

horizontal stripes broken

deep body is more than
 $\frac{1}{3}$ total body length

seldom exceeds 20 pounds

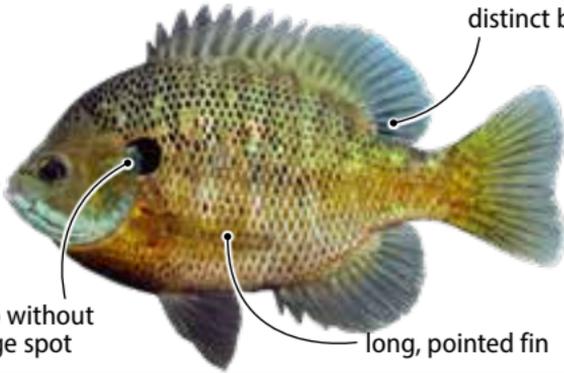
Bluegill

very small mouth

distinct blotch

distinct ear flap without border or orange spot

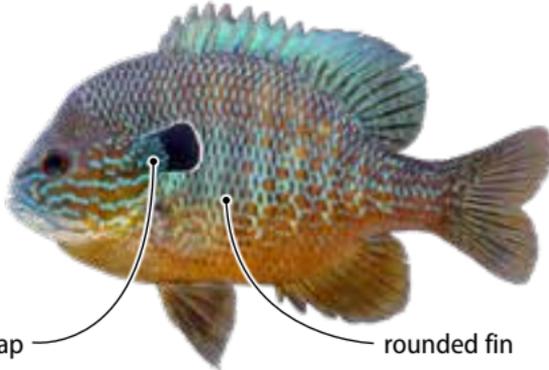
long, pointed fin



Longear sunfish

long, dark ear flap

rounded fin

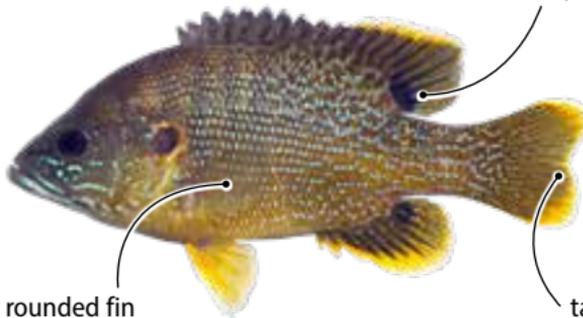


Green sunfish

usually dark blotch

rounded fin

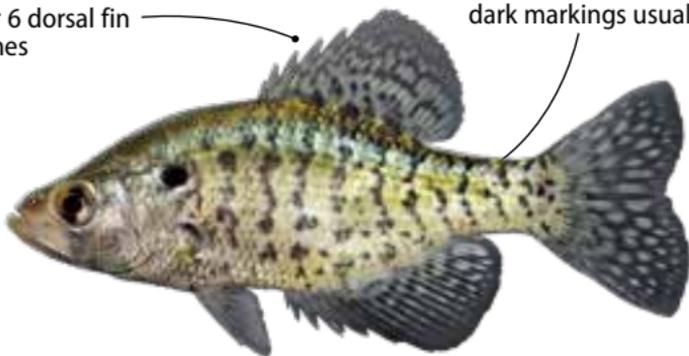
tail fin solid



White crappie

5 or 6 dorsal fin spines

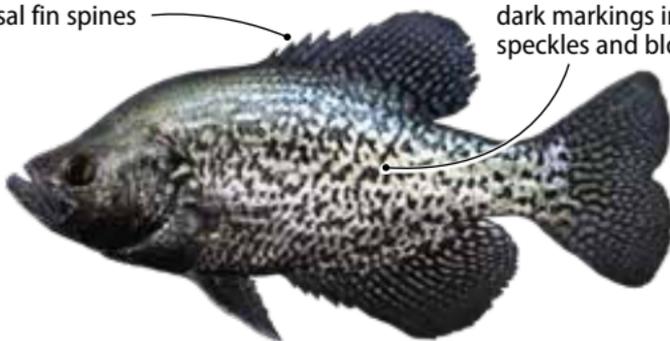
dark markings usually in bars



Black crappie

7 or 8 dorsal fin spines

dark markings in irregular speckles and blotches



Goggle eye (Rock bass)

usually no dark blotch



tail fin mottled

Flathead catfish

lower jaw extends beyond upper jaw

upper fin lighter than remainder of fin



tail fin square

Blue catfish

upper jaw extends beyond lower jaw

tail fin forked



anal fin margin straight with 30–35 rays

Channel catfish

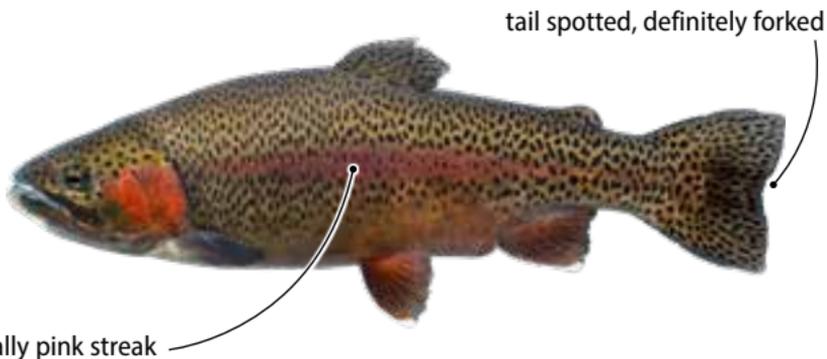
upper jaw extends beyond lower jaw

tail fin forked

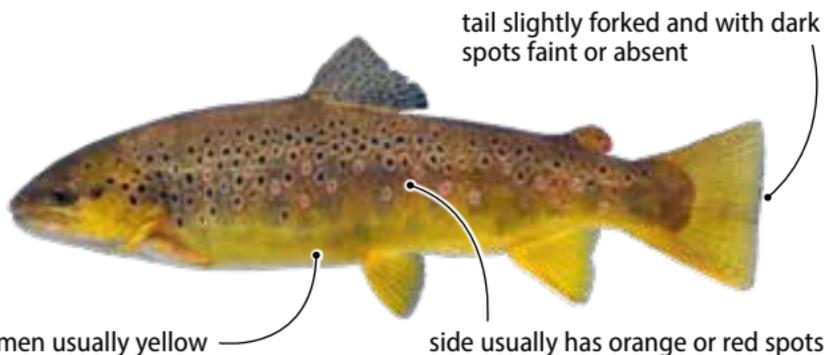


anal fin margin rounded with 24–29 rays

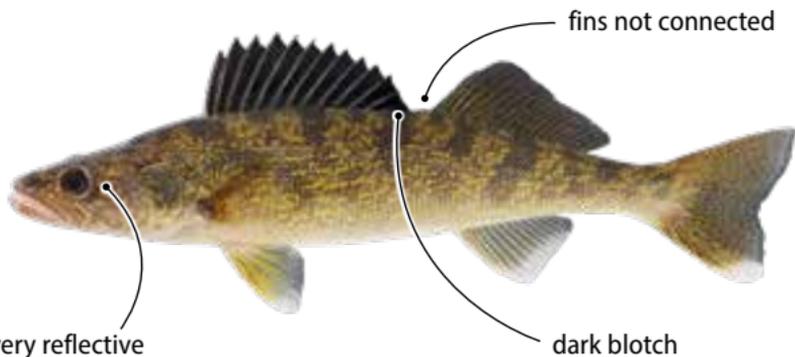
Rainbow trout



Brown trout

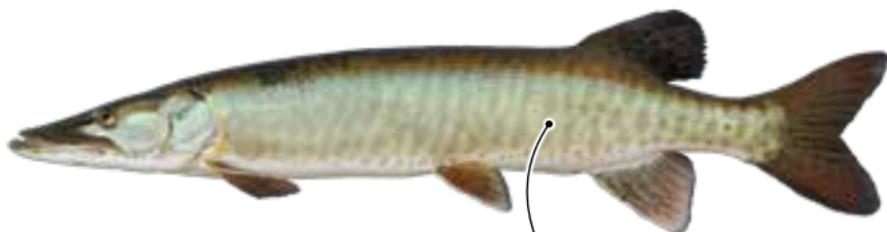


Walleye



Muskellunge

long and slender

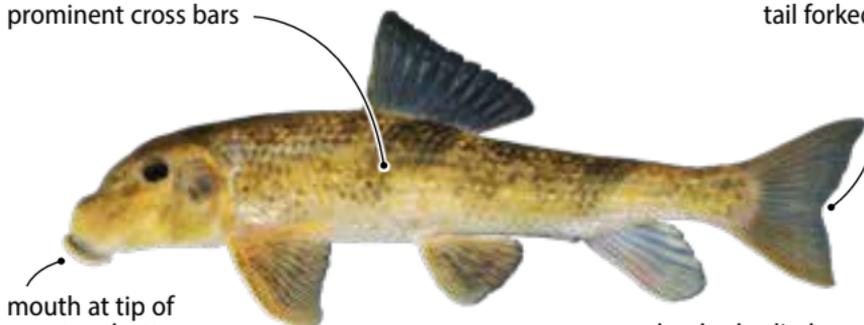


vertical bars and some spots

Northern hog sucker

prominent cross bars

tail forked



mouth at tip of snout on bottom

slender-bodied

INVASIVE Common carp

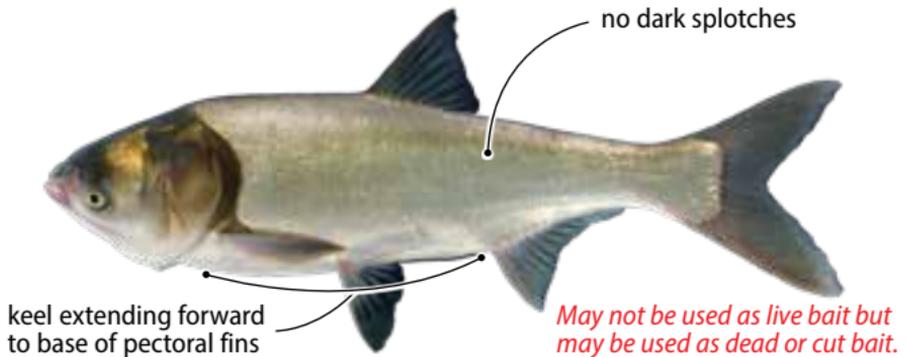
fin forked at front



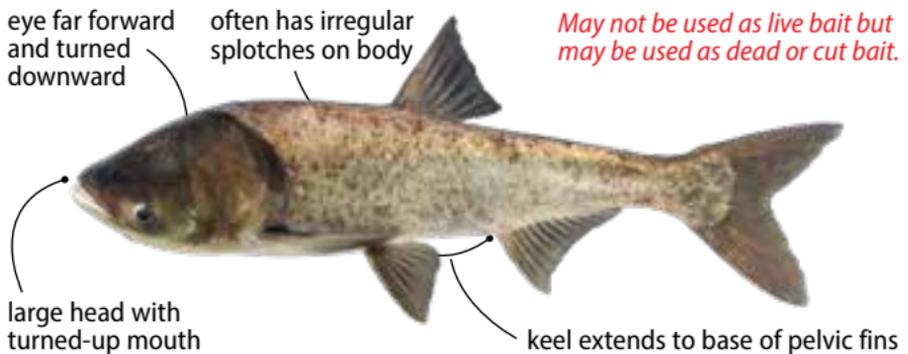
barbels on each side

deep-bodied

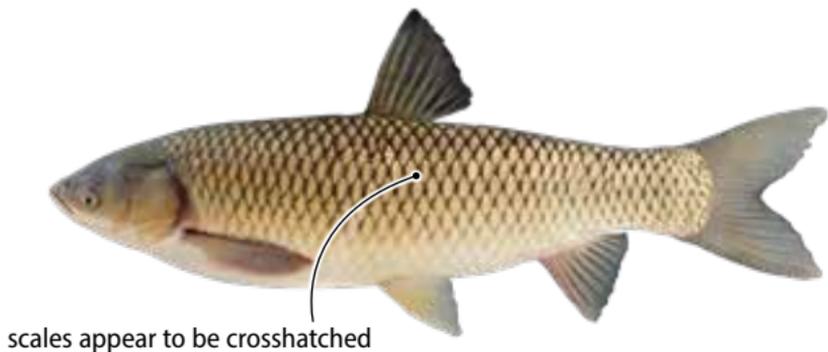
INVASIVE Silver carp



INVASIVE Bighead carp

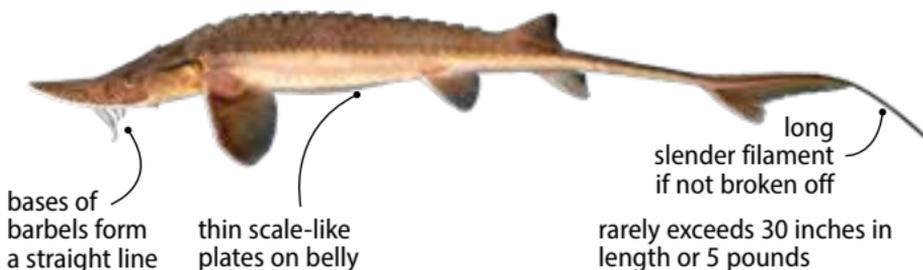


INVASIVE Grass carp



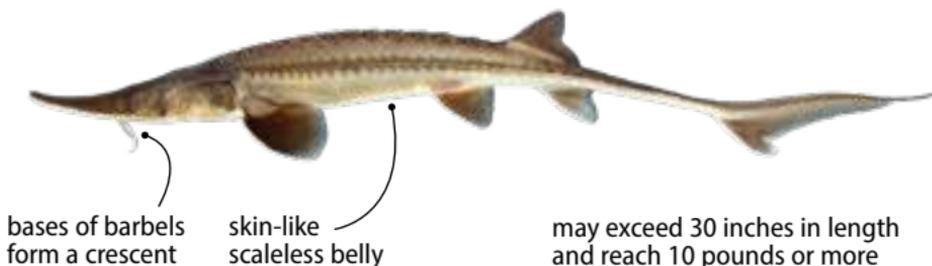
Shovelnose sturgeon

Shovelnose sturgeon and endangered pallid sturgeon are similar.



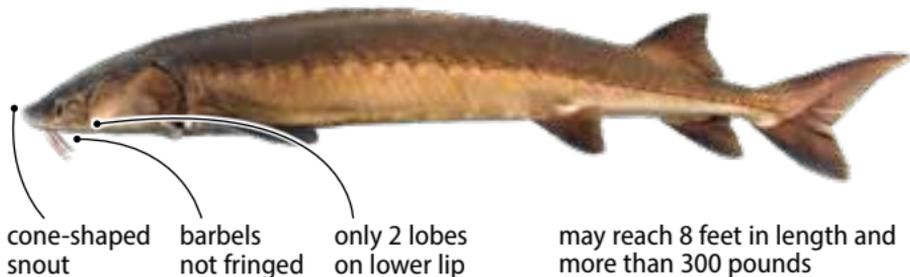
ENDANGERED Pallid sturgeon

Endangered species: If caught, return unharmed to water immediately.

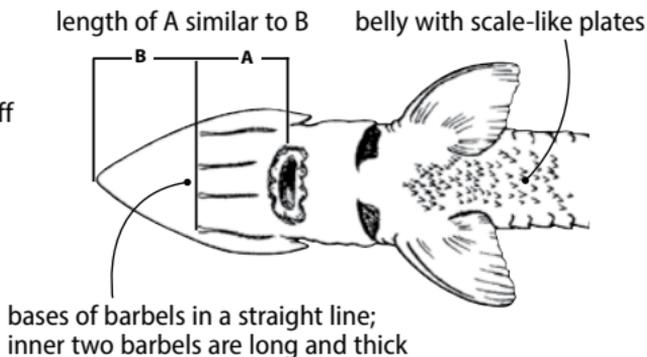


ENDANGERED Lake sturgeon

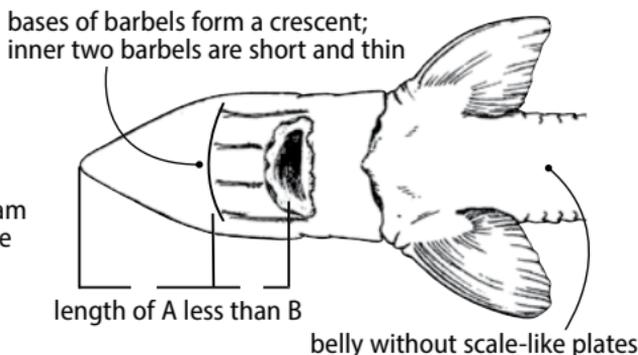
Endangered species: If caught, return unharmed to water immediately.



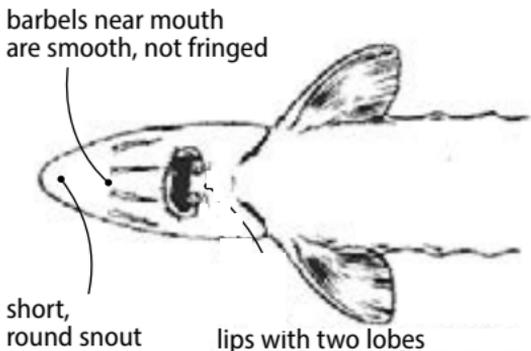
- reddish-brown or buff color
- found throughout Missouri and Mississippi rivers



- grayish-white color
- found in the Missouri River and in the Mississippi downstream from the mouth of the Illinois River



- sides and back range from dark slate to light brown or yellowish-olive; white belly
- found throughout Missouri and Mississippi rivers



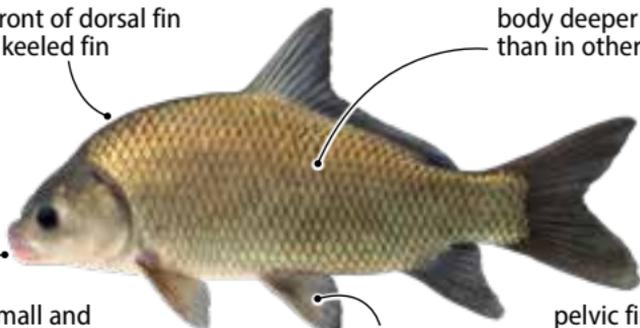
Smallmouth buffalo

back in front of dorsal fin
strongly keeled fin

body deeper and thinner
than in other buffalos

mouth small and
projects downward

pelvic fins
densely speckled with black

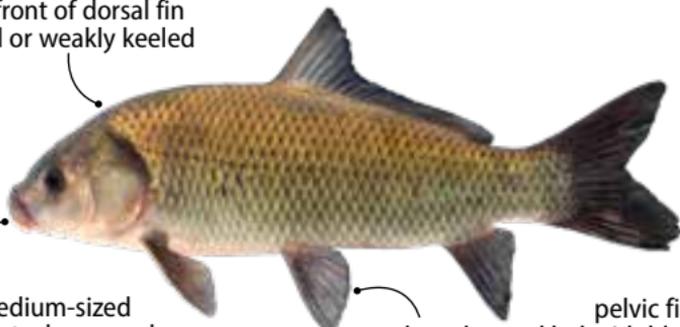


Black buffalo

back in front of dorsal fin
rounded or weakly keeled

mouth medium-sized
and projects downward

pelvic fins
densely speckled with black

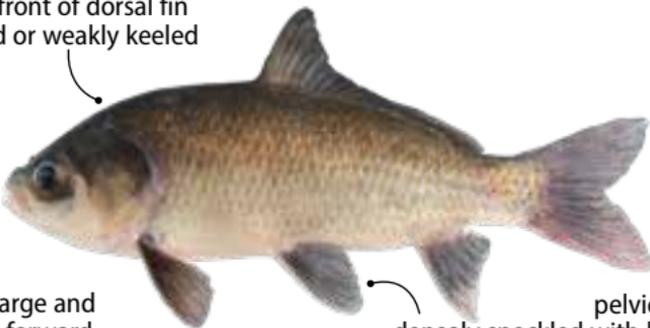


Bigmouth buffalo

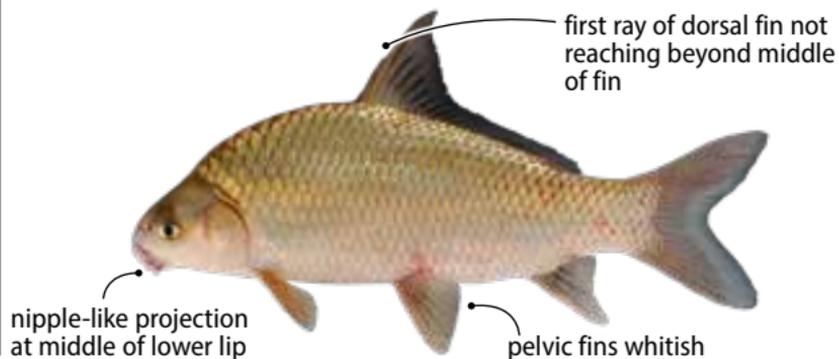
back in front of dorsal fin
rounded or weakly keeled

mouth large and
projects forward

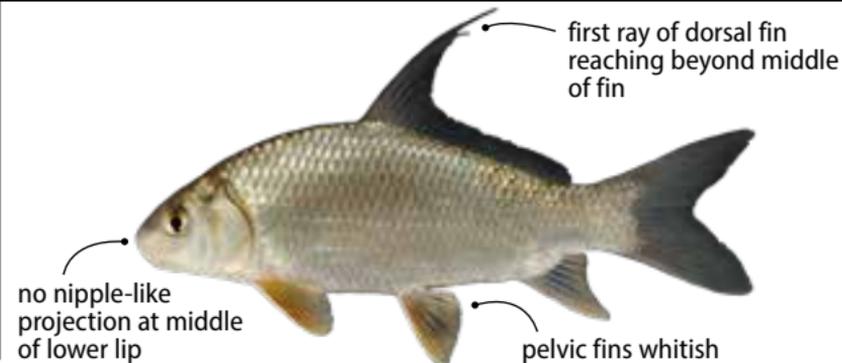
pelvic fins
densely speckled with black



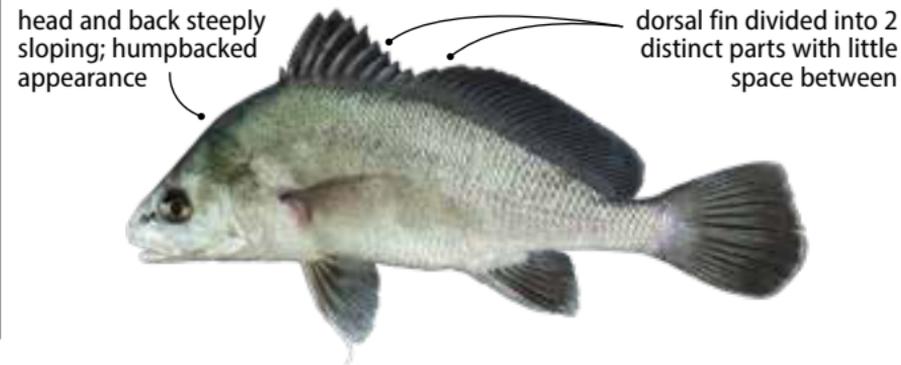
River carpsucker



Quillback

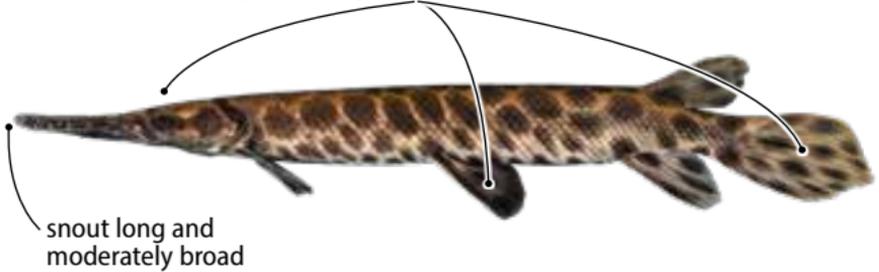


Freshwater drum



Spotted gar

many well-defined roundish black spots on top of head and all fins



Longnose gar

well-defined roundish black spots on rear of the body and rear fins only



Shortnose gar

well-defined black spots on rear fins only



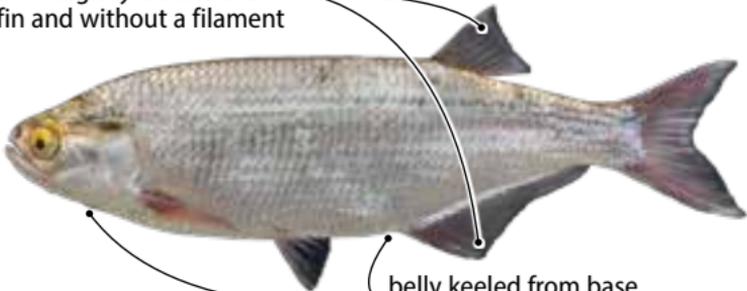
Alligator gar



Snout short and broad with double row of teeth in upper jaw

Goldeye

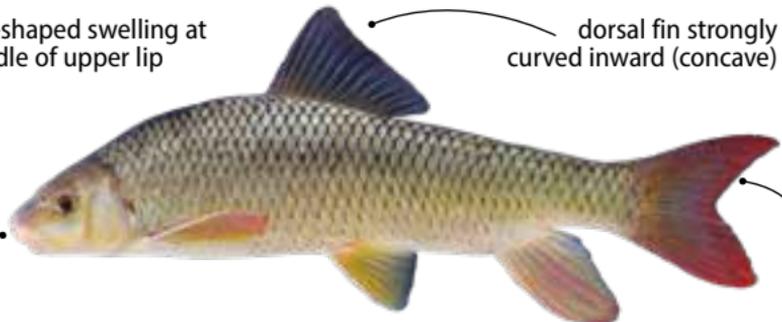
dorsal fin slightly behind the anal fin and without a filament



belly keeled from base of anal fin nearly to throat

Shorthead redhorse

pea-shaped swelling at middle of upper lip



dorsal fin strongly curved inward (concave)

tail fin bright red

KNOW YOUR KNOTS

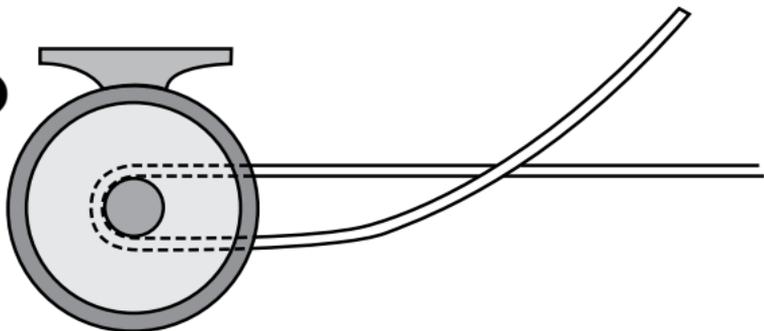
Your Guide to Seven Fishing Knots

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT
OF CONSERVATION

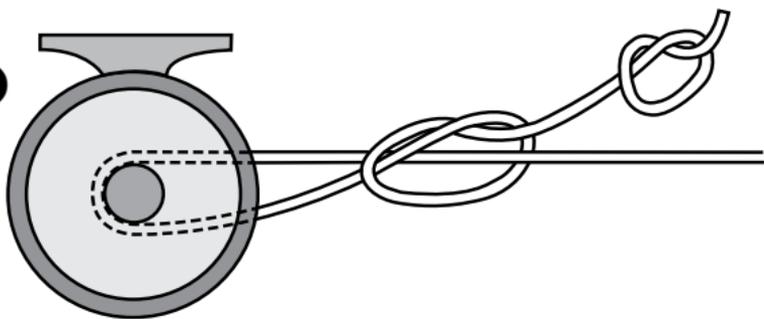
Arbor knot

for attaching line to the spool of a fishing reel

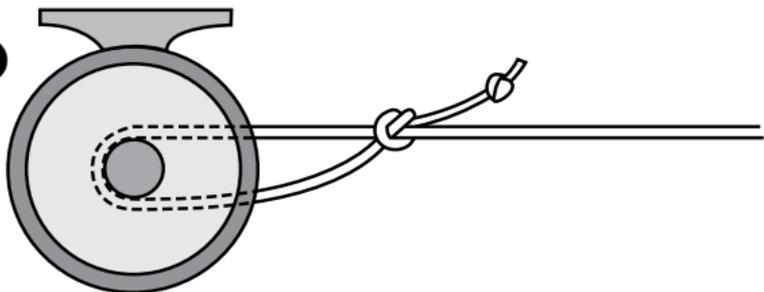
1



2



3



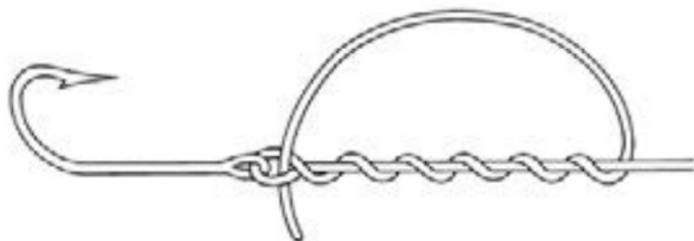
Improved clinch knot

reliable and easy to tie for lines under 20-pound test

1



2



3

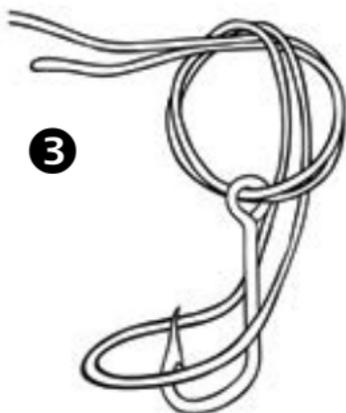
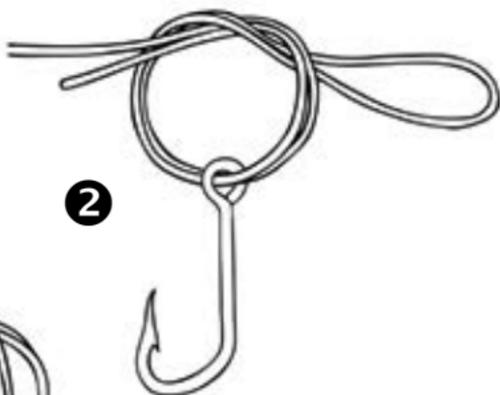
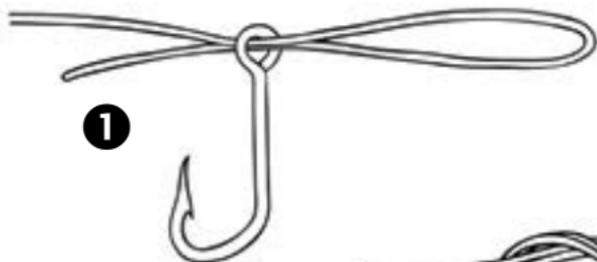


4



Palomar knot

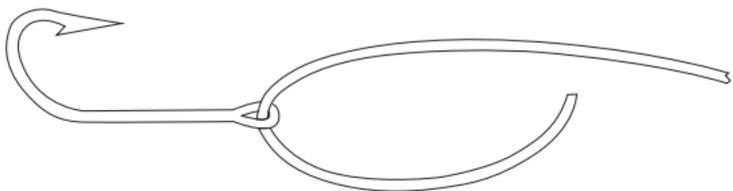
reliable and easy to tie for all line sizes and braided line



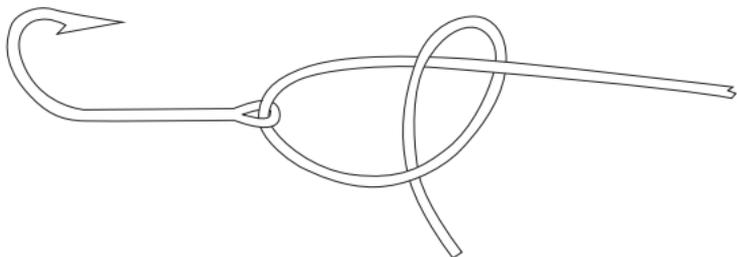
Davy knot

fast, reliable, and easy to tie

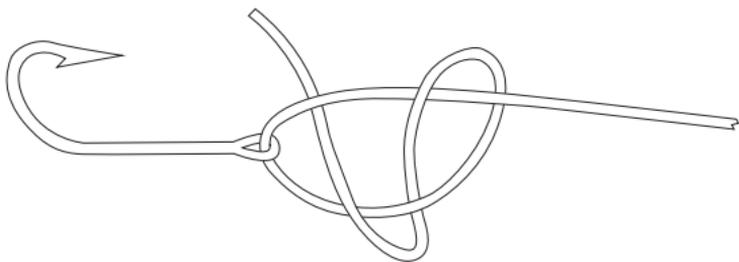
1



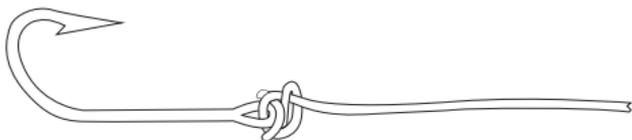
2



3

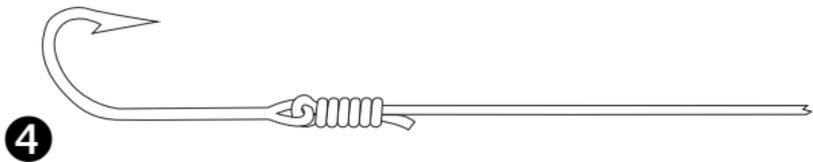
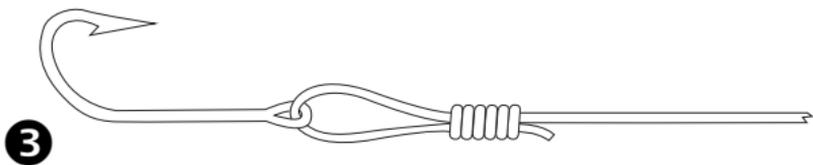
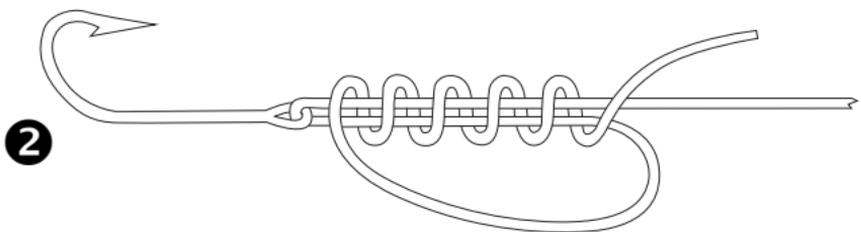
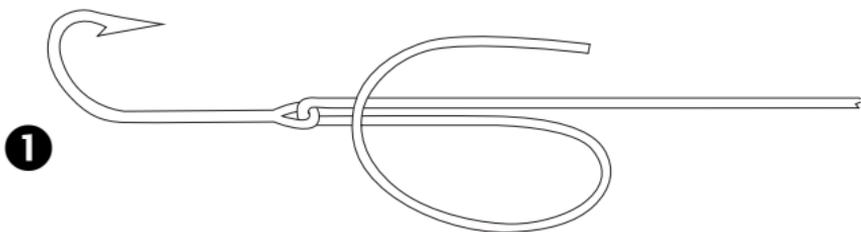


4



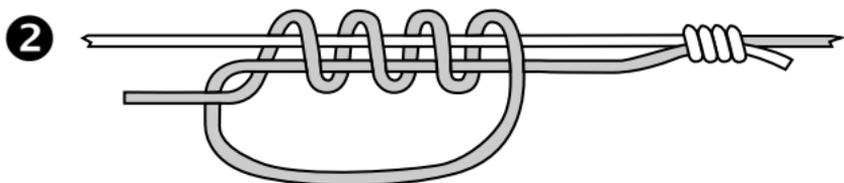
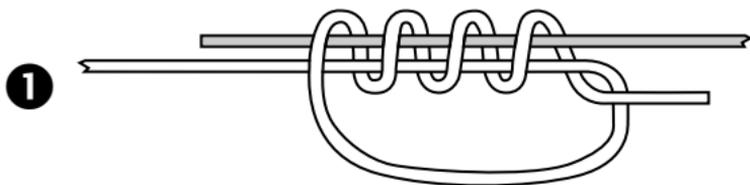
Uni knot

strong, reliable, and easy to tie



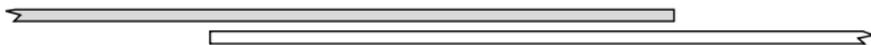
Double uni knot

for joining two lines of approximately the same diameter

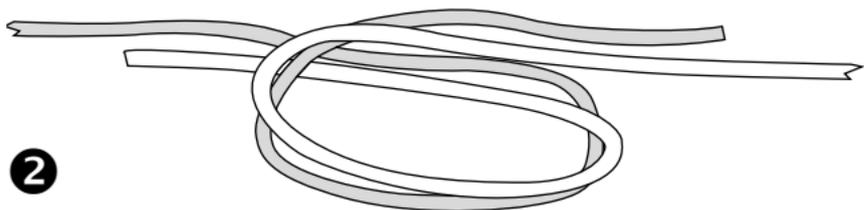


Surgeon's knot

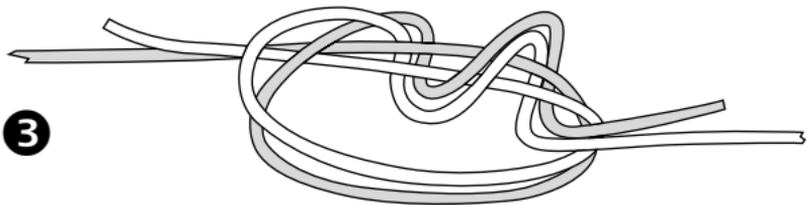
for joining two lines of different diameters



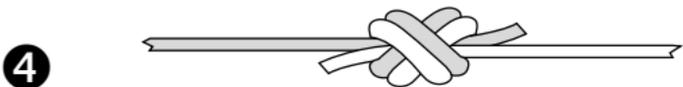
1



2



3



4

Fishing trip checklist

- Fishing license
- Rod and reel
- Tackle box (with needle nose pliers, wire cutting pliers, nail clippers)
- Water and snacks
- Bait and lures
- Stringer
- Landing net
- First-aid kit
- Personal floatation device (PFD)
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Fish identification guide

Fishing Prospects — fishing.mdc.mo.gov

MO Fishing App — short.mdc.mo.gov/ZJZ



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mdc.mo.gov

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