

yellow bass *Morone mississippiensis*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Perciformes

Family: Moronidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The yellow bass has a blue-gray back and striped, yellow sides. The dark stripes appear to break and are not in continuous lines on the lower body. A spine is present on the gill cover. The average size for this fish is 12 inches in length and one pound in weight. It may live for about six years.

BEHAVIORS

The yellow bass lives in pools and backwaters of rivers and lakes. Spawning occurs April through May. Eggs are deposited over gravel and will hatch in four to six days. The yellow bass lives in schools in midwater or near the surface. Adults eat fishes, including their own young.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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