MUSKELLUNGE - NORTHERN PIKE
Know How To Tell The Difference!

CLEAR
Paired fins having more pointed tips

MUSKELLUNGE
(Esox masquinongy)

3 COMMON PATTERN VARIATIONS

SPOTTED
Coloration with vertical dark markings on a light background
(Juvenile pattern similar to that of adults)

NOTE: Background colors of fish can vary slightly depending on environmental characteristics of the waterbody and its geographic location. One marking pattern may dominate in an area, but all 3 can be present.

BARRED
Coloration having irregular narrow vertical dark markings on a light background with stripes merging onto the back in an interlocking pattern

HYBRID “TIGER” MUSKELLUNGE
(Esox masquinongy X Esox lucius)

NOTE: Sides sometimes exhibit an alternating pattern of stripes and spots, or narrow paired-bars on a light background. Pattern never resembles that of northern pike.

NORTHERN PIKE
(Esox lucius)

NOTE: Some areas may contain “Silver Pike” which is a mutant color variation of northern pike that lack the characteristic spots and have dark or light grey/blue sides. Fin coloration normal for northern pike is exhibited in the “silver” variety.

Color illustrations by

IN MOST AREAS THESE FISH HAVE MINIMUM SIZE RESTRICTIONS, MAXIMUM POSSESSION LIMITS, AND SPECIAL OPEN SEASONS... CONSULT LOCAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS.

Location of submandibular pores on underside of lower jaw...

For further information please contact local, state, or provincial Natural Resources Offices, or...

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Upper half of cheek and operculum with scales

MUSKELLUNGE
Entire cheek and upper half of operculum with scales

GANDER mtn.

NORTHERN PIKE
5 or fewer pores

MUSKELLUNGE
6 to 8 pores

NOTE: Hybrids have 5 to 8 pores on each side of lower jaw.

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