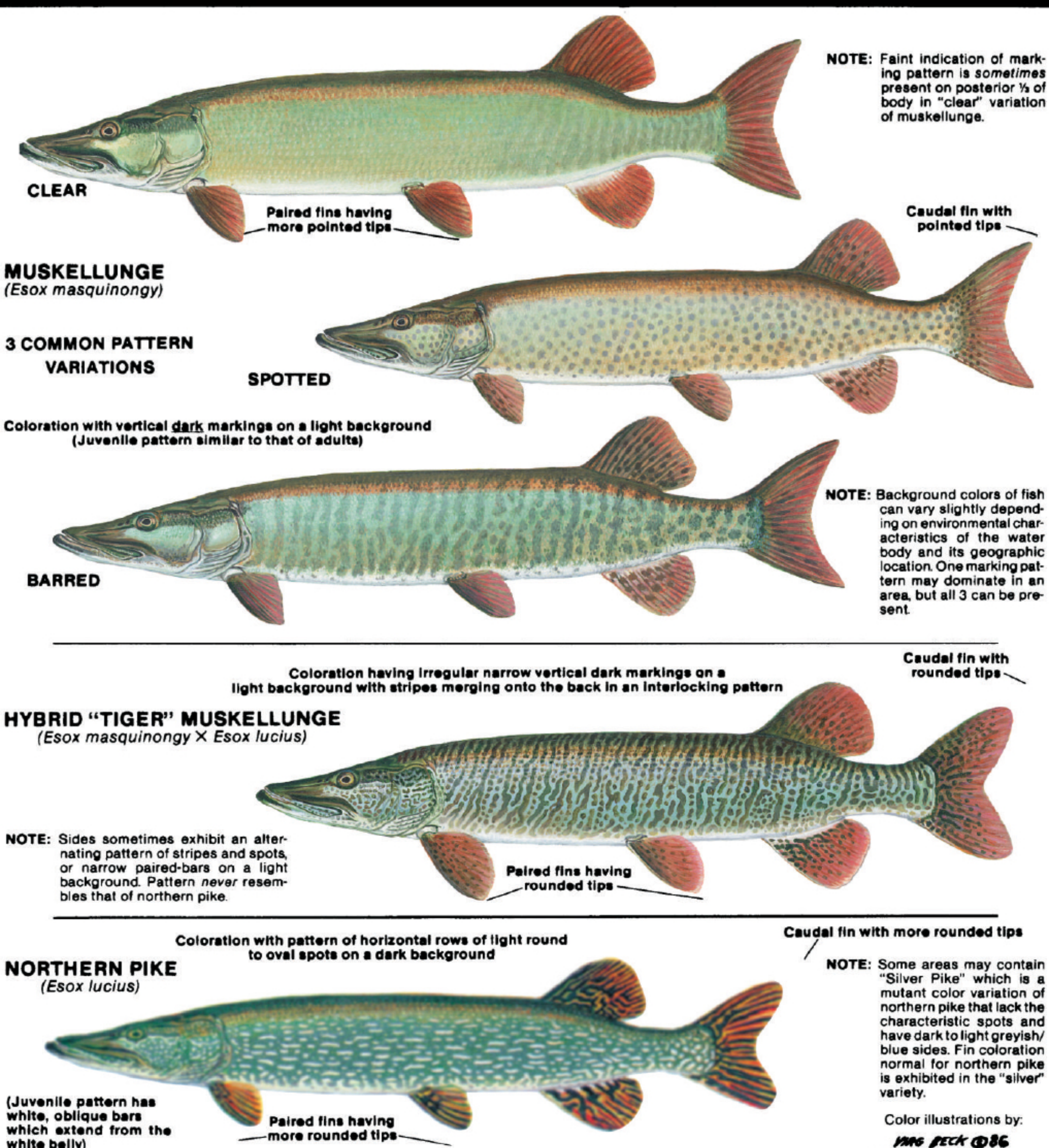


MUSKELLUNGE - NORTHERN PIKE

Know How To Tell The Difference!



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 under side of lower jaw...




NORTHERN PIKE
5 or fewer pores

MUSKELLUNGE
8 to 9 pores

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

For further information please contact your state DNR or Muskies Inc. Line diagrams courtesy of Dr. James G. Underhill, University of Minnesota

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MUSKELLUNGE



NORTHERN PIKE

NOTE: Hybrids have 1/2 or more of cheek and upper half of operculum with scales.

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How To Release Fish

1. Land the fish quickly.
2. Hold the fish firmly, but gently.
Grasp the fish at the back of the head, just behind (not under) the gill covers. Do not hold a fish by the eyes—it can blind or kill them.
3. Use a needlenose pliers to remove hooks. If your pliers has a side cutters, snip deeply imbedded hooks.
4. Cut the line if the fish is throat-hooked.
5. Don't remove body slime.
6. Gently slide the fish into the water.
7. Release in shallow water, not over deep water.
In streams, release fish into calm water.
8. Revive a tired fish by gently moving it back and forth in the water.
The water moving through the gills will resuscitate the fish.

Extra Helpers:

- Use barbless hooks (flatten with pliers or file down).
- Use artificial lures.
- Clip one of the three treble hooks.
- Use proper equipment so you can bring the fish in more quickly.

DON'T:

- Don't drop the fish in the boat.
- Don't net or handle a fish if you can leave it in the water.
- Don't release a fish that can't right itself and bobs to the surface.
- Any fish not of legal size must be released regardless of its condition.
- Don't place fish you plan to release on a stringer or in a live-well.

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