



NORTHERN PIKE



Identification

- "Torpedo" shaped with a very long head
- Dark green to olive green, with white oval spots; forked tail with **rounded** lobes
- Very large teeth, and typically **5 pores** under each side of their lower jaw

Habitat

- Prefer shallow weedy bays in the spring and fall, and deeper water in the summer.
- Can be found in lakes, rivers and streams.

Spawning Patterns

- Spawn in April or May when water temperatures reach 4-11°C. They spawn during the day in marshy areas, or heavily vegetated bays, often in water less than 1 foot deep.
- Females lay an average of 9,000 eggs/lb of body weight. Eggs usually hatch in 12-14 days, but can vary depending on water temperature. Females mature at age 3 or 4.

Diet

- Feed very aggressively, eating almost anything they can ingest including fish, frogs, crayfish, muskrats and ducklings.

Age and Size

- 10-12 years in southern Ontario; up to 24-26 years of age in far north populations.
- Usually 12-36 inches long; Ontario Angler Award minimum length is 30 inches.
- Ontario record weight is 42.12 lb.

Fishing Tips

- May be caught in open water and through the ice.
- Try casting or trolling with big spoons or plugs.
- Use large spinner baits and crankbaits along weedlines and drop-offs.
- Bring a net, and use pliers to remove the hook to avoid injuring the fish or yourself.