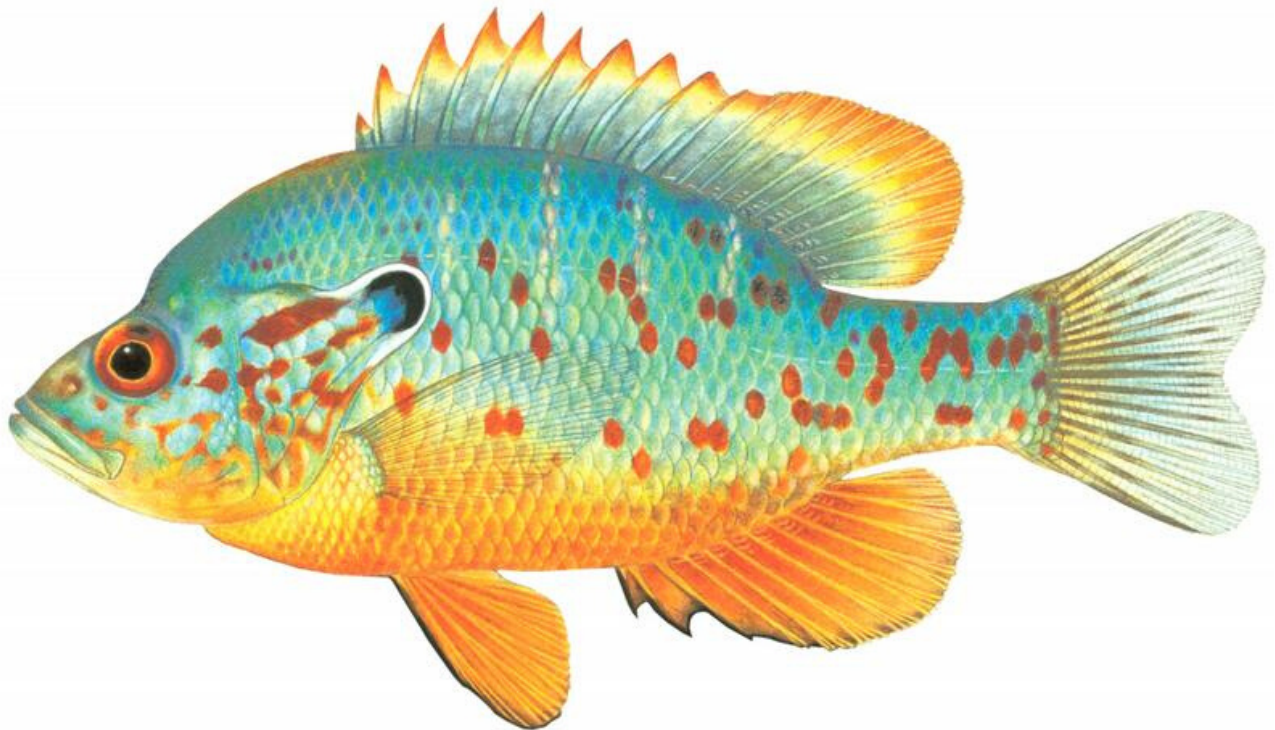




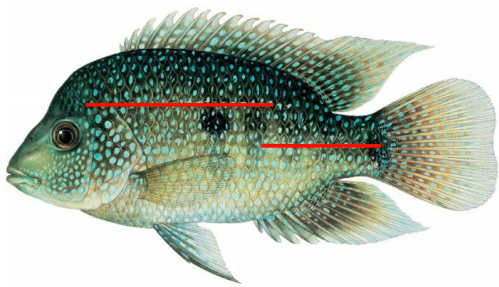
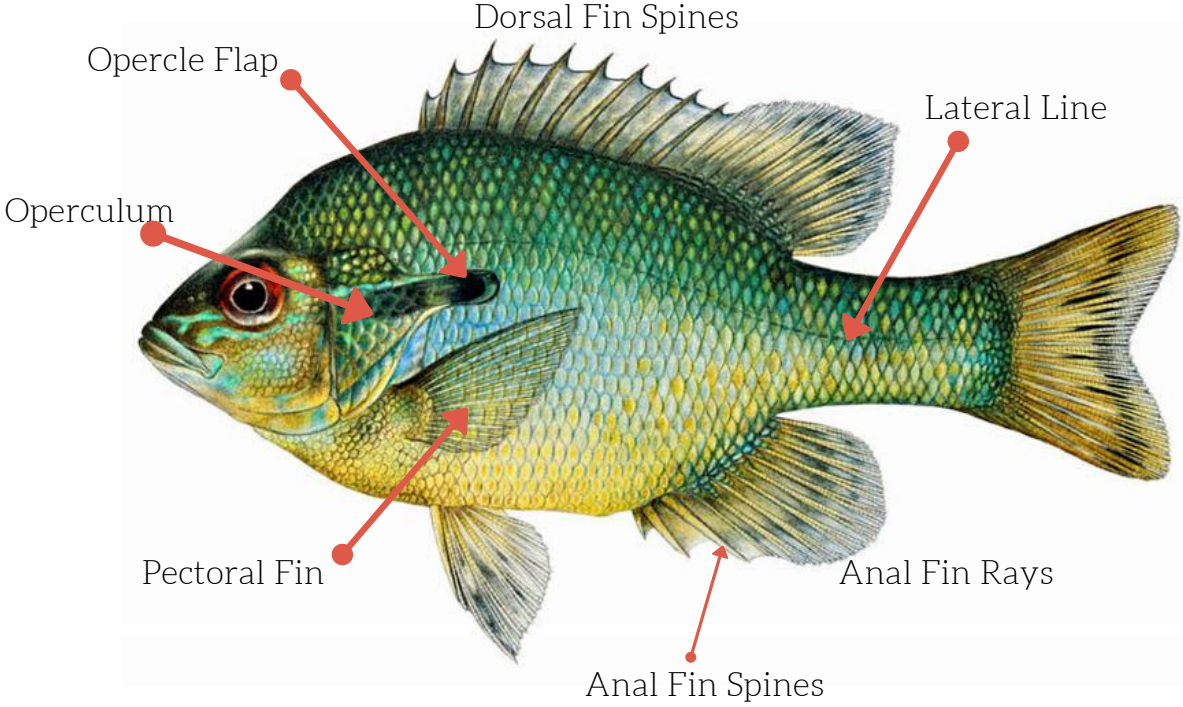
GUIDE TO THE  
**SUNFISH OF  
TEXAS**



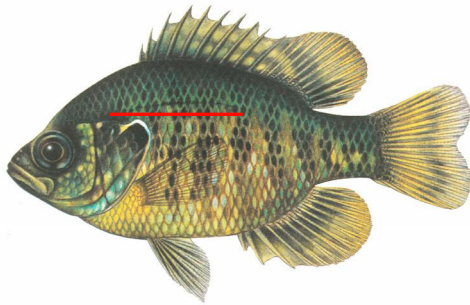
INLAND FISHERIES



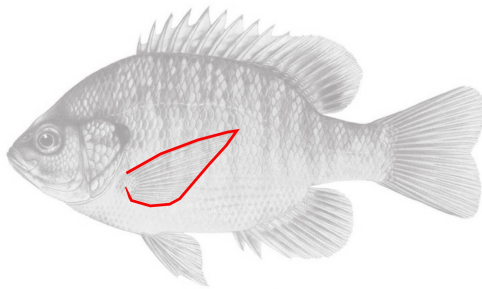
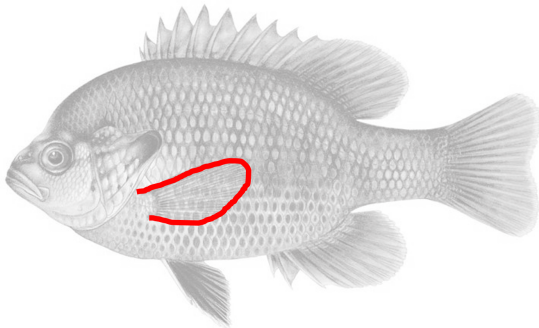
# ANATOMY GUIDE



Example of interrupted lateral line in cichlids



Example of incomplete lateral line in Bantam Sunfish



Short and rounded pectoral fin compared to long and pointed pectoral fin

# SUNFISH OF TEXAS

WHAT KIND OF  
SUNFISH DO YOU  
HAVE?

**IN THE SUNFISH  
FAMILY BUT IN A  
DIFFERENT GENUS**



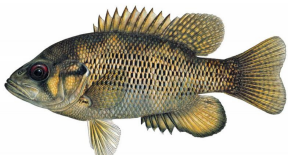
BLACK CRAPPIE



WHITE CRAPPIE



BLACK BASS SPECIES



ROCK BASS



FLIER

**LOOKS SIMILAR BUT NOT A  
SUNFISH**



RIO GRANDE CICHLID



TILAPIA SPECIES



BANDED PYGMY SUNFISH

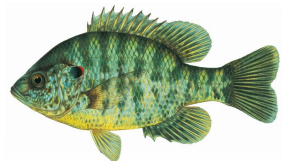
**TOOTH PATCH ON TONGUE  
AND LARGE MOUTH**

**LEPOMIS SPECIES**

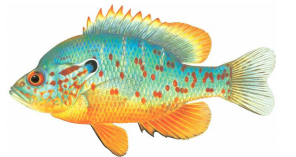
**LONG AND POINTED  
PECTORAL FIN**



WARMOUTH

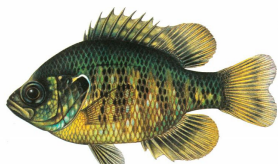


REDEAR



ORANGESPOTTED

**SHORT AND  
ROUNDED  
PECTORAL FIN**



BANTAM



GREEN



DOLLAR



BLUEGILL



REDSPOTTED



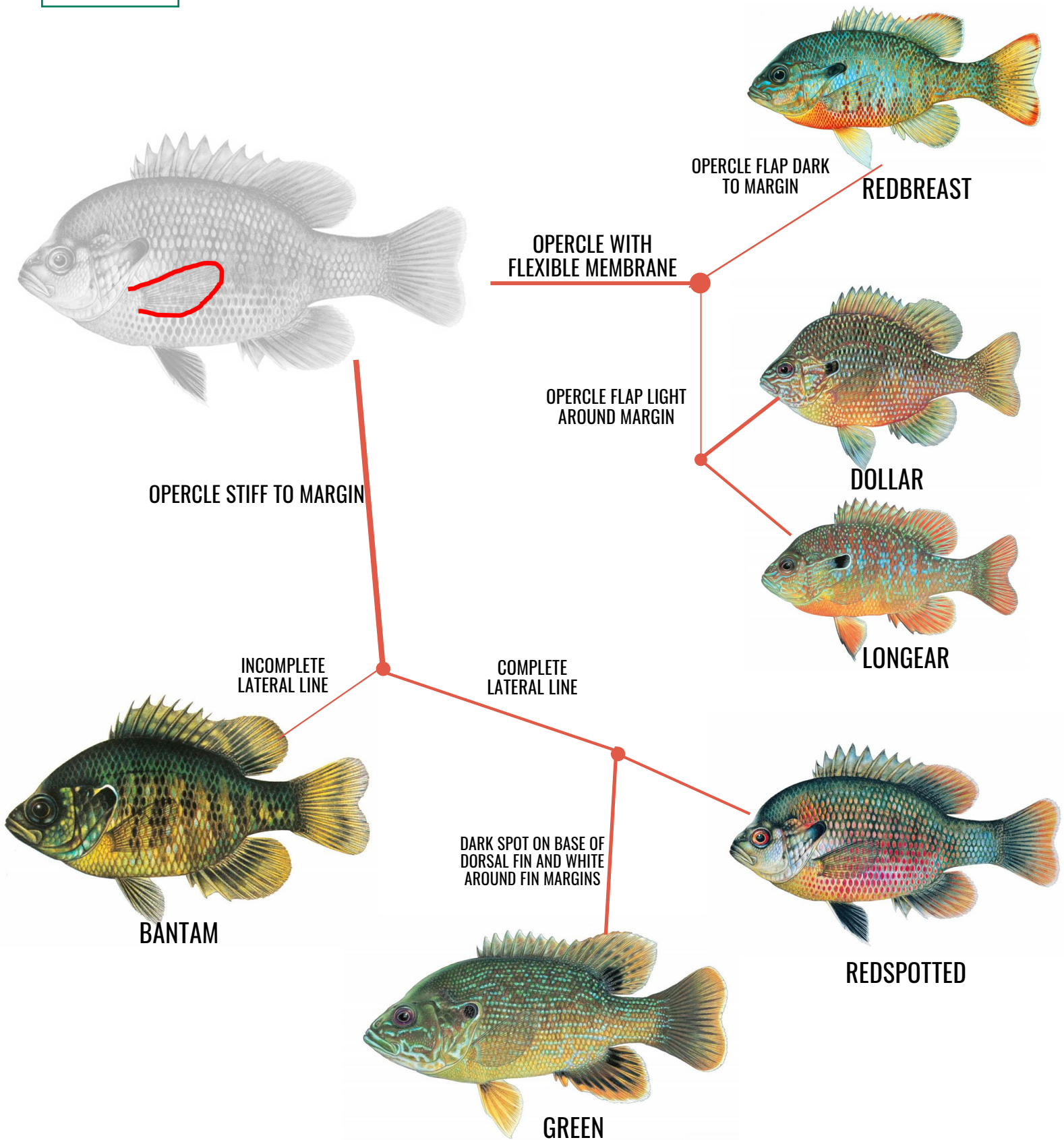
REDBREAST



LONGEAR

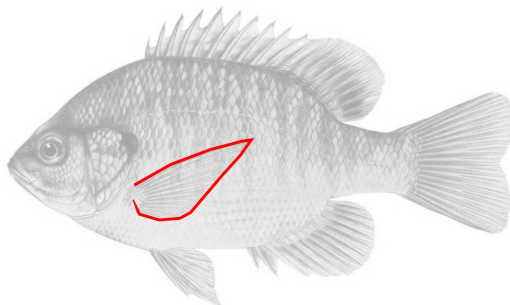


# SUNFISH WITH SHORT AND ROUND PECTORAL FINS





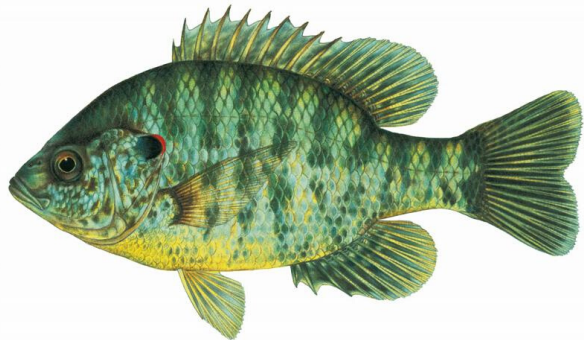
# SUNFISH WITH LONG AND POINTED PECTORAL FINS



## LEPOMIS SPECIES WITH LONG AND POINTED PECTORAL FINS

OPERCLE FLAP WITH REDDISH MARGIN

DARK SPOT AT BASE OF DORSAL FIN

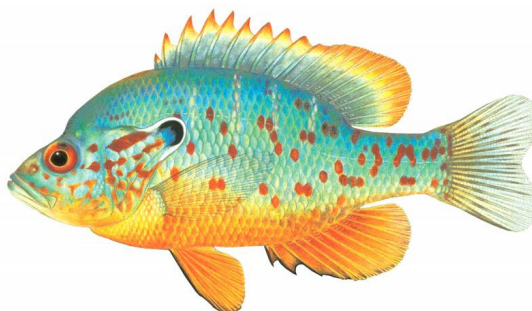


REDEAR



BLUEGILL

BRIGHT ORANGE SPOTS ALONG BODY



ORANGESPOTTED

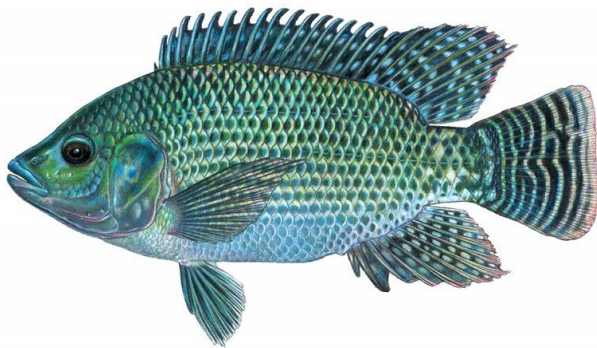
## NOT A SUNFISH: CICHLIDS AND TILAPIA



### Rio Grande Cichlid

Distribution: State Wide.

ID Characteristics: Interrupted lateral line, dark vertical bars on back half of fish.  
Males will get a large nuchal hump (on their head/neck region).



### Tilapia species

Non-native and invasive to Texas.

ID Characteristics: Interrupted lateral line.  
Several species now occur in Texas.



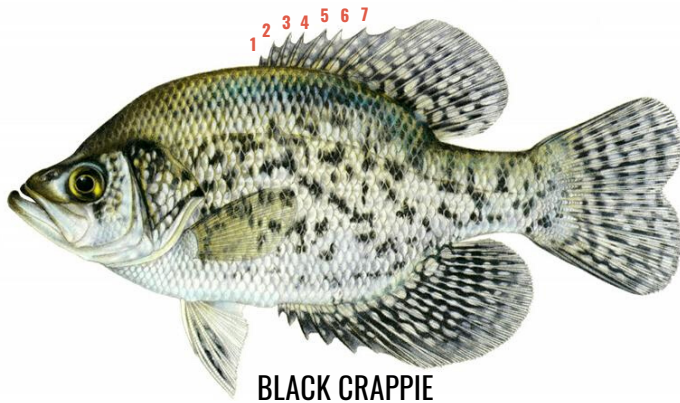
### Banded Pygmy Sunfish

Distribution: Brazos River and East Texas.

ID Characteristics: A very small fish with unique dorsal fin shape.

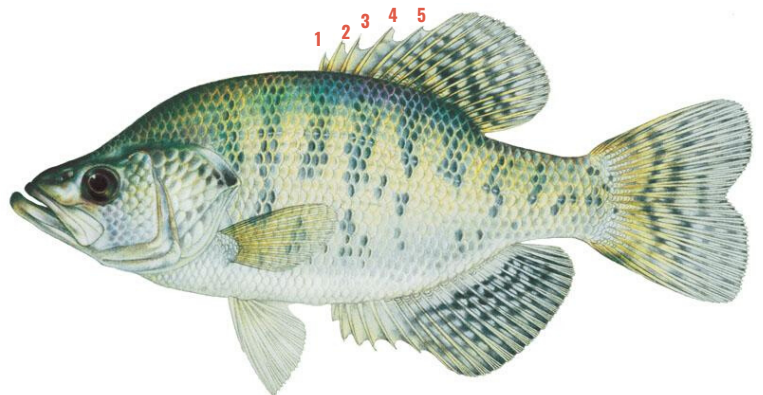


# SUNFISH FAMILY BUT NOT LEPOMIS : CRAPPIE, ROCK BASS, FLIER



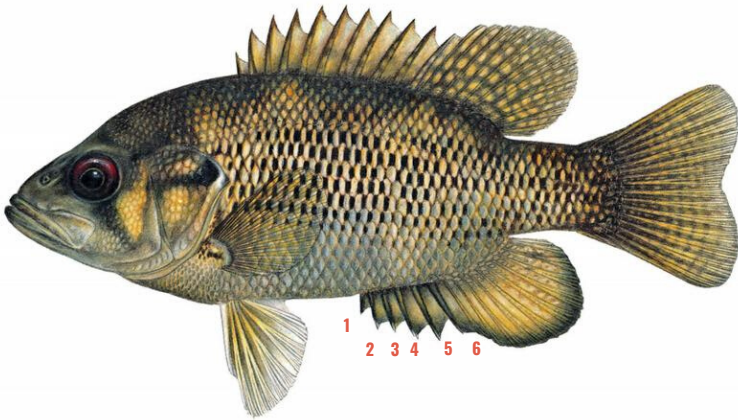
**BLACK CRAPPIE**

Distribution: State Wide  
ID Characteristics: 7 or 8 dorsal fin spines  
Will have more of a spotted coloration pattern.



**WHITE CRAPPIE**

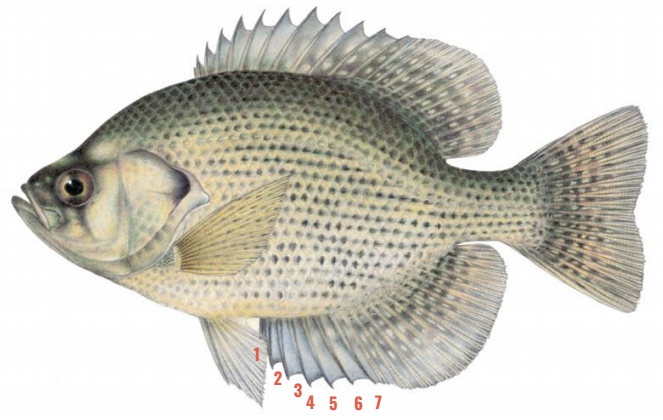
Distribution: State Wide  
ID Characteristics: 5 or 6 dorsal fin spines  
Will have more of a vertical bands coloration pattern.



**ROCK BASS**

**Non-Native Species**

Distribution: San Marcos, Comal, and upper Guadalupe Rivers  
ID Characteristics: Anal fin with 6 spines.



**FLIER**

Distribution: Trinity River and East Texas  
ID Characteristics: Anal fin with 7 to 8 spines.



# WARMOUTH



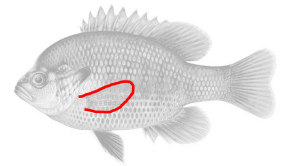
Distribution: State Wide except the Pandandle region  
ID Characteristics: Large mouth and tongue with tooth patch.  
Mottled color pattern. Red color on the edge of the opercle.  
Sometimes confused with Rock Bass.



Tooth patch looks and feels like a rough spot on the tongue.



# SHORT AND ROUND PECTORAL FINS FLEXIBLE OPERCLE FLAP



## REDBREAST

*Non-native Species*

Distribution: State Wide except Panhandle region.

ID Characteristics: Flexible opercle flap that is dark to the edge.



## DOLLAR

Distribution: East Texas

ID Characteristics: Looks very similar to some Longear. Can have spots on the opercle flap. Usually takes some checking in the lab to verify the species ID.



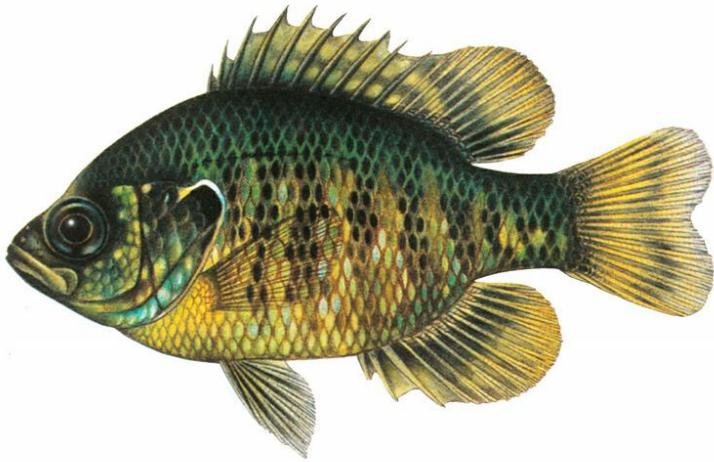
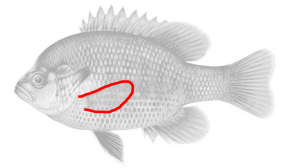
## LONGEAR

Distribution: State Wide

ID Characteristics: White coloration around the opercle flap. Very common across the state.

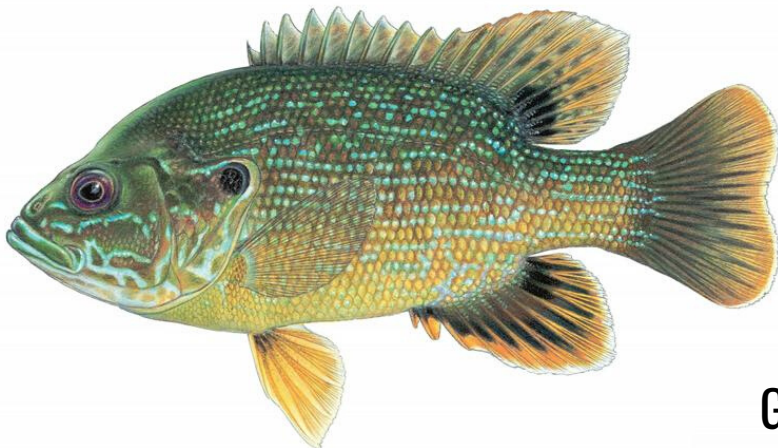


# SHORT AND ROUND PECTORAL FINS STIFF OPERCLE FLAP



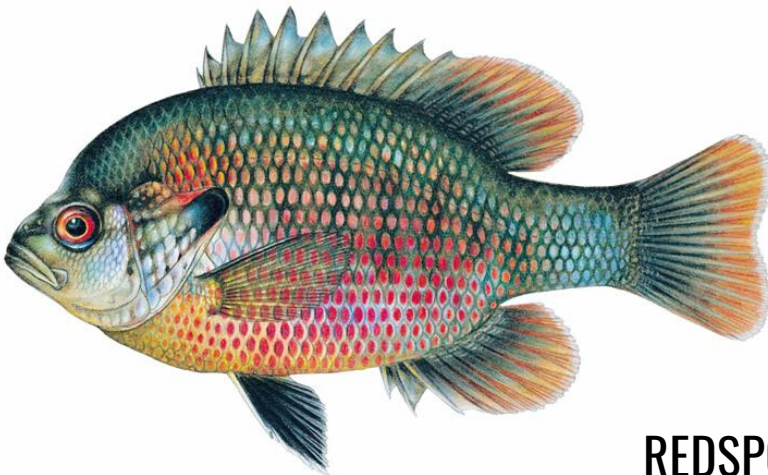
## BANTAM

Distribution: Mostly East Texas.  
ID Characteristics: Incomplete lateral line.



## GREEN

Distribution: State Wide.  
ID Characteristics: Black dot on base of dorsal fin and white on fin margins. Has a large mouth compared to most other sunfish species.

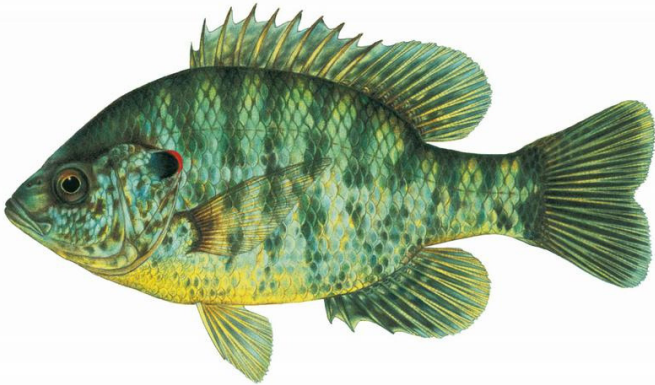
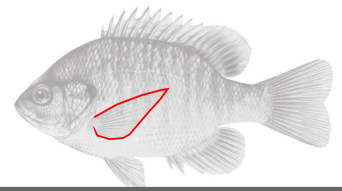


## REDSPOTTED

Distribution: State Wide except for Panhandle and West Texas.  
ID Characteristics: Side of the fish has black or reddish spots on the scales forming lines.

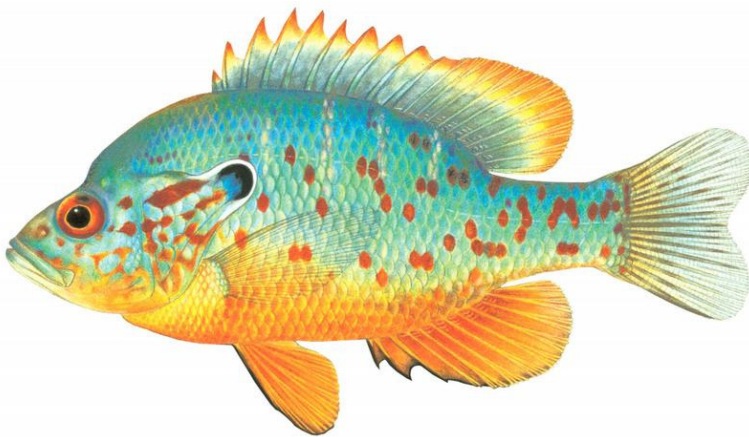


# LONG AND POINTED PECTORAL FINS



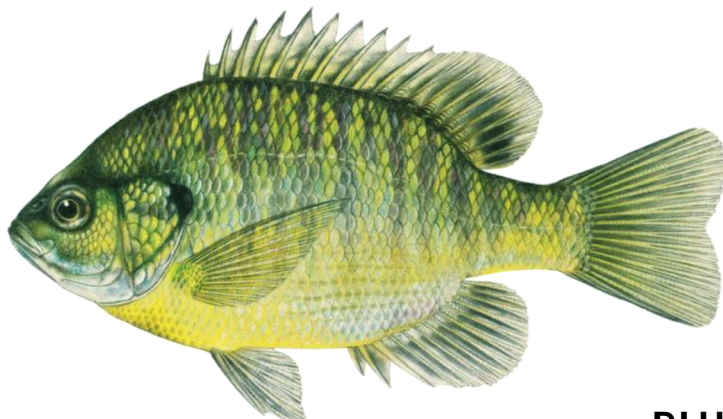
## REDEAR

Distribution: State Wide.  
ID Characteristics: Opercle flap dark with reddish margin.



## ORANGESPOTTED

Distribution: State Wide.  
ID Characteristics: Adults have bright orange spots along the body.  
White margin on opercle flap.



## BLUEGILL

Distribution: State Wide.  
ID Characteristics: Dark spot at base of dorsal fin.



PWD RP T3200-2168 (1/20)

TPWD receives funds from the USFWS. TPWD prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, and gender, pursuant to state and federal law. To request an accommodation or obtain information in an alternative format, please contact TPWD on a Text Telephone (TTY) at (512) 389-8915 or by Relay Texas at 7-1-1 or (800) 735-2989 or by email at [accessibility@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:accessibility@tpwd.texas.gov). If you believe you have been discriminated against by TPWD, please contact TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Workforce Management, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041.