

## Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Fisheries Surveys

The fish shown in this pamphlet are a compilation of all the species collected by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Fish & Wildlife during surveys of Indiana's portion of the Galena River Watershed. The IDNR first surveyed the Galena River in 1978. The purpose of the survey was to investigate fish species presence, water quality, fish habitat and to evaluate the potential of including the Galena River in the Indiana Lake Michigan stocking program. In total 14 different species of fish were collected from four sites. Water quality was found to be very good, however the lack of suitable spawning gravel was thought to limit natural reproduction of trout and salmon. The IDNR returned to survey the Galena River again in September 2001. While only one site was surveyed, 16 different species of fish were collected including. In total 21 species of fish can be found in Indiana's portion of the watershed.

## Did You Know?

Fish have been used for many years to indicate whether streams are clean or polluted, doing better or getting worse. Knowing just whether fish live in the stream is not enough - we need to know what kinds of fish are there, how many, and their health. Fish are excellent indicators of watershed health because they:

- live in the water all of their life
- differ in their tolerance to amount and types of pollution
- are easy to collect with the right equipment
- live for several years are easy to identify in the field



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# Indiana's Fish of the Galena River Watershed

 LaPorte County SWCD



## GALENA RIVER Watershed Partnership

**The Galena River Watershed –  
Protecting and Enhancing Clean Water,  
Species Diversity and Quality of Life**

## Minnow Family

**Creek Chub**– Length 8-10". Often found in small headwater streams. Generalist feeder eating whatever might be available including insects, crayfish, and smaller fish.



**Golden Shiner**– Length < 6". Feeds on planktonic crustaceans, aquatic insects and algae.



## Sucker Family

**White Sucker**– Length 10-16". Often found in same habitats as creek chub. Somewhat of a generalist feeder eating whatever might be available including insects, small crustaceans, and organic rich sediment.



**Northern Hogsucker**– Length 8-15". Often found in streams with permanent flows and sufficient gradient to maintain a clean rocky bottom. Energetic feeder overturning rocks as it forages on aquatic insects.



## Catfish Family

**Stonecat**– Length <8". Commonly found in riffles and runs where it feeds on aquatic insects.



## Perch Family

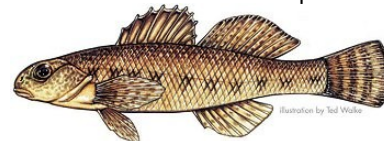
**Blackside Darter**– Length <4". Less a bottom fish than many darters. Found in gravelly riffles, runs and pools where it feeds on aquatic insects.



**Banded Darter**– Length <3". Commonly found in riffles or pools where flows are sufficient to prevent siltation. Feeds on aquatic insects.



**Johnny Darter**– Length <3". More commonly found in quite pools than in riffles. Feeds on aquatic insects.



**Rainbow Darter**– Length <3". Commonly found in riffles, runs and shallow pools with silt free bottoms where it feeds on aquatic insects.



## Lamprey Family

**Brook Lamprey**– Length 4-6". Nonparasitic lamprey which requires clear, permanent flowing streams with clean gravelly riffles for spawning and stable beds of silt, sand, and organic debris for larval development.



## Mudminnow Family

**Central Mudminnow**– Length 2-4". Very hardy fish that is tolerant of low dissolved oxygen and acidic water. Often inhabits bogs, sloughs, swamps and sluggish streams feeding on a variety of invertebrates.



## Pike Family

**Grass Pickerel**– Length <14". Ambush predator commonly found in natural lakes, sloughs and sluggish streams with clear water and aquatic vegetation.



## Other Fish (Gamefish)

- Steelhead
- Chinook
- Bluegill
- Rockbass
- Green Sunfish
- Largemouth Bass
- Black Bullhead
- Brown Bullhead
- Yellow Bullhead

Fish images from Inland Fishes of New York (online) <http://fish.dnr.cornell.edu/nyfish/fish.html> and Gallery of Pennsylvania Fishes (online) <http://www.fish.state.pa.us/pafish/fishhtms/chapindx.htm>