



# SMALLMOUTH BASS

*Micropterus dolomieu*

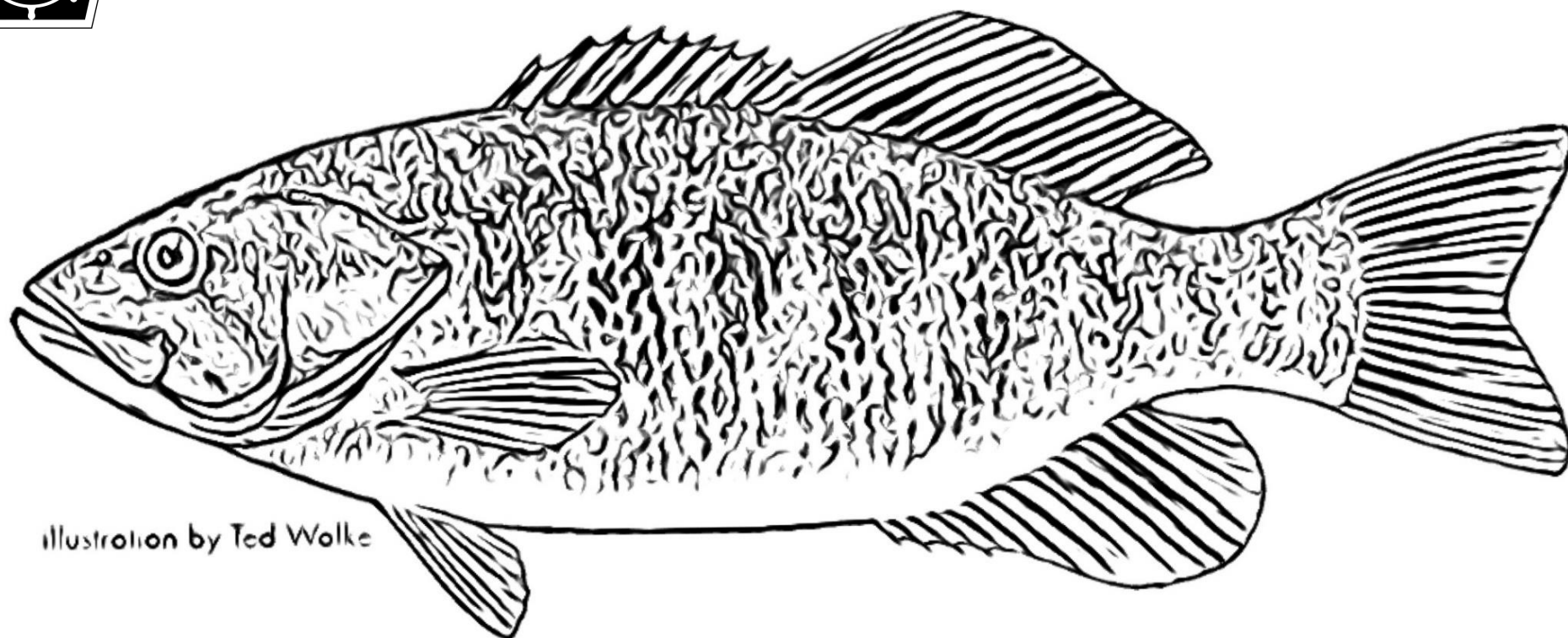


illustration by Ted Wolke

The Smallmouth Bass was native to and found only in the Great Lakes and Ohio River watersheds until the mid-1800s. When the railroads spread around the country in the second half of the 19th century, so did the Smallmouth. It was transported by train and eventually became a popular sport fish throughout the United States. It is now found across Pennsylvania. Because of its body's brownish-gold tints, the Smallmouth has been nicknamed "bronzeback."

The robust-looking Smallmouth has a brownish or bronze cast to its back. It is lighter on the sides and has a white or pale yellow belly. There is a goldish sheen to its scales, and Smallmouths have a series of eight to 15 olive-colored vertical, broken bars along each side.

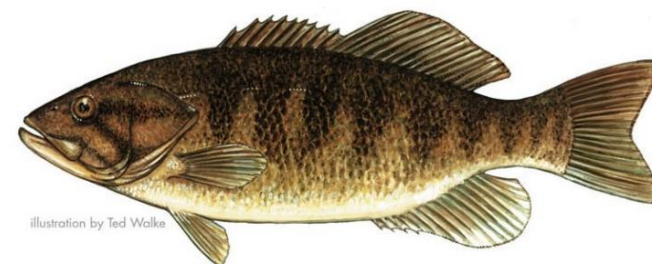


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