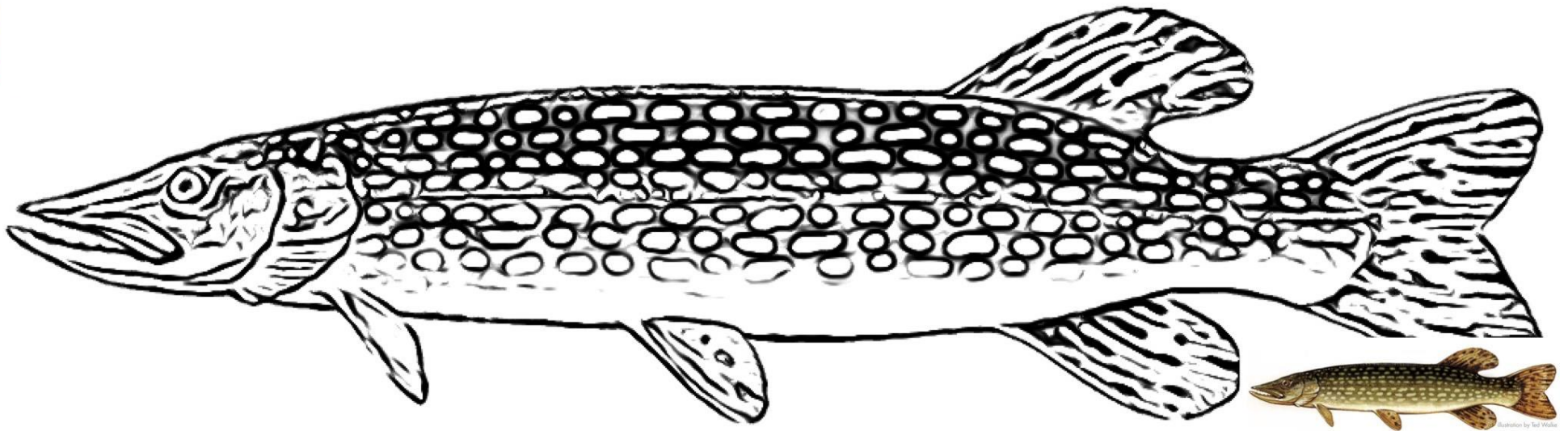




# Northern Pike

*Esox lucius*



The Northern Pike's distribution is circumpolar—it lives in the Northern Hemisphere from North America to Europe and Asia. The Northern Pike has a long history in the Old World and is the subject of romantic myth and melodramatic folklore. The Latin name for the pike is "*lucius*," referring to "Luce, the waterwolf."

In legend, the Northern Pike grows to a frightening size and age, even snapping up men, mules and swans that cross its path. Northern Pike bones were even worn as talismans to defend against witchcraft, and medicines or potions were made of parts of its body. The Anglo-Saxons gave the fish the common name "pike," comparing it to that ancient weapon.

In Pennsylvania, the Northern Pike is native only to the Ohio and Allegheny River watersheds, and to Lake Erie, where it is found in weedy Presque Isle Bay. Northerns grow fast and provide exciting sport. They are eager to bite and make a slashing strike, so they have been stocked in the state outside their natural range, in suitable reservoirs.