

Dedicated to the Memory of
Commissioner Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Jr.



PLAY

Fall
2015

Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

All about the Pike



Family!

There are currently five pike fish species that occur naturally or are native to Pennsylvania. All are popular with Pennsylvania anglers. Their fierce struggle to be caught makes them an attractive sportfish. Those native to Pennsylvania include the Redfin Pickerel, Grass Pickerel, Northern Pike, Muskellunge and Chain Pickerel.

Members of this family have long and slender bodies. They are easily identified by their "duck bill." Females grow faster

and live longer than males. Pike are ambush predators, fish that eat other fish. They wait in cover as their prey approaches. Then, they strike.

Pike are active by day, and most live in coolwater streams and large rivers. They also like lakes with submerged vegetation. The family name "Esocidae" is from "Esox," an old European name for the pike.

In the next few pages, you will learn some interesting facts about the pike family.



Redfin Pickerel
(*Esox americanus americanus*)



Muskellunge
(*Esox masquinongy*)



Northern Pike
(*Esox lucius*)



Grass Pickerel
(*Esox americanus vermiculatus*)



Chain Pickerel
(*Esox niger*)