

Chain Pickerel



Kiersten Dennison, age 12, caught this Chain Pickerel at High Point Lake, Somerset County, using a shiner.

Chain Pickerel

Chain Pickerel are the most abundant species of the pike family. Chain Pickerel can grow to more than 30 inches in length. Trophy Chain Pickerel can weigh 4 to 5 pounds. Pennsylvania's current state record is over 8 pounds.

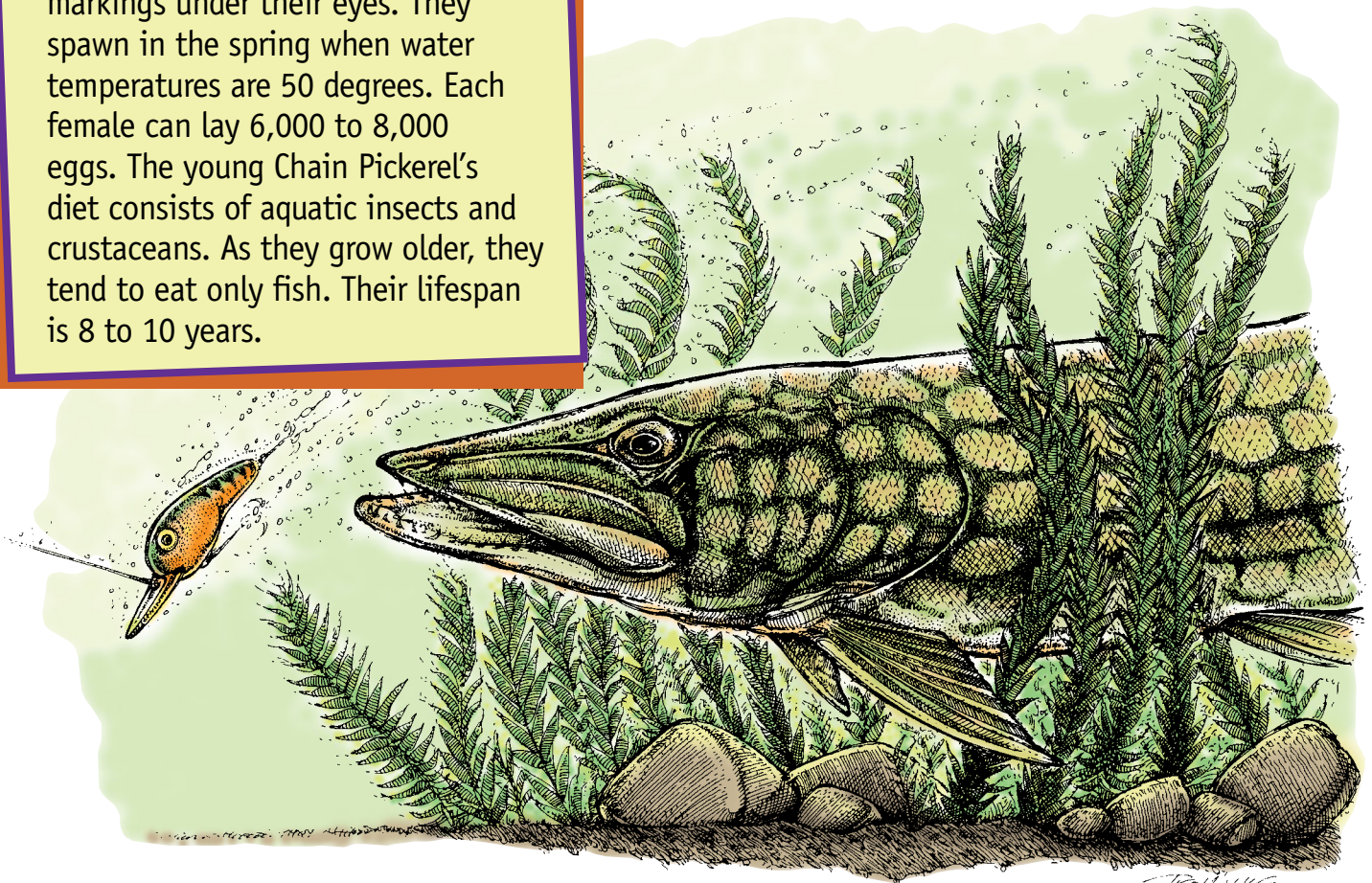


Identification

An easy way to identify a Chain Pickerel is by the teardrop black markings under their eyes. They spawn in the spring when water temperatures are 50 degrees. Each female can lay 6,000 to 8,000 eggs. The young Chain Pickerel's diet consists of aquatic insects and crustaceans. As they grow older, they tend to eat only fish. Their lifespan is 8 to 10 years.

Habitat

Their habitat consists of weed beds and sunken stumps in lakes and rivers. They are commonly shallow water dwellers. However, they can live in deeper lakes.



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