

Muskellunge

What do you think is the largest sportfish in Pennsylvania? Flathead Catfish? No. Northern Pike? No. **Muskellunge**? Yes, you guessed it. The current Pennsylvania state-record Muskellunge was caught at Conneaut Lake, Crawford County, in 1924. It weighed over 54 pounds!

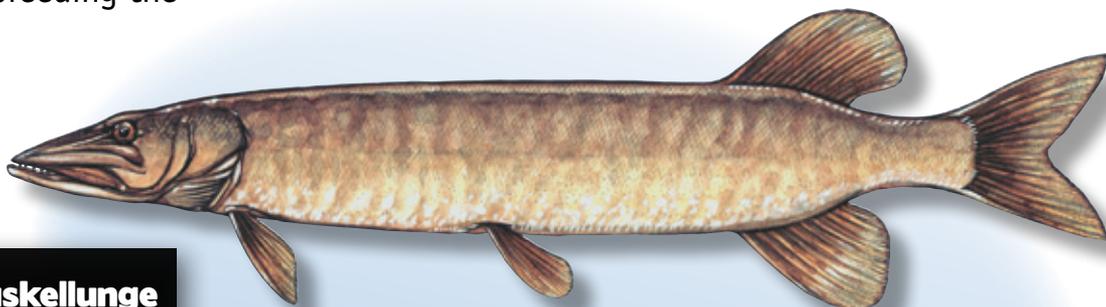
Muskellunge are coolwater fish found in clear natural lakes and rivers. Most Muskellunge can reach over 48 inches long. Muskellunge don't swim far in search of their prey. They are known to be a top predator. Their main diet is fish. However, they won't pass up a snake, muskrat or even waterfowl for food. The average age of a caught musky is 3- to 6-years-old. Their natural life span is up to 20 years. The tiger muskellunge (*Esox lucius x Esox masquinongy*) is a result of crossbreeding the



This Muskellunge was caught by Hunter Rocuskie, age 13, on the Juniata River, Mifflin County.

male Northern Pike with the female Muskellunge. This happens under hatchery conditions. They respond better to hatchery rearing than their purebred parents. Some anglers believe tiger muskellunge are easier to catch. Tiger muskellunge can grow 36 to 48 inches long.

Visit the Commission's Muskellunge webpage at www.fishandboat.com/musky.htm.



Muskellunge



**Tiger
Muskellunge**

Linesville State Fish Hatchery

Linesville State Fish Hatchery, Crawford County, raises Muskellunge. The hatchery produces 70,000 fingerling Muskellunge a year. Most are stocked throughout Pennsylvania lakes and rivers in October. For more information about Linesville State Fish Hatchery, visit www.fishandboat.com.



Linesville State Fish Hatchery

Muskellunge Spawning

Muskellunge spawning season starts in early spring. This occurs when the water temperatures reach 60 degrees F. Male and female Muskellunge swim into the shallow water where trap nets are placed. Adult Muskellunge are collected and the hatchery process begins.

An average female Muskellunge produces 100,000 eggs. Muskellunge fingerlings are grown to an average length of 10 inches before stocking. Most are fed pellets throughout their stay at the hatchery. As they get bigger, they are fed small Fathead Minnows.



Muskellunge – Egg to Creel

Brood stock are trap netted for spawning.



Hatchery staff collect eggs from female.



Milt is removed from male.



Fertilized eggs are placed into hatching jars.



Stocking muskellunge in Pennsylvania waters.
Stocking Size: 10 inches



Muskellunge at fingerling size.
Fingerling: 5 to 7 inches



Twelve-day-old fry with the egg sac still attached.
Sac Fry: 1/8 inch



Muskellunge at 37 days old in rearing tank.
37 Days Old: 1 to 2 inches

Visit us online, or use the QR code at the right to find the best Muskellunge waters in Pennsylvania.



www.fishandboat.com/musky.htm