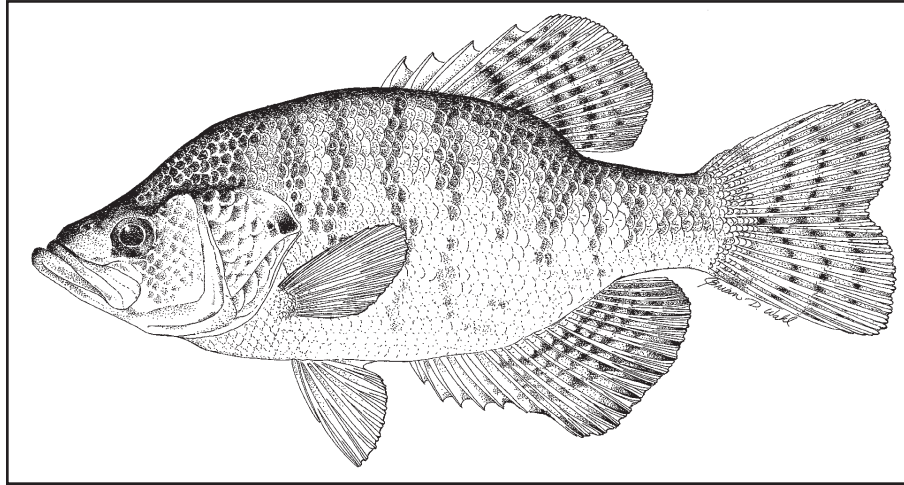


Life History Notes

White Crappie

Common Names: Papermouth, Specks

Scientific Name: *Pomoxis annularis*



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Identification:

White crappie are very compressed with a deep body. The back and sides have 5 to 10 black vertical bands. Their dorsal fin, anal fin, and tail contain a combination of dark spots and bands. The dorsal fin has 5 to 6 spines.

Range and Habitat:

White crappie can be found in most areas of Ohio. They prefer larger ponds, reservoirs, and rivers. They are also found in nearshore habitat in Lake Erie. White crappie are tolerant of a wide variety of conditions, including areas of silt and turbidity. This species is usually found near structure such as fallen trees, stumps, docks, rocks, and aquatic vegetation.

Life History:

White crappie spawn in May and June. Males construct nests by fanning out small depressions on the bottom in and around brush, rocks, and vegetation in water between 1 and

5 feet deep. Females lay 5,000 to 30,000 eggs. Young crappie feed on zooplankton and insect larvae during their first year of life. As they grow they switch to a diet of small fish.

Adult Size:

White crappie average 8 to 12 inches in Ohio. The state record fish was 3.9 pounds and measured 18.5 inches in length.

Fishing Methods:

White crappie bite best on live minnows, small jigs, and spinners. The best time to fish for white crappie is during the spring spawning season when fish move into shallow shoreline areas. Anglers should concentrate on areas with brush, stumps, and docks. During summer and early fall, crappie move into deeper water along creek channels, roadbeds, and submerged points. The fall can be another hot time for crappie as they move inshore again for a short time.