

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

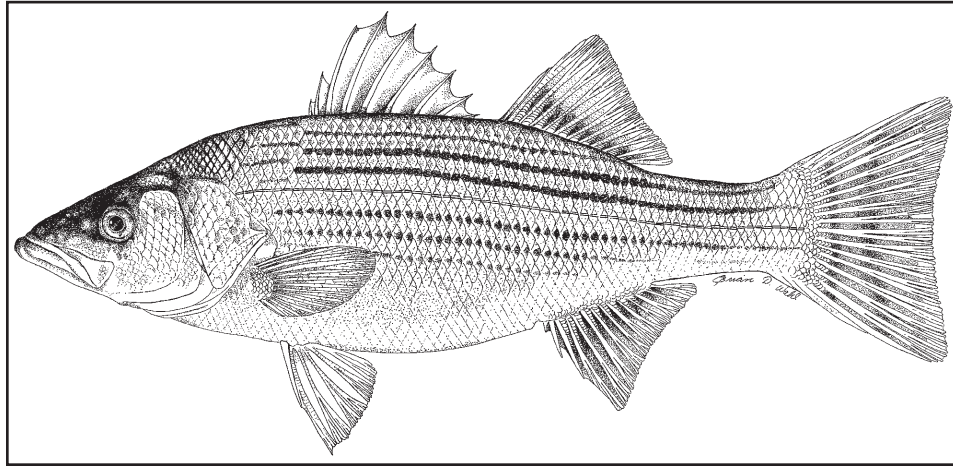
Division of Wildlife

Life History Notes

Striped Bass

Common Names: Striper

Scientific Name: *Morone saxatilis*



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Identification

Striped bass are a long silvery fish with 7 to 9 distinct black stripes running lengthwise along the sides and back. Teeth on the base of the tongue are arranged in two parallel patches.

Range and Habitat

Striped bass are native to the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coast where they spawn in coastal rivers and spend the majority of the year in salt water. Since the 1950s, striped bass have been stocked in inland impoundments across the United States. Currently in Ohio, they are only stocked in Senecaville Lake to maintain a brood stock for the hybrid striped bass program.

Life History

Striped bass spawn in the spring in flowing water. The female releases eggs into the water column where they are fertilized by the male. The eggs are left to drift with the water until they hatch. If the eggs settle to the bottom they will not survive. Because striped bass eggs require long stretches of river to hatch,

successful reproduction occurs in only a handful of reservoirs in the United States. All other reservoirs with striped bass populations require stocking to maintain them. Young stripers prefer sandy areas like beaches where they feed on microscopic organisms. Adults usually live in cool open water areas and feed on gizzard shad. Large striped bass can eat gizzard shad up to 24 inches in length. Striped bass grow fast and can live up to 20 years in the wild.

Adult Size

Generally, striped bass run between 1 and 5 pounds and are between 12 and 24 inches in length in Ohio. They grow much larger in saltwater.

Fishing Methods

Striped bass are best caught with live gizzard shad. Lead head jigs, jiggling spoons, and crankbaits are good lures for casting. Trolling with large, deep-diving crankbaits can also be effective.