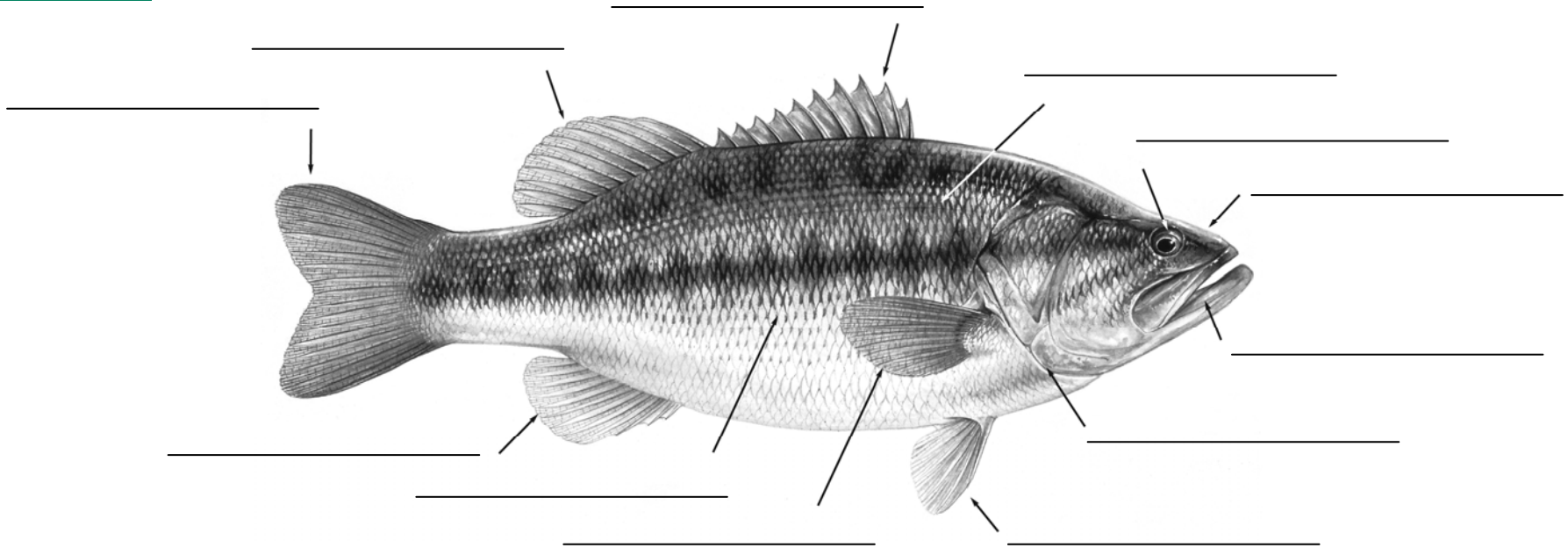


FISH ANATOMY ~ FILL IN THE BLANKS



WORD LIST:

Anal fin

Caudal fin

Eye

Lateral Line

Mouth

Nares

Operculum (gill flap)

Pectoral fin

Pelvic fin

Scales

Soft dorsal fin

Spiny dorsal fin

Fish Anatomy

Gills- filter out oxygen for the fish

Opercles (Operculum)- the gill cover.

Mouth- Shapes of mouths can give clues about where fishes feed. Mouths turned upward indicated top water feeders. Bottom feeders will have mouths angled downward.

Nares (nostrils) - openings that aid in the sense of smell. Small flaps or ridges behind the anterior nares aid in guiding water into the olfactory organs.

Eyes- have fixed irises and no eyelids. Fish are “nearsighted” and can see clearly at short distances.

Lateral Line- not found on any other species of animal. This organ detects sound and responds to low frequency vibrations in the water. It is located on the outside of the fish’s body.

Scales- protect the fish and are often used to tell a fish’s age (by counting the growth rings).

Pectoral fins - correspond to an animal arm. They are used for locomotion, braking for sudden stops, staying in one place and for fine-tuning a fish’s position.

Anal fin - are usually short based and located behind the anus.

Spiny & soft dorsal fins- help stabilize and make quick changes in direction. They can also be used along with the caudal and anal fins for braking.

Caudal fin – or tail fins, give clues to the swimming habits, speed and maneuverability of a fish. For example, fishes that have a crescent-shaped caudal fin are generally the speediest of fishes and are capable of rapid, sustained motion. Forked tails indicate speed and these fish are constantly on the move. Broad tails indicate a fish that can turn quickly.

Pelvic Fins- correspond to animal legs and aid in positioning, braking and balance. In some fish they have special functions such as holding, grasping, or crawling.