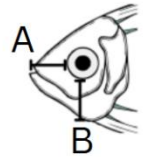


TPWD Fish Dichotomous Key

- 1a. Distance from the front of eye to the tip of lips (A) is greater than the distance from under eye to bottom of fish head (B) – go to 2
- 1b. Distance from just before eye to tip of lips (A) is less than distance from under eye to bottom of fish head (B) – go to 7



- 2a. Fish has a pointed bill-like snout – go to 6
- 2b. Fish does not have a pointed bill-like snout – go to 3

- 3a. Fish has a forked tail fin – go to 4
- 3b. Fish does not have a forked tail fin – go to 5

- 4a. Fish does not have an operculum – **Bull Shark**
- 4b. Fish has an operculum – **Spanish Mackerel**

- 5a. Fish has a protruding lower jaw – **American Eel**
- 5b. Fish does not have a protruding lower jaw – **Alligator Gar**

- 6a. Fish has forked adipose fin – **Sailfish**
- 6b. Fish does not have forked adipose fin – **Paddlefish**

- 7a. Fish has both eyes on one side of the body – **Flounder**
- 7b. Fish has one eye on each side of the body – go to 8

- 8a. Fish has a long, single dorsal fin extending the length of the back – go to 9
- 8b. Fish does not have a long, single dorsal fin extending the length of the back – go to 12

- 9a. Fish has black spot near tail fin – go to 10
- 9b. Fish does not have a distinct black spot near tail fin – go to 11

- 10a. Fish has a rounded tail fin – **Bowfin**
- 10. Fish has does not have a rounded tail fin – go to 12

- 11a. Fish's fins have a yellow outline – **Green Sunfish**
- 11b. Fish's fins do not have a yellow outline – go to 12

- 12b. Fish has a rounded tail fin – **Pecos Gambusia**
- 12c. Fish does not have a rounded tail fin – go to 13

- 13a. Fish has single dorsal fin, extending the length of the body, comes to a point – **Blue Tilapia**
- 13b. Fish does not have a single dorsal fin, extending the length of the body, that comes to a point – go to 14

- 14a. Fish has at least one horizontal stripe on the body (not including lateral line or head) – go to 15
- 14b. Fish does not have horizontal stripes on the body – go to 16

- 15a. Fish has multiple horizontal stripes on the body – **Striped Bass**
15c. Fish has one horizontal stripe on the body – **Largemouth Bass**
- 16a. Fish has a black and white vertical striped pattern – **Sheepshead**
16b. Fish does not have a black and white vertical striped pattern – go to 17
- 17a. Fish has vertical bars on the body – **Guadalupe Bass**
17b. Fish does not have vertical bars on the body – go to 18
- 18a. Fish has a single dark spot on the side of the body – go to 21
18b. Fish has multiple spots or no spots on the side of the body – go to 19
- 19a. Fish has multiple spots or speckles on the side of the body – go to 20
19b. Fish does not have spots on the side of the body – go to 24
- 20a. Fish has black spots on the back half of the body – **Spotted Seatrout**
20b. Fish has black spots throughout the entire body – go to 23
- 21a. Fish has a single dark spot near head – **Gizzard Shad**
21b. Fish has a single dark spot near tail – go to 22
- 22a. Fish has a single, triangular dorsal fin – **Blacktail Shiner**
22b. Fish does not have single, triangular dorsal fin – **Red Drum (Redfish)**
- 23a. Fish has a colorful iridescent body – **Rainbow Trout**
23b. Fish does not have a colorful iridescent body – go to 27
- 24a. Fish has a large mouth with protruding lower jaw – go to 25
24b. Fish does not have a large mouth with protruding lower jaw – go to 26
- 25a. Fish has a forked caudal fin – **Tarpon**
25b. Fish does not have a forked caudal fin – **American Eel**
- 26a. Fish is bright red color – **Red Snapper**
26b. Fish is not a bright red color – go to 28
27. Fish has barbels on top, side, and below the mouth – **Channel Catfish**
- 28a. Fish pectoral fins are larger than pelvic fins – **Bull Shark**
28b. Fish does not have pectoral fins are larger than pelvic fins – **Common Carp**

TPWD Fish Dichotomous Key

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____