

striped bass *Morone saxatilis*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Perciformes

Family: Moronidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, nonnative

FEATURES

The striped bass has two separate dorsal fins. The sides have distinct stripes, including a stripe below the lateral line that is complete through the tail. The tongue has two tooth patches. A spine is present on the gill cover. The body is olive-green on the back, silver on the sides and white on the belly. This fish often exceeds five pounds in weight and may reach 50 pounds.

BEHAVIORS

The striped bass lives along the coast of North America in shores, bays and estuaries. It has been stocked in many lakes and reservoirs. This fish spawns in spring. Its eggs must be suspended by a moving water current until hatching, about 36 to 75 hours. This fish eats fishes and insects. The striped bass is native to the Atlantic coast region of North America.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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