

Connecticut Fish Key

- 0a. Lacks jaws.....Go to #44
- 0b. Has jaws.....Go to #1

- 1a. Flat.....Go to #2
- 1b. Not Flat.....Go to #6

- 2a. Pectoral fins attached to head.....**Skate or Ray**
- 2b. Pectoral fins not attached to head.....Go to #3

- 3a. Faces left (mouth on left side).....Go to #4
- 3b. Faces right (mouth on right side).....Go to #5

- 4a. Scales relatively large.....***Etropus* (Smallmouth flounder)**
- 4b. Scales relatively small, teeth large.....***Paralichthys dentatus* (summer flounder)**

- 5a. No pectoral fin.....***Trinectes maculatus* (Hogchocker)**
- 5b. Pectoral fin present.....***Pseudopleuronectes americanus* (Winter Flounder)**

- 6a. Anguilliform (eel-shaped).....***Anguilla rostrata* (American eel)**
- 6b. Not anguilliform.....Go to #7

- 7a. Barbels present.....Go to #8
- 7b. Barbels not presentGo to #11

- 8a. 4 pairs of barbels.....Go to #9
- 8b. Fewer than 4 pairs of barbels.....Go to #10

- 9a. Tail deeply forked.....***Ictalurus punctatus* (Channel catfish)**
- 9b. Tail not deeply forked.....***Ameiurus nebulosus* (Brown bullhead)**

- 10a. 2 pairs of barbels.....***Cyprinus carpio* (Common carp)**
- 10b. 1 single barbel on chin.....***Microgadus tomcod* (Tomcod)**

- 11a. Sucker-shaped mouth.....***Catostomus commersoni* (White sucker)**
- 11b. Mouth not sucker-shaped.....Go to #12

- 12a. Adipose fin present.....***Salmo salar* (Atlantic salmon)**
- 12b. Adipose fin not present.....Go to #13

- 13a. Placoid scales.....***Squalus* sp. (Dogfish)**
- 13b. Scales not placoid.....Go to #14

- 14a. Sawtooth ventral keel.....Go to #15
- 14b. No sawtooth ventral keel.....Go to #17

- 15a. Stripe on body.....***Dorosoma cepedianum* (Gizzard shad)**
 15b. No stripe on body.....Go to #16
- 16a. Anal fin rays very short.....***Alosa aestivalis* (Blueback herring)**
 16b. Anal fin rays not short.....***Alosa pseudoharengus* (Alewife)**
- 17a. Dorsal fin with single ray.....Go to #18
 17b. Dorsal fin with more than a single ray.....Go to #25
- 18a. Mouth resembles duck's bill.....***Esox niger* (Chain pickerel)**
 18b. Mouth does not resemble duck's bill.....Go to #19
- 19a. Body deep.....***Poronotus triacanthus* (Butterfish)**
 19b. Body not deep.....Go to #20
- 20a. Mouth superiorly oriented.....Go to #21
 20b. Mouth not oriented superiorly.....Go to #22
- 21a. Horizontal stripe near full length of side of body.....***Menidia menidia* (Atlantic silverside)**
 21b. No full-length horizontal stripe on side of body.....***Fundulus majalis* (Striped killifish)**
- 22a. Keel present. eye diameter = snout-to-eye length.***Notemigonus crysoleucus* (Golden shiner)**
 22b. No keel, eye diameter not equal to snout-to-eye length.....Go to #23
- 23a. Horizontal stripe present, lateral line dotted.....***Notropis bifrenatus* (Bridle shiner)**
 23b. Horizontal stripe not present.....Go to #24
- 24a. Eye diameter greater than eye-to-snout length.....***Anchoa mitchilli* (Bay anchovy)**
 24b. Eye diameter not greater than eye-to-snout length.....***Semotilus corporalis* (Fallfish)**
- 25a. Spiny and rayed dorsal fins not separated.....Go to #26
 25b. Spiny and rayed dorsal fins are separated.....Go to #31
- 26a. Forehead concave.....***Pomoxis nigromaculatus* (Black crappie)**
 26b. Forehead not concave.....Go to #27
- 27a. Operculum has a flap resembling an "ear flap"Go to #28
 27b. Operculum lacks such a flap.....Go to #29
- 28a. Operculum flap short.....***Lepomis gibbosus* (Pumpkinseed)**
 28b. Operculum flap long and fleshy, but not larger than eye.....***Lepomis macrochirus* (Bluegill)**
- 29a. Mouth small.....Go to #30
 29b. Mouth large.....***Centropristis striata* (Black seabass)**
- 30a. Pectoral fins fan-shaped.....***Tautoga onitus* (Tautog)**
 30b. Pectoral fins tapered.....***Stenotomus chrysops* (Scup, Porgie)**

- 31a. Head is broad and armed with bony knobs or sharp spines.....Go to #32
 31b. Head is not broad and no armed with spines.....Go to #34
- 32a. Three detached (free) pectoral rays.....Go to #33
 32b. No free pectoral rays..... **Cottidae (sculpins & grubby)**
- 33a. Two horizontal stripes present.....**Prionotus evolans (Striped searobin)**
 33b. Horizontal stripes absent.....**Prionotus carolinus (Northern searobin)**
- 34a. Seven horizontal stripes.....**Morone saxatilis (Striped bass)**
 34b. Fewer than 7 (or NO) horizontal stripes.....Go to #35
- 35a. Corner of mouth extends past eye.....**Micropterus salmoides (Largemouth bass)**
 35b. Corner of mouth does not extend past eye.....Go to #36
- 36a. Snout points downward, dark spot behind the gill.....**Leiostomus xanthurus (Spot)**
 36b. Snout not pointed downward and lacking spot.....Go to #37
- 37a. Base of second dorsal fin much longer than first.....Go to #38
 37b. Bass of second dorsal fin not longer than first.....Go to #40
- 38a. Villiform teeth.....**Merluccius bilinearis (Silver hake)**
 38b. Teeth not villiform.....Go to #39
- 39a. Two large teeth resembling canine teeth.....**Cynoscion regalis (Weakfish)**
 39b. Large teeth evenly spaced.....**Pomatomus saltatrix (Bluefish)**
- 40a. First dorsal fin is made of free-standing spines.....Go to #41
 40b. No freestanding spines in first dorsal fin.....Go to #42
- 41a. First dorsal fin is 4 spines.....**Apeltes quadracus (Fourspine stickleback)**
 41b. First dorsal fin is 9 interlocking spines.....**Pungitius pungitius (Ninespine stickleback)**
- 42a. Belly flattened (ventrally compressed).....**Etheostoma olmstedti (Tessellated darter)**
 42b. Body flattened form side-to-side.....Go to #43
- 43a. Seven saddles that extend onto body.....**Perca flavescens (Yellow perch)**
 43b. No such saddles.....**Micropterus dolomieu (Smallmouth bass)**
- 44a. Jawless mouth is disk-shaped with lingual tooth.....**Petromyzontidae (Lamprey)**
 44b. Jawless mouth not disk-shaped, but has tentacles.....**Mixini (Hagfish)**