



MUSKELLUNGE

Esox masquinongy

Description:

- ◇ light background with dark markings
- ◇ usually olive to tan background with non-branching dark bars
- ◇ scales only on upper half of both the cheeks and gill covers
- ◇ females grow faster and larger than males
- ◇ teeth simply used to hold prey and do not mesh like sharks teeth
- ◇ 16-19 branchiostegal rays
- ◇ no bar below the eye

Size:

- ◇ up to 72 inches and can grow to 40 pounds

Range:

- ◇ originally St. Lawrence River - Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and Mississippi River basins from Quebec to southeastern Manitoba and south in the Appalachians to Georgia and west to Iowa
- ◇ Introduced into Atlantic drainages as far south as southern Virginia

Facts:

- ◇ largest member of the pike family
- ◇ feed primarily on other fish
- ◇ opportunistic ambush predators
- ◇ females live longer than males
- ◇ one of the most desired trophy fish of the great lakes region
- ◇ vary greatly in color and markings

MUSKELLUNGE CATCH TOTALS

Year	Total
1987	1
Grand Total	1

*muskellunges were only caught during the years shown

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Bureau of Marine Fisheries
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