

Emerald Coast Regional Envirothon Fish Identification

Aquatics

Preopercal has distinct bony knob at angle with notch above.

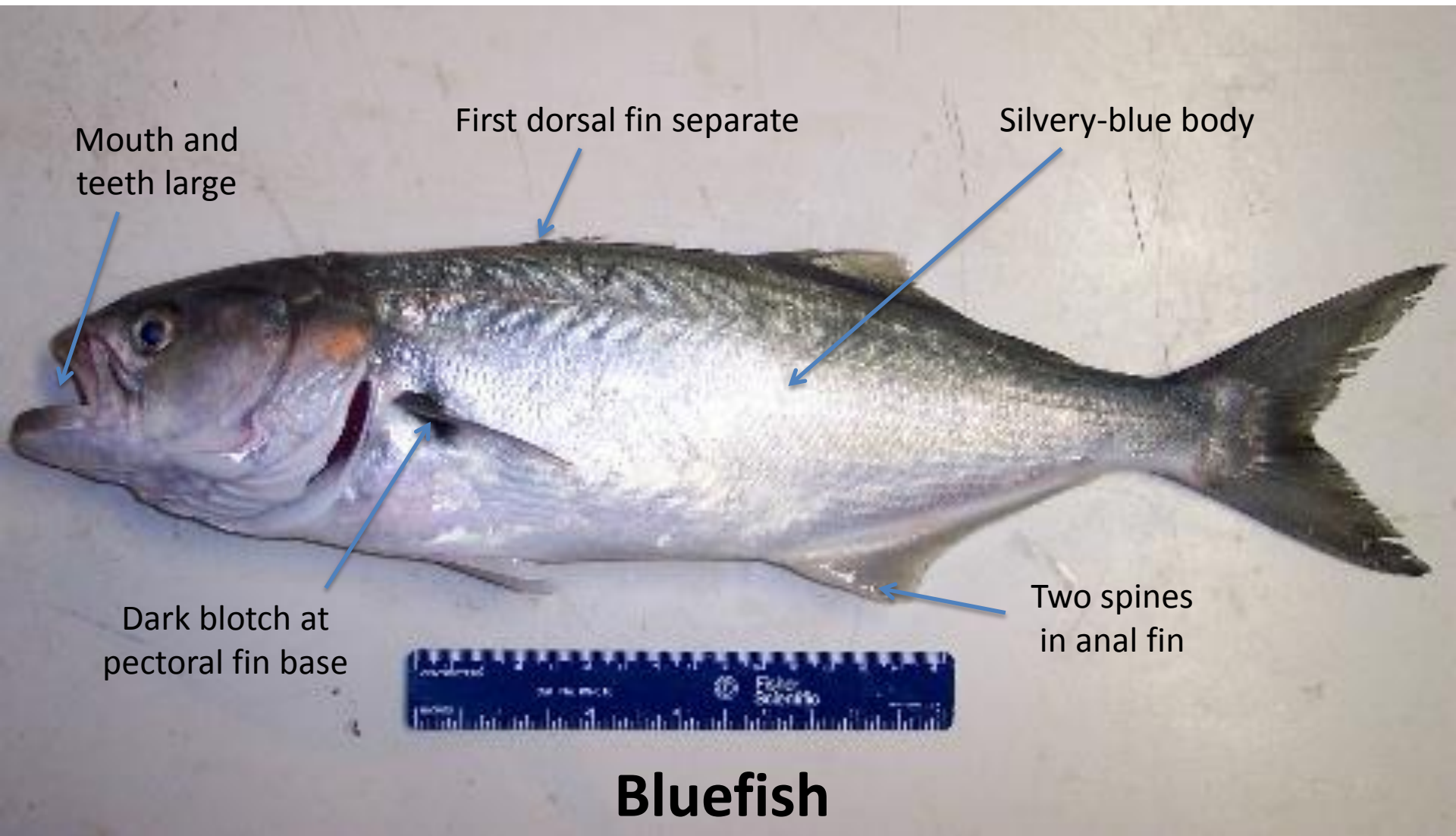
Many dark wormlike markings on body, often grouped in blotches (Marbled).



Gag Grouper

Sea Bass Family

Saltwater Fish



Mouth and teeth large

First dorsal fin separate

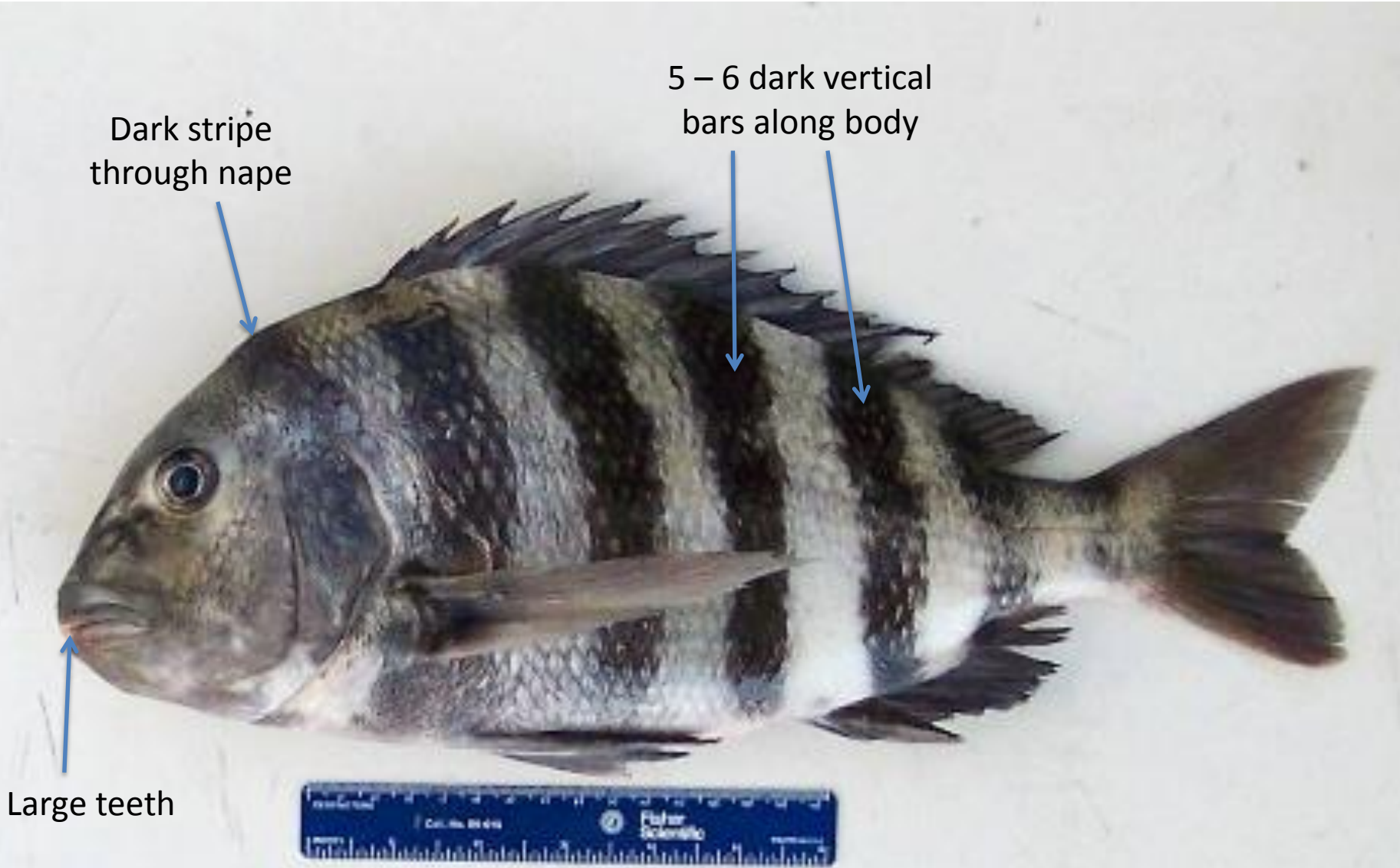
Silvery-blue body

Dark blotch at pectoral fin base

Two spines in anal fin

Bluefish

Bluefish Family
Saltwater Fish



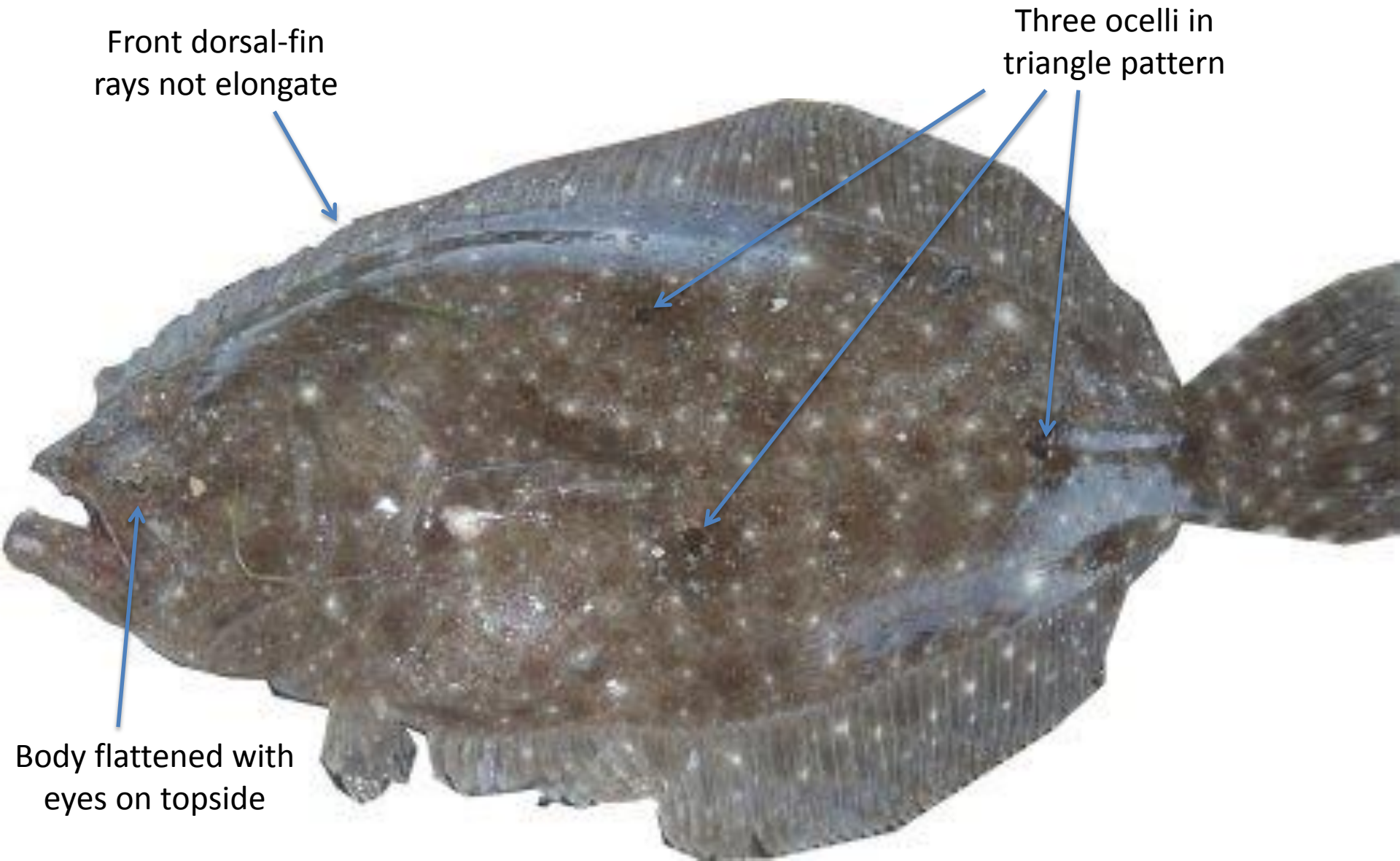
Dark stripe
through nape

5 – 6 dark vertical
bars along body

Large teeth

Sheepshead

Porgy Family
Saltwater Fish

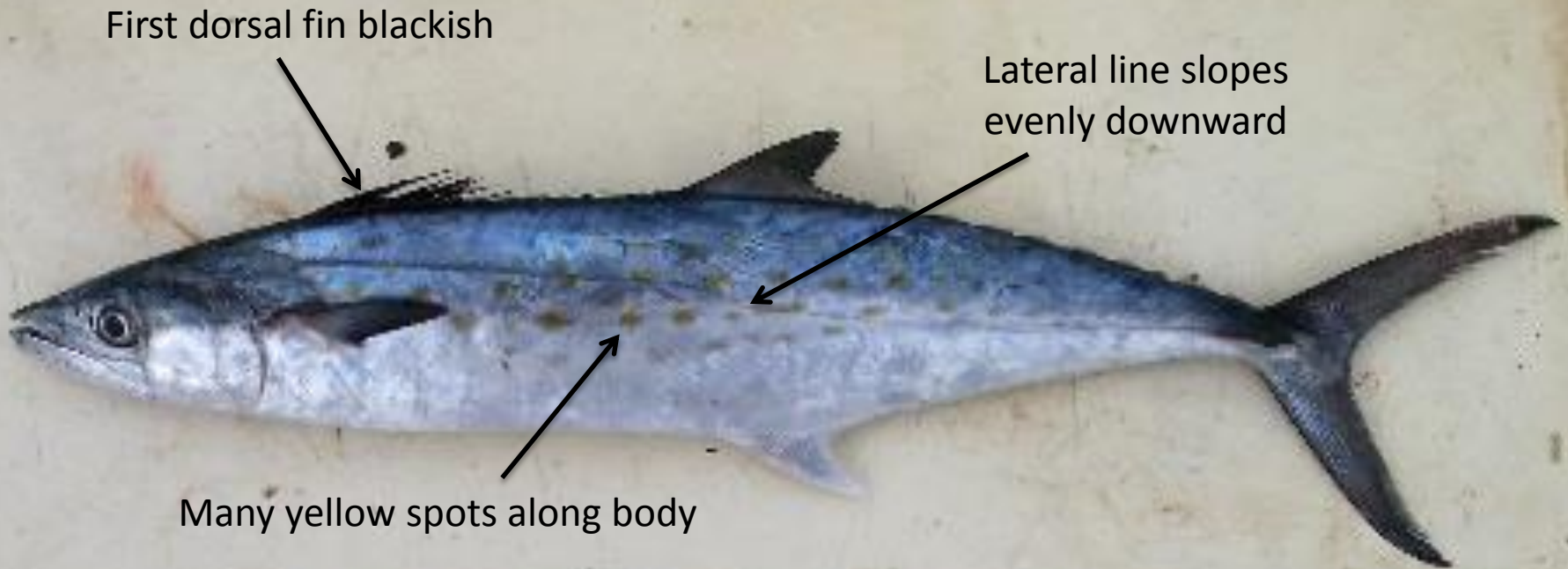


Front dorsal-fin rays not elongate

Three ocelli in triangle pattern

Body flattened with eyes on topside

Gulf Flounder
Left-eye Flounder Family
Saltwater Fish



First dorsal fin blackish

Lateral line slopes evenly downward

Many yellow spots along body

Spanish Mackerel

Mackerel Family

Saltwater Fish



One or more enlarged scales behind gill opening

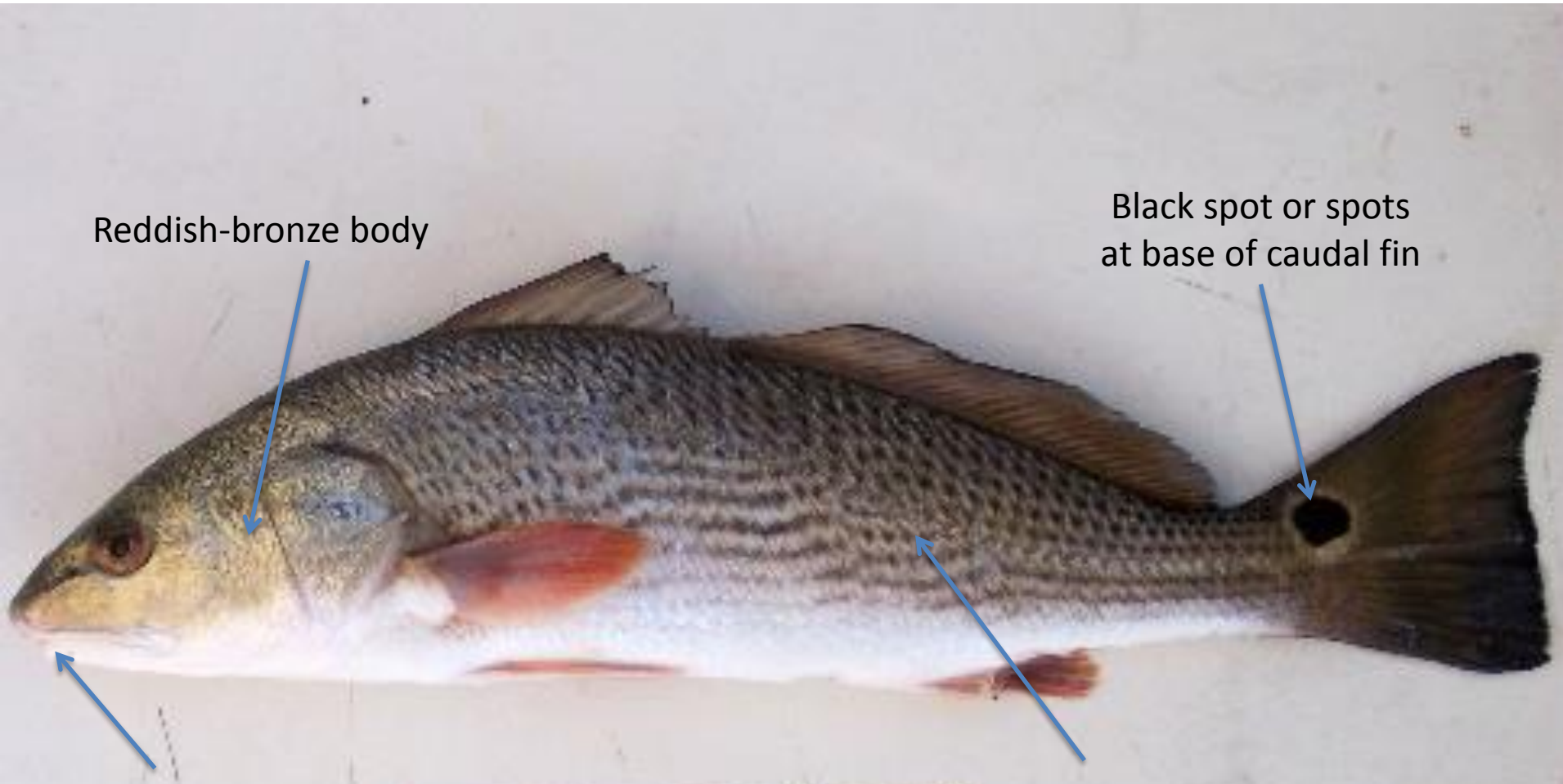
Caudal fin lobes elongate

Body Gray

Gray Triggerfish
Leatherjacket Family
Saltwater Fish

Dorsal and anal fins marbled





Reddish-bronze body

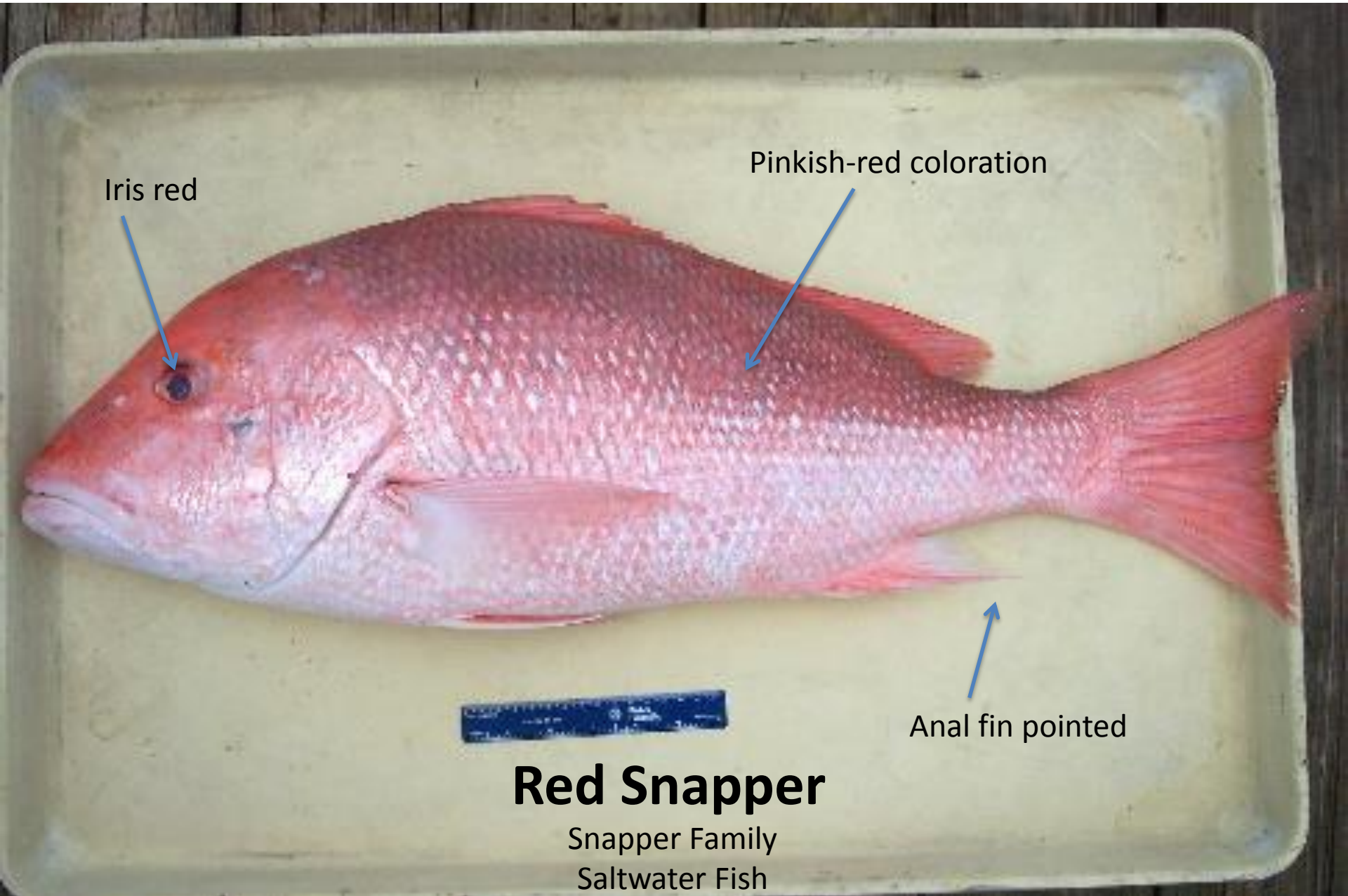
Black spot or spots at base of caudal fin

No chin barbels; mouth inferior

Dark centers of scales form obscure rows

Red Drum

Drum Family
Saltwater Fish



Iris red

Pinkish-red coloration

Anal fin pointed

Red Snapper

Snapper Family
Saltwater Fish

Yellow and red "racing stripes" horizontal down body

Spot centered above lateral line

Caudal-fin black edged

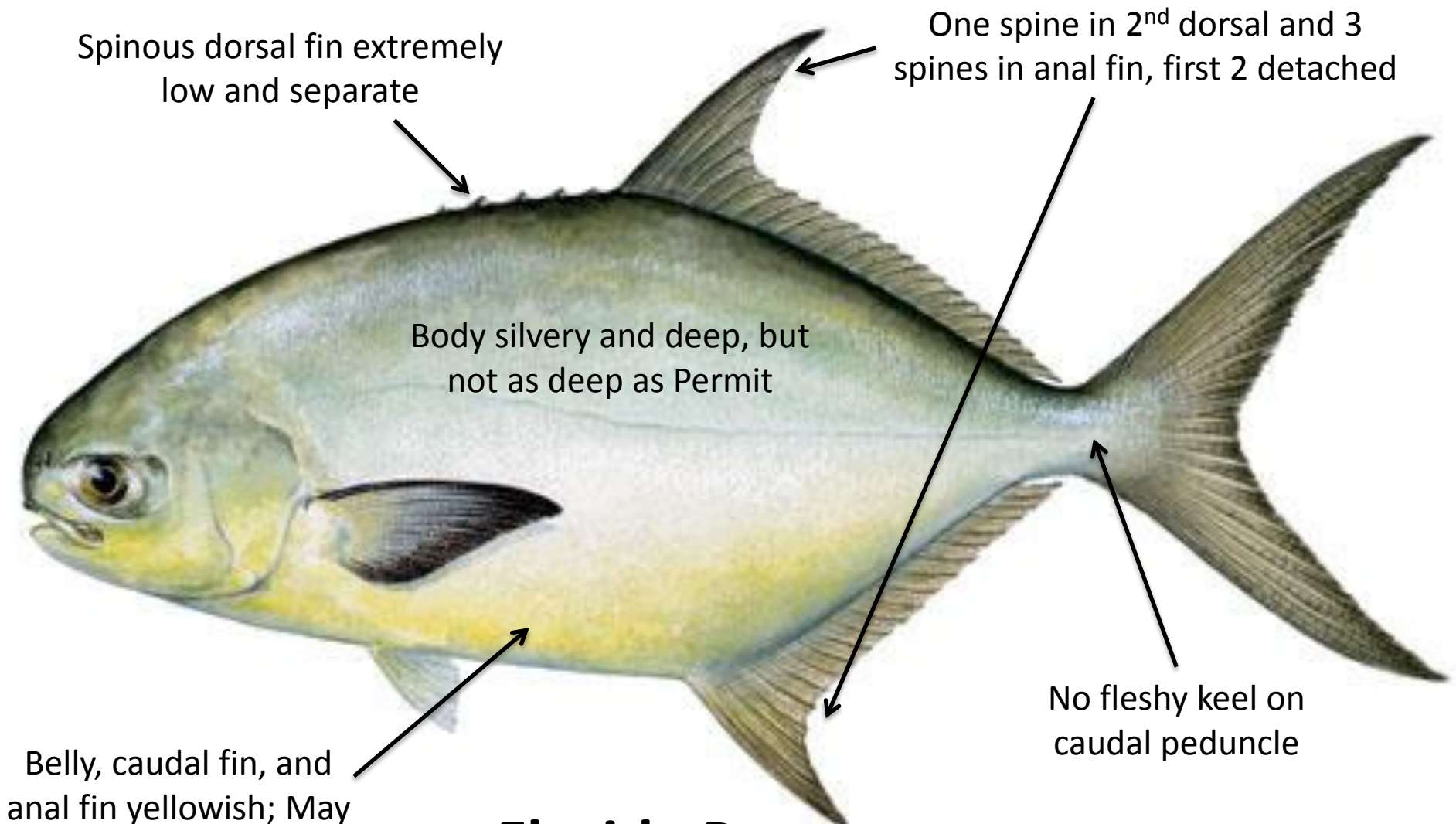
Anal fin rounded



Lane Snapper

Snapper Family

Saltwater Fish



Spinous dorsal fin extremely low and separate

One spine in 2nd dorsal and 3 spines in anal fin, first 2 detached

Body silvery and deep, but not as deep as Permit

No fleshy keel on caudal peduncle

Belly, caudal fin, and anal fin yellowish; May persist in adults

Florida Pompano

Jack Family
Saltwater Fish



No pectoral fin

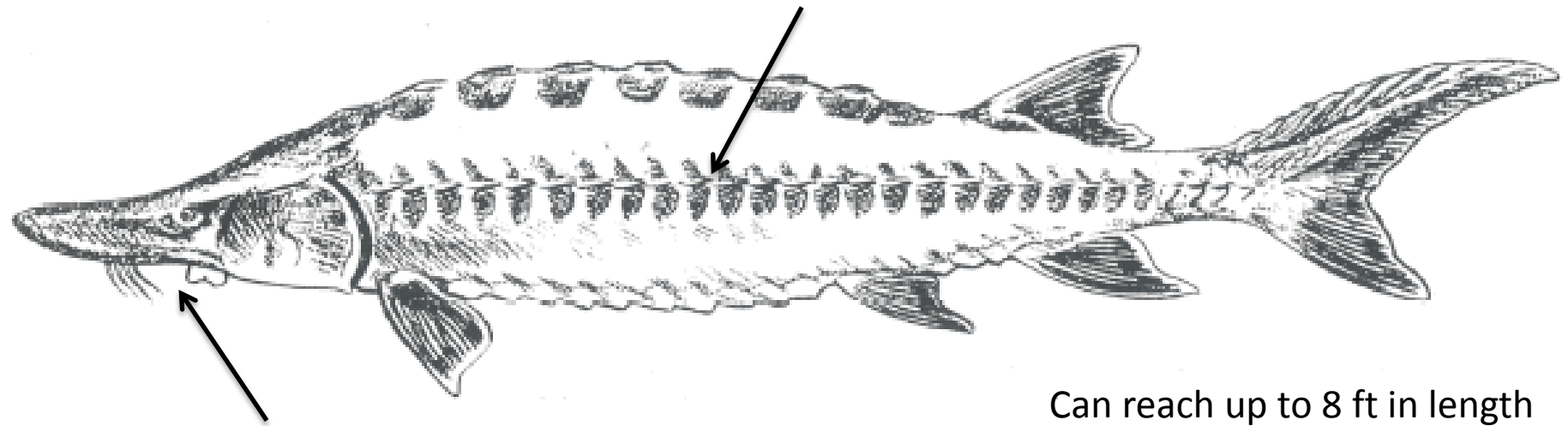
Small Body

Dark brown body with
darker brown bars

Hogchoker
Sole Family
Salt/Freshwater Fish

Anadromous, which means fish spends most of its life in saltwater and travels upstream into freshwater rivers to spawn

Rows of bony plates along back and side called "Scutes"



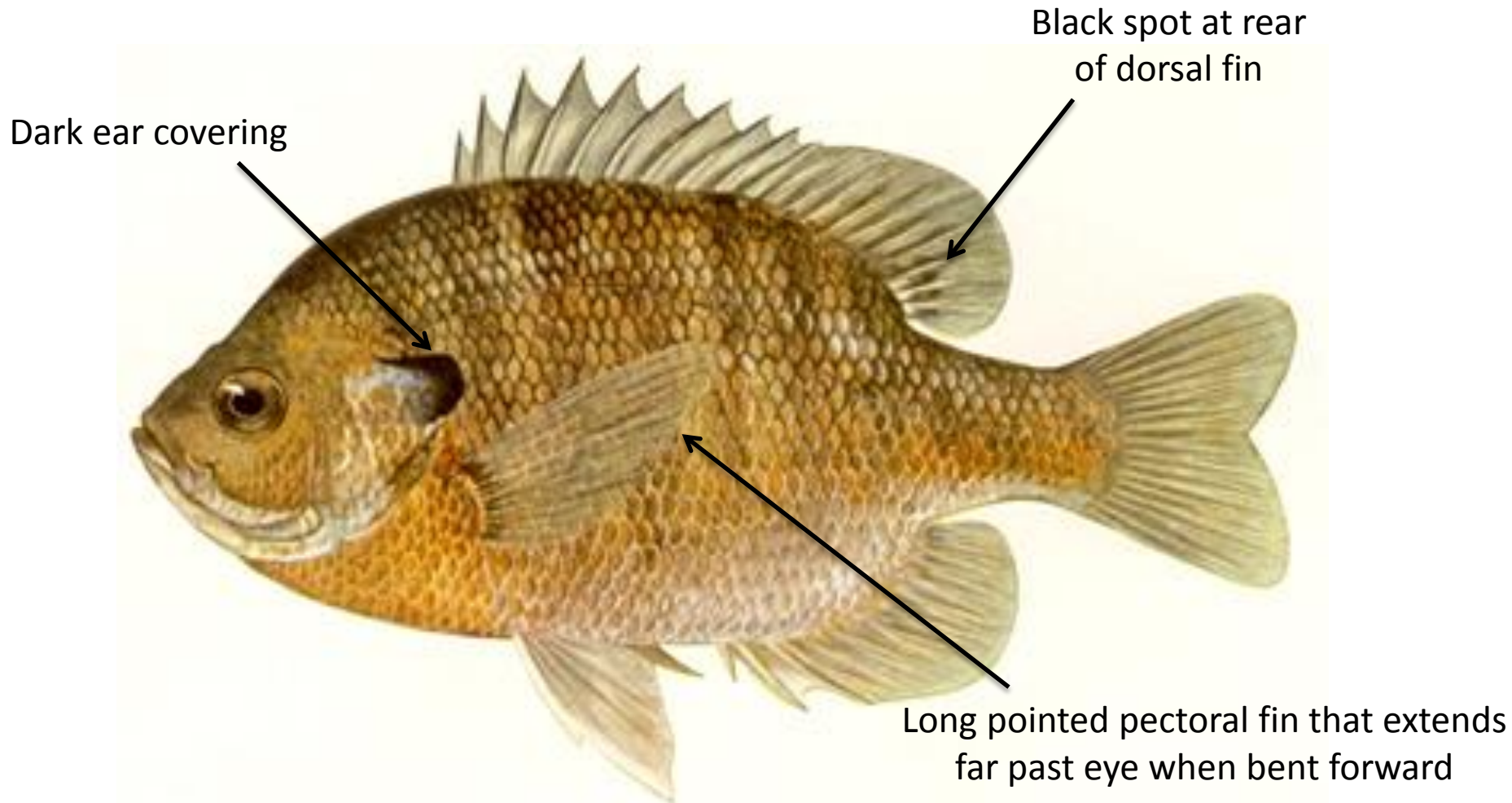
Can reach up to 8 ft in length

Vacuum-like mouth, long snout, and whiskers called barbels

Gulf Sturgeon

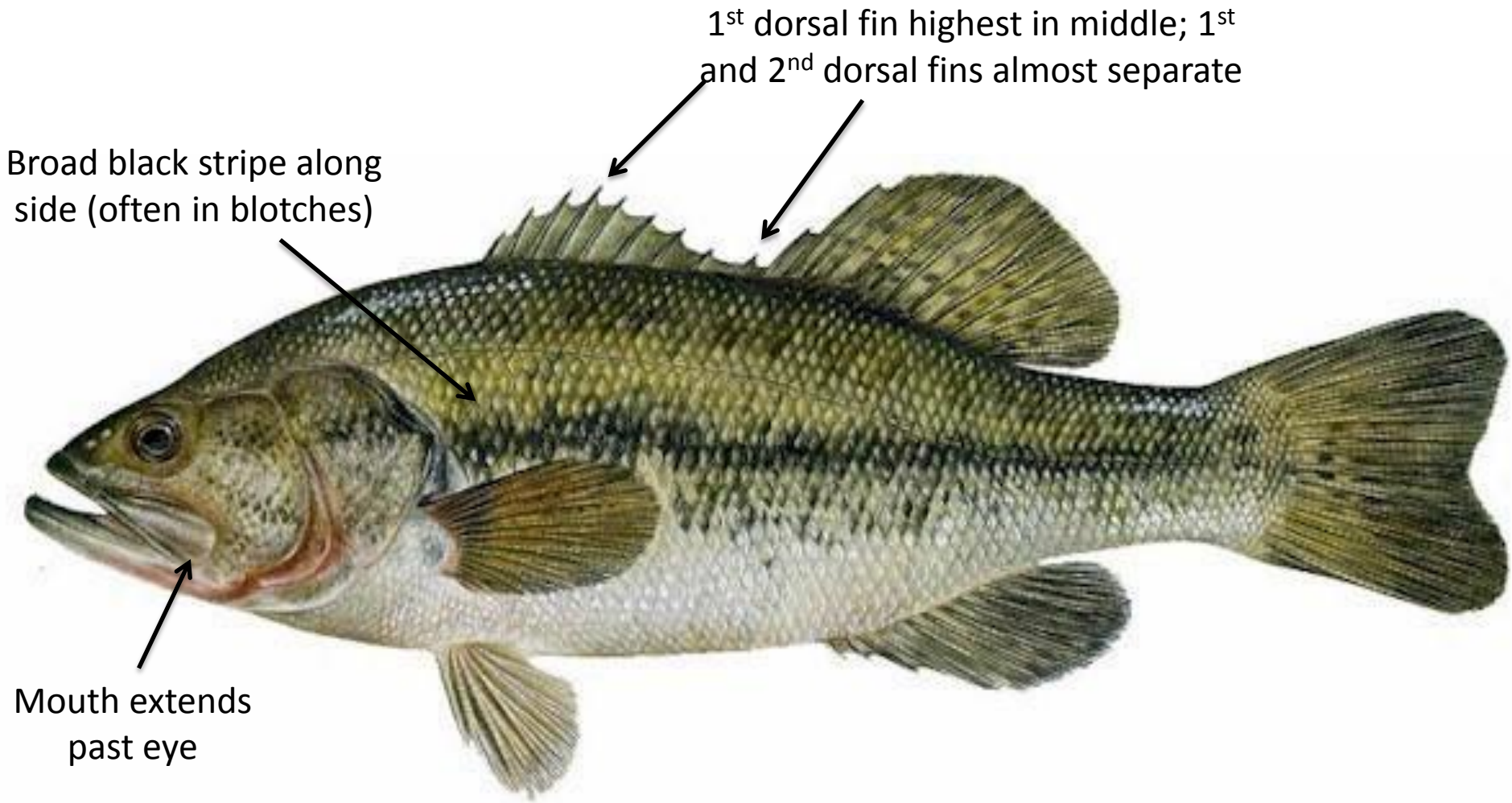
Acipenseridae Family

Salt/Freshwater Fish



Bluegill

Centrarchidae Family
Freshwater Fish



1st dorsal fin highest in middle; 1st and 2nd dorsal fins almost separate

Broad black stripe along side (often in blotches)

Mouth extends past eye

Largemouth Bass

Centrarchidae Family

Freshwater Fish

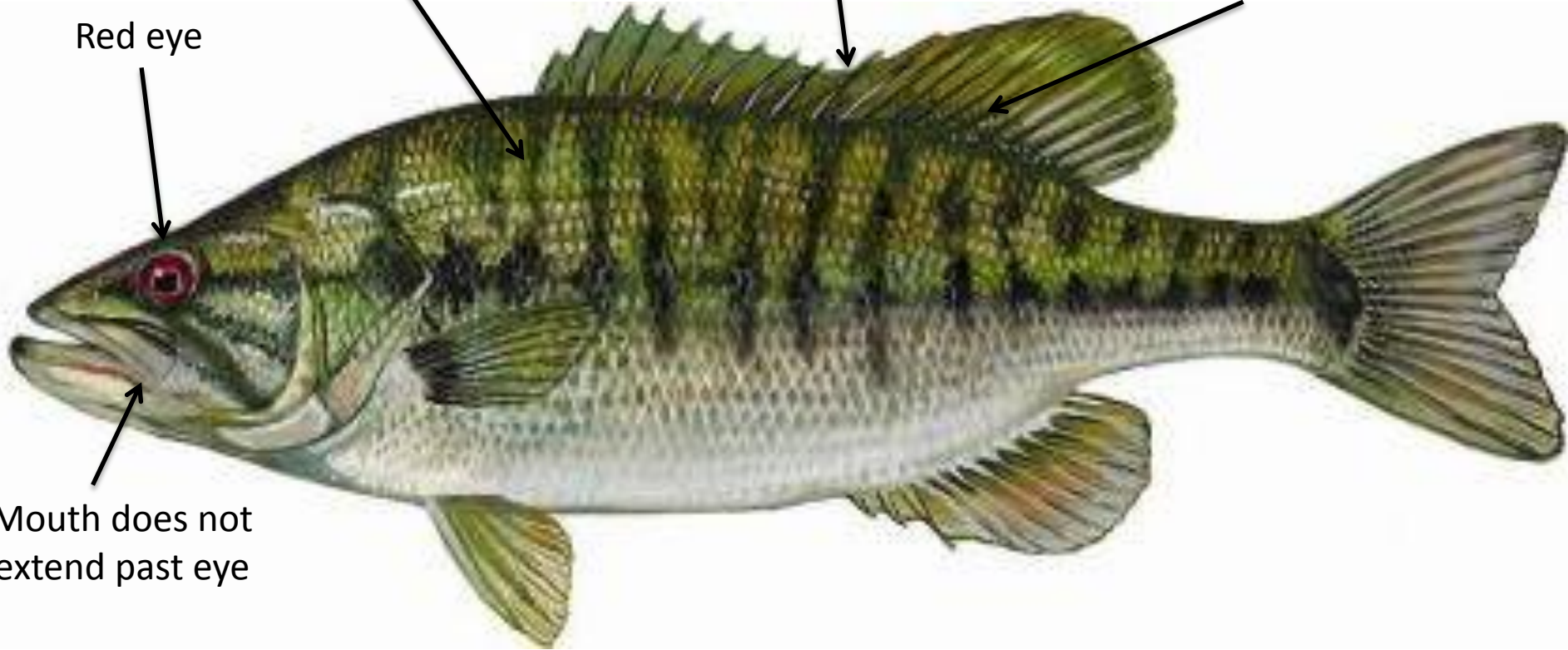
Markings resembling tiger stripes on upper half of body

1st and 2nd dorsal fins clearly connected

Scales on base of 2nd dorsal fin

Red eye

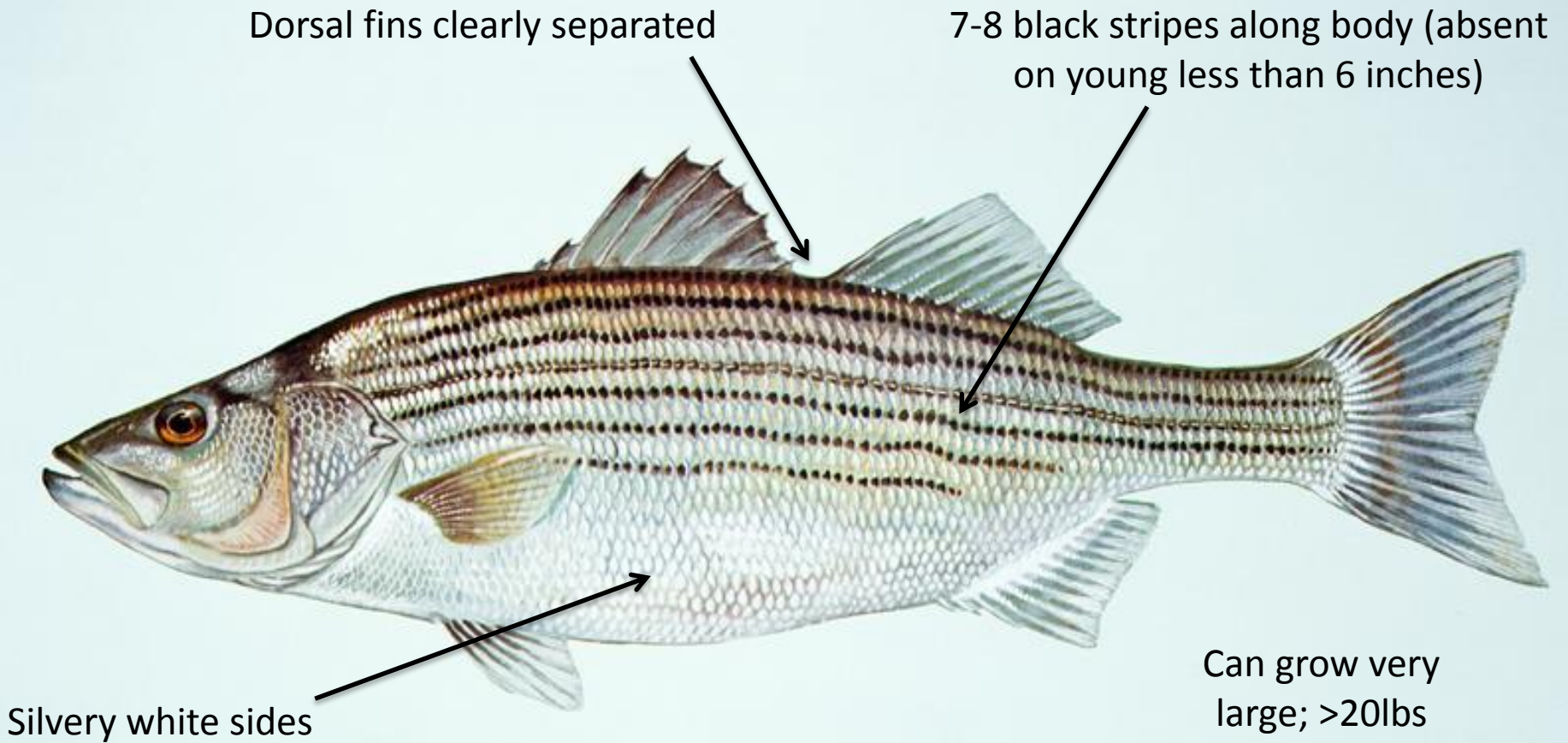
Mouth does not extend past eye



Shoal Bass

Centrarchidae Family

Freshwater Fish



Dorsal fins clearly separated

7-8 black stripes along body (absent on young less than 6 inches)

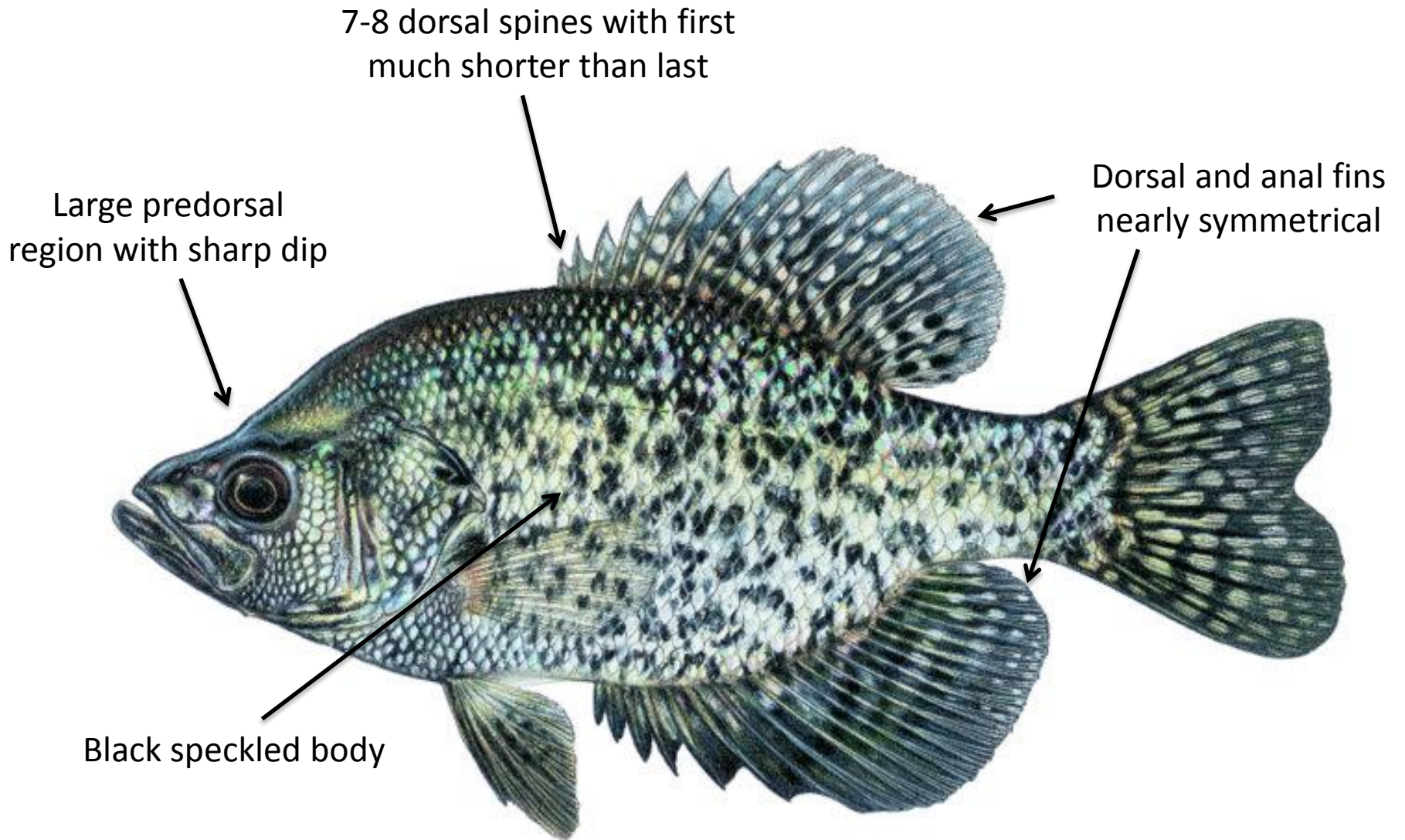
Silvery white sides

Can grow very large; >20lbs

Striped Bass

Moronidae Family

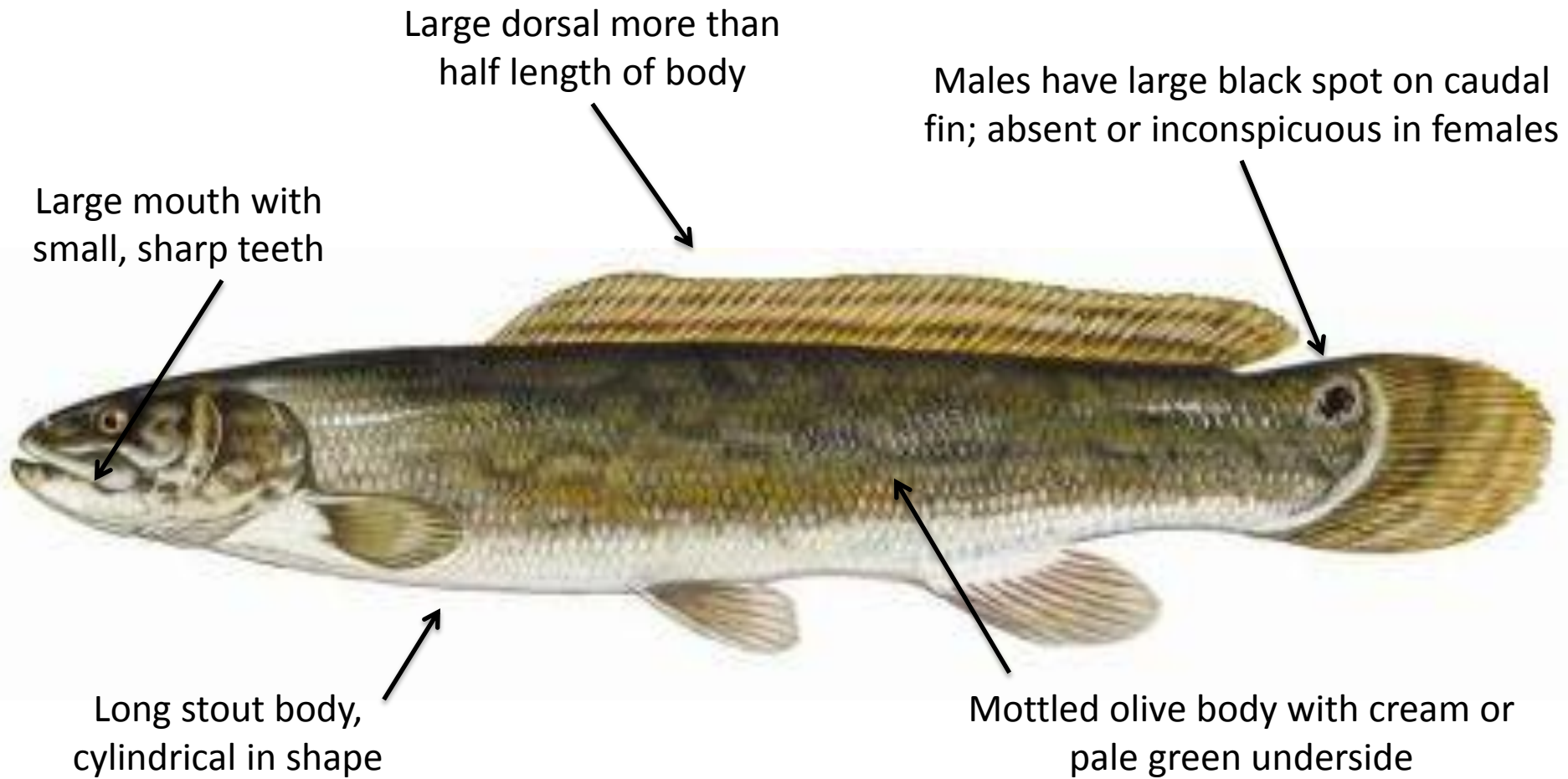
Freshwater Fish



Black Crappie

Centrarchidae Family

Freshwater Fish



Large dorsal more than half length of body

Males have large black spot on caudal fin; absent or inconspicuous in females

Large mouth with small, sharp teeth

Long stout body, cylindrical in shape

Mottled olive body with cream or pale green underside

Bowfin

Amiidae Family
Freshwater Fish