

FISH ANATOMY IDENTIFICATION STUDY GUIDE

The use of external features or characteristics is the best way to properly identify fish species. Biologists use certain external fish features to categorized individuals into family groups. These family groups are then used to determine species groups using other scientific methods such as DNA analysis. An example of this is the trout family, which are then further categorized into species to differentiate between individuals. Westslope cutthroat trout and rainbow trout are both in the same trout family but are two separate species.

External fish parts tell us a lot about an individual fish. For example, the shape of the body, where their fins are located, and the size of the mouth can tell us how a fish eats, what it eats, and what kind of habitat it prefers to live in. There are additional fish parts that are considered more advanced that help enhance things such as looking for food or protection against other fish.

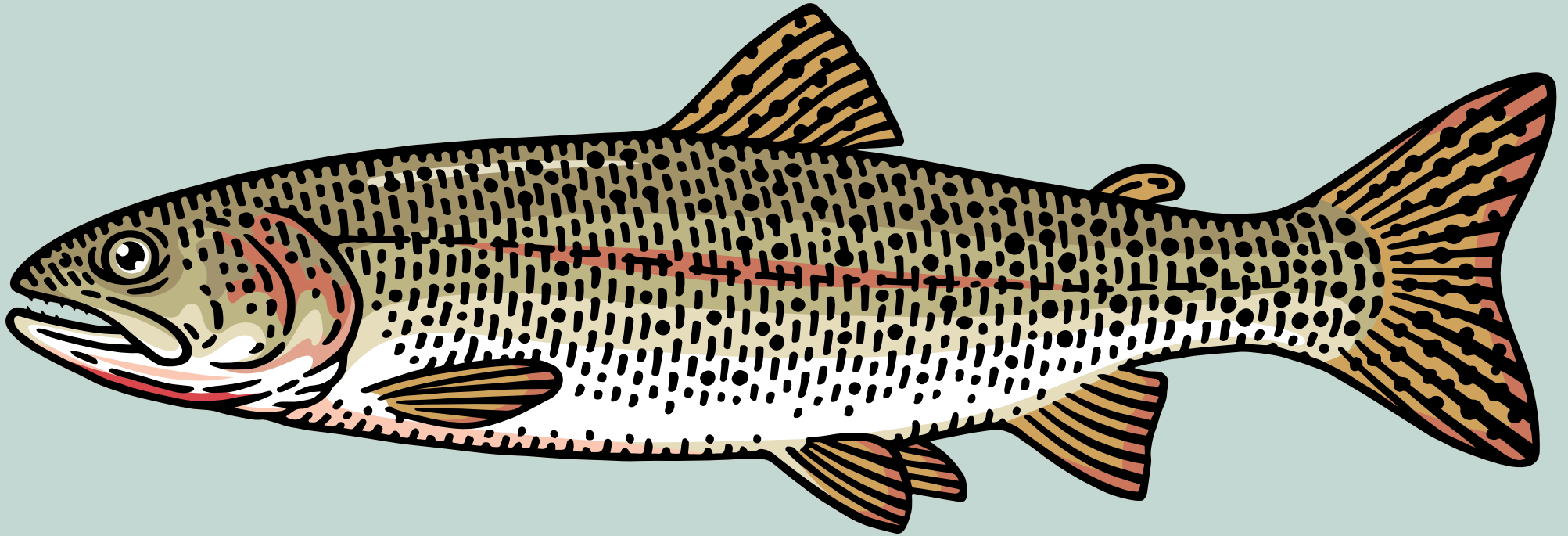


**BASIC FISH
FEATURES**



**ADVANCED FISH
FEATURES**

BASIC FEATURES OF A FISH

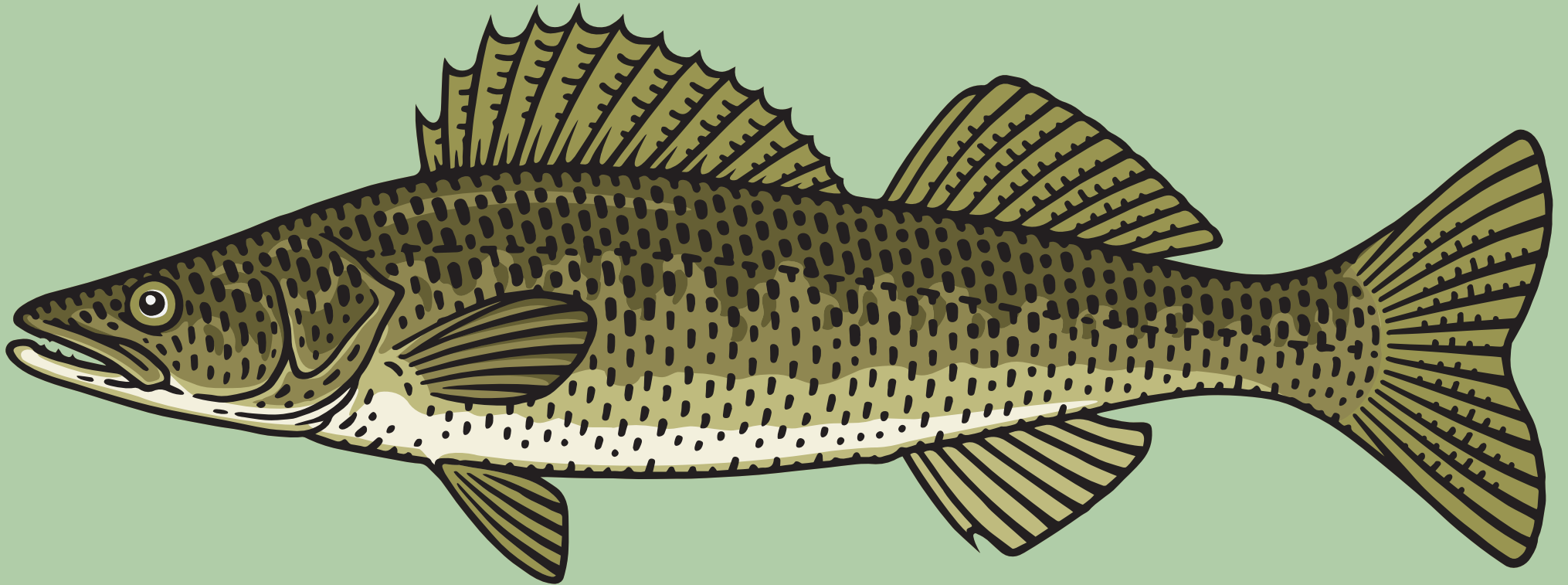


WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT

Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi



ADVANCED FEATURES OF A FISH



SAUGER

Sander canadensis



CONTINUE ➔

ADVANCED FEATURES OF A FISH

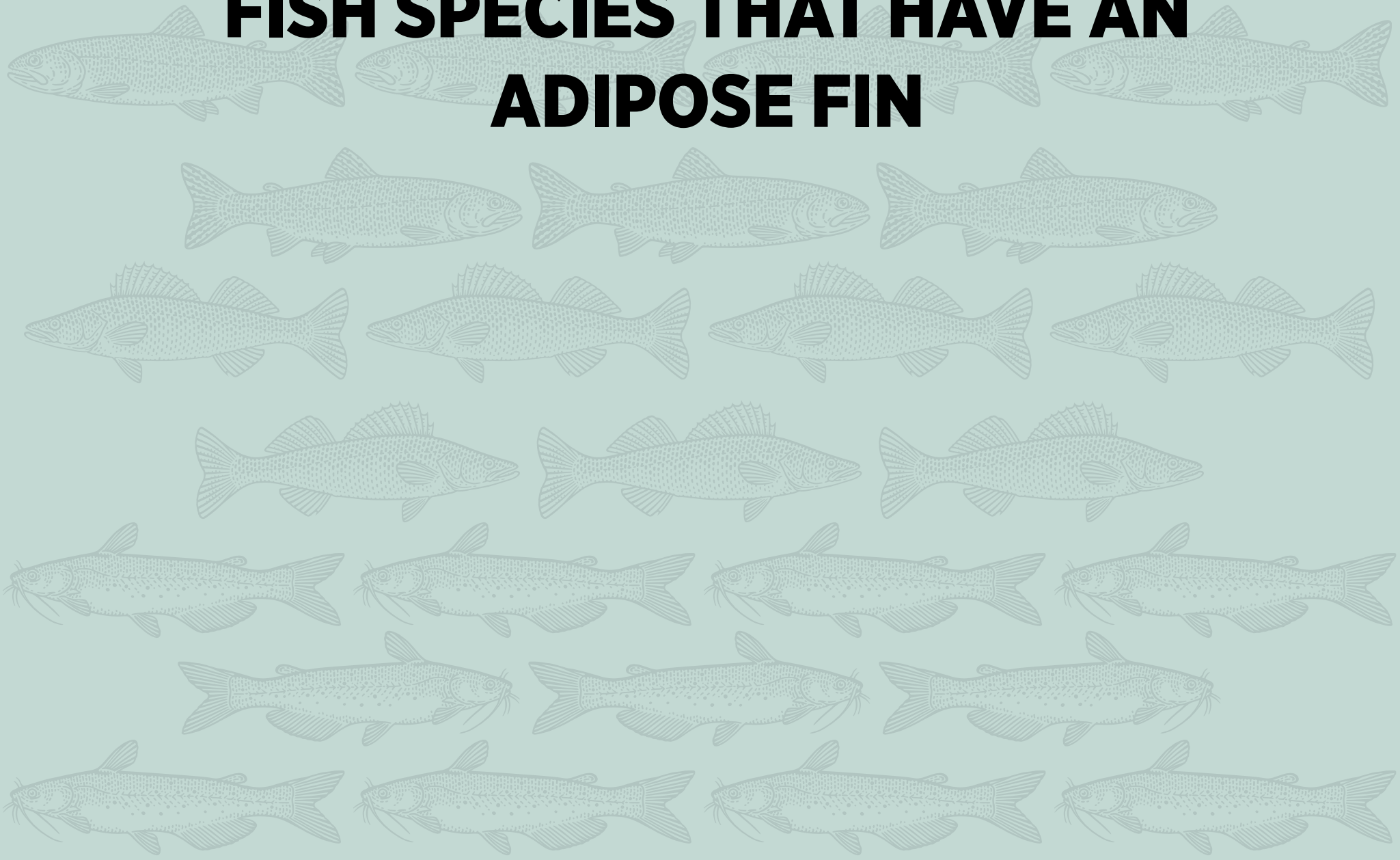


CHANNEL CATFISH

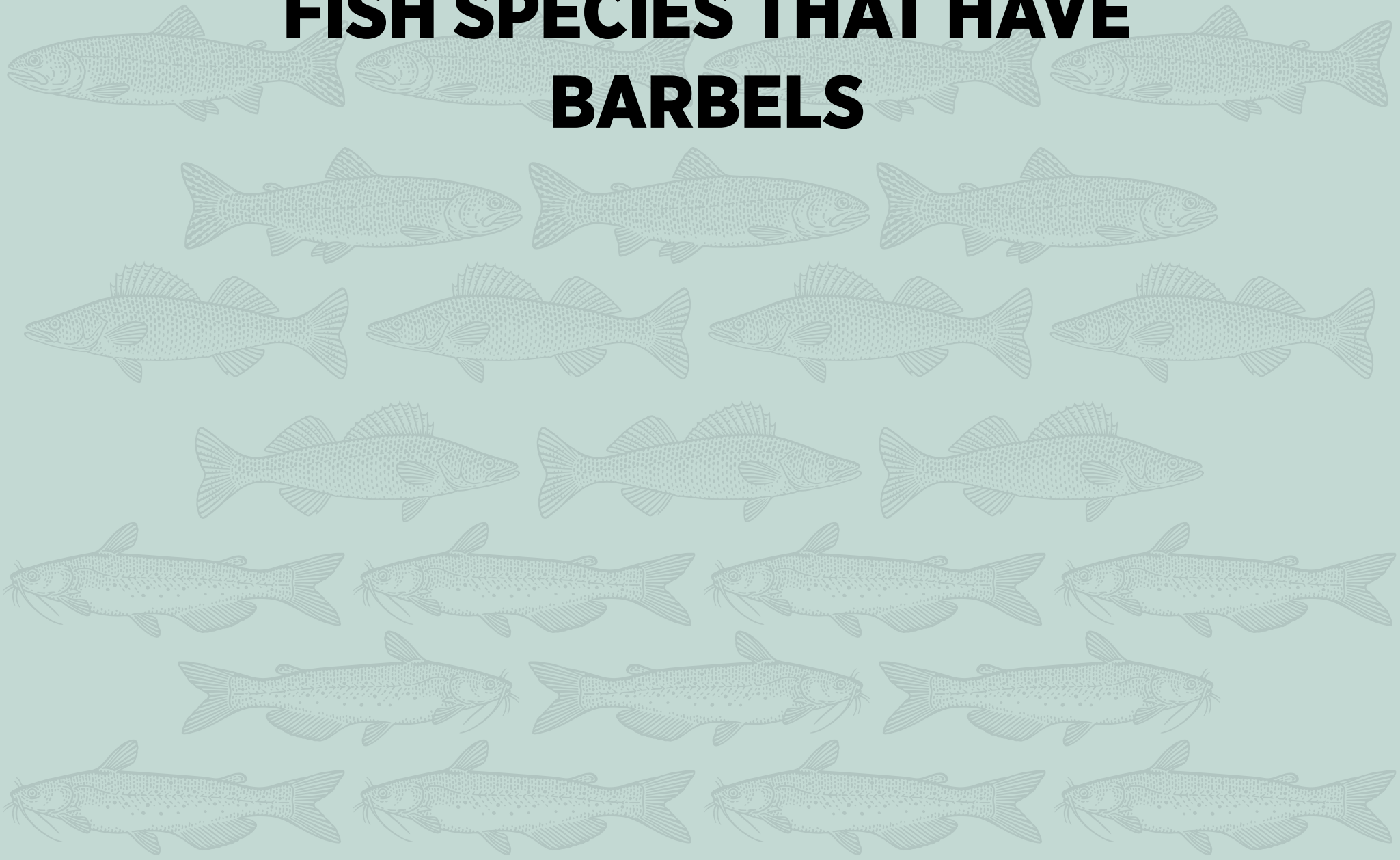
Ictalurus punctatus

← **BACK**

FISH SPECIES THAT HAVE AN ADIPOSE FIN



FISH SPECIES THAT HAVE BARBELS



FISH SPECIES THAT HAVE A DORSAL SPINES



FISH SPECIES THAT HAVE TEETH

