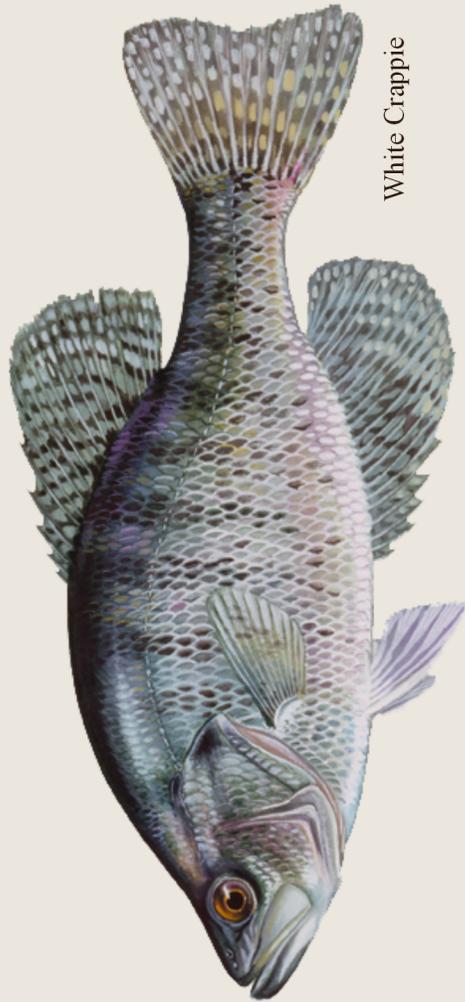


Crappie

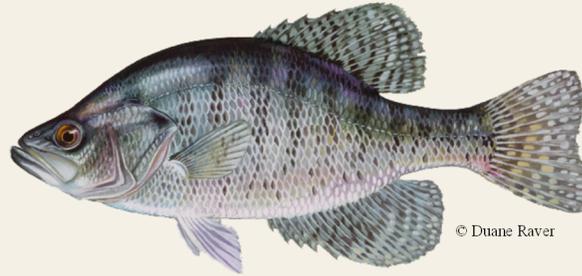


White Crappie

Crappie

(*Pomoxis spp.*)

Crappie are small freshwater fish that average less than a pound. Black and white crappie are very similar, but have different habitat preferences.

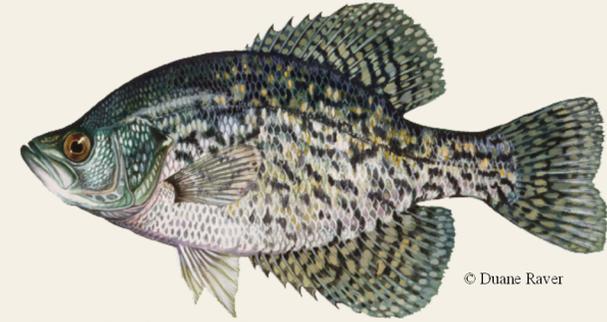


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White Crappie

(*Pomoxis annularis*)

White crappie have five or six dorsal spines in the anterior or spinous portion of the dorsal fin. They have pale silvery-olive shading to green or brown on the back. The belly is bright silver to white with seven to nine dark vertical bars on the side.



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Black Crappie

(*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)

The black crappie is also silvery-olive with a dark back and has many green or blackish spots irregularly spaced on the sides. The seven or eight dorsal spines separate the black crappie from the white crappie.

Spawning Season

Black crappie and white crappie spawning seasons usually begin in February in south Louisiana and extend to April in north Louisiana when water temperatures reach 60-65 degrees Fahrenheit. Male crappie seek out nesting sites with firm bottoms in shoreline areas ranging from one to six feet in depth. Depending on cover availability, depth, and water clarity, male crappies often form loose groups or colonies when nesting. Suitable sites are located and guarded by the males, whose coloration becomes vivid in order to attract females to the nests for mating. Female crappies may produce and deposit eggs several times during the spawning season and may mate with several males. The number of eggs produced per female may range from 30,000 to 200,000 depending on a female's size. After releasing her eggs, the female returns to deeper waters.

Habitat

Black crappie and the white crappie occupy open water with submerged timber or aquatic vegetation in standing water bodies and slow flowing backwaters of medium to large rivers. However, the black crappie is less tolerant of muddy water and prefers clear moving water. They are found near submerged vegetation and woody debris in shallow water during the spawning season.

Diet

While newly hatched fry and later stage fingerlings feed almost entirely on plankton, juvenile and adult crappies feed on small fishes and invertebrates including shad, minnows, aquatic insects, crawfish, and freshwater shrimps.

Age and Growth

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries use "earstones", called otoliths, to calculate the age of fish. Biologists remove these hard structures from the skull of bony fish and cut them into small sections. In a process similar to ageing trees, biologists count the rings that are visible in the thinner otolith slices. Finfish age, length, and weight data are used by fishery managers to estimate growth rates, mortality rates, and population size. The chart shows that fish grow rapidly during the first few years of life and then growth begins to stabilize as they get older. Once fish reach maturity, energy is invested in reproduction rather than growth.



Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels supports Sport Fish Restoration and boating access facilities.

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This public document was published at a total cost of \$1,055.25. Seven thousand five hundred copies of this public document were published and partially paid for by a Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Grant (F-136) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this first printing at a cost of \$1,055.25. This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, to inform Louisiana residents and non-residents about the Sport Fish Restoration Program. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by state agencies.

AGE (YEARS)	APPROX. AVERAGE LENGTH	APPROX. LENGTH RANGE
1	7"	6" - 9"
2	10"	8" - 12"
3	12"	9" - 14"
4	13"	10" - 16"
5+	14"	11" - 18"

*Black crappie tend to be slightly smaller than white crappie

Crappie Species Quick Facts

The oldest white crappie aged by LDWF in 2009 was a female that was nine years of age, 14.69 inches long, and weighed 1.18 pounds.

The longest white crappie aged by LDWF in 2009 was a female that was 15.55 inches long, six years of age, and weighed 2.22 pounds.

The oldest black crappie aged by LDWF in 2009 was a male that was nine years of age, 14.29 inches long, and weighed 1.83 pounds.

The longest black crappie aged by LDWF in 2009 was a male that was 15.24 inches long, six years of age, and weighed 2.19 pounds.

The average life expectancy for crappie is nine years of age.

LDWF Contact Information

Recreational Fishing License
225-765-2887

Commercial License
225-765-2898

Boating Registration
225-765-2898

Lifetime License
225-765-2887

Enforcement
225-765-2989

Fish Tagging Program
225-763-5415