MUSKELLUNGE – NORTHERN PIKE IDENTIFICATION

NORTHERN PIKE

IDENTIFIED BY
HORIZONTAL LIGHT MARKINGS
ON A DARK BACKGROUND

- 5 OR LESS PORES ON EACH SIDE OF LOWER JAW
- FULLY SCALED CHEEK AND HALF SCALED OPERCULUM
- ROUNDED TAIL

Note that both the Northern Pike and Hybrid Muskellunge have light markings on a dark background. However, the Northern Pike has spots while the Hybrid Muskie has vertical stripes.

HYBRID (TIGER) MUSKELLUNGE

IDENTIFIED BY IRREGULAR VERTICAL
LIGHT MARKINGS ON A DARK BACKGROUND
LIGHT BANDS ALMOST
OR COMPLETELY CROSS THE BACK

- 5-7 PORES ON EACH SIDE OF LOWER JAW
- FULLY OR 2/3 SCALED CHEEK AND HALF TO 1/3 SCALED OPERCULUM
- USUALLY SPOTTED JAWS
- ROUNDED, SPOTTED TAIL

MUSKELLUNGE

IDENTIFIED BY
VERTICAL DARK MARKINGS ON LIGHT BACKGROUND
OLDER FISH RANGE IN COLOR FROM SILVERY GREEN TO SHADES OF BROWN

- 6-9 PORES ON EACH SIDE OF LOWER JAW
- UPPER HALF SCALED CHEEK AND OPERCULUM
- POINTED TAIL
- POINTED FINS

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