

Chain pickerel

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

The **chain pickerel**, *Esox niger* (*syn.* *Esox reticulatus*), is a [species](#) of [freshwater fish](#) in the pike [family](#) (family [Esocidae](#)) of [order Esociformes](#). It is also known as the **federation pike** or **federation pickerel**. Its range is along the eastern coast of North America from southern Canada to Florida, and west to Texas.

The chain pickerel has a distinctive chainlike pattern on its sides and its body resembles that of the [northern pike](#). It typically reaches 24 inches in length with a weight of 3-5 pounds. The U.S. record is over nine pounds.

The chain pickerel feeds primarily on smaller fish which it ambushes from cover with rapid lunges and secures with its sharp teeth.

It is a popular [sport fish](#). It is an energetic fighter on the line. Anglers after pickerel have success with live [minnows](#), [spinnerbaits](#), [spoon lures](#), and other lures. Practically every bass lure can be effective for pickerel, although they seem to be particularly susceptible to flashy lures, which imitate small prey fish. Dragging a plastic worm, lizard, frog, and other soft plastics can also be extremely effective.

In ponds and smaller lakes however, some anglers see pickerel as a threat to [trout](#) populations and trout restocking efforts. It is sometimes considered an easy-to-bag "trash fish", and not particularly tasty.

[\[edit\]](#) References

- "*Esox niger*". *FishBase*. Ed. Ranier Froese and Daniel Pauly. October 2004 version. N.p.:

Chain pickerel
 <div>A photograph of a chain pickerel fish, showing its characteristic chain-like pattern on its side, swimming in a shallow, rocky stream.</div>
Conservation status
Secure
Scientific classification
Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Actinopterygii
Order: Esociformes
Family: Esocidae
Genus: Esox
Species: <i>E. niger</i>
Binomial name
<i>Esox niger</i> Lesueur, 1818

FishBase, 2004.

- [Esox niger \(TSN 162143\). Integrated Taxonomic Information System](#). Accessed on [5 December 2004](#).



This [fish](#)-related article is a [stub](#). You can [help](#) Wikipedia by [expanding it](#).

Retrieved from "["http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chain_pickerel"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chain_pickerel)

[Categories:](#) [Fish stubs](#) | [Esocidae](#)

Views

- [Article](#)
- [Discussion](#)
- [Edit this page](#)
- [History](#)

Personal tools

- [Sign in / create account](#)

Navigation

- [Main page](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Featured content](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Random article](#)
- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Make a donation](#)
- [Help](#)

Search

Toolbox

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Upload file](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Printable version](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Cite this article](#)



- This page was last modified 04:27, 12 February 2007.
- All text is available under the terms of the [GNU Free Documentation License](#). (See [Copyrights](#) for details.)

Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a US-registered [501\(c\)\(3\) tax-deductible nonprofit charity](#).
- [Privacy policy](#)
- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Disclaimers](#)