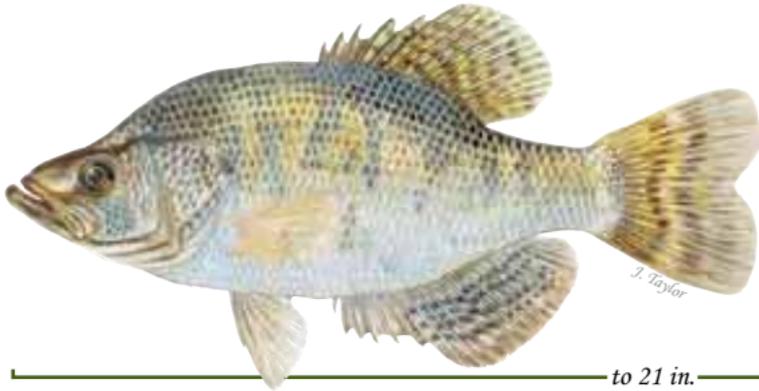


White Crappie



It is possible that all white crappie in California today are the progeny of 16 fish planted in 1917 in a pond near Morena Reservoir, San Diego County. Progeny from this plant were introduced into Morena, Sweetwater, Hodges, Upper Otay, Lower Otay, Murray, Lindo, Grossmont, and Wohlford reservoirs, in San Diego County. It wasn't until 1951 that white crappie were successfully introduced into waters north of the Tehachapi Mountains. They are common in Clear Lake, Lake County, and in the sloughs of the Sacramento River, Yolo County.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Silvery white, with dark green or black mottling in the form of vertical bars on sides. These bars are often indistinct in adult fish. Length of dorsal fin base less than the distance from front of dorsal fin to eye. Six dorsal spines.

Life History & Other Notes

White crappie are found in the same general habitat as black crappie, however white crappie tolerate turbid water and mud bottoms and may outnumber black crappie in this type of habitat. Adult white

crappie are fish-eaters. They need abundant forage fish coupled with heavy fishing to provide and maintain a desirable fishery. Without heavy fishing, they tend to overpopulate an area and become stunted. White crappie grow a little faster than black crappie, but both reach the same general size.

Look for white crappie to gather in the shelter of submerged stumps and brush heaps during May or June.

White Crappie

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Pomomis annularis

OTHER COMMON NAMES

silver bass, goggle-eye, silver crappie

RANGE & HABITAT

Statewide in warmwater lakes, rivers, reservoirs and sloughs

LENGTH & WEIGHT

To 21 in. and 4+ lb.

LIFESPAN

To 10 years

DIET & SUGGESTED BAIT/LURES

Feeds on other fish.

Try crappie jigs or meal worms for bait