

Adaptations in Fish from <http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/sustain/adapt.html>

Adaptation	Purpose	Examples
Mouth		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terminal (at the end of the snout)</li> </ul>	Feeds throughout the water	Walleye, sauger, northern pike
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the snout/longer upper jaw</li> </ul>	Feeds on prey it sees below it; usually feeds off the lake or river bottom	Bullhead, whitefish, carp, sucker
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Angled upward/longer lower jaw</li> </ul>	Feeds on prey it sees above it; small fish, or aquatic insects, often at surface of water	Goldeye, rock bass, smallmouth bass, tullibee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ventral (under the head)</li> </ul>	Feeds off the bottom	Sturgeon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sucker-shaped</li> </ul>	"Vacuums" up food off the bottom; eats aquatic insects, vegetation	Sucker, sturgeon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong jaws and well-developed teeth</li> </ul>	Feeds on other fish	Northern pike, walleye
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With barbels</li> </ul>	Feeds off the bottom; Can sense food in murky water	Catfish, bullhead, stonecat, sturgeon

Eyes		
• Large	Feeds by sight	Walleye, perch, goldeye, bass
• Small	Likely feeds off the bottom and relies on barbels to detect food	Catfish, bullhead, stonecat, sturgeon
Spines	For protection or to stiffen fins for swimming	Catfish, bullhead, stonecat, perch, walleye, bass, sturgeon
Body Shape		
• Rounder, flat bellied	Feeds off or rests on the bottom; less conspicuous to predators	Sucker, catfish, sturgeon
• Oval, fairly long	Prefers more open water or a few weeds	Walleye
• Oval, very long, eel-like	Fast-moving in quick bursts; Agile around rocks and weeds	Northern pike, burbot
• Thin, shorter, disc-shaped	Agile around rocks/weeds; round shape harder for predators to swallow	Bass, perch
• Torpedo-shaped	Stream-lined for high speed or swimming in currents	Brook trout, rainbow trout, arctic char

Scales		
• Large	Used for protection; speed not needed to catch food	Carp, sucker
• Small or non-existent	Fish more streamlined and fast-moving to catch prey	Northern pike, catfish, burbot
Colouration		
• Fairly uniform, no markings	Swims in open water	Walleye, goldeye
• Stripes	Hides in weeds for protection or to ambush prey	Perch, smallmouth bass, rock bass
• Mottled	Hides in rocks or on bottom	Northern pike, young sturgeon
• Dark on top	Less visible to predators above it	Catfish, sturgeon, carp
• Light coloured belly	Less visible to predators below it	Perch, walleye, sturgeon, sucker, catfish