



http://www.natureartists.com/art/resized/23_7.jpg

Muskellunge

Esox masquinongy

Characteristics

- opercle and cheek scaled only on their upper halves
- dark spots, blotches, or bars** on light yellow-green back and side; cream to white below with small brown to gray blotches
- no suborbital bar (teardrop)
- 6-10 submandibular pores; 16-19 branchiostegal rays



<http://fish.dnr.cornell.edu/nyfish/Esocidae/muskellunge.html>

Ecology and Distribution

- clear vegetated lakes; quiet pools & backwaters of creeks & small to large rivers
- migrate to headwater streams and flooded riparian wetlands to spawn in spring