

# Key to the identification of fish common fish of southern Alberta



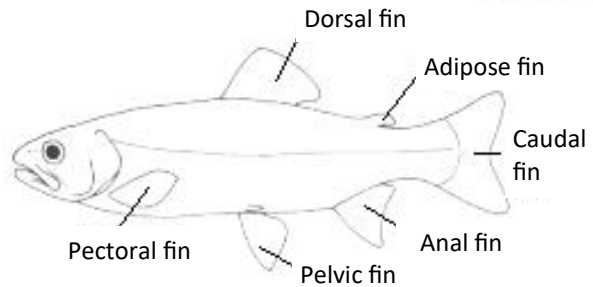
**Instructions:**

**Step 1:** Determine if the pectoral fin of your fish overlaps the pelvic fin.

**Step 2a:** If the pectoral fin of your fish does not overlap the pelvic fin, determine if your fish has an adipose fin

**Step 2b:** If the pectoral fin of your fish does overlap the pelvic fin, determine if your fish has distinct spines in the dorsal fin.

**Step 3:** Use the detailed characteristics provided to identify the species of your fish.



## Pectoral fin does not overlap pelvic fin

## Pectoral fin overlaps pelvic fin

### Has adipose fin

#### Salmon Family



See reverse side for species identification

### Has no adipose fin

#### northern pike



Dorsal fin located near caudal fin

#### Sucker Family



Has thick fleshy lips—see reverse side for species identification

#### Minnow Family



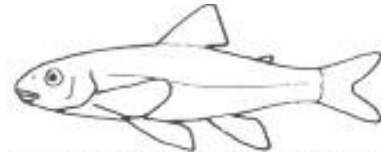
Does not have thick fleshy lips—see reverse side for species identification

### No distinct spines in dorsal fin



#### burbot

Has a barbel attached to lower jaw



#### trout perch

Has no barbel attached to lower jaw

### Distinct spines in dorsal fin



#### brook stickleback

Dorsal fin preceded by a row of isolated spines



#### spoonhead sculpin

Body without scales—has small prickles



#### yellow perch

Body with prominent scales