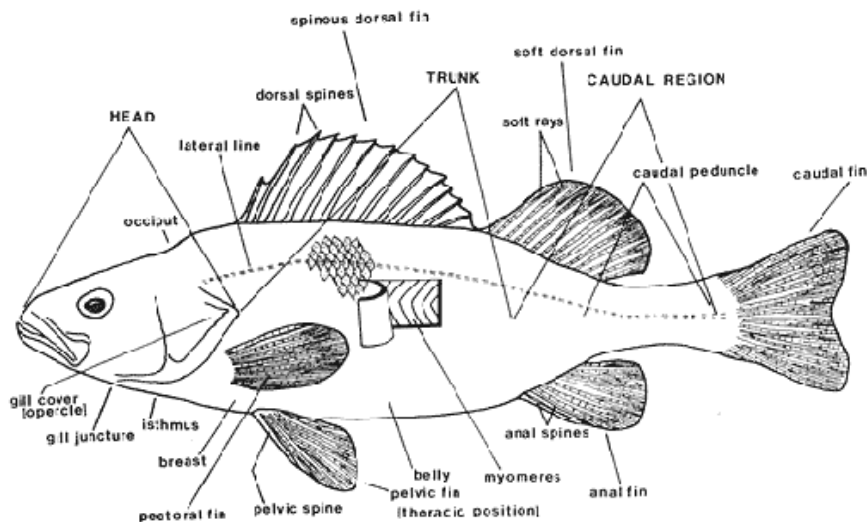


# CREATURES OF THE CREATOR

## Part Four: The Fish

Aside from bread, fish has perhaps fed the nations of the earth more often than anything else. It is hard to imagine people in certain areas of the world surviving without them. Where would the economies of places like Alaska or Atlantic Canada be without fish? The fish is a “recreational” animal as well. Millions catch, enjoy, and release game fish for entertainment. Fish are full of variety and very interesting to observe. They are truly marvels of God's creation.



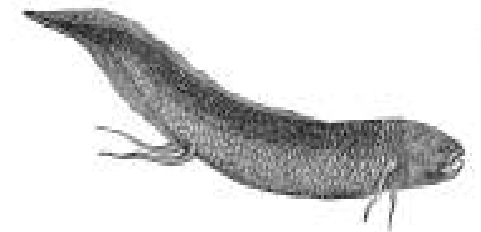
## Facts About Fish

God has designed fish perfectly for their environment. They are typically cold-blooded animals. Their muscles, fins, and scales help them move easily and quickly through the water.

There are about 28,000 known species of fish. Of these, 27,000 are “bony” fish. The others are species such as eels, sharks, and rays which do not have a traditional skeleton.

Fish are able to “breathe” by extracting oxygen from the water rather than from the air. They take in water through their mouths and pump it over their gills. Blood flows to capillaries in the gills where oxygen and carbon dioxide is exchanged. The carbon dioxide is then forced out through the gill openings on either side of the body.

Some fish can actually breathe air (the Lungfish, for example). Scientists suspect that the skin of certain eels is able to take oxygen from the air too.

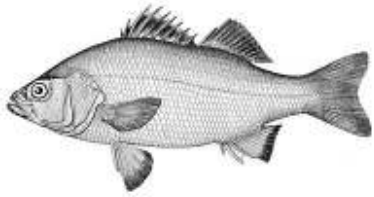


*African Lungfish*

**Largest and Smallest** – The world's largest fish is the *whale shark* which can reach lengths of 50 feet. The smallest fish is the *goby* which usually measures less than ½ inch when full grown. The *basking shark* (pictured) is the second largest fish. Notice how the man swimming nearby could easily fit into the fish's mouth!



**Lifespan** – Fish can live from a few weeks or months to as long as 50 years depending on the species and the environment. Sturgeon typically have long lifespans.



**Edible Fish** – Most species of fish caught by the average recreational fisherman can be eaten, but there are certain fish in certain areas of the world (particularly the tropics) that can carry disease harmful to humans.

## Fish and Evolution

Unfortunately, much of the information available about fish today is full of evolutionary mythology. Because there are so many strange looking fish and so much variation among fish, many scientists think that this proves evolutionary “adaptation.” Of course, the Bible tells us differently. Genesis 1:21-22:

“So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.”

## Fish In the Bible

Fish were studied:

**1 Kings 4:33** He [Solomon] described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish.

Fish reveal the wisdom of God in creation:

**Job 12:8-9** Speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?

God taught Jonah a lesson using a fish:

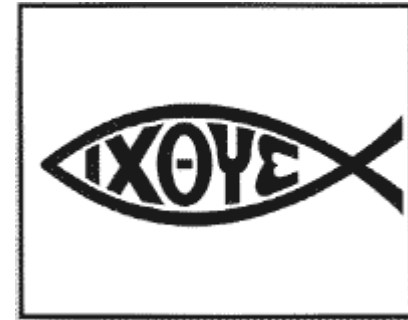
**Jonah 1:17** But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

How did Jonah disobey God? What did Jonah do after his time spent in the fish? How did Jonah later show that he still had some things to learn about God's mercy?

See how Jesus used the idea of “fishing” here:

**Matthew 4:19** “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

How does the symbol of the fish remind us of our Savior Jesus Christ?



## Resources

<http://users.tamuk.edu/kfjab02/Biology/Vertebrate%20Zoology/images/lungfish.gif>  
<http://www.fishlore.com/Pictures/FishAnatomy.gif>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish>  
<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/faq/fishfaq1.html#q4>  
<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/lineart/white%20perch.jpg>