



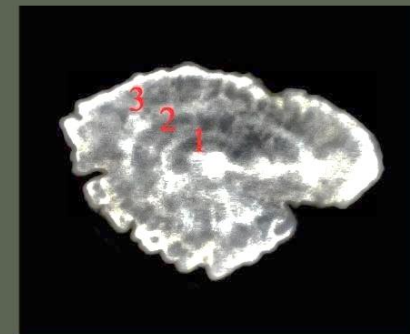
Fisheries Facts

Aging a Fish



In this picture a Fisheries biologist is using a microscope to determine the age of a fish.

All fish with a bony skeleton have small, round bones in their head known as “ear stones” or “otoliths.” As fish grow, new layers are added to this bone. Fish growth slows in the colder parts of the year, so growth rings appear very close together to form one dark ring every year. Biologists take these bones and count the rings like a tree. (This redear was 3 years old.)



Debunking a Myth



Is it true that white crappie are females and black crappie are males?

No.

White crappie males turn a darker color during spawning season. They are often mistaken for black crappie.

Tagging Fish

Biologists use different types of devices to track fish movement. For example, in 2014 a paddlefish was tagged and released in Moon Lake. In 2016, it was re-captured in Illinois, 870 miles away. In 2012, another Moon Lake paddlefish was re-captured in South Dakota, 1,400 miles away.



Research like this allows biologists to learn more about fish migration and growth rates.

Understanding the Inedible



Can I eat gar?
The meat is edible,
but gar eggs are
very toxic.