

A Checklist of the Fishes of Benton County, Oregon  
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In this article, my purpose is to construct a checklist of fishes collected in Benton County, Oregon. I used the Oregon State University Fish Collection Museum, Oregon State University theses, published manuscripts, unpublished reports, and personal collection to construct this checklist. A single verifiable record of collection was sufficient to include a species. Inclusion of a species does not imply that the species is present or established in the county; some fish species collected in Benton County may have been exterminated there.

Benton County is in northwestern Oregon and has an area of 1,782 square km. (688 square mi.). The county is bordered by Polk County on the north, Lincoln County on the west, Lane County on the south and the Willamette River on the east. The majority of Benton County is in the Willamette River drainage. The Willamette River is a large tributary of the Columbia River. There are two additional drainages in Benton County, as well. The Yaquina River and Alsea River drain the northwest and southwest portion of the county respectively; both rivers run directly to the Pacific Ocean. Most of the waters of Benton County are rivers and streams, though some reservoirs are present; natural lakes are rare.

Forty-five species of fish representing 26 genera and 13 families have been documented from Benton County (Table 1). Good descriptions of biology and ecology of most of Oregon's native fish taxa are found in Scott and Crossman (1973). Markle et al. (1991) gives a description of the Oregon Chub (*Oregonichthys crameri*), a species endemic to Oregon. Descriptions of the biology and ecology of fish species exotic to Benton County are covered in many good regional references, with the exception of Pirapatinga (*Piaractus brachypomus*), a continental exotic from South America. Information on Pirapatinga can be found in Goulding (1980); a subsequent article in AMERICAN CURRENTS will describe them further. There are two hypothetical species for Benton County: Walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum*) have been collected upstream and downstream of Benton County in the Willamette River; Banded Killifish, (*Fundulus diaphanus*), have been repeatedly collected in Polk County, in the Willamette River and a tributary, near the border of Benton County.

Table 1. Families and names of all fish species having been collected in Benton County, Oregon. Non-native species are marked with an asterisk (\*). Names of all fish species follow Robins et al. (1991).

Family	Species
Petromyzontidae	Pacific lamprey, <i>Lampetra tridentata</i> western brook lamprey, <i>Lampetra richardsoni</i>
Acipenseridae	white sturgeon, <i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>
Salmonidae	brown trout, <i>Salmo trutta</i> * chinook salmon, <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> coho salmon, <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> cutthroat trout, <i>Oncorhynchus clarki</i> mountain whitefish, <i>Prosopium williamsoni</i> rainbow trout (or steelhead trout), <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
Cyprinidae	chiselmouth, <i>Acrocheilus alutaceus</i> common carp, <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> * goldfish, <i>Carassius auratus</i> * grass carp, <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> * leopard dace, <i>Rhinichthys falcatus</i> longnose dace, <i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i> northern squawfish, <i>Ptychocheilus oregonensis</i> Oregon chub, <i>Oregonichthys crameri</i> peamouth, <i>Mylocheilus caurinus</i> redside shiner, <i>Richardsonius balteatus</i> speckled dace, <i>Rhinichthys osculus</i>
Catostomidae	largescale sucker, <i>Catostomus macrocheilus</i> mountain sucker, <i>Catostomus platyrhynchus</i>
Ictaluridae	channel catfish, <i>Ictalurus punctatus</i> * brown bullhead, <i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i> * black bullhead, <i>Ameiurus melas</i> * yellow bullhead, <i>Ameiurus natalis</i> *
Characidae	pirapatinga, <i>Piaractus brachypomus</i>
Gasterosteidae	threespine stickleback, <i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>
Poeciliidae	mosquitofish, <i>Gambusia affinis</i> *

Percopsidae

sand roller, *Percopsis transmontana*

Centrarchidae

black crappie, *Pomoxis nigromaculatus\**  
bluegill, *Lepomis macrochirus\**  
green sunfish, *Lepomis cyanellus\**  
largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides\**  
pumpkinseed, *Lepomis gibbosus\**  
redeer sunfish, *Lepomis microlophus\**  
smallmouth bass, *Micropterus dolomieu\**  
warmouth, *Lepomis gulosus\**  
white crappie, *Pomoxis annularis\**

Percidae

yellow perch, *Perca flavescens\**

Cottidae

piute sculpin, *Cottus beldingi*  
prickly sculpin, *Cottus asper*  
reticulate sculpin, *Cottus perplexus*  
riffle sculpin, *Cottus gulosus*  
torrent sculpin, *Cottus rhotheus*

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Literature Cited

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