

# FISHES OF THE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN



**SOUTHEASTERN**  
 Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation  
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### Teaching with Integrity: “Fishes of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin”



Southeastern Louisiana University biologist Kyle Piller is on a mission to educate school children and others about the region’s wide variety of fishes. Through a grant from the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, he produced a poster picturing 30 of the more than 100 documented species existing in the lakes, rivers, and bayous that make up the basin.

“The majority of the fishes that occur in the basin are not sportfish and are not recreationally harvested,” Piller said. “Because of this, most species in the basin are unappreciated and don’t receive the ‘press’ that the sportfish do. But they are important species and play valuable ecological roles.”

Unlike previous fish posters that showed freshwater species of Louisiana and the fishes of the Gulf of Mexico, no previous efforts have been dedicated to depicting the variety of fishes indigenous to the region as a whole.

“I wanted to include a mixture of the marine, freshwater, and estuarine species that occur in the lakes, bayous, and rivers like the Tangipahoa, Blind, and Amite that comprise the basin,” he said. “I would like to see young children gain an appreciation for nature’s diversity and become better aware of all of the organisms that we have in the region.”