

# ANATOMY OF A WHITE PERCH

## DORSAL FIN

The dorsal fin stabilizes the perch, helping to keep it in an upright swimming position. "Spiny rays" on the dorsal fin protect the perch from predators approaching from above.

## LATERAL LINE

Sensitive nerve endings in the lateral line alert the perch to small vibrations in the water, allowing it to "hear" the movements of predators and prey.

## GILL PLATES

By opening and closing its gill plates, the perch constantly keeps oxygenated water flowing over the gills.

## PECTORAL FINS

By sticking out its pectoral fins, the white perch can come to a stop, swim in place, or even swim backwards.

## VENTRAL FINS

Ventral fins provide perch with stability, while spines at the front of the fins provide protection from predators approaching from below.

## SCALES

Made from the same material as human fingernails, fish scales form a protective coating over the skin. Scales are layered much like shingles on a rooftop, so that water can travel smoothly over the perch's body as it swims.

## ANAL FIN

The anal fin provides stability, while spines at the base of the fin provide protection from predators approaching from behind.

## CAUDAL FIN

The caudal, or tail, fin is used for propulsion.

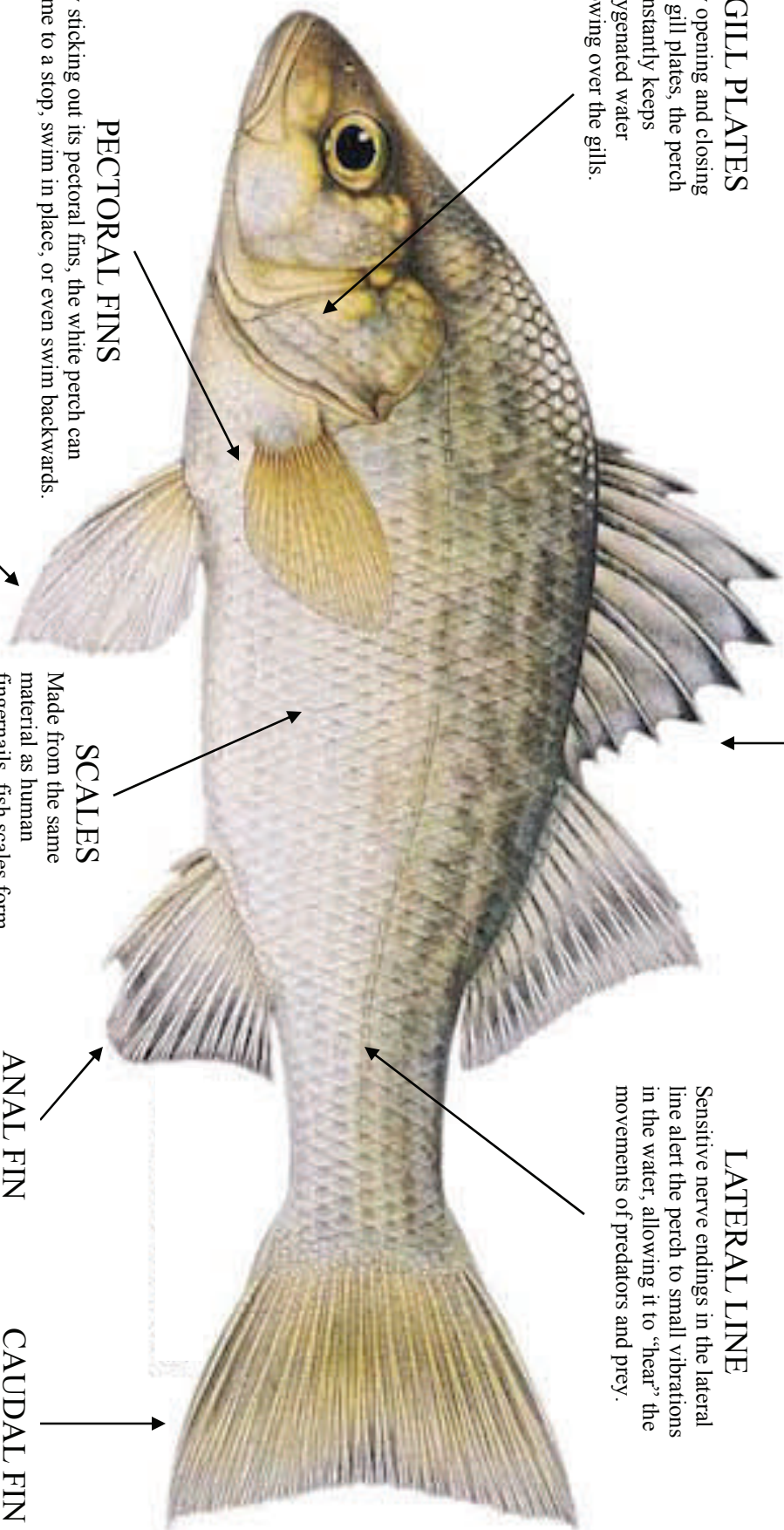


Image of white perch by Joseph Tomelleri