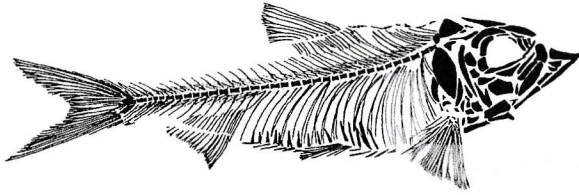
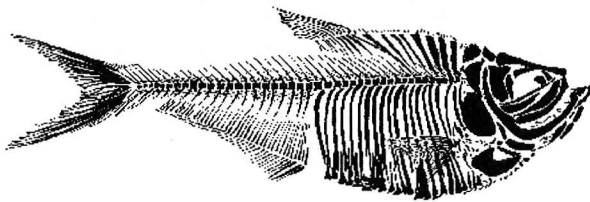




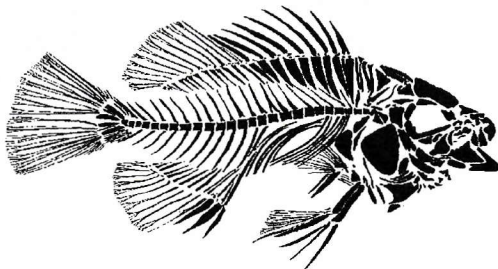
## Common Fish of Fossil Lake



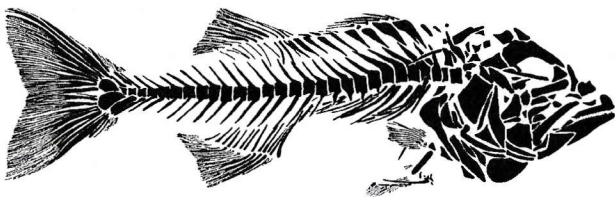
***Knightia eocaena*** - Length up to 25 cm (10 inches)  
This herring-like fish is the most common fully articulated vertebrate fossil in the world. *K. eocaena* were highly susceptible to sudden changes in water temperature or chemistry, so are found in many mass mortality layers. They fed mostly on algae. Identifying features include its small size, forked tail, and spines on the stomach.



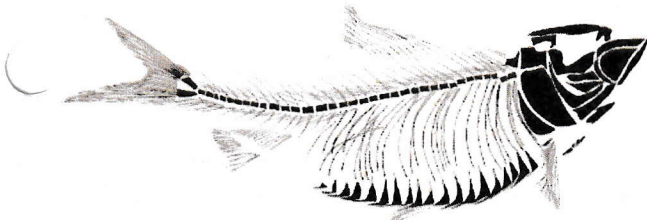
***Diplomystus dentatus*** - Length up to 61 cm (24 inches)  
This herring-like fish is the second most common fossil found in Fossil Lake. The up-turned mouth suggests it hunted prey near the surface, striking it from underneath. Identifying features include a forked tail, upturned mouth, dorsal fin, and a V-shape in the center of the ribs.



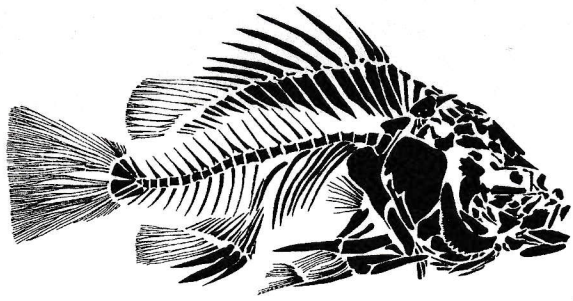
***Cockerellites liops*** - Length up to 15 cm (6 inches)  
This perch-like fish is the third most common fossil fish found in Fossil Lake sediments and quarriers often find them in mass-mortality layers. This fish species fed on algae and are sometimes found in the process of being eaten. Identifying features include a broadly shaped tail fin, anal and dorsal fin, and spines on top.



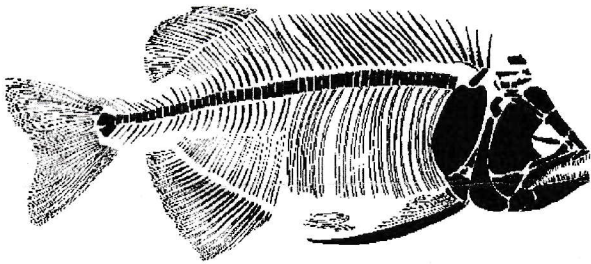
***Mioplosus labracoides*** - Length up to 50 cm (20 inches)  
A common bass-like fish in Fossil Lake sediments. *M. labracoides* was a predator that fed upon *C. Liops*, *D. dentatus*, and *K. eocaena*. Identifying features include two dorsal and two anal fins and a broadly shaped tail.



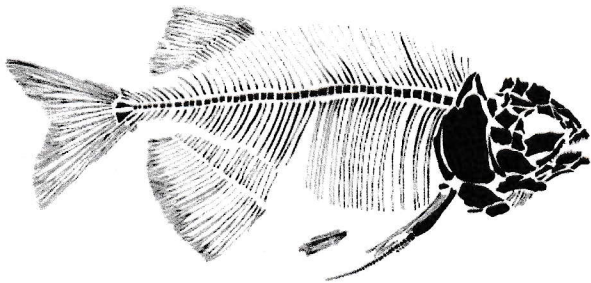
***Knightia alta*** - Length up to 18 cm (7 inches)  
This herring-like fish was less common than *K. eocaena* in Fossil Lake, but more common in Lake Gosiute. Just like *K. eocaena*, they formed large schools of fish. Herrings are an important food source for many fish species. Identifying features include its small size, forked tail, and deep stomach region.



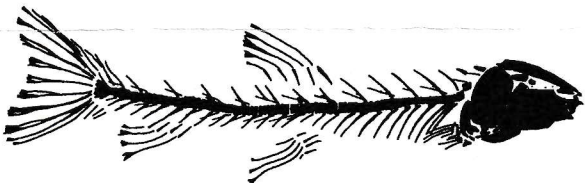
***Priscacara serrata*** - Length up to 43 cm (17 inches)  
Relatively common in Fossil Lake, they are thought to mostly have fed on arthropods, but sometimes found with fish in their mouth or stomach. Deep bodied with stout spines and a rounded tail fin and rounded teeth.



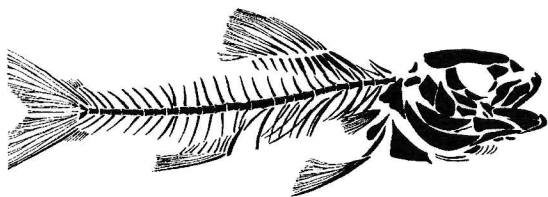
***Phareodus encaustus*** - Length up to 76 cm (30 inches)  
Many sharp teeth indicate that this fish was a piscivore (fish-eater). Remains of smaller fish have been found in its stomach. Paleontologists have found complete growth series of the *P. encaustus*, from fry (baby fish) to adult, indicating that it spent its entire life-cycle in the same place.



***Phareodus testis*** - Length up to 38 cm (15 inches)  
Although smaller than *P. encaustus*, it was still well-equipped with sharp teeth. Phareodus were solitary fish except in juvenile stages where they can be found in mass mortality layers. Identifying features include a deeper belly and shorter body profile than the *P. encaustus*.



***Notogoneus osculus*** - Length up to 60 cm (24 inches)  
This beaked sandfish was similar to suckerfish or sucker mouths. Adults and frys are common to find in Fossil Lake sediments, but the lack of a complete growth series suggests that it spawned in the lake then returned to nearby rivers and streams for a time. Identifying features include a long, sleek body, one dorsal fin, and two anal fins.



***Amphiblaga brachyptera*** - Length up to 15 cm (6 inches)  
This primitive trout-perch most likely spawned in rivers and streams. It is never found in mass mortalities, suggesting it was a solitary rather than a schooling fish. Identifying features include a small body and a forked tail.