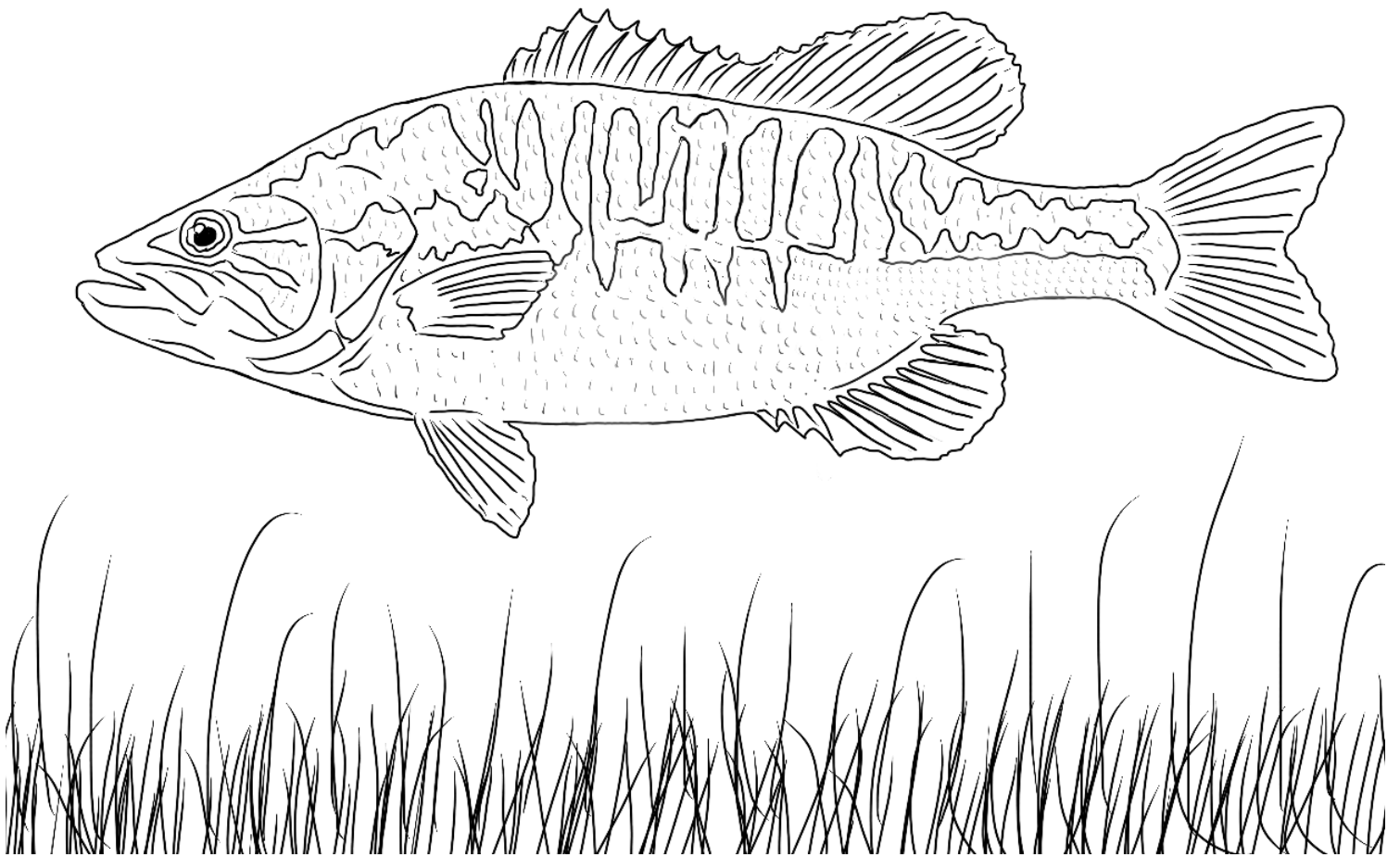


# Shoal Bass

*Micropterus cataractae*

The shoal bass is a fresh water black bass species that is endemic to the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, Flint River basin (ACF). The shoal bass is an opportunistic feeder and will eat anything from crustaceans and small invertebrates, to fish measuring up to 10 inches long. Shoal bass must have clean, flowing water to complete their life cycle, and they are the only known migratory black bass species. Early in the spring, the mature females will leave the deeper waters, lower in the watersheds, and migrate up into the shoal areas to spawn. These shoals are vital to the species' survival. Not only are the shoals used as a spawning ground, but they are also a nursery for the younger fish. The younger fish will stay in the shoals for a few years until they are older and able to enter into their migration patterns.



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