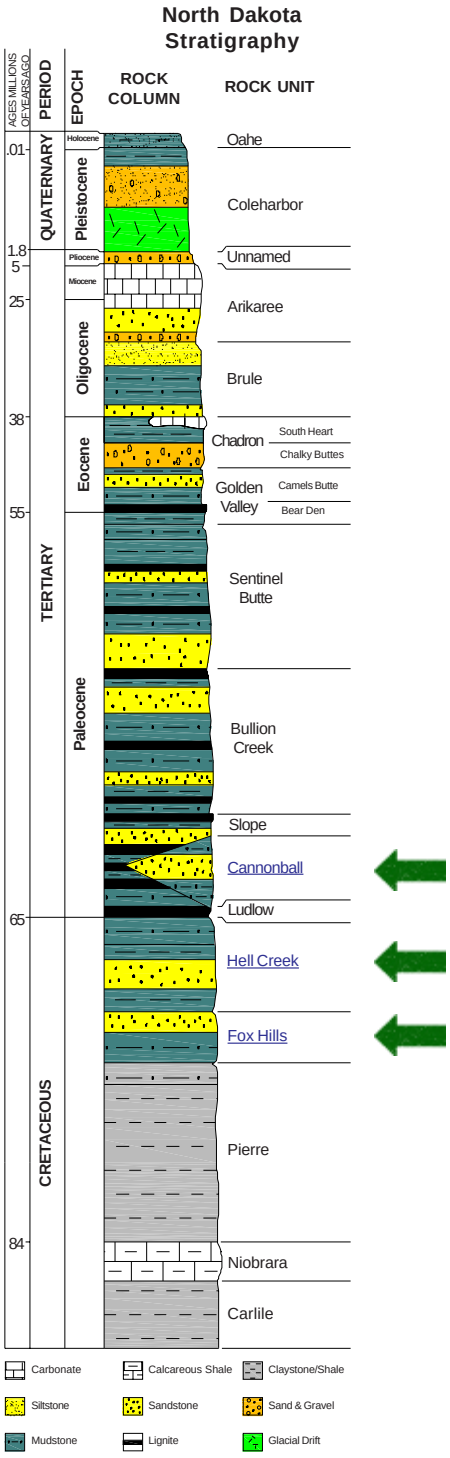

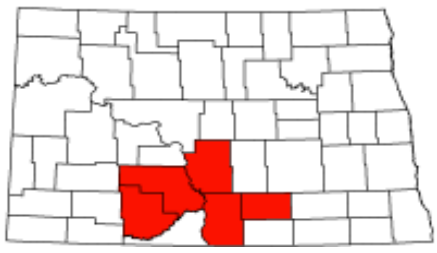

Locations where fossils have been found

Ischyodus

Common Name:
Ratfish; Rabbitfish

Classification:
Class: Chondrichthyes
Order: Chimaeriformes
Family: Callorhynchidae

Palatine dental plates of *Ischyodus dolli*. Cannonball Formation. Morton County. Height 30.5 mm. Specimens are in the University of North Dakota Paleontology Collection.

Mandibular dental plate of *Ischyodus rayhassi*. Fox Hills Formation. Logan County. Width 65 mm. North Dakota State Fossil Collection ND 99-6.1.

Description:
Ischyodus is in the group of fish (Chondrichthyes) whose skeletons consist mostly of cartilage rather than bone. This group also includes sharks and rays. They were small fish, up to about 3 feet in length, and had large eyes, pursed lips, tall dorsal fins, fan-like pectorals, and a whiplash tails. They inhabited shallow, marine oceans that covered North Dakota from about 70 million to 60 million years ago. Only dental plates of *Ischyodus* have been found in North Dakota because their cartilage skeletons have not been preserved. They preyed on clams, snails, crabs etc. and would use their dental plates to crush the shells of these animals.

Ischyodus.

ND State Fossil Collection

Prehistoric Life of ND Map

North Dakota Geological Survey Home Page