

Humpback whitefish (*C. clupeaformis*)

Round whitefish (*P. cylindraceum*)

Broad whitefish (*C. nasus*)

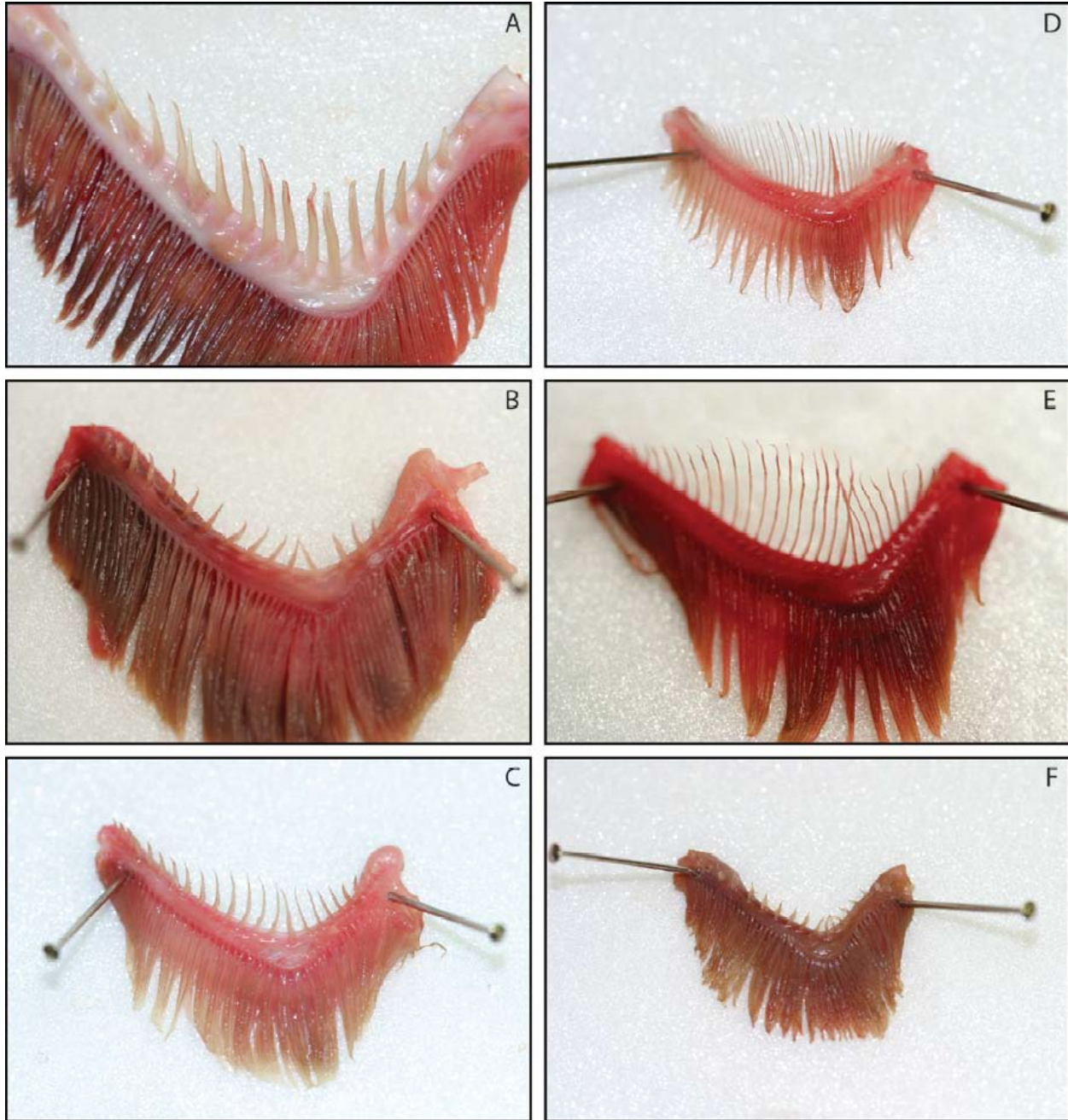
Bering cisco (*C. laurettae*)

Inconnu (*S. leucichthys*)

Least cisco (*C. sardinella*)

Mouthparts of whitefish species are good indicators of their primary feeding strategies: inconnu (A) have large mouths specialized for eating fish; broad whitefish (B), humpback whitefish (C), and round whitefish (F) have downturned mouths specialized for taking benthic invertebrates; least cisco (D) and Bering cisco (E) have small, upward or forward facing mouths specialized for capturing swimming invertebrates and small fish. Photos by R.J. Brown, USFWS





Gill rakers are also good indicators of primary feeding strategies of whitefish species: inconnu (A) have long, stout gill rakers specialized for guiding live fish into their stomachs; broad whitefish (B) and round whitefish (F) have a small number of short, stout, gill rakers that may play a minimal role in their feeding efficiency on benthic invertebrates; least cisco (D) and Bering cisco (E) have numerous long, thin, gill rakers to guide zooplankton and other small pelagic food items into their stomachs; and humpback whitefish (C) appear to have gill raker number and morphology that are intermediate between the benthic and pelagic specialists. Photos by R.J. Brown, USFWS.