# Rapid Preservation of Fish

**Preservation of entire** fish with the bones in place can only occur when the fish is rapidly buried and mineralized. In an experiment in Canadian lakes, dead fish completely decomposed in 1-4 weeks, depending on water depth and temperature.[1] Half the tissue can be lost in half a day to one or two weeks.



**A fossil fish, *Diplomystus*, from the Eocene Green River Formation, Wyoming, USA**

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[1]Chidami S and M Amyot. 2008. Limnol. Oceanogr. 53(5):1988-1996; Stevenson and DL Childers. 2004. Wetlands 24(3):529-537.