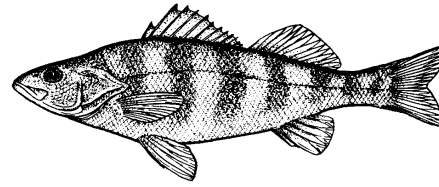


Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*)

General Information

An important species for the state's ice fishery, yellow perch are also tolerant of the low pH conditions found in the southern portion of the state.



Native Range

Nova Scotia south to Georgia and west to Mississippi. Range extended by introduction to include U.S. south to Florida & Alabama & most states west of the Mississippi to Pacific coast, north to British Columbia. (Krieger and Terrell 1983)

Habitat Description

Lake: clear lakes & reservoirs with moderate vegetation, 15 % - 25% of surface area as littoral zone is considered ideal with 25 - 50 % of that area providing cover, mesotrophic lake conditions, intolerant of moderate to high turbidities, remain active during the winter months, move about in loosely formed schools distributed by size, inactive at night, relatively tolerant of low pH levels (can tolerate 3.5 but very limited if any reproduction). (Krieger and Terrell; Scott and Crossman 1973)

River: pools & slack water areas with moderate vegetation (20 - 50 % of surface area), tolerant of brackish water but require freshwater for spawning, prefer sluggish currents but are found in moderate currents (Krieger and Terrell 1983)

Optimum Habitat Requirements

Dissolved Oxygen	> 5 mg/l
Temperature	19° - 24° C
pH	5.5 - 8.5
Turbidity	
Current	

Diet

Fry	zooplankton
Juveniles	insects, crayfish & fish
Adults	fish
Notes: Often prey on the eggs & young of a variety of species, preyed on by many fishes	

Growth (mm)

Age	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
	90	158	198	231	247	279	

Notes: Growth data taken from a summary of lake inventories from 1990-1995.

Reproduction

Time of Year	April - June	Age Males Mature	II - III
Temperature Range	7° - 13° C	Age Females Mature	III-IV
Water Depth	1.0 - 3.7 m	Nest	none
Substrate	veg, sand, gravel	Egg Type	gelatinous
Time of day	night - early morning	Parental Care	none
Critical pH	5.5	Days to Hatching	8 - 10
Vegetation	preferred	Stable water Level	critical

Comments: eggs are gelatinous semi-bouyant strands which are broadcast over or near aquatic or inundated terrestrial vegetation. Adults must be exposed to extended periods of cold water to ensure egg ripening (< 10° C). Reproduction information taken from Krieger and Terrell 1983; Scott and Crossman 1973.