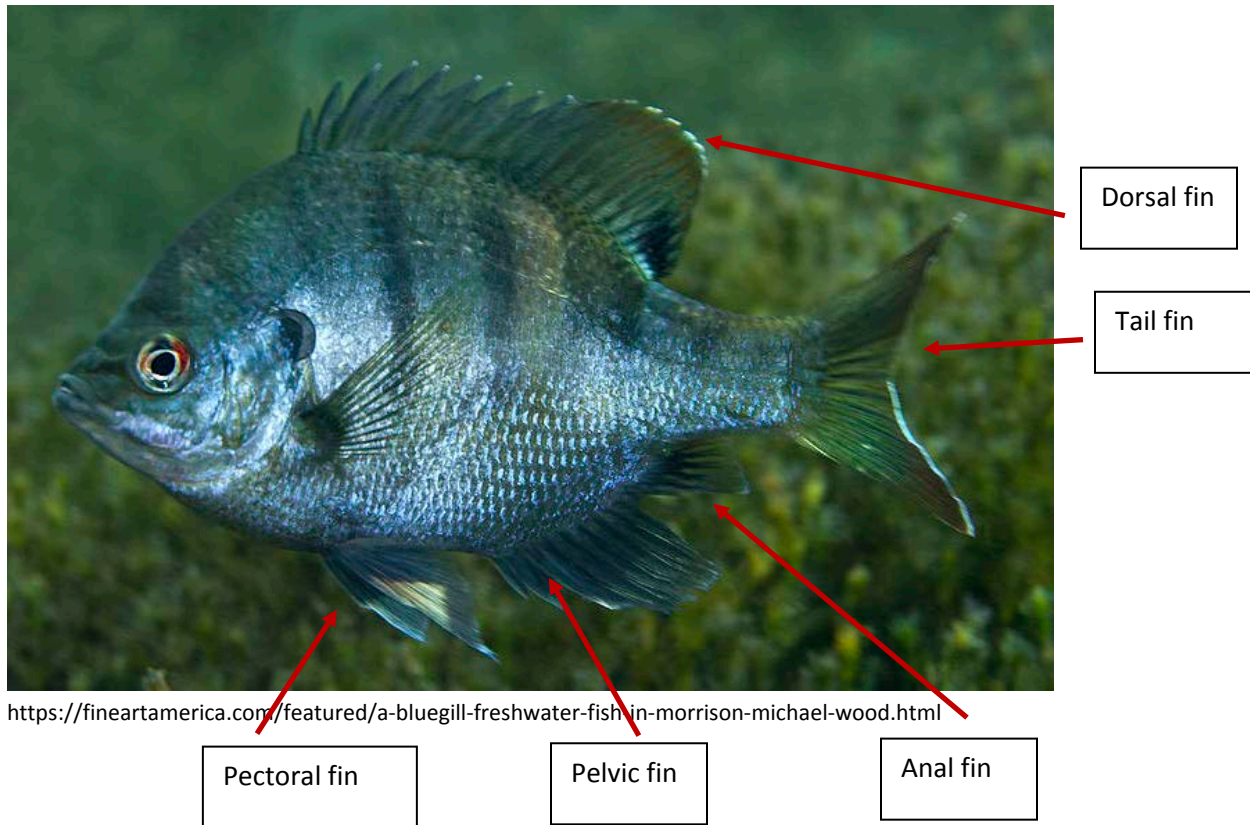


Blue Gill Information *Lepomis macrochirus*

Information Sources: www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/fish/bluegill/ & <https://americanexpedition.us/learn-about-wildlife/bluegill-information-facts-and-photos/>



Description

The bluegill is a small freshwater fish. It ranges in size from 6 to 12 inches and they typically weigh less than one pound. Blue gill vary in color. They can be dark green, olive-green, olive brown or bluish black on the top of its body. The belly can be yellowish-green or silver. Normally, there are 5 to 7 dark vertical bars extending down on each side. The lower parts of the blue gill's cheek and gill cover are bluish.

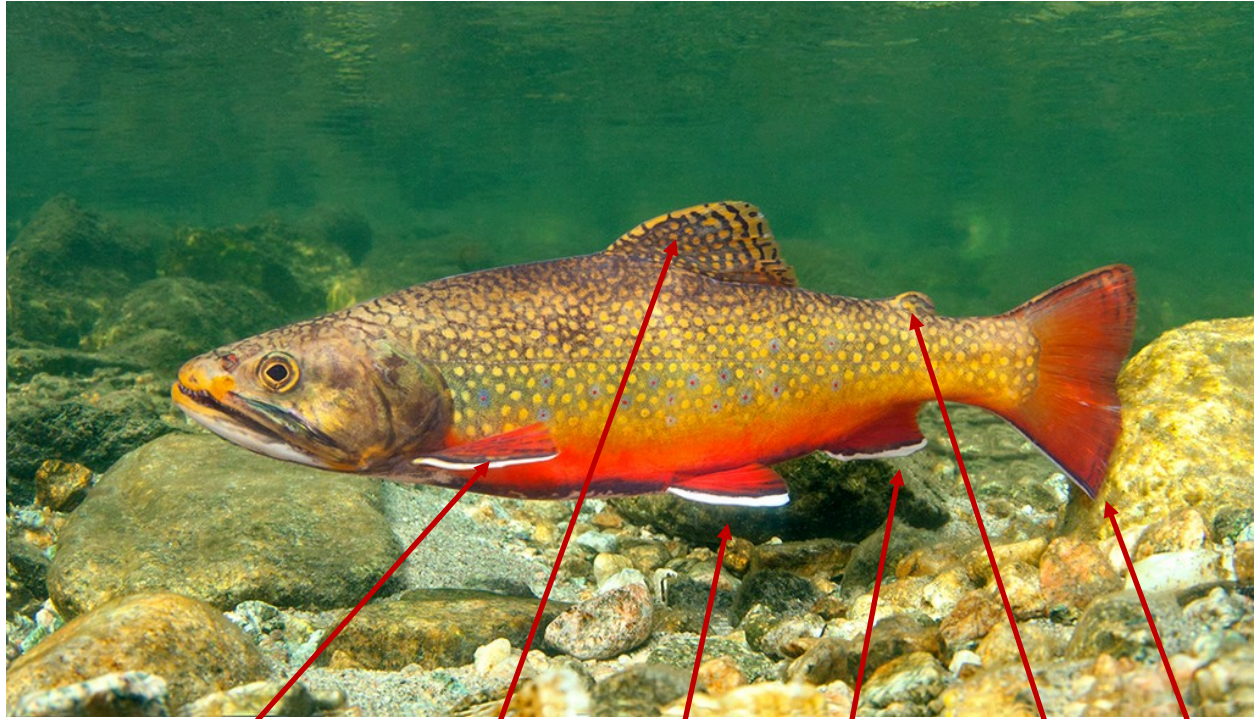
Habitat

Blue gills live in almost every pond, lake, and other quiet bodies of water in the United State. They prefer shallow water with vegetation and fallen limbs and logs for protection. You can find blue gills along tree-shaded shorelines or under lily pads and among aquatic vegetation.

What does a blue gill eat?

Blue gills are not picky when it comes to food. They feed on insects, insect larvae (microscopic animals, crayfish, worms, and small fish.

Brook Trout Information *Salvelinus fontinalis*



<http://fishegeguyphotography.com/brown-and-brook-trout-photos/>



Description

Brook trout are dark olive green with yellow spots and red spots that have a blue circle around them. The belly and tail are bright orange. The bottom fins have a white outer edge. Brook trout can grow to be 10 to 16 inches and weigh 1 to 2 pounds.

Habitat

Brook trout are native to Virginia. They live in clean, cold, fast moving streams and rivers. Their preferred water temperature is 68 degrees Fahrenheit or less.

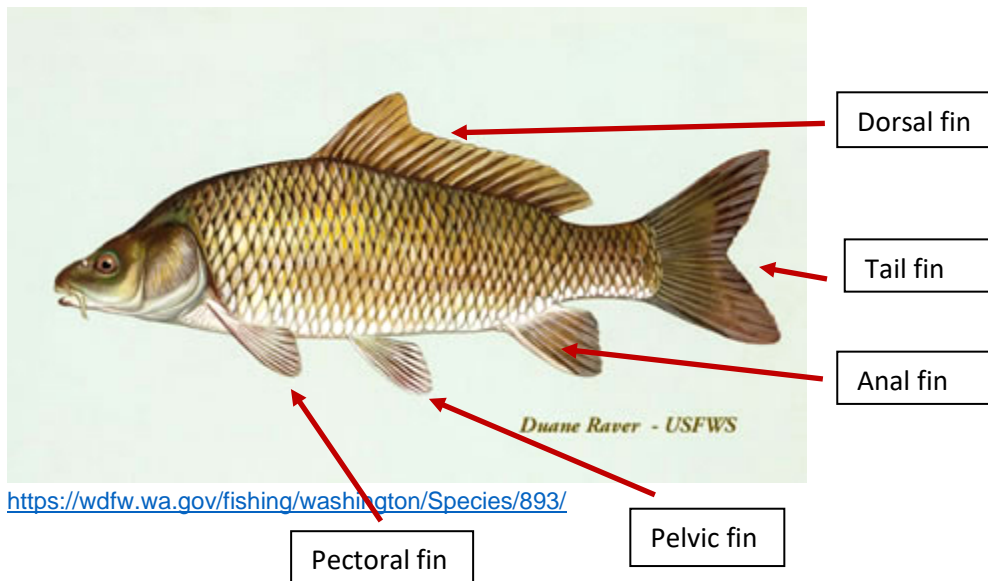
What do Brook trout eat?

Brook trout mainly eat aquatic insect larvae, especially caddis, stonefly, and mayfly nymphs. They also eat terrestrial insects that land on the water, crayfish and other small fish, including small Brook trout.

Information source: <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/fish/brook-trout/>

Common Carp: *Cyprinus carpio*

Information Sources: www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/fish/carp/ & <https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/fish-facts-everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-the-common-carp-but-were-afraid-to-ask>



Description

- thick greenish-brown body, with a brassy sheen
- humped back
- very large scales
- large lips, with two barbels extending from the lips
- Dorsal and anal fins have spines.
- Carp commonly grow to 15 to 20 lbs.

Habitat

Carp are not native to the U.S., but were widely introduced in the late 1800's. They are found in all Virginia watershed water bodies, including the Chesapeake Bay.

- Like ponds, lakes, and slow-moving rivers
- Like turbid or cloudy water (lots of sediment)
- Need lots of aquatic plants for cover
- They can live in brackish (slightly salty) water in estuaries, including the Chesapeake Bay.
- Can tolerate high water temperatures and high pollution and agricultural runoff
- They travel in schools (groups of fish), usually of at least five, and spawn (reproduce) in the spring in shallow water—often in groups of thousands.

What do carp eat?

Carp are omnivorous and dig down into the bottom or amid vegetation, sucking up mouthfuls of silt and debris, straining out food items such as snails, mussels, plants, worms, aquatic larvae and organic debris through their gill rakers, then spitting out mud and other non-food particles. Gill rakers are finger-like structures that prevent small particles of food from getting into the gills.

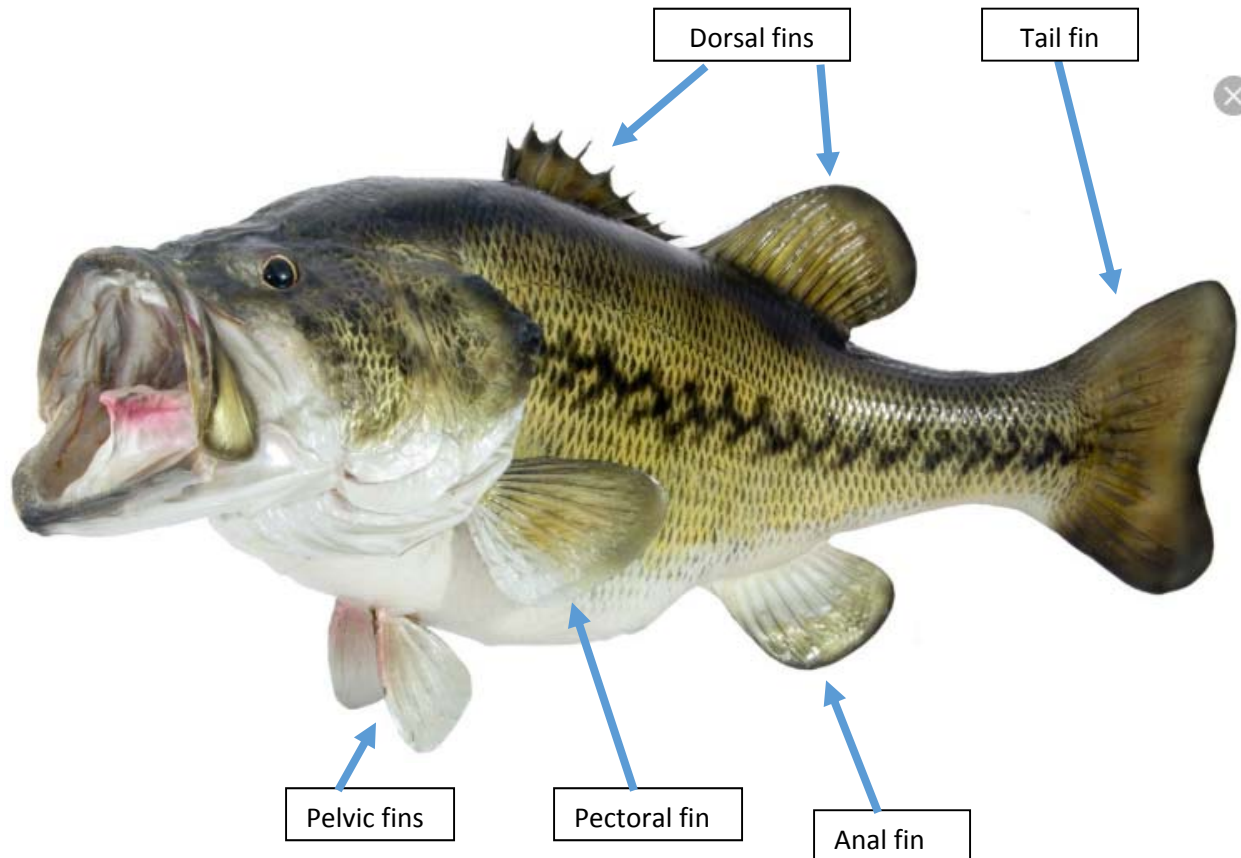
In rooting about for food they often disturb the water, increasing turbidity and adversely affecting many plants and animals, including our native Brook trout. As a result, carp are often considered a problem.



www.seagrant.wisc.edu/home/Default.aspx?tabid=605&FishID=170

Largemouth Bass Information *Micropterus salmoides*

Information sources: www.fws.gov/fisheries/freshwater-fish-of-america/largemouth_bass.html & www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/fish/largemouth-bass/
Image: <https://images.app.goo.gl/93oZafz1jLHcPGp36>



Description

Most largemouth bass are dark green with a whitish belly. They have a dark horizontal stripe or dark blotches along the center of their bodies from the gill to the tail. The mouth of a largemouth bass is large; it extends a bit past the eyes. The largemouth bass is named because of its big mouth. The top fin (dorsal fin) is divided into two parts and is spiny. Average weight is 2 to 4 lbs., but they can grow to be 10 lbs. Typical length for a largemouth bass is about 16 inches.

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Habitat

Largemouth bass live in clear, vegetated lakes, ponds, swamps, and the backwaters of creeks and rivers. They prefer warm, shallow lakes, ponds and slow-moving streams, with plenty of submerged vegetation, brush, stumps and logs. They usually are found in depths of less than 20 feet and prefer water temperatures around 68° to 78° F. Adult largemouth bass use submerged aquatic plants to hide in so that they can ambush prey. Juvenile or young largemouth bass use aquatic weeds, tree limbs or submerged log or stumps as cover to escape predation.

Largemouth bass are native to southeastern Virginia, but were introduced to all areas of our state.

What do largemouth bass eat?

Largemouth bass feed on other fish, crayfish, tadpoles and frogs, aquatic and terrestrial insects, snakes, and ducklings. They are not picky eaters. Some largemouth bass can be cannibalistic (they eat smaller bass).

Northern Pike Information *Esox lucius*

Information sources: <https://americanexpedition.us/learn-about-wildlife/northern-pike-information-facts-photos-and-fishing-tips/> & www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/fish/northern-pike/

Image: www.wildernesstoday.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Man-Showing-How-To-Catch-Northern-Pike-With-Fishing-Tips-860x465.jpg



Description

The pike has a long, slender body that is olive green in color on top and yellowish-white on its belly. Pike have light yellowish, bean-shaped spots along the length of their bodies. A single dorsal fin is located near the end of the back. All of a pike's fins are marbled with dark spots. The pike has a long, flattened snout with a strong jaw and a mouth full of sharp teeth. These teeth angle inward so its prey cannot get loose when caught.

Northern Pike Habitat

Northern pike seek areas of dense vegetation in streams, lakes, and large rivers. They tend to stay in shallow waters near the shore where there is vegetation cover. They prefer cool water and, therefore, will head to deeper water around midsummer. Northern pike are not native to Virginia; they were introduced so that people could fish for them.

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What do Northern Pike eat?

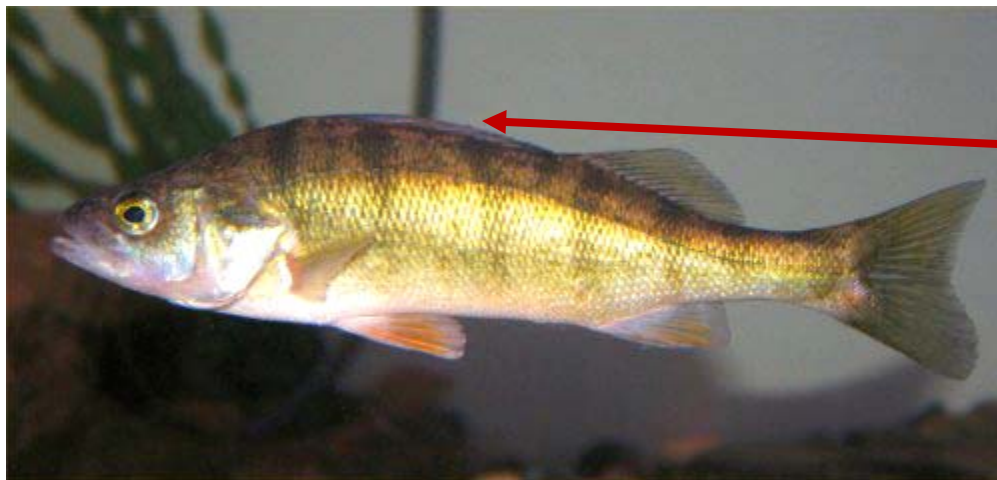
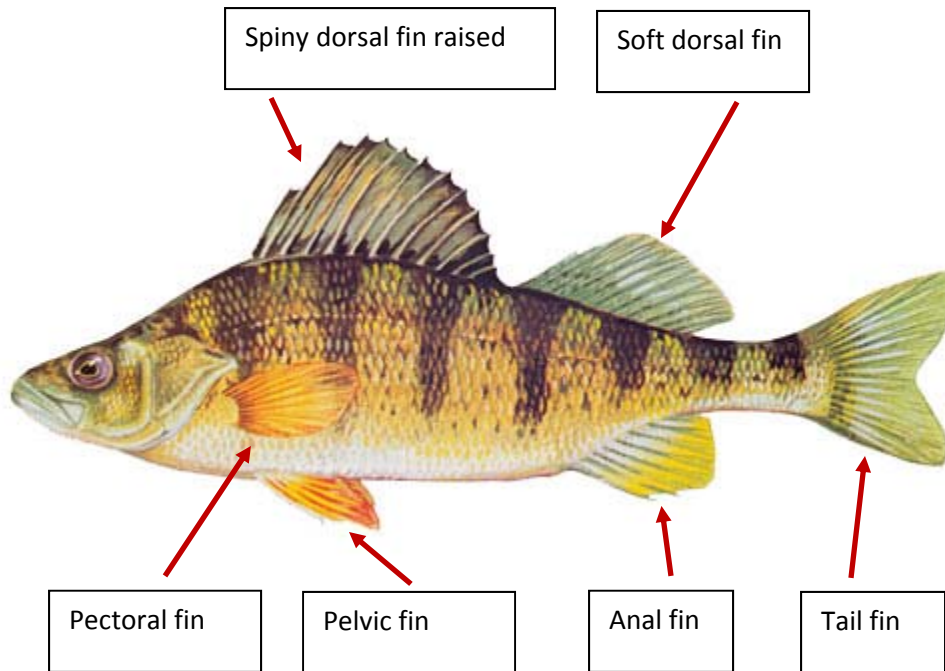
Northern pike are carnivorous fish; they eat a large amount of food each day and they are not picky eaters. Their diet consists mainly of fish that are smaller than they are but they also eat other creatures such as frogs, salamanders, worms, insects, mice, rats, muskrats, snakes, and waterfowl. Pike are ambush predators; they lurk in the vegetation, making no movements, just waiting for a creature to get close enough to strike it. Adult pike typically have no other predators than humans.



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14631780>

Yellow Perch Information *Perca flavescens*

Information Sources: https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/freshwater-fish-of-america/yellow_perch.html & <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/Fish-Facts>



Spiny dorsal fin lowered

http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishfacts/yellow_perch.jpg

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YELLOW PERCH DESCRIPTION:

- Yellow perch are brassy green to golden yellow on their sides and white to yellow on their bellies.
- Their most distinguishing feature is 6-8 dark vertical bands found across their backs and sides.
- Yellow perch anal, pelvic, and pectoral fins are red to orange.
- Their anal fin has two long and slender spines.
- These fish have a dorsal fin divided into a spiny portion and a separate soft-rayed portion.
- The body is somewhat long and a bit flat.
- Yellow perch have large mouths.

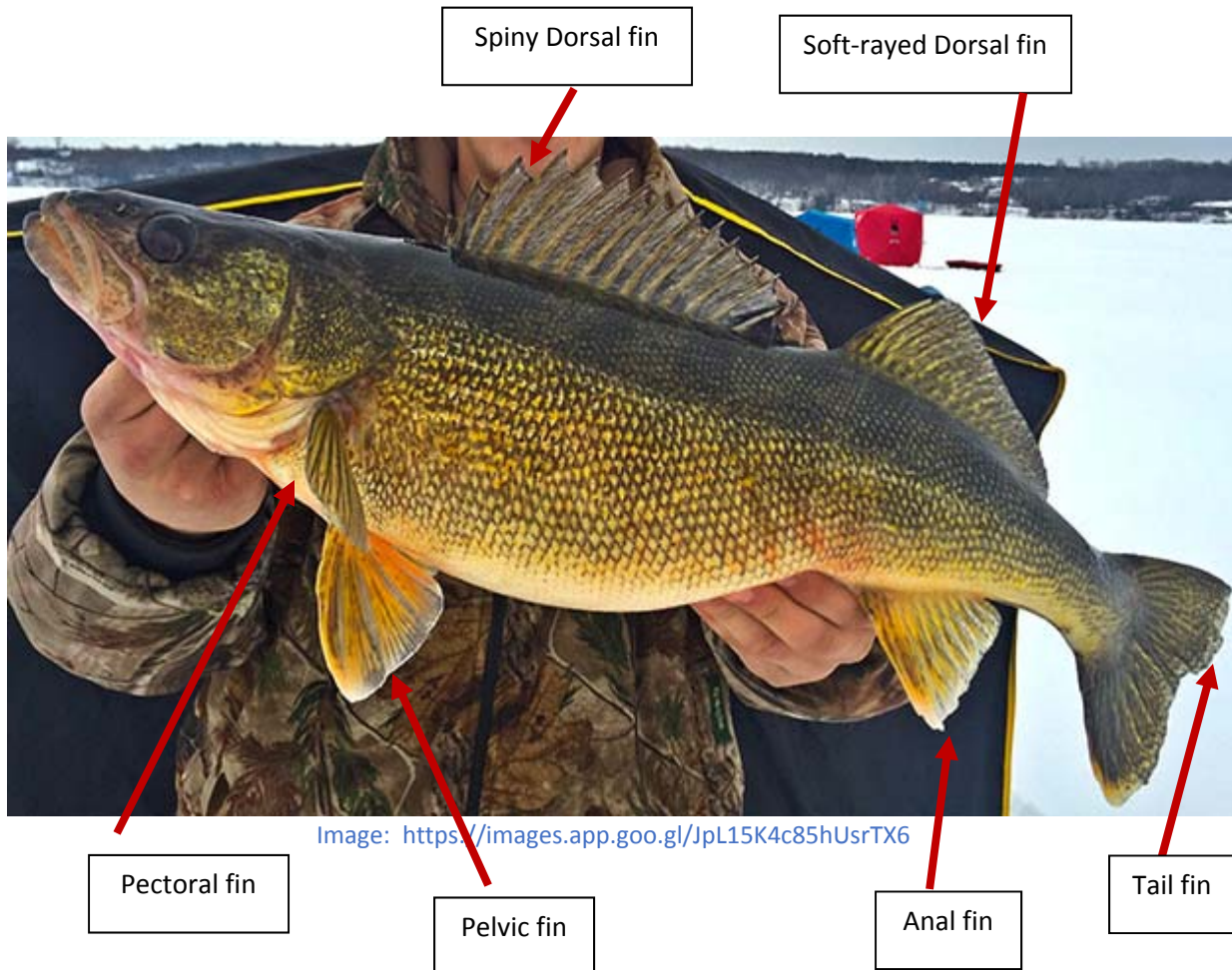
SIZE: The common length for yellow perch is 7.5 inches. The longest reported length for yellow perch is 19.5 inches. The heaviest reported weight for a yellow perch is 4.2 lbs.

HABITAT: Yellow perch live in the watersheds of the Atlantic and Arctic oceans, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basin. They are found in ponds, lakes, the pools of creeks, and in slow flowing rivers. Adult yellow perch prefer slow-moving, nearshore areas where moderate amounts of vegetation provide cover, food, and protection. They are most common in clear water near vegetation. They also can be found in brackish (somewhat salty) water. Yellow perch have adapted to the estuarine waters of Chesapeake Bay and live in all of the Chesapeake Bay's major tributaries and streams.

WHAT DO YELLOW PERCH EAT? Yellow perch eat a wide variety of small fish and invertebrates, such as aquatic insects, crayfish, worms, and tadpoles.

Walleye Information *Sander vitreus*

Information sources: <https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Fish/Walleye> & <https://americanexpedition.us/learn-about-wildlife/walleye-facts-information-photos-and-fishing-tips/>



Walleye Description

Walleye are olive and gold in color with a yellowish-white belly. They have a band of large dark spots on their back and smaller dark spots on their fins. Walleye have a large mouth filled with many razor-sharp teeth. They have two dorsal fins—one spiny-rayed and one soft-rayed. Walleye grow to 2.5 to 3 feet long and weigh up to 10 to 20 pounds.

Walleye gets its name from a special pigment layer in its eye that reflects light. This pigment layer allows a walleye to see more clearly in dark and cloudy water. Because of this, walleye are sensitive to light and will move into deep water on clear days. This low-light vision helps them to find prey at night.

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Walleye Habitat

Walleye are native to Canada, the Great Lakes, and the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. They have been introduced to the northeastern United States, including Virginia. Because of their sensitivity to light, walleye live in the cloudy waters of rivers, streams, and lakes. They like to rest on rocky or sandy bottoms with lots of aquatic vegetation to forage in. They move to clusters of underwater plants or the inside of logs to escape the light.

What do walleye eat?

A walleye's diet depends on what is available (they are not too picky). They eat smaller fish, crayfish, worms, and insects.