

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/>



www.nwf.org/-/media/NEW-WEBSITE/Shared-Folder/Wildlife/Fish/fish_walleye_piter1977-GettyImages_600x300.ashx

Tail fin

Anal fin

Soft-rayed Dorsal fin

Spiny Dorsal fin

Pelvic fin

Walleye Description

Walleye are olive and gold in color, fading to a white underside. 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. Walleye have two dorsal fins—one spiny-rayed and one soft-rayed. Walleye grow to 2.5 to 3 feet (0.75 to 0.9 meters) in length and weigh up to 10 to 20 pounds (4.5 to 9 kilograms).

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

Walleye spawn in the spring, mainly in April, when the water temperature reaches around 40-55 degrees Fahrenheit. The female deposits the eggs (up to 500,000!) in shallow water. The eggs hatch in about 10 days and the hatchlings feed on plankton and insects. Neither the mother nor the father care for the babies. The lifespan of a walleye is about 10 years.

Developed by UVA's Blandy Experimental Farm in partnership with
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Walleye Habitat

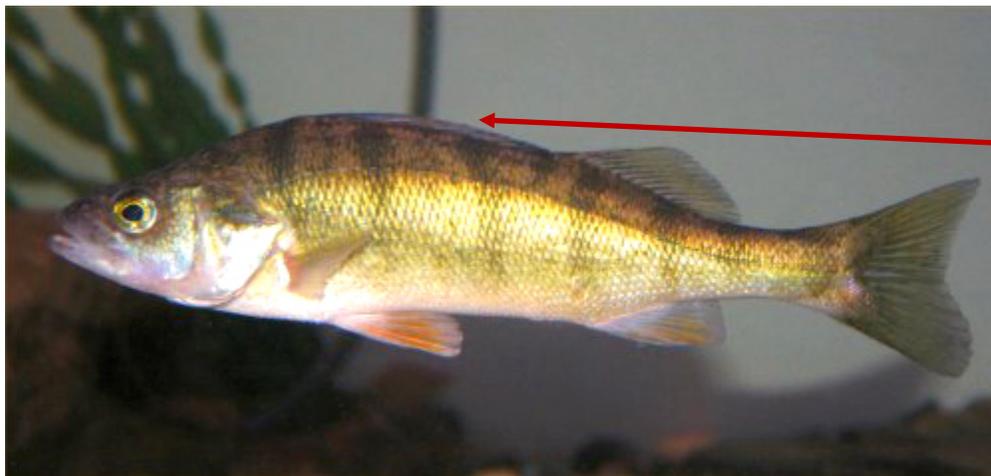
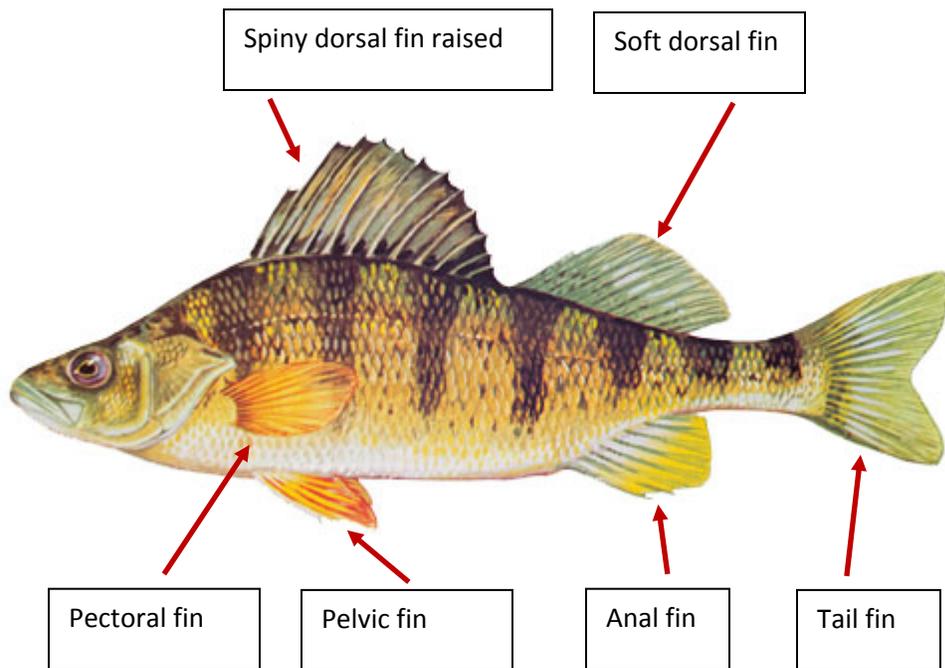
Walleye are native to Canada, the Great Lakes, and the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. They have been introduced to the northeastern United States, including Virginia. Because of their sensitivity to light, walleye live in the cloudy waters of rivers, streams, and lakes. They like to rest on rocky or sandy bottoms with lots of aquatic vegetation to forage in. They will occupy beds of plants or the inside of logs to escape the light. Walleye are mostly nocturnal and during the day are often found under the cover of tree roots, logs, and aquatic plants. At night, they travel to shallower waters to seek out food.

What do walleye eat?

Walleye primarily feed in the low-light conditions of early morning and dusk. They tend to be most active on overcast days and windy days with choppy water. In more turbid or murky water, they will feed throughout the day. A walleye's diet depends on what is available (they are not too picky). They eat smaller fish, crayfish, worms, and insects.

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>



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

YELLOW PERCH DESCRIPTION:

- The general coloring of yellow perch tends to be brassy green to golden yellow on their sides and white to yellow on their belly.
- Their most distinguishing feature is 6-8 dark vertical bands found across their back and sides.
- Their anal, pelvic, and pectoral fins are red to orange, with these colors being brightest in males during the spawning season.
- Their anal fin features two long and slender spines.
- These fish are also characterized by having a dorsal fin that is completely divided into a spiny portion and a separate soft-rayed portion.
- The body is elongate and moderately compressed.
- The mouth is large.

SIZE: The common length for yellow perch is 19.1 cm (7.5 inches) with the longest reported length for yellow perch being 50 cm (19.7 inches). The heaviest reported weight for a yellow perch is 1.9 kg (4.2 lbs.)

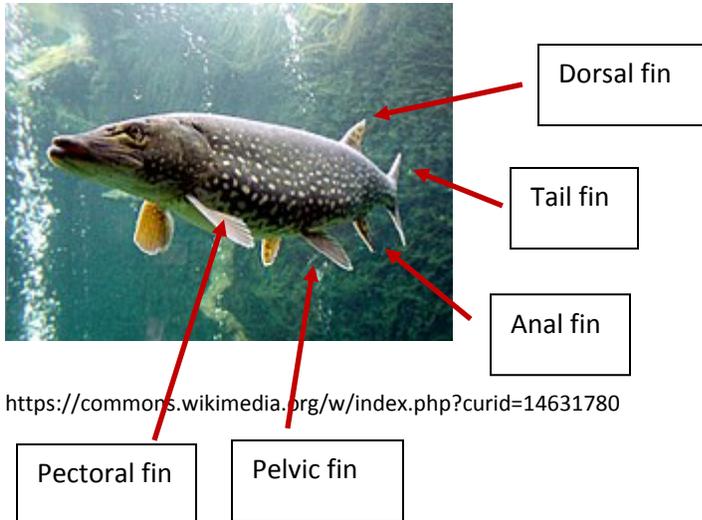
HABITAT: Yellow perch are found in ponds, lakes, the pools of creeks, and in slow flowing rivers. Adult yellow perch prefer slow-moving, nearshore areas where moderate amounts of vegetation provide cover, food, and protection. They are most commonly found in clear water near vegetation and tend to school near the shore during the spring. They can also be found in brackish (somewhat salty) water. Yellow perch have adapted to the estuarine waters of Chesapeake Bay and have been reported in all of the Chesapeake Bay's major tributaries and streams.

Yellow perch are found in the watersheds of the Atlantic and Arctic oceans, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basin. In the United States, yellow perch range southward into Ohio, Illinois, and throughout the majority of the northeast.

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

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/



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, which fades to yellowish-white on its belly. The sides of the pike are marked with light yellowish, bean-shaped spots running the length of its body. The single dorsal fin is located near the end of the back and this fin, along with the others, is 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 occupy shallow waters near the shore where there is vegetation cover. They prefer cool water and, therefore, will head to deeper water around midsummer.

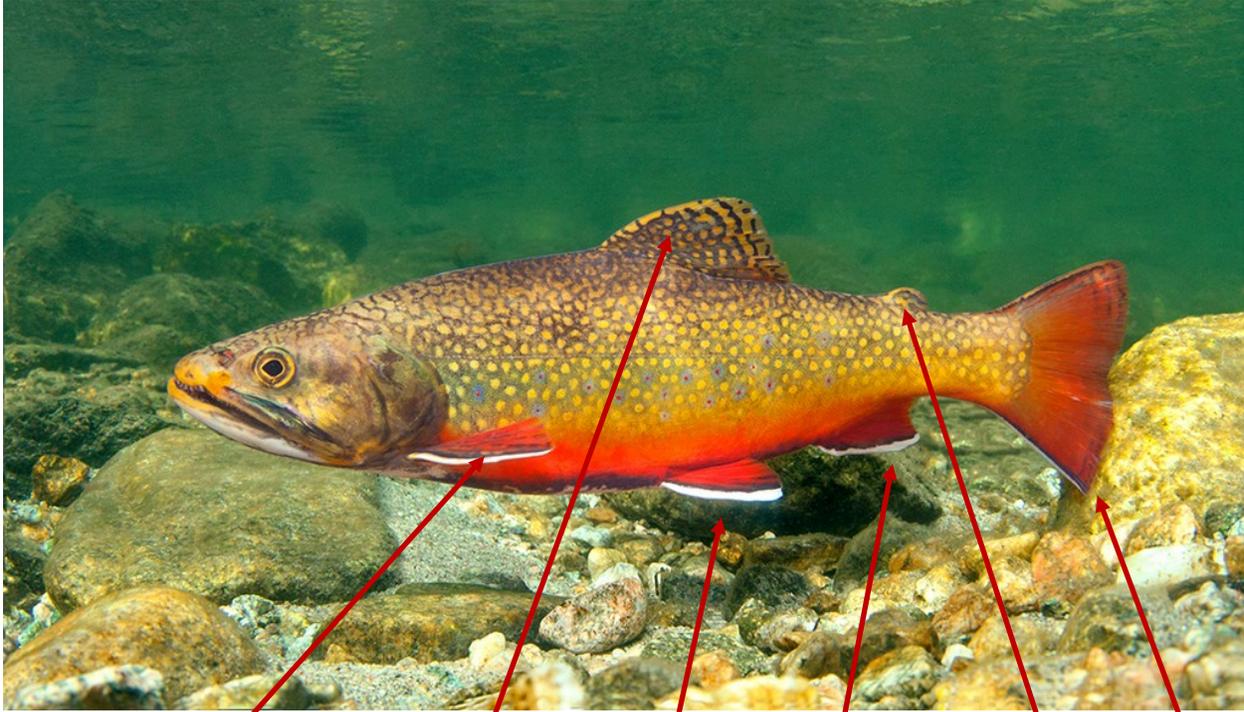
Northern pike are not native to Virginia; they were introduced so that people could fish for them. They are found in shallow water in spring and fall around weed beds. In summer, they seek out deeper waters near drop-offs, but seldom below 35 ft. They may move up creeks or around underground springs where there is cooler, moving water.

What do Northern Pike eat?

Northern pike are carnivorous fish; they consume a large amount of food each day and they are not picky eaters. Their diet consists mainly of fish that are smaller than them but they also eat other creatures such as frogs, salamanders, worms, insects, mice, rats, muskrats, snakes, and waterfowl. Pike are known as ambush predators; they lurk in the vegetation, making no movements, just waiting for a creature to get close enough to strike it. Northern pike can swim 8-10 miles per hour.

Adult pike typically have no other predators than humans.

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.

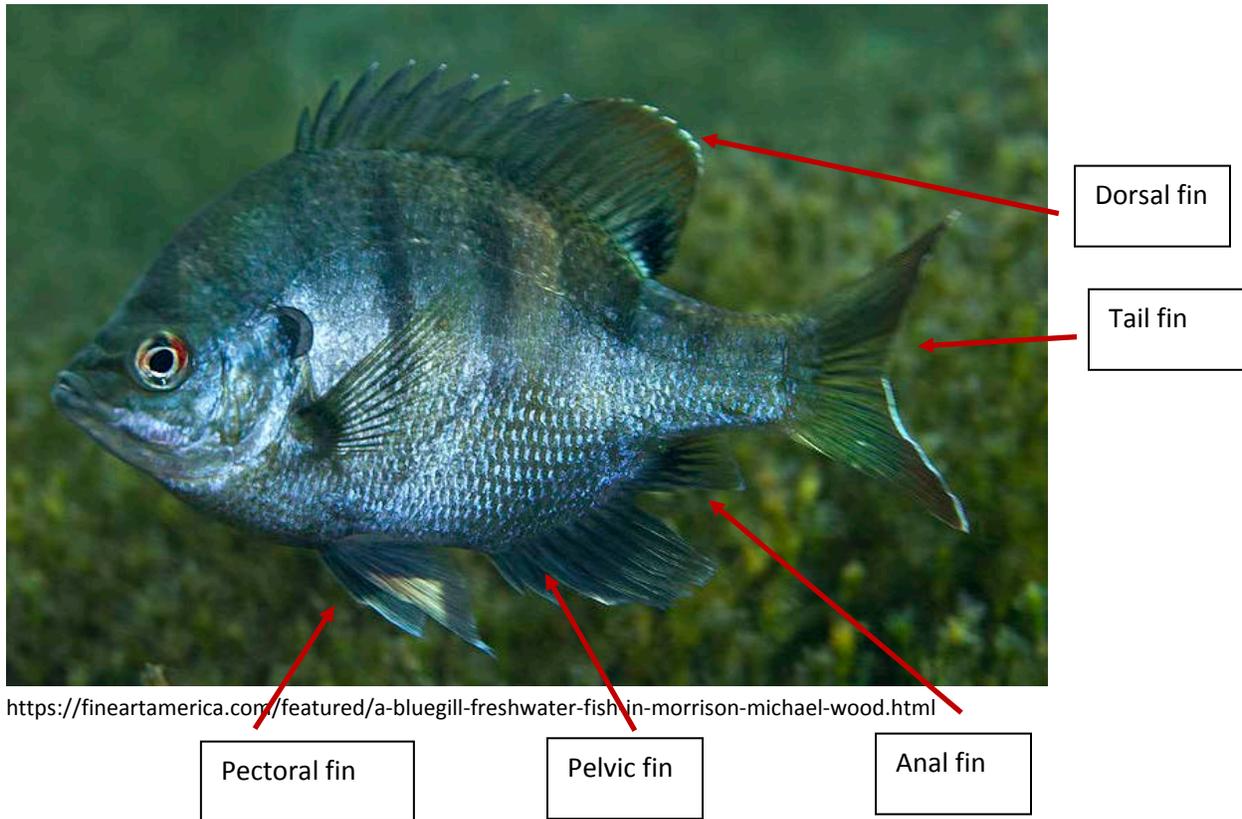
What do Brook trout eat?

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/>

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

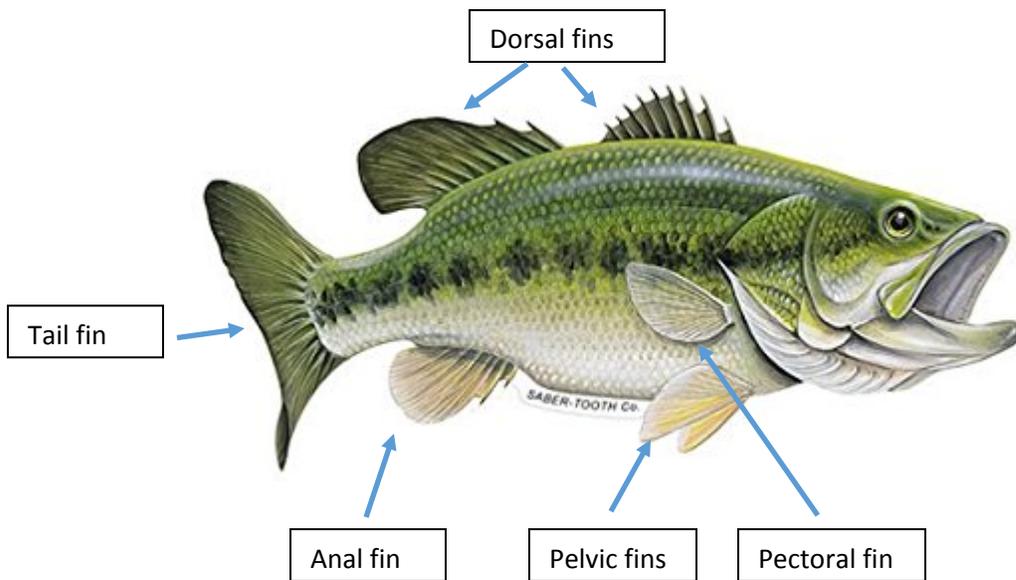
Blue gills live in almost every pond, lake, and other quiet bodies of water in the United State. They prefer shallow water with vegetation and fallen limbs and logs for protection. You can find blue gills along tree-shaded shorelines or under lily pads and among aquatic vegetation.

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.

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/



<https://www.amazon.com/Largemouth-Decal-Sticker-Fishing-Wildlife/dp/B00IWDEA7G>

Description

Most largemouth bass are dark greenish in color, fading to a whitish belly. They have a dark horizontal stripe or dark blotches that run along the center of its body from the gill to the tail. The mouth of a largemouth bass is large; it extends a bit past the eyes. The largemouth bass was 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 up to 10 lbs. Typical length for a largemouth bass is 15.7 inches (40 cm).

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, and usually are found in depths of less than 20 ft. Preferred water temperatures are 68° to 78° F. Largemouth bass prefer spawning areas with a firm bottom of sand, mud or gravel. Adult largemouth bass use submerged aquatic vegetation

as cover to ambush prey. Juvenile or young largemouth use aquatic weeds, tree limbs or submerged log or stumps as cover to escape predation.

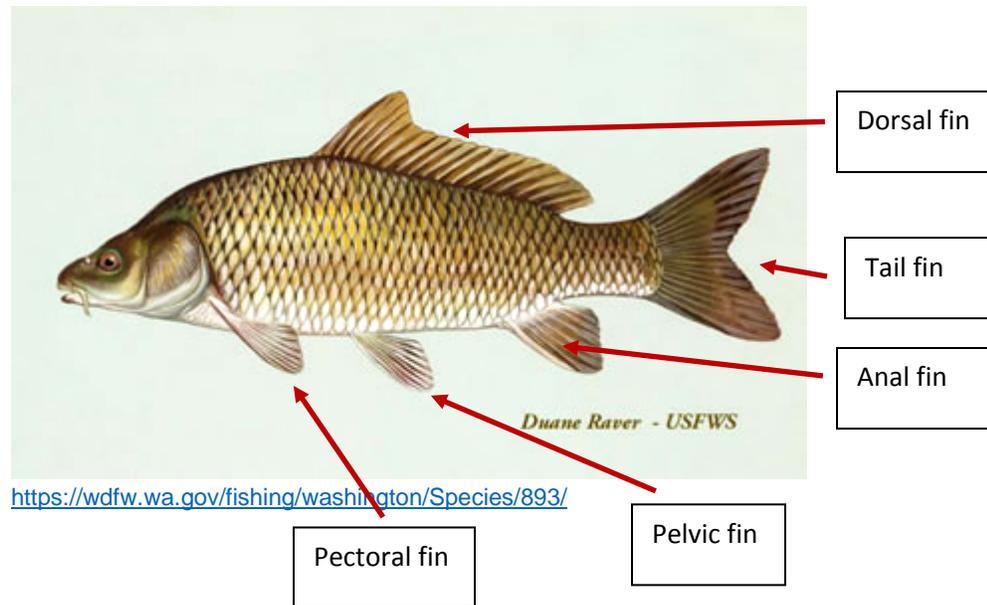
Largemouth bass are native to southeastern Virginia, but were introduced statewide.

What do largemouth bass eat?

Adult largemouth bass feed on other fish, crayfish, tadpoles and frogs, aquatic and terrestrial insects, snakes, and ducklings. They are not picky eaters. Young largemouth bass will feed on crayfish, insects, and small fish. Some largemouth bass can be cannibalistic just like northern pike. Largemouth bass normally do not feed during spawning or when the water temperature dips below 5 degrees Celsius (41 degrees Fahrenheit) or above 37 degrees Celsius (98.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

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

Carp have a thick greenish, brown body, with a brassy sheen, humped back, very large scales, large lips, and two barbules 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.

Carp can live in a wide range of habitats, but they prefer ponds, lakes, and slow moving rivers, especially those with turbid water and lots of aquatic plants for cover. They can also live in brackish (slightly salty) water in estuaries, including the Chesapeake Bay. Carp can tolerate high water temperatures and a slew of pollutants and agricultural runoff. They travel in schools, usually of at least five, and spawn in the spring in shallow water—often by the thousands.

What do carp eat?

Carp are omnivorous, and 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 undesirable.

Carp dig down into the bottom or amid vegetation, sucking up mouthfuls of silt and debris, straining out food items such as snails, mussels, vegetation, 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.



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