

PERCH







perch - окунь

[pɜ:tʃ]



European perch -
Европейский окунь

[jʊ(ə)rə'piən pɜ:tʃ]



Balkhash perch -
Балхашский окунь

[bɑ:l'kɑ:ʃ pɜ:tʃ]



yellow perch - желтый
окунь

[ˈjeləʊ pɜːʃ]

Perch



Perch is a common name for fish of the genus *Perca*, freshwater gamefish belonging to the family Percidae. The perch, of which three species occur in different geographical areas, lend their name to a large order of vertebrates: the Perciformes, from the Greek: πέρκη (perke), simply meaning perch, and the Latin forma meaning shape. Many species of freshwater gamefish more or less resemble perch, but belong to different genera. In fact, the exclusively saltwater-dwelling red drum is often referred to as a red perch, though by definition perch are freshwater fish. Though many fish are referred to as perch as a common name, to be considered a true perch, the fish must be of the family Percidae.

Most authorities recognize three species within the perch genus:

The **European perch** is found in Europe and Asia. This species is typically greenish in color with dark vertical bars on its sides with a red or orange coloring in the tips of its fins. The European perch has been successfully introduced in New Zealand and Australia, where it is known as the redfin perch or English perch. In Australia, larger specimens have been bred, but the species rarely grows heavier than 2.7 kg.

The **Balkhash perch** is found in Kazakhstan, (in Lake Balkhash and Lake Alakol), Uzbekistan, and China. It is very similar to the European perch, and grows to a comparable size.

The **yellow perch**, smaller and paler than the European perch, is found in North America. In northern areas, it is sometimes referred to as the lake perch. This species is prized for its food quality and has often been raised in hatcheries and introduced into areas in which it is not native. Yellow perch are almost identical in appearance to European perch, but have a more yellow coloring. These fish typically only reach a size of about 38 cm and 1 kg.

The general body type of a perch is somewhat long and rounded. True perch have "rough" or ctenoid scales. On the anterior side of the head are the maxilla and lower mandible for the mouth, a pair of nostrils, and two lidless eyes. On the posterior sides are the opercular series, which protect the gills, and the lateral line system, which is sensitive to vibrations in the water. The kidney of the perch runs along the backbone and forms a head, caudal to the gills. Perch have paired pectoral and pelvic fins, and two dorsal fins, the first one spiny and the second soft. These two fins can be separate or joined. Perch are carnivorous fish most commonly found in small ponds, lakes, streams, or rivers. These fish feed on smaller fish, shellfish, or insect larvae, but can be caught with nearly any bait. They commonly spawn during the spring, when the females lay strings of eggs in covered areas such as near branches or underwater plants. These fish are most abundant in clear, weedy lakes that have a muck, sand, or gravel bottom. Perch have a wide distribution throughout the world, and are very plentiful in the Great Lakes, especially Lake Erie.

European perch



The **European perch**, also known as the common perch, redfin perch, big-scaled redfin, English perch, Euro perch, Eurasian perch, Eurasian river perch, Hatch or in Anglophone parts of Europe, simply the perch, is a predatory species of the freshwater perch native to Europe and northern Asia. The species is a popular quarry for anglers, and has been widely introduced beyond its native area, into Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. They have caused substantial damage to native fish populations in Australia and have been proclaimed a noxious species in New South Wales.

European perch are greenish with red pelvic, anal and caudal fins. They have five to eight dark vertical bars on their sides. When the perch grow larger, a hump grows between its head and dorsal fin.

European perch can vary greatly in size between bodies of water. They can live for up to 22 years, and older perch are often much larger than average; the maximum recorded length is 60 cm. The British record is 2.8 kg, but they grow larger in mainland Europe than in Britain. As of May 2016, the official all tackle world record recognised by the International Game Fish Association stands at 2.9 kg for a Finnish fish caught September 4, 2010. In January 2010 a perch with a weight of 3.75 kg was caught in the River Meuse, Netherlands. Due to the low salinity levels of the Baltic Sea, especially around the Finnish archipelago and Bothnian Sea, many freshwater fish live and thrive there. Perch especially are in abundance and grow to a considerable size due to the diet of Baltic herring.

The range of the European perch covers fresh water basins all over Europe, excluding the Iberian peninsula. Their range is known to reach the Kolyma River in Siberia to the east. It is also common in some of the brackish waters of the Baltic Sea.

European perch has been widely introduced, with reported adverse ecological impact after introduction. In Australia, the species is implicated in the decline of the now endangered native fish, the Macquarie perch.

The European perch lives in slow-flowing rivers, deep lakes and ponds. It tends to avoid cold or fast-flowing waters but some specimens penetrate waters of these type, although they do not breed in this habitat.

The perch is a predatory species. Juveniles feed on zooplankton, bottom invertebrate fauna and other perch fry, while adults feed on both invertebrates and fish, mainly sticklebacks, perch, roach and minnows. Perch start eating other fish when they reach a size of around 120 mm.

Male perch become sexually mature at between one and two years of age, females between two and four. In the northern hemisphere they spawn between February and July, depositing their eggs on water plants or the branches of trees or shrubs immersed in the water. There has been speculation, but only anecdotal evidence, that eggs stick to the legs of wading birds and are then transferred to other waters.

Balkhash perch



The **Balkhash perch** is a species of perch endemic to the Lake Balkhash and Lake Alakol watershed system, which lies mainly in Kazakhstan. It is similar to the other two species of perch, and grows to a comparable size, but has a slimmer build and is lighter in colour.

It has suffered a population decline which is blamed on introduced bream and predatory fish such as the Volga pikeperch.

The Balkhash perch resembles its congeners, the European perch and the yellow perch, in its general profile and its modest size, reaching a maximum total length of 50 cm and weight of 1.5 kg. Like them it has spines on the tips of the opercula and in the dorsal, pelvic and anal fins, as well as sharing a similar dentition. It also shares with them the ctenoid scales that lend a rough texture to the fish when handled.

It differs in its longer, thinner build and lower first dorsal fin; and whilst its congeners have marked vertical dark bars on their bodies, the Balkash perch normally lacks such markings when it attains its larger sizes, and is of a much paler hue. When vertical bars are present they are usually much less visible than in the other *Perca* species. There are, however, populations in which such bars are visible, along with coloured fins reminiscent of the other *Perca* species. The body is covered with larger scales than those of its congeners, with 44–54 on the lateral line.

It is a markedly variable species, occurring in ecomorphic forms that have been termed 'pelagic', 'shoreline', 'riverine' and 'dwarfish'. In other locations forms that grow at different speeds have been distinguished, or in another case 'lake' and 'reed' forms that differed in colour and body shape. Local extirpation has made it impossible to further verify these data.

Individually variable features of the morphology include the presence or absence of a black spot on the first dorsal fin, and the presence or absence of scales on the opercula, as well as the position and number of mucus glands on the head.

FishBase reports only that the Balkhash perch is found in Lake Balkhash and Lake Alakol, both in Kazakhstan. N. S. Mamilov, a zoologist working in Kazakhstan, has described it as endemic to "the Balkhash lake watershed, including the Alakol Lakes system", and has mapped the presence and absence of the species in various rivers and other water bodies in that area. Maurice Kottelat, in his 1996 IUCN assessment states that the species' range also extends into parts of this catchment area that are in China, though no data on such populations were available.

The Balkhash perch was introduced into the Nura and the Chu rivers, but in neither case was this a success.

Yellow perch



The **yellow perch**, commonly referred to as perch, striped perch, American perch, American river perch or preacher is a freshwater perciform fish native to much of North America. The yellow perch was described in 1814 by Samuel Latham Mitchill from New York. It is closely related, and morphologically similar to the European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*); and is sometimes considered a subspecies of its European counterpart. Other common names for yellow perch include American perch, coontail, lake perch, raccoon perch, ring-tail perch, ringed perch, and striped perch. Another nickname for the perch is the Dodd fish.

Latitudinal variability in age, growth rates, and size have been observed among populations of yellow perch, likely resulting from differences in day length and annual water temperatures. In many populations, yellow perch often live 9 to 10 years, with adults generally ranging from 10 to 25 cm in length.

The world record yellow perch 46 cm; 1.9 kg was caught in 1865 in New Jersey, and is the longest-standing record for freshwater fish in North America.

The yellow perch has an elongate, oval body with a relatively long but blunt snout which does not reach past the tip of the lower jaw. Like most perches it has two separate dorsal fins. The anterior, or first, dorsal fin contains 12-14 spines while the second has 2-3 spines in its anterior followed by 12-13 soft rays. The anal fin has 2 spines and 7-8 soft rays. The upper part of the head and body varies in colour from bright green through to olive or golden brown. Although typically they are golden yellow. The colour on the upper body extends onto the flanks where it creates a pattern of 6-8 vertical bars over a background colour of yellow or yellowish green. They normally show a blackish blotch on the membrane of the first dorsal fin between the rearmost 3 or 4 spines. The colour of the dorsal and caudal fins vary from yellow to green while the anal and pelvic fins may be yellow through to silvery white. The pectoral fins are transparent and amber in colour. The ventral part of the body is white. The juvenile fish are paler and can have an almost whitish background colour. The maximum recorded total length is 50 centimetres—although they are more commonly around 19.1 centimetres—and the maximum published weight is 1.9 kilograms.



Yellow perch are only found in North America; they are native to the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans, and the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River and Mississippi River basins. In Canada, its native range extends throughout Nova Scotia and Quebec north to the Mackenzie River. It also is common in the northwest to Great Slave Lake and west into Alberta. It is not native to any other areas of Canada. In the United States, the native range extends south into Ohio and Illinois, and throughout most of the northeastern United States. It is also considered native to the Atlantic Slope basin, extending south to the Savannah River. There is also a small native population in the Dead Lakes region of the Apalachicola River system in Florida.

The yellow perch has also been widely introduced for sport and commercial fishing purposes. It has also been introduced to establish a forage base for bass and walleye. These introductions were predominantly performed by the U.S. Fish Commission in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. However, unauthorized introductions have likely occurred from illegal introductions, dispersal through connected waterways, and use as live bait. Isolated populations now occur in the northwest and southwest portions of the United States. Currently, the yellow perch has not been introduced outside of North America. Introductions in Canada have been less intense than in the United States. It has been extirpated in Arkansas.