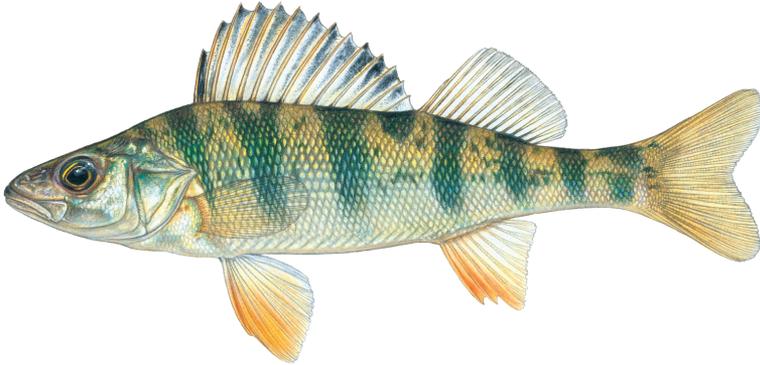


Yellow perch

Perca flavescens



Similar Species: None in South Dakota

Identification: Fairly deep, compressed body, green-brown saddles extend down yellow side, yellow to red paired fins, no teeth.

Yellow perch are widely distributed in South Dakota. Adult yellow perch consume small fishes, aquatic insects, snails, and small crayfish, feeding throughout the day in deep water but often moving into shallows during the evening. Spawning takes place when water temperatures are between 45 and 55 F. Their spawning habits are unique because they deposit long, tubular masses of eggs over submerged vegetation or brush. Reproduction and subsequent population levels are extremely inconsistent in many of the state's larger windswept waters because of high turbidity, wave action, and lack of vegetation. Yellow perch are popular with anglers and can exceed 2 pounds.

