



Can you distinguish between the exotic, invasive white perch and the native white bass and yellow bass?

Background

Native to Atlantic coastal regions of the United States, white perch likely invaded the Great Lakes through the Erie and Welland canals around 1950. The white perch is closely related to two native species, the white bass and the yellow bass and may adversely effect those other species in waters where it becomes abundant.

Wisconsin Waters of the Great Lakes

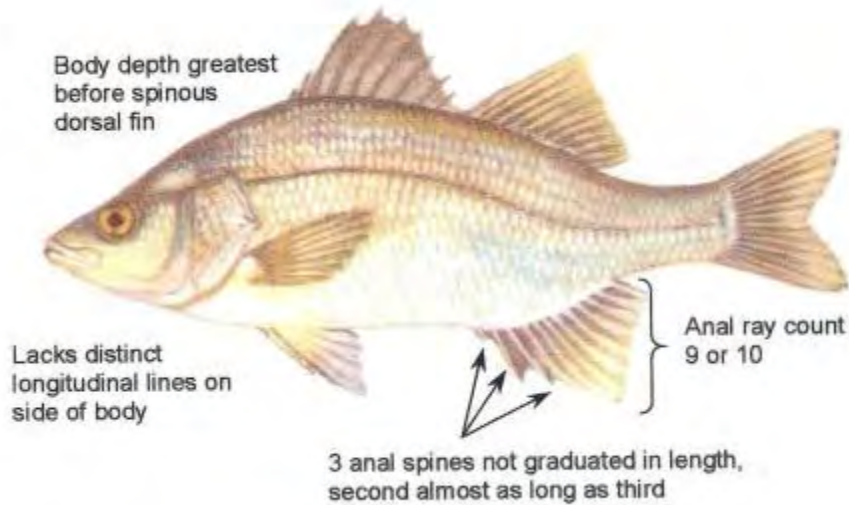
The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has identified white perch in Lake Superior, Green Bay, Lake Michigan and tributary streams. If you believe you have caught a white perch in these waters, do not transport it and release it into another body of water. DNR is concerned that anglers may mistake white perch for native white or yellow bass, and unknowingly release the invasive fish. For help in distinguishing between these species, please see our [Identification Guide](#) below.

Inland Waters

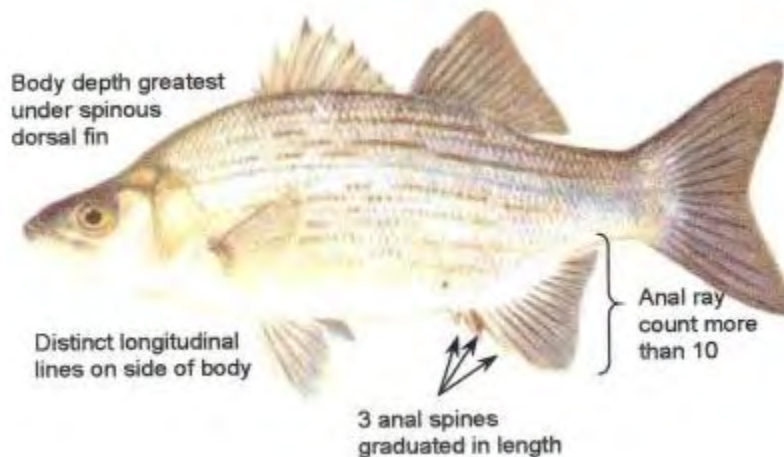
DNR is interested in preventing the spread of white perch to Wisconsin's inland waters. DNR is concerned that anglers may mistake white perch for native white or yellow bass, and unknowingly release the invasive fish. If you believe you have caught a white perch on a Wisconsin water **other than Lake Superior, Green Bay, Lake Michigan or a tributary stream**, please contact your local [DNR fish biologist](#). You may not keep more than one white perch for transport to a DNR office for identification. For help in distinguishing between these species, please see our [Identification Guide](#).

Identification Guide

White Perch (*Morone americana*)



White Bass (*Morone chrysops*)



Yellow Bass (*Morone mississippiensis*)

The yellow bass is very similar to the white bass, but the black lines on the body of the yellow bass are much more distinct, and appear to be "broken" and shifted up in the middle of the body on the yellow bass.

For assistance in distinguishing between the three species: white perch, white bass and yellow bass, try the [Fish Identification System - Exit DNR](#) Web site. Once at the site, go to the "All Species" section and click on "List of Species by Common Names." Next, enter "White Perch." At the bottom bottom of the picture select "Picture Index and Similar Species" for a Web pge of the key characteristics of white perch, white bass and yellow bass. In a nutshell, the stripes are the key to distinguishing between these species.