

Zander

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Species Description

Scientific name: *Sander lucioperca*

AKA: Pike-perch, *Stizostedion lucioperca*, *Lucioperca lucioperca*

Native to: Central and eastern Europe

Habitat: Prefers large, turbid or slow-flowing rivers. Tolerates brackish coastal lakes and estuaries.

With its streamlined slender body Zander has a similar appearance to pike. Grey-green on its back, lighter along the flanks with several vertical dark bands (bands are less pronounced on adult fish). The belly is white to bluish and fins are yellow grey. It has 2 dorsal fins, with the anterior having large and distinctive spines. Along with the caudal fin (tail) the dorsal fins also have rows of black spots. The mouth has many small teeth with distinctively large canine teeth.

Zander is not present in Northern Ireland. It was first introduced for angling in England in 1878; through further illegal introductions and natural dispersal, it is now widely established in East Anglia and the midlands. Illegal introductions are the most likely pathway into Northern Ireland. In waters where Zander is established it preys upon native fish, including seaward migrating salmonid smolts. Its presence can also impact upon fish behaviour (movement from open water (pelagic zones) habitat to marginal weedier habitat). Zander is a vector of fish diseases and parasites and is also known to hybridise with European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*).

As Zander is not ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland, under The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019, it is an offence to release or allow this species to escape into the wild.

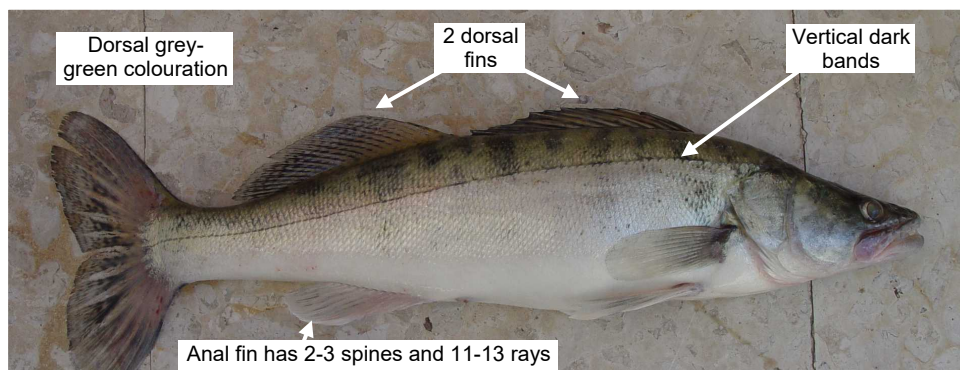


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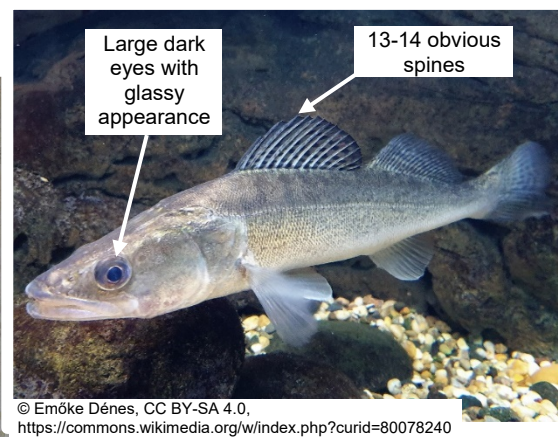


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Key ID Features



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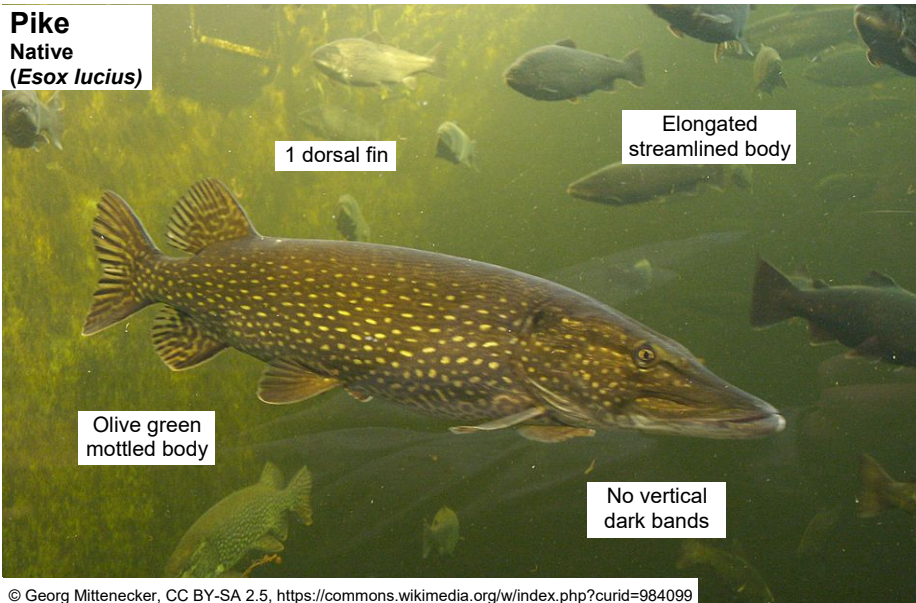


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Report any sightings via; CEDaR Online Recording - <https://www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI>, iRecord app or Invasive Species Northern Ireland website - <http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/report-sighting>

Similar Species

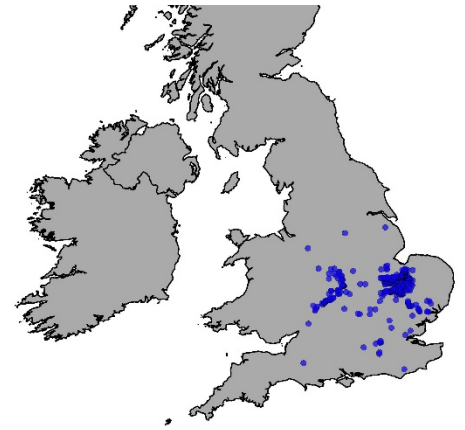
Pike
Native
(*Esox lucius*)



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Distribution

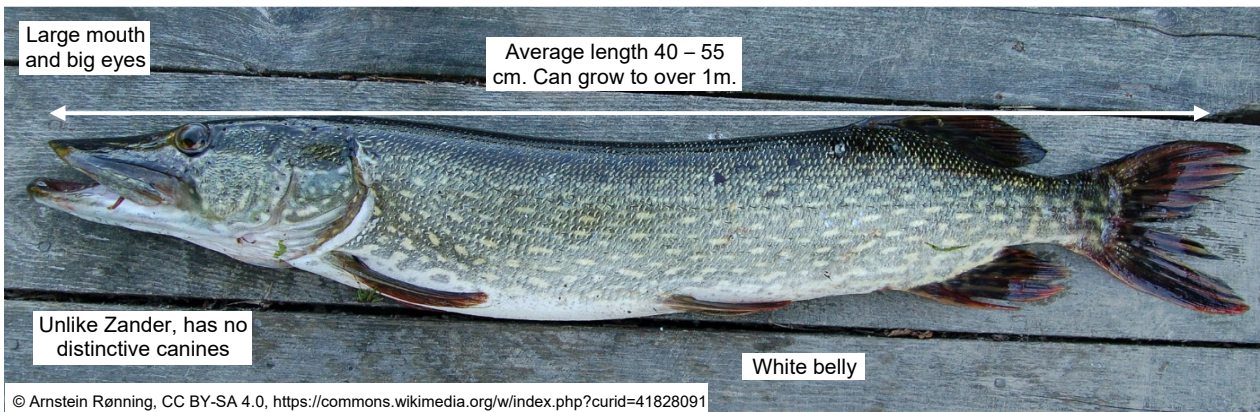
Not present in Northern Ireland. Established in England - East Anglia and mid-lands.



Source NBN Atlas - <https://species.nbnatlas.org/species/NHMSYS0000544754>
Check website for current distribution

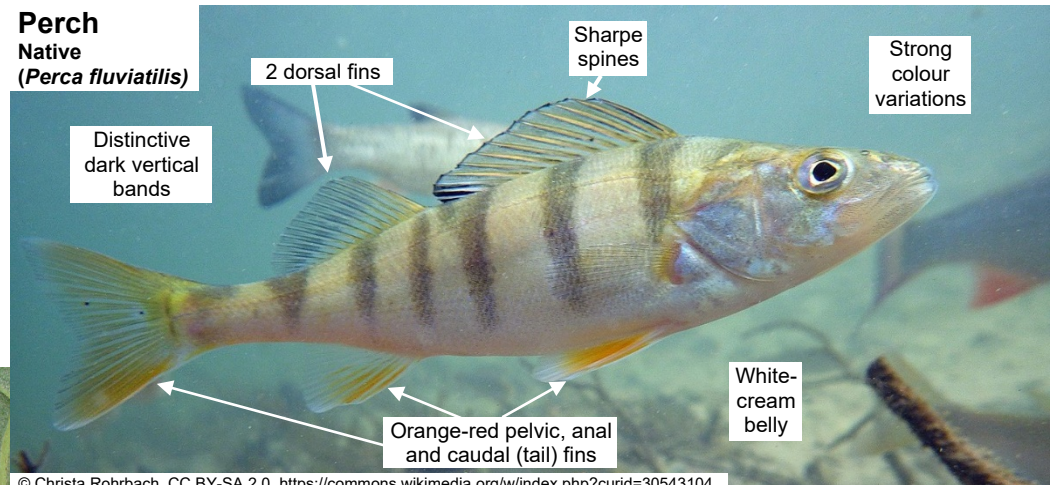
Large mouth and big eyes

Average length 40 – 55 cm. Can grow to over 1m.



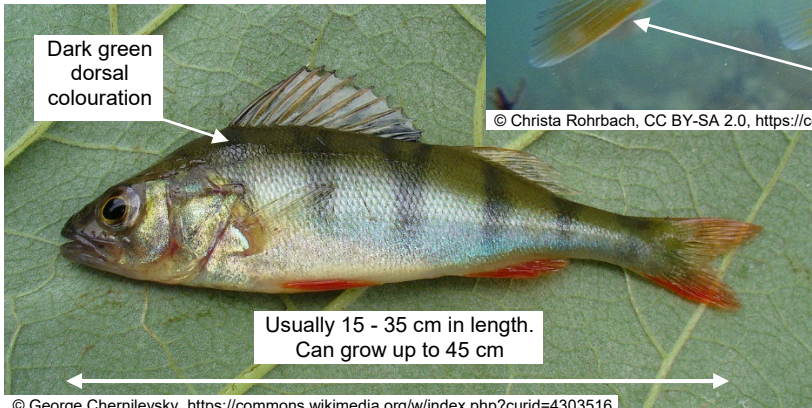
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Perch
Native
(*Perca fluviatilis*)



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Dark green dorsal colouration



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References and further reading:

CADI *Sander lucioperca* (Zander) data sheet - <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/65338>
Booy O., Wade M. and Roy H. 2015. Field Guide to Invasive Plants and Animals in Britain. Bloomsbury. London.

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