

YELLOW PERCH (*Perca flavescens*)

**Oneida Lake Status:
Abundant**



A yellow perch in its natural environment



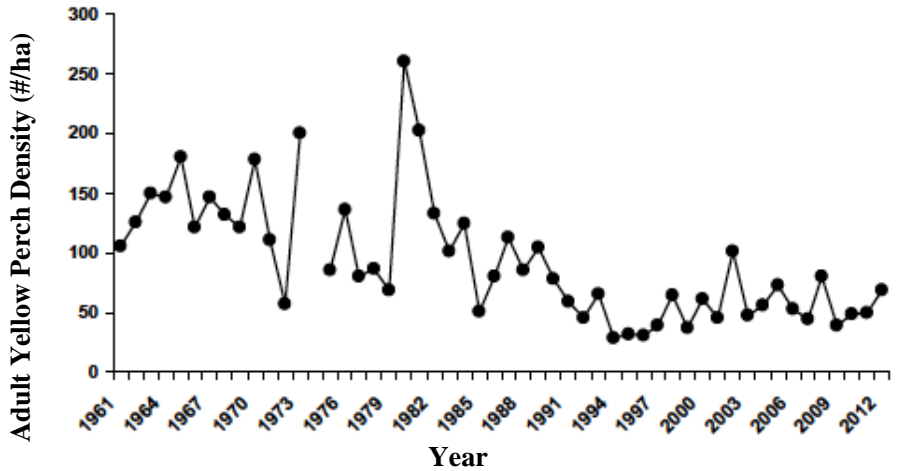
Yellow perch may be caught year round on Oneida Lake



Line drawing of a yellow perch

- Most abundant fish in Oneida Lake
- Favorite food for walleye & other gamefish
- Popular with ice anglers

Yellow perch are the most common fish species in Oneida Lake with population densities ranging from 1 to 6.5 million individuals since 1956 (see chart below). They can be identified by the presence of 5-9 black vertical bars on the fish's yellow sides. Yellow perch have a back fin with sharp spines, and care should be taken when handling these fish. Yellow perch have small teeth, and have no canine teeth.



Yellow perch live throughout Oneida Lake, but prefer areas that are shallow, weedy, and protected. They eat aquatic insects, crayfish, zooplankton, and small fish. Yellow perch are most active in the morning and early afternoon, and these are the best times to catch them. Yellow perch rest on the lake bottom during the night.

Unlike some fish species, yellow perch continue to swim and feed throughout the winter. This makes them a good target for ice anglers. It is estimated that angling and natural causes remove about 1/3 of the adult yellow perch population from Oneida Lake each year. This rate of removal would cause some fish species to disappear, but yellow perch have a high rate of reproduction.

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