

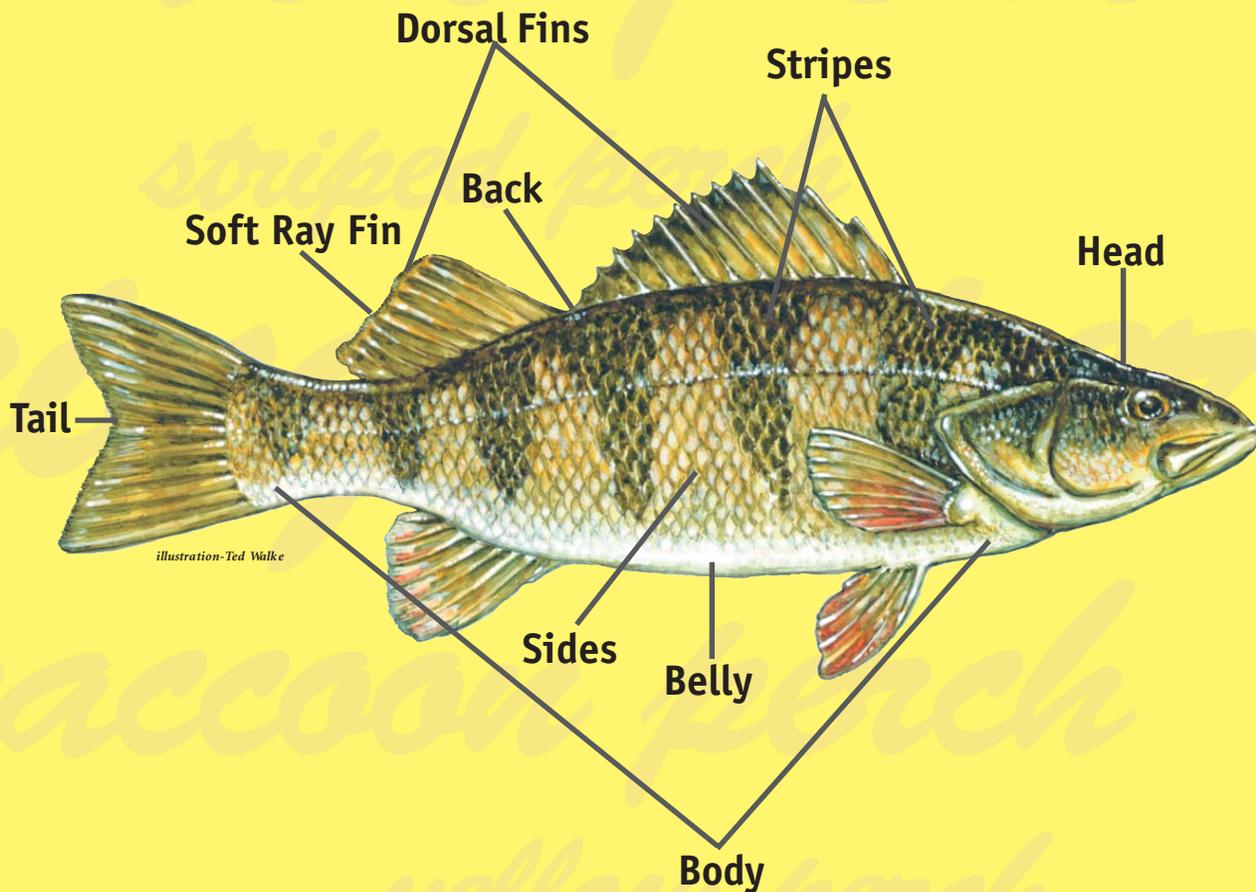
Identifying a Perch

There are three ways to identify a perch.

- **Color.** The head and back are a greenish to brownish color. The sides of the fish are yellow or yellowish green. On the sides of the perch are 6 to 9 vertical stripes. These stripes are a dark color. The belly is white or gray.

- **Fins.** The fin on the back of a fish is called a dorsal fin. Perch have two separated dorsal fins. The front fin is a spiny fin with sharp points. The back fin is called a soft ray fin.

- **Shape.** A perch has a long, slim body. Most perch are 6 to 12 inches long. But sometimes they grow larger. The tail of a perch is slightly forked.



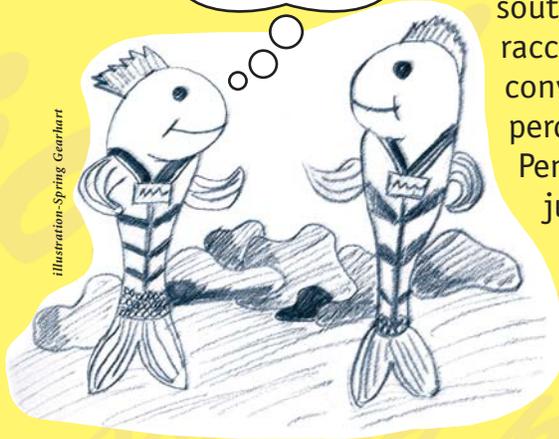
Get your 2006 PLAY Patch Today!

The 2006 PLAY patch features the yellow perch. This patch and others are available from the PA Fish & Boat Commission. Visit the Commission online at www.fish.state.pa.us.



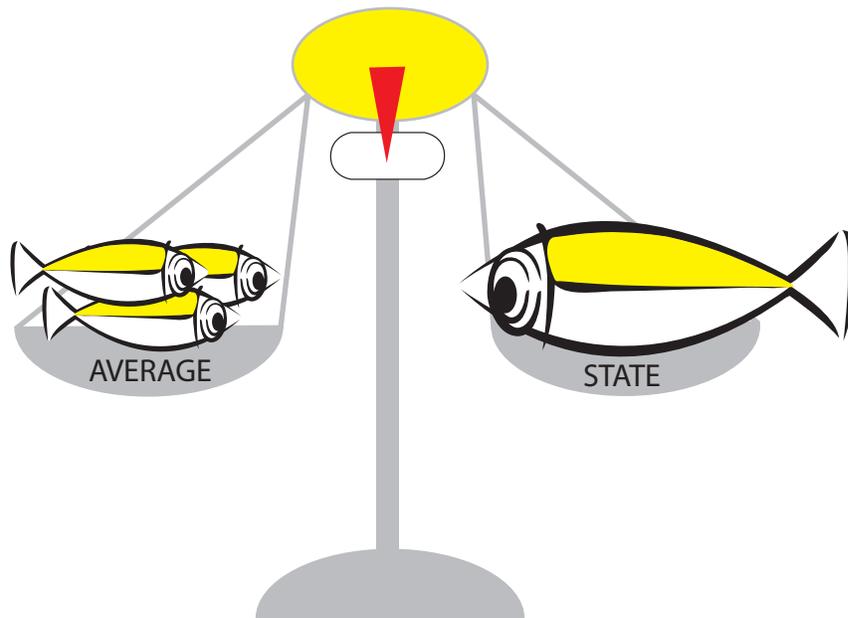
A Fish of Many Names

Very Nice
to Meet You.



Sometimes one fish or animal can be called by many names. Perch are a good example of this. In the southeast United States perch are sometimes called raccoon perch, ringed perch, striped perch, jack perch, convict and redbfin. In New Jersey they are called sand perch, lake perch, yellow ned, ned or Eisenhower. In Pennsylvania they are mostly called yellow perch or just perch. **Do you know of another name for perch?** One fish with many names can become confusing. That is why scientists give all animals a scientific name. The scientific name for yellow perch is *Perca flavescens*. "Perca" means perch and "flavescens" means yellow, or turning yellow.

That's one big fish!



In Pennsylvania most perch grow to be 6 to 12 inches long. They weigh between one-half pound and one pound. The Pennsylvania state record was caught in 2000 in Beltzville Lake. It

weighed 2 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 16.25 inches long. The world record perch was caught in Maine in 1949. It weighed 4 pounds, 12 ounces. What's the biggest perch you've ever caught?