

Lake Erie Walleye

Identification

The "walleye" name refers to its large, milky eyes that appear to glow in reflected light. Walleyes have a long, roundish body, a forked tail, and sharp teeth. Walleye are the biggest, toothiest member of the perch family. Their color can be bluish-gray, olive-brown, or golden-yellow. The belly is light-colored or white.

Where to catch them

Walleye are native to Pennsylvania, and they are found throughout the state. They like large lakes, big streams, and rivers where waters stay cooler than 85 degrees. They are rarely found in lakes smaller than 50 to 100 acres, or less than 10 feet deep. They need a gravelly, sandy, or rocky bottom for spawning.

Fish facts

Walleye travel, feed, and spawn in schools. They are one of the first fish to spawn in the spring. They return to their spawning site every year. They like deep water and move closer to shore to eat during mornings and evenings. Adult walleye often feed at dusk during cooler months and at night during the summer. In cloudy water, walleye can be active during the day. Night fishing with live bait or fishlike lures and jigs is effective for catching walleye.

