



WALLEYE

Stizostedion vitreus



The walleye is the largest member of the perch family and is similar in shape to the yellow perch and the sauger. The general coloration of the walleye is olive, with white on the stomach. Walleye prefer murky water and are very sensitive to bright light, sometimes swimming to depths of 40 feet to avoid the sunlight. They use sunken trees, boulder shoals, weed beds, or thicker layers of ice and snow as a shield from the sun. Due to their sensitivity to light, they tend to be more active at night.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

Walleye can grow to about 30 inches in length.

WEIGHT

The weight of a walleye can range from 5 to 20 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

Walleye feed on smaller fish and other aquatic life.

HABITAT

Walleye will live in rivers, but they prefer turbid, moderately-deep lakes with hard bottoms of gravel or rocks.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Walleye are found in the United States and Canada.

FUN FACT

The walleye was named for its pearlescent eye, caused by a reflective layer of pigment, the tapetum lucidum, that helps it see and feed at night or in murky waters.