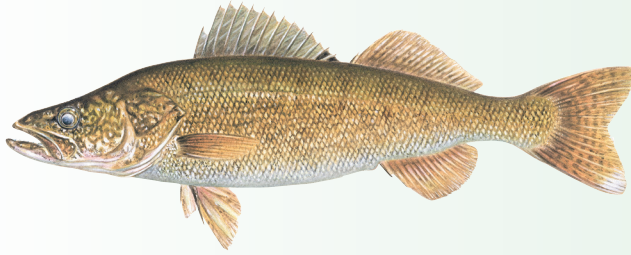




WALLEYE



Identification

- Elongated body shape; gold or yellow colour, olive green back with paler sides
- Large teeth
- **"glassy" opaque eyes**
- **White tip** on lower tail fin

Habitat

- 🐟 Prefer dark, deeper water during the day as their eyes are very light sensitive.
- 🐟 Prefer cover in the morning and evening like weeds, rocks, and fallen trees.

Spawning Patterns

- 🐟 Early spring, right after ice melt, when water temperatures are between 6–8°C.
- 🐟 Spawn on coarse, rocky shoals or in high current areas of rivers.
- 🐟 One 31-inch female can produce more than 600,000 eggs.
- 🐟 Females mature between age 3 to 6.

Diet

- 🐟 Mainly other fish species.
- 🐟 Sometimes eat crayfish, frogs, mudpuppies, aquatic insects, and small mammals.
- 🐟 Feed most aggressively at dawn, dusk, and at night.

Age and Size

- 🐟 Can live 10-12 years in southern Ontario; up to 20 years in far north populations.
- 🐟 Usually 12-25 inches long; Ontario Angler Award minimum length is 25 inches.
- 🐟 Ontario record weight is 22.25 lb.

Fishing Tips

- 🐟 Good fighters and extremely tasty; active in low-light conditions.
- 🐟 Use shallow-running crankbaits, spinnerbaits and worm harness rigs in the spring.
- 🐟 Try jigging with live bait and soft plastics, or use deep-diving crankbaits near rocky points and shoals.
- 🐟 Ice fish with jigs and spoons tipped with minnows.