Fishing Regulations on Saratoga Lake

SPECIFIC TO SARATOGA LAKE

- **Fish Creek** (from Saratoga Lake downstream to old railroad crossing between Staffords and Bryants bridges
  - Sunfish minimum length = 8”, up to 15 per day… year-round
- **Kayaderosseras Creek** (from Saratoga Lake upstream to 1st railroad bridge)
  - NO fishing from March 16 thru April 30
- **Kayaderosseras Creek** (from Galway Road upstream to 0.5 miles upstream of crossing at intersection of N. Creek Road and Squashville Road
  - Stock-Extended (SE) trout regulations… from April 1 thru October 15 → daily limit of 3 (and only one can exceed 12”), and from October 16 thru March 31 → catch and release only + artificial lures only
- **Saratoga Lake**
  - Sunfish minimum length = 8”, up to 15 per day… year-round
  - Baitfish permitted
  - Ice fishing permitted

STATEWIDE LIMITS

- Where there aren’t special regulations on a specific species, statewide seasons and limits apply
- Illegal to fish for or possess fish classified as endangered or threatened by NYSDEC Northern snakeheads and round gobies must not be returned to the waters in which they were caught; pictures must be taken at different angles and sent to NYSDEC, fish must be frozen and then disposed of once ID is confirmed
- Angler can operate 3 lines at once within immediate attendance (no more than 5 baits/lures and 15 hook points per line)
- Carp may be taken via compound or recurve longbow (any # or size) from May 15 - September 30 … crossbow prohibited at all times
- Snatching, blind snatching and spearing fish is prohibited
- Fish (minnow) traps may only be used to catch baitfish
- Use of nets is permitted under certain conditions (as landing net to complete catch, as personal baitfish harvester, as alewife/blueback/smelt/sucker dip net collector)
- All legally harvested fish may be gilled and gutted while on the water; it is illegal to discard any fish carcass into state freshwater within 100ft of shore or upon any public/private lands
- Salable fish = species in the Statewide Seasons and Limits without a closed season and without a minimum length … non-salable fish = species with a closed season and with a minimum length

Fishing Regulations on Saratoga Lake

BAITFISH REGULATIONS

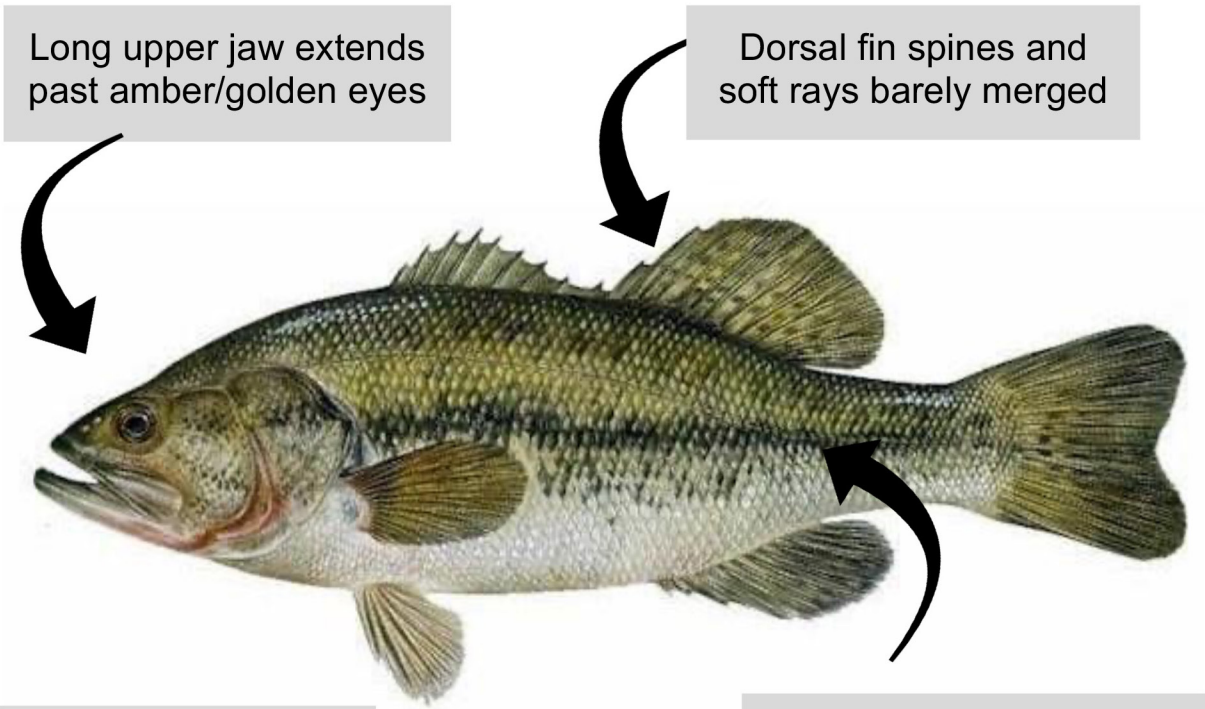
- Native salamanders/snakes may not be collected or used as bait
- No insect that lives in the water at any point during its life shall be taken from waters inhabited by trout or the banks of those waters
- Rusty crayfish may not be purchased and/or transported to a waterbody for use as bait; may not be transported within or from a waterbody either
- No person shall possess more than 1 quart of eggs from Atlantic salmon, trout or lake trout while on the waters or shores of the state
- Frogs may be taken from June 15 - September 30 by hand, club, hook, spear, longbow (small game hunting license required), or gun (small game hunting license required; no firing between sunset and sunrise) in any quantity, so long as the individual has a hunting or fishing license or is entitled to fish w/o a license; importation + buying/selling is permitted anytime. Northern cricket frogs and Eastern spadefoot toads may not be taken anywhere in NYS, however
- List of species that can be purchased and used as baitfish, within waters that permit the utilization of baitfish: common shiner, emerald shiner, golden shiner, spottail shiner, banded killifish, bluntnose minnow, eastern silvery minnow, fathead minnow, stonecat, brindled madtom, margined madtom, tadpole madtom, northern hogsucker, fallfish, logperch, creek chub, white sucker, blacknose dace, longnose dace, northern redbelly dace
- List of species that cannot be used as baitfish: carp, goldfish, round goby, lamprey larvae, european rudd, any endangered/threatened species
- Certified baitfish = those that have been tested and found to be free of specified diseases; when purchased from bait dealer (with receipt containing seller's name, date of sale, fish species and # of each species sold), can be transported to and used on any waters that permit baitfish
- Uncertified baitfish = those that have not been tested for specified diseases, or those that have been sold by a bait dealer without a receipt, or those that have been sold by a bait dealer with a receipt more than 10 days old; can only be used on the same waterbody they were collected from, and cannot be transported

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Bass

Largemouth Bass (Micropterus salmoides)

- 2lbs - 6lbs (Saratoga Lake record = 10lbs, 2oz) ... 18-12" average length
- Large schools roam weed beds all summer
- During daytime - 5-4" worms or spider jigs flipped into weeds at depths of 12-10ft in late spring + early summer ... at dusk - noise-making topwater baits work well.



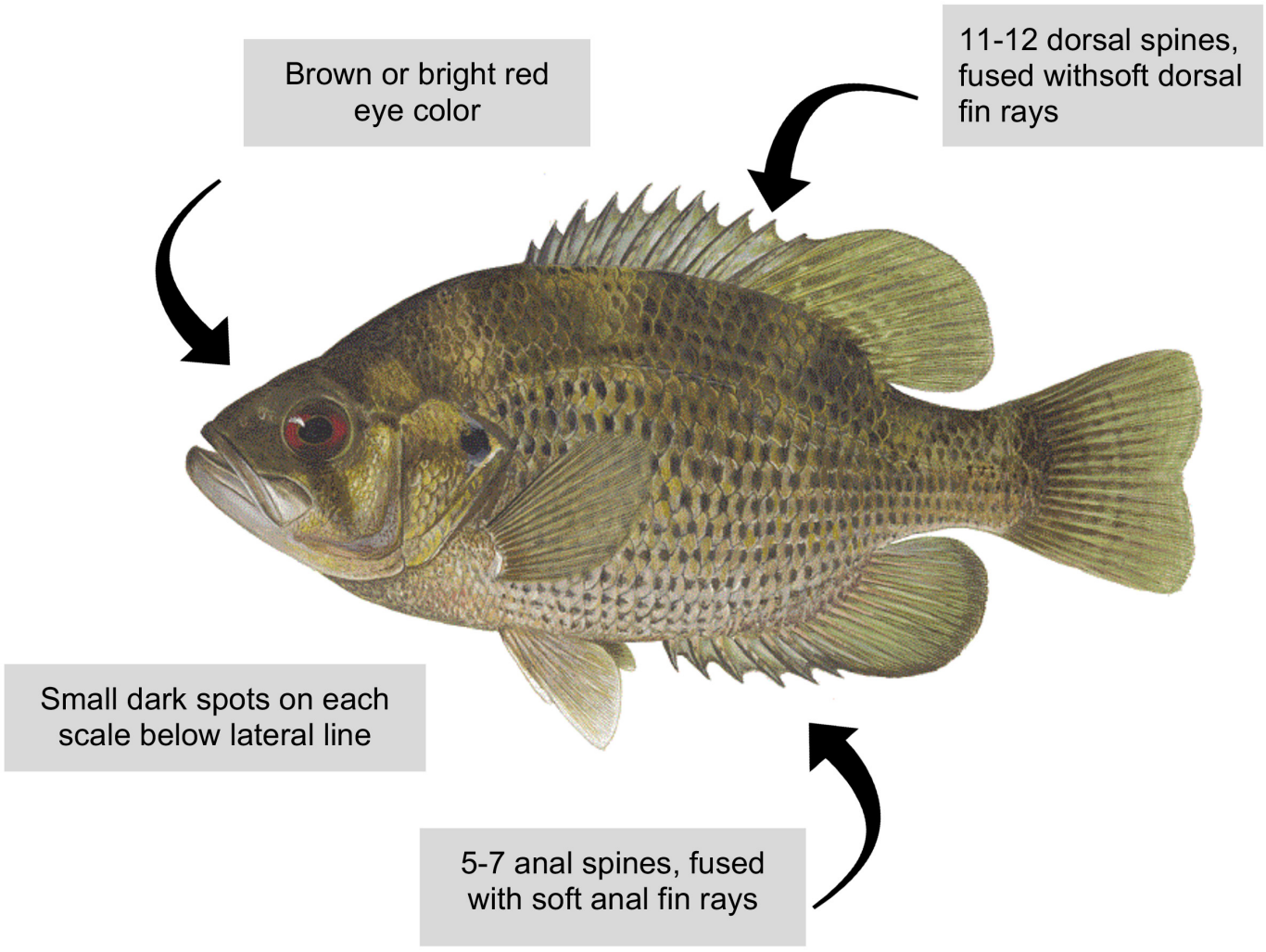
Marine Dept. of Inland Fish and Wildlife

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Bass

Rock Bass (Ambloplites rupestris)

- Approximately 1 lb (Saratoga Lake record = unknown) 10-6” average length
- Typically found near rocky shorelines with varying levels of vegetation
- Natural baits (small worms and minnows around 3-2”) work best



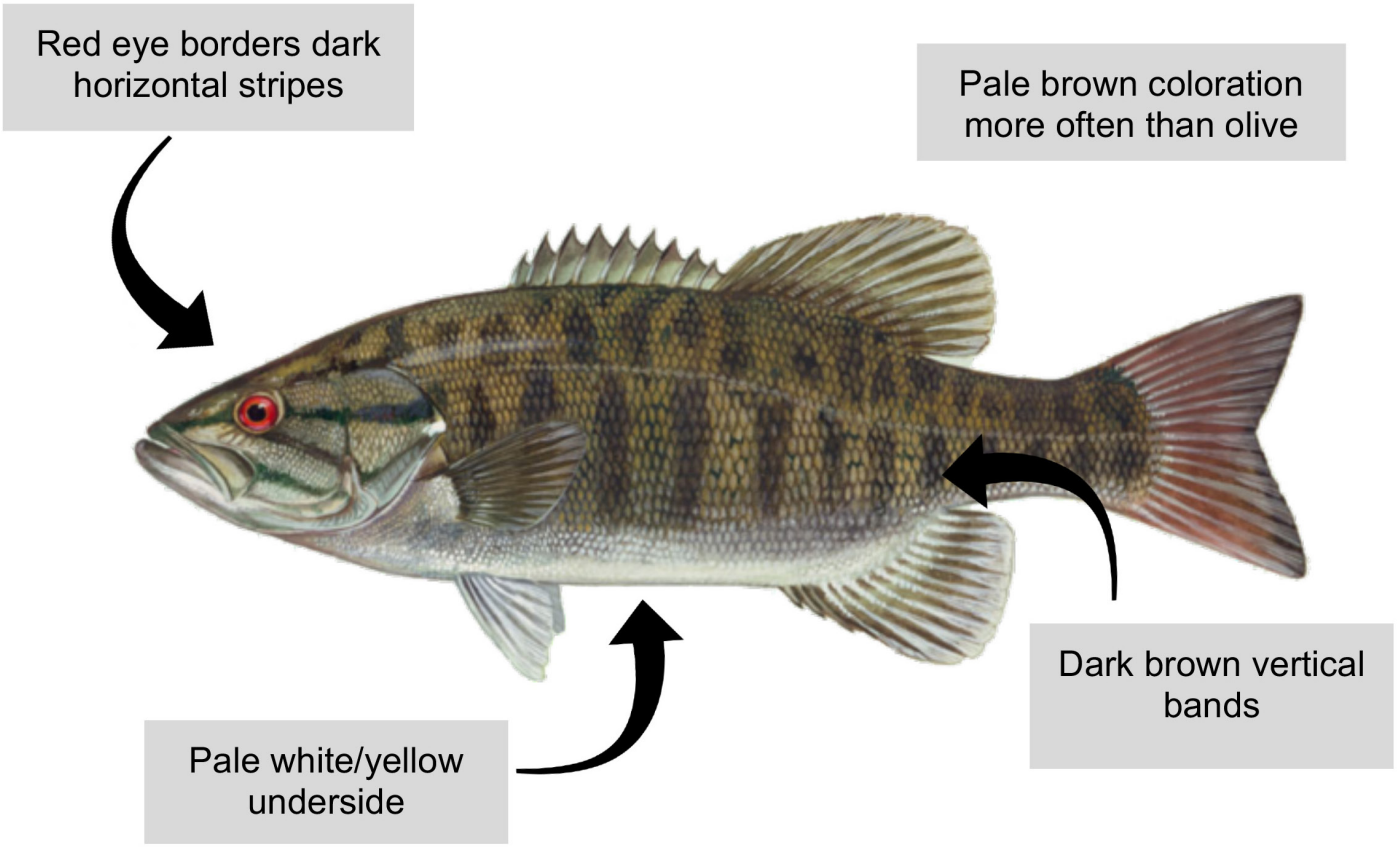
Iowa Dept of NR

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Bass

Smallmouth Bass (Micropterus dolomieu)

- 2lbs - 6lbs (Saratoga Lake record = 9lbs, 1oz) ... 20-10” average length
- Found along sandy bottoms or smooth gravel/stone beds in springtime, migrate to deeper water during summer
- No wind - stick baits ... light wind - plastic grubs ...
  heavy wind - Rat-L-Traps in “fire tiger” or “silverado” colors.



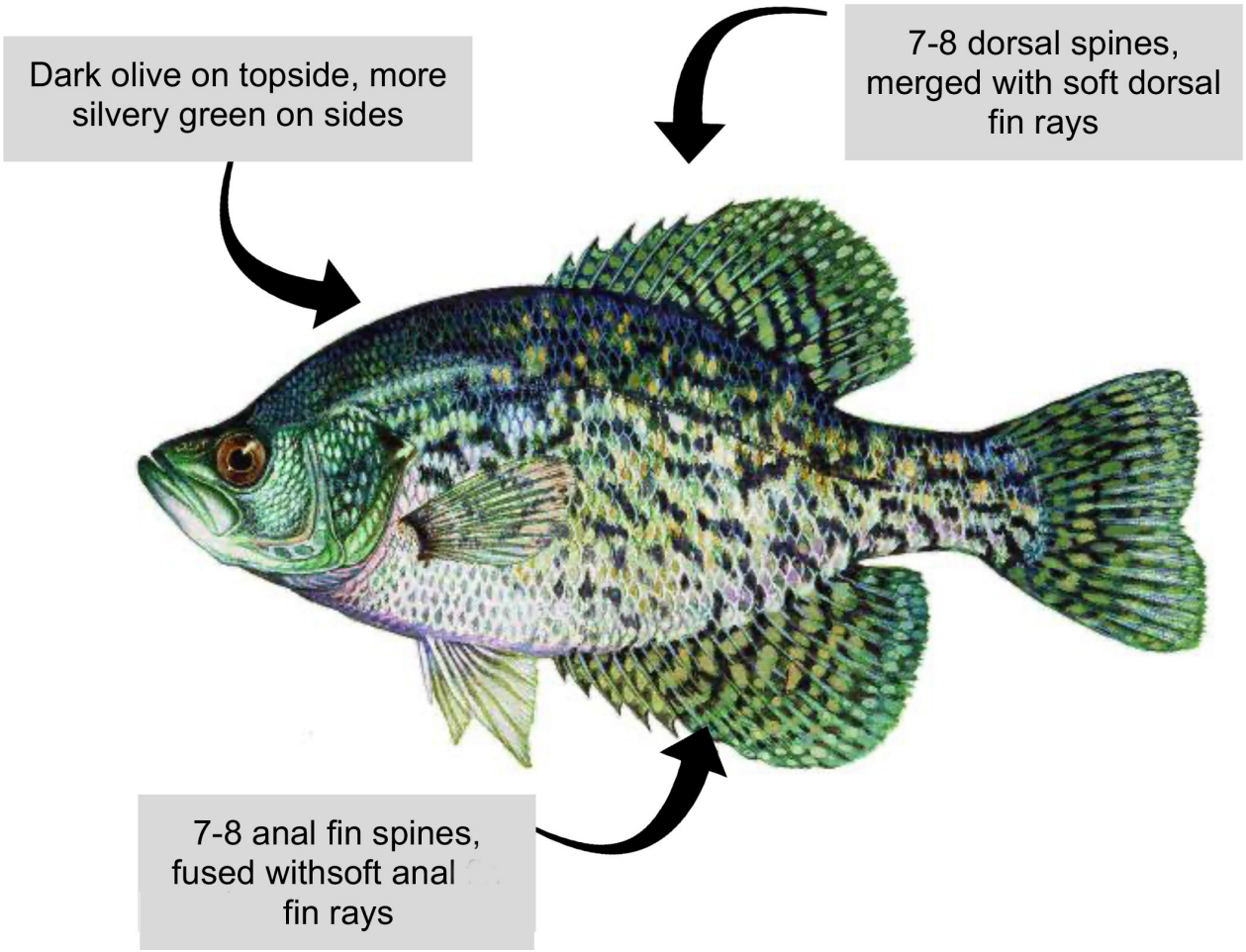
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Sunfish family

Black Crappie (Pomoxis nigromaculatus)

- Approximately 3lbs (Saratoga Lake record = 3lbs, 9oz) ... 11-4” average length
- Found in 12-6ft of water, along drop offs or over emerging weedbeds
- Minnows or tiny green/white jigs often utilized



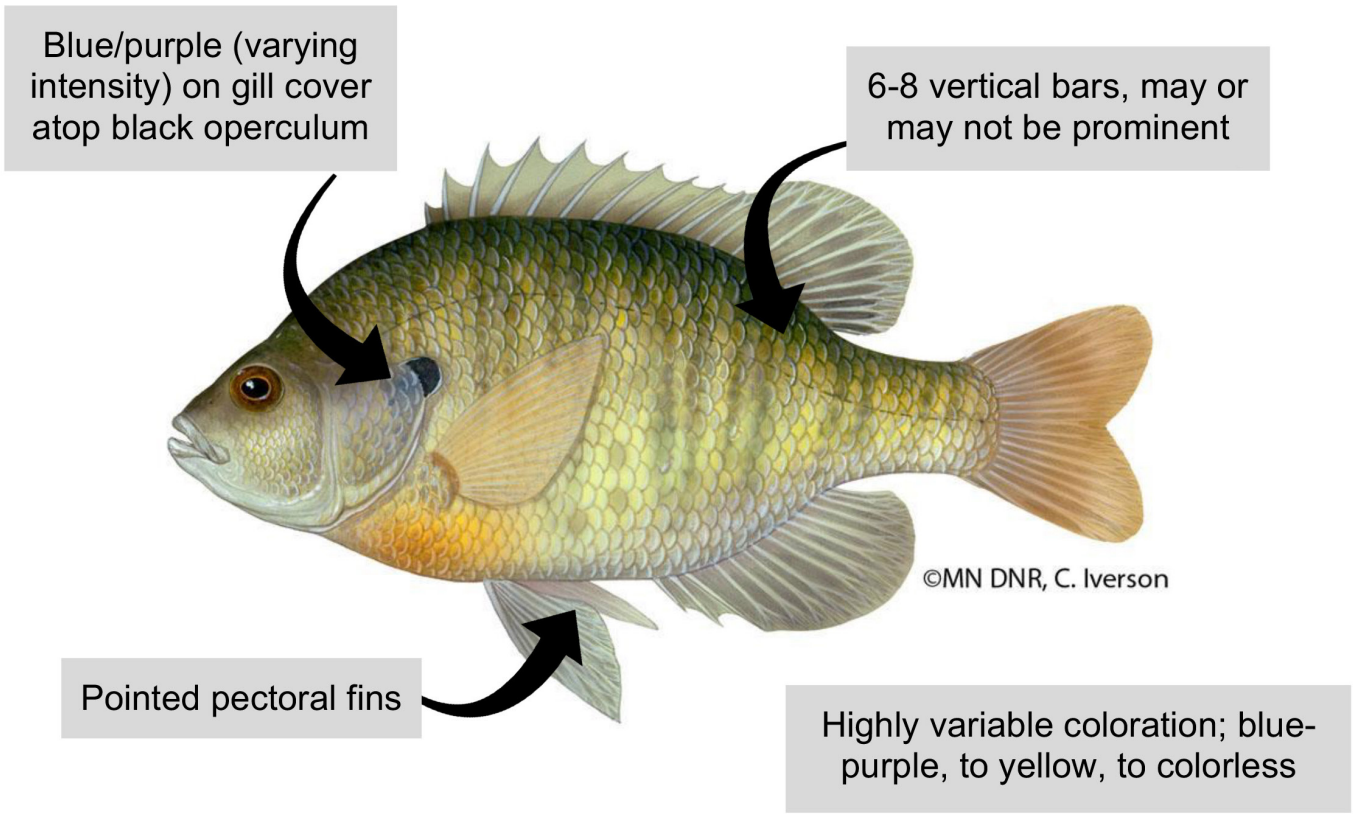
Big Catch Florida

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Sunfish family

Bluegill (Lepomis macrochirus)

- Approximately 1lb (Saratoga Lake record = unknown) … 10-4” average length
- Schools tend to have a home range of 320 sq ft … swim to deeper waters once summer arrives, but will linger near water’s surface during mornings
- Worms underneath a bobber are typical bait
- Subject to year-round 8” minimum + 15 panfish per day regulations



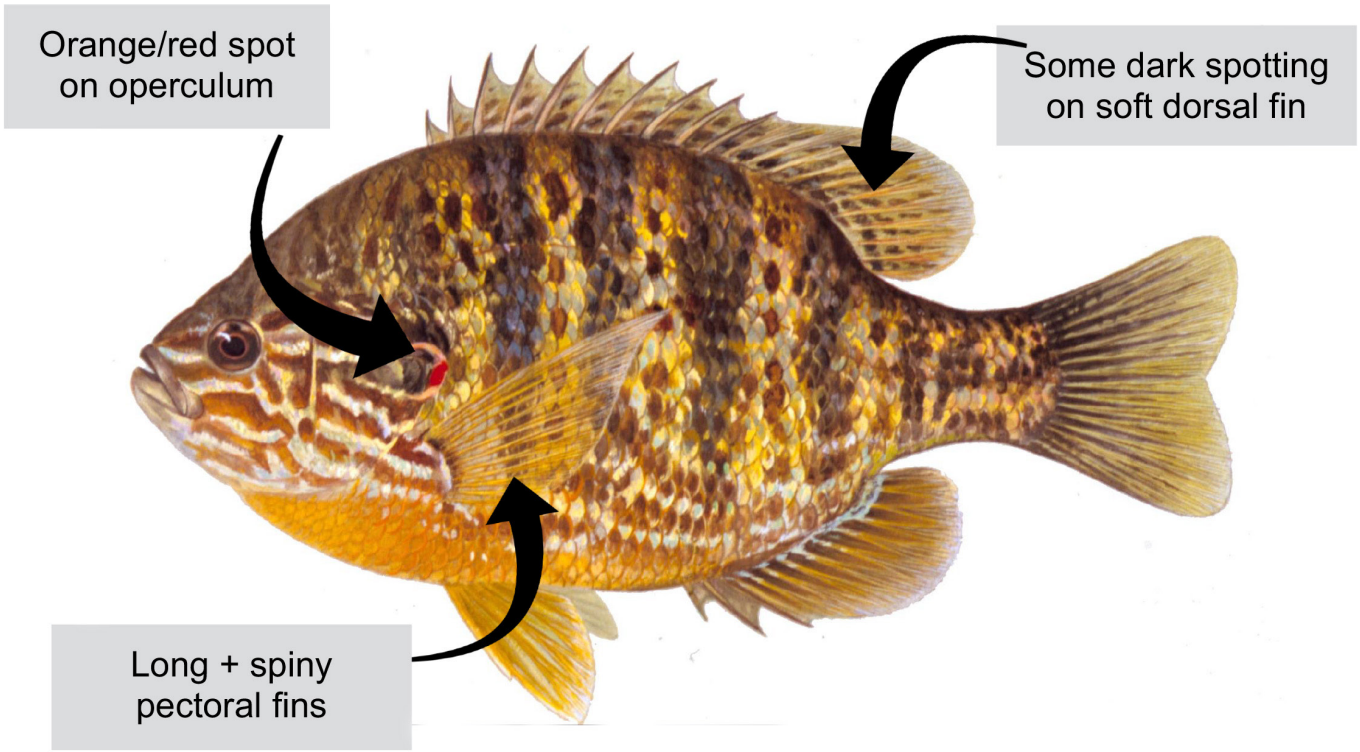
Minnesota Dept of NR

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Sunfish family

Pumpkinseed (Lepomis gibbosus)

- Approximately 1lb (Saratoga Lake record = unknown) … 8-4” average length
- Tend to stay close to shorelines w/ lots of vegetation (for feeding and shelter), but can forage in deep waters too. Often stick to a single home range, even after displacement
- Will often bite at worm segments, can go after other natural baits (insects, fish meat) as well … can also pounce on small lures and artificial flies
- Subject to year-round 8” minimum + 15 panfish per day regulations



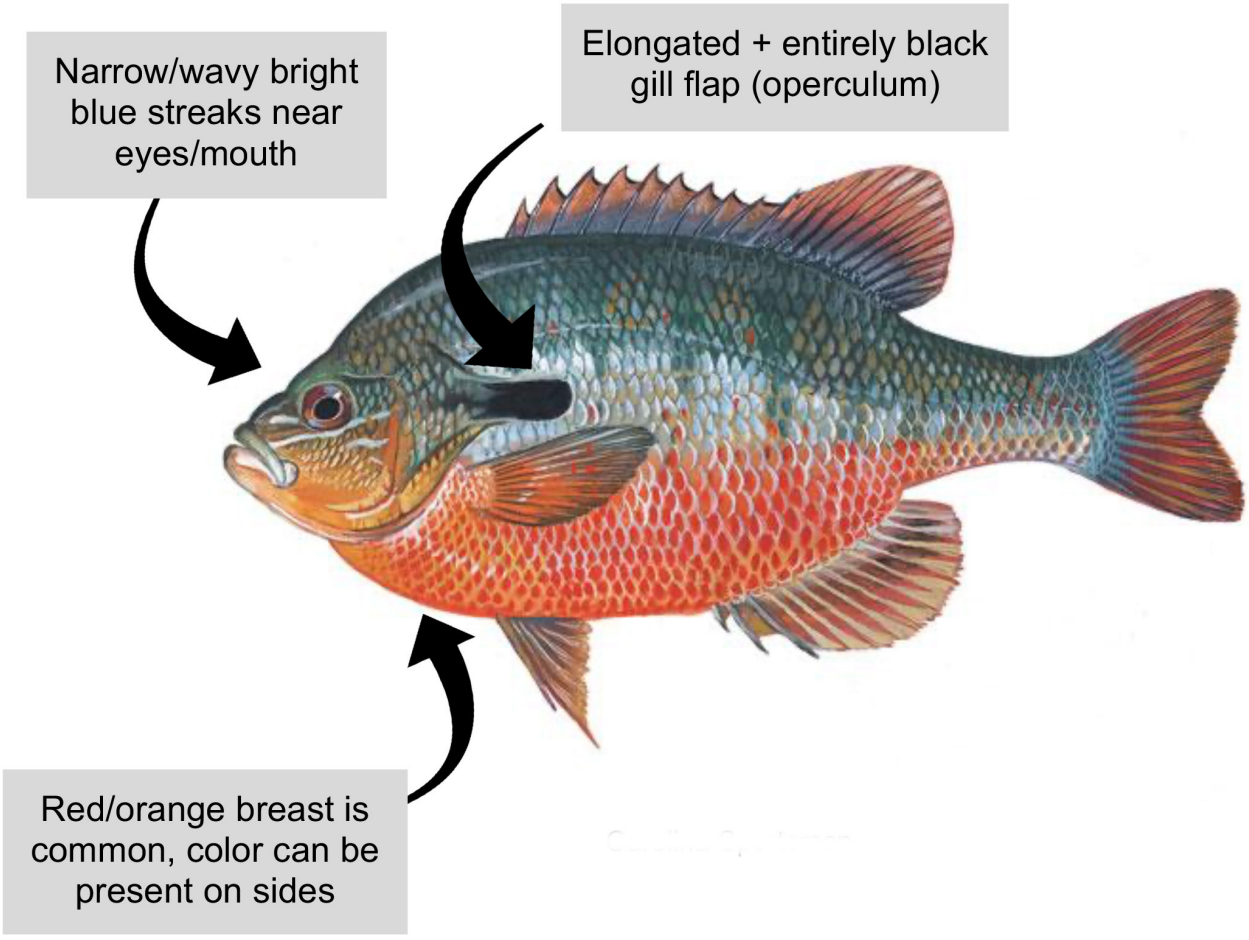
Iowa Dept of NR

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Sunfish family

Redbreast Sunfish (Lepomis auritus)

- Approximately 1lb (Saratoga Lake record = unknown) … 8-4” average length
- Prefers areas with structures near shore banks, as well as areas with overhanging branches that provide food, shade and protection
- Live bait (crickets, grasshoppers, mealworms, nightcrawler worms, etc.) is typically used for this species, but light spinning tackle are utilized too … in the wintertime, they can strike artificial flies



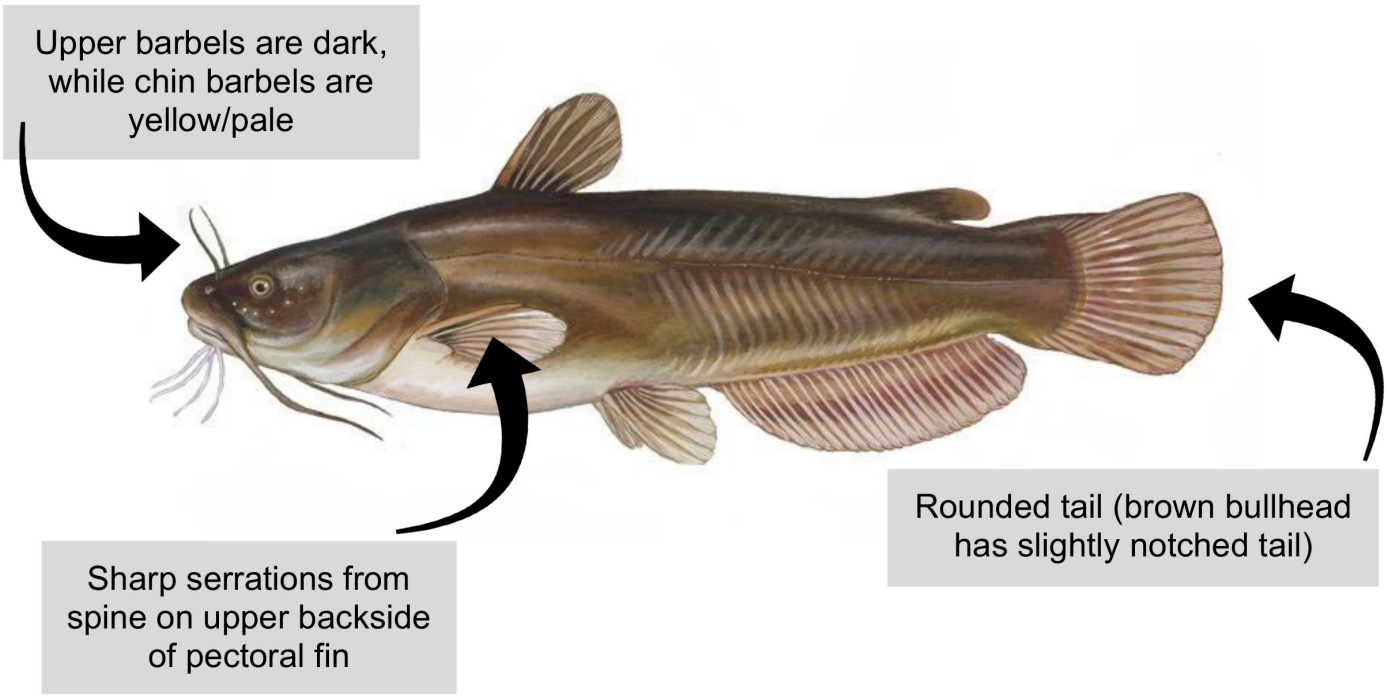
Carolina Sportsman

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Bullhead

Yellow Bullhead (Ameiurus natalis)

- 1lb - 2lbs (Saratoga Lake record = unknown) … 20-9” average length
- Habitat varies … typically found on lake bottoms in shallower water (with any of the following: hypoxic conditions, mucky/muddy conditions, clay/rock/sand substrate)
- Natural baits (chicken liver, crickets, worms, etc.) along the lake bottom at night work



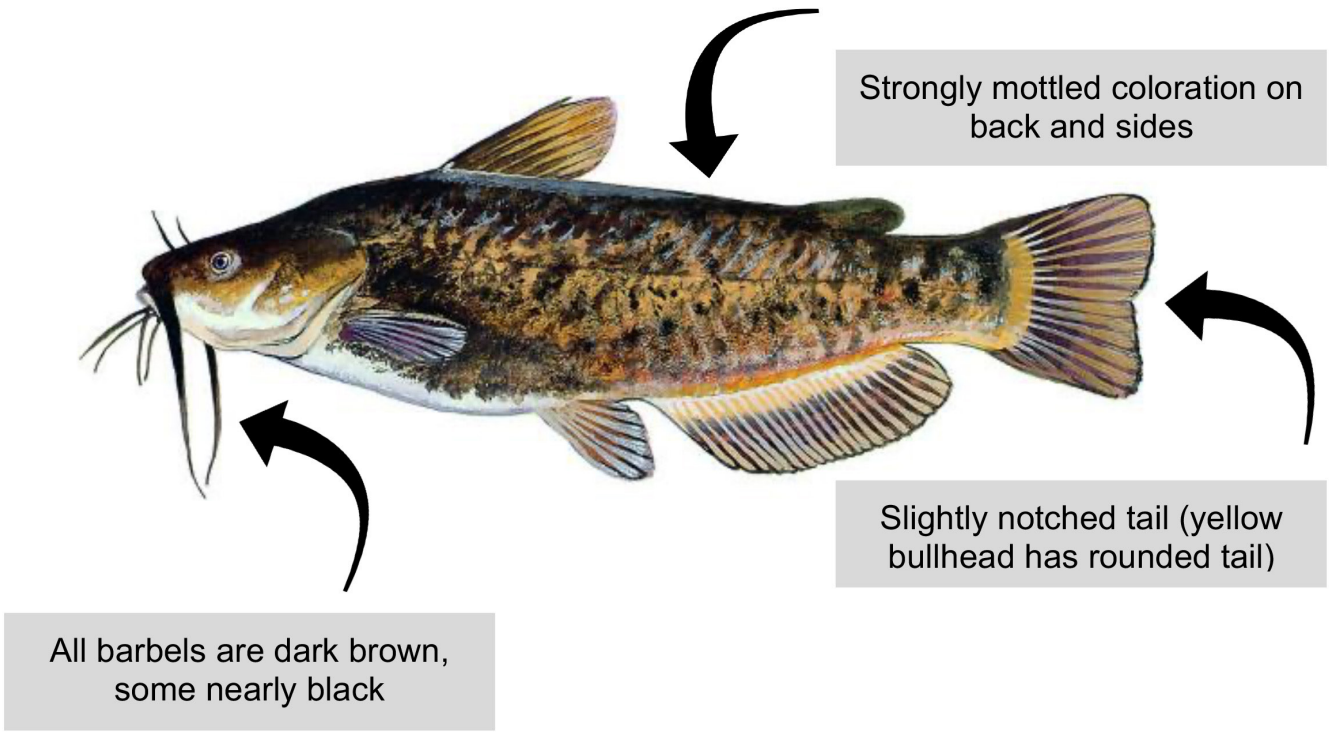
Delaware Dept of NR and Env. Conservation

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Bullhead

Brown Bullhead (Ameiurus nebulosus)

- 1lb - 2lbs (Saratoga Lake record = unknown) ... 18-8" average length
- Found on lake bottoms with hypoxic and/or muddy conditions, seldom seen during daylight Natural baits (chicken liver, corn, crickets, worms, etc.) along the lake bottom at night work well



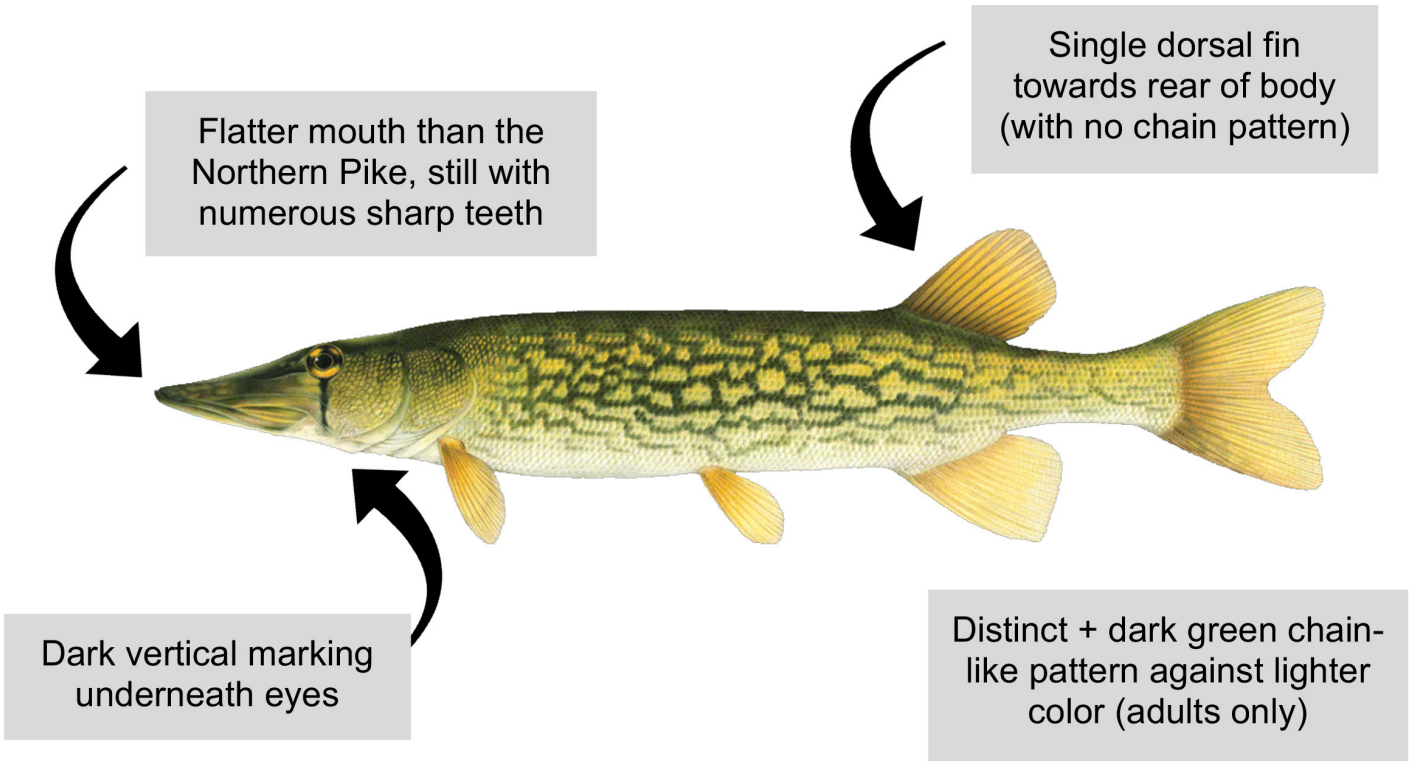
Big Catch Florida

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Pike family

Chain Pickerel (Esox niger)

- 2lbs - 3lbs (Saratoga Lake record = unknown) … 18-14” average length
- Lives in regions with heavy vegetative cover and wetland characteristics
- Like Northern Pike, are drawn to flashy lures that imitate small forage fish … with live bait, 4-3” minnows hooked under the dorsal fin (underneath a bobber) is the way to go



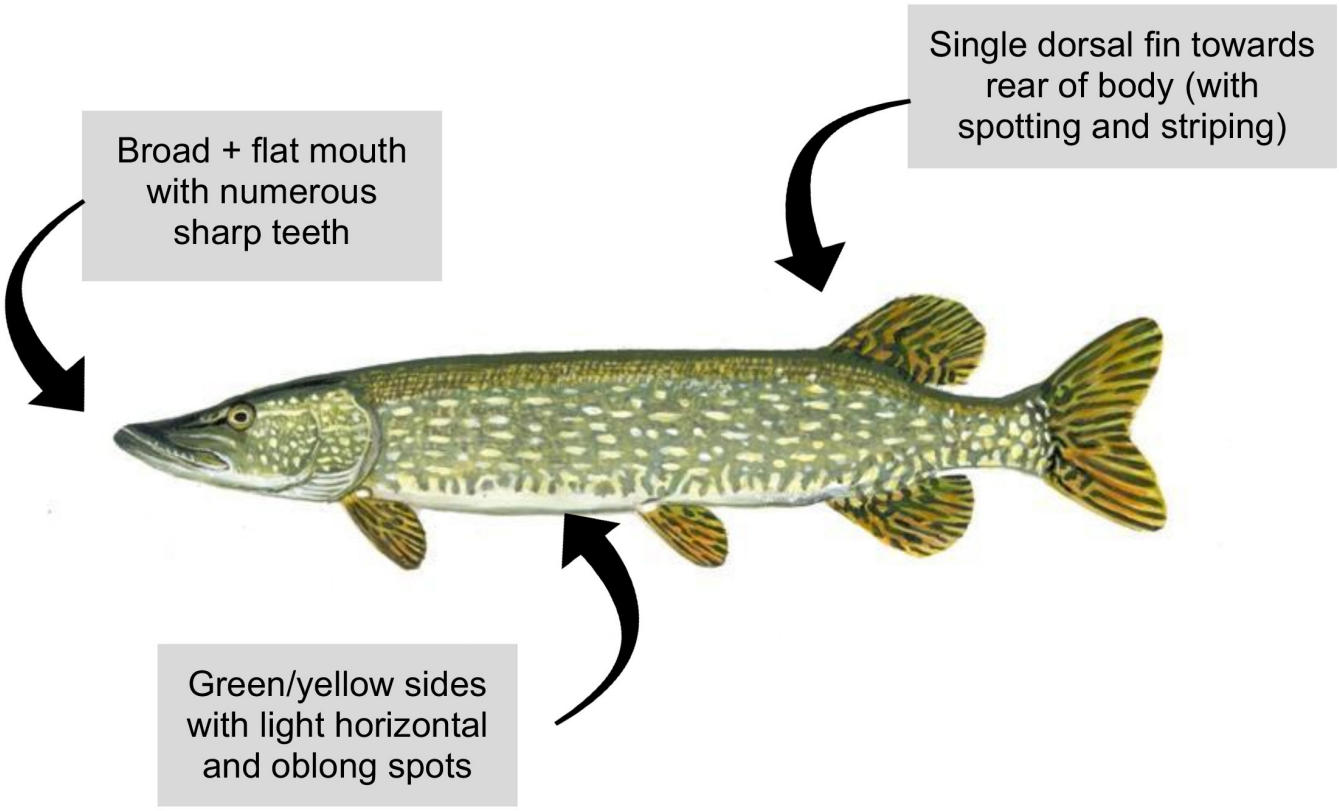
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Pike family

Northern Pike (Esox lucius)

- 2lbs - 4lbs (Saratoga Lake record = unknown) … 22-16” average length
- Shallow areas with rich submerged vegetation (as well as with cold, clear and rocky waters) are where they tend to forage and dwell
- Artificial bait (suspended baits, giant spinnerbaits, Rat-L-Traps, etc. at 1-4/3lb) works, but live bait (from 14-7” rigged on heavy tackle) works better … depths between 14-5ft



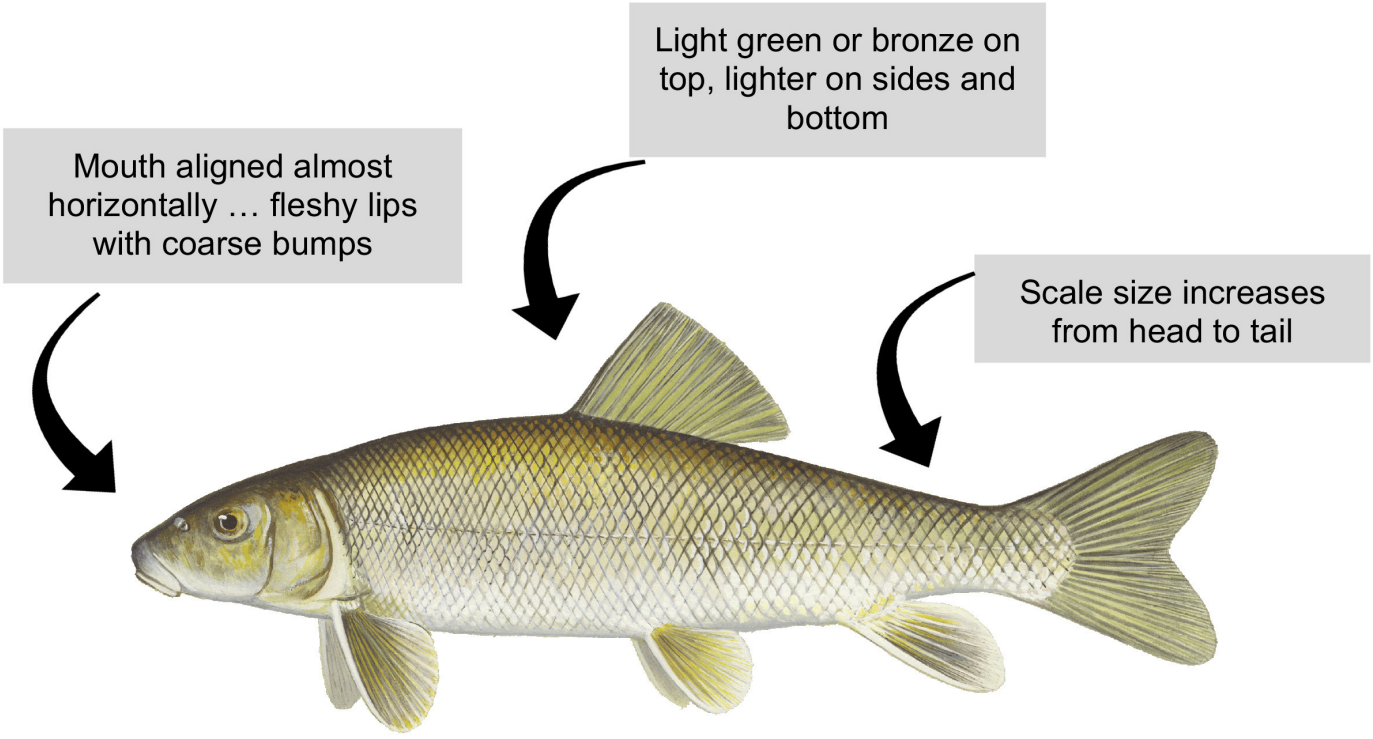
Wisconsin Dept of NR

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Sucker family

White Sucker (Catostomus commersonii)

- 2lbs - 4lbs (Saratoga Lake record = unknown) … 18-10” average length
- Most often found in shallow water along the benthic surface (to feed on algae + plant biomass + small invertebrates), with larger individuals preferring deeper waters … tolerant of many different environmental conditions
- In the springtime, small worm segments fished off the lake bottom entice them as long as they aren’t spooked



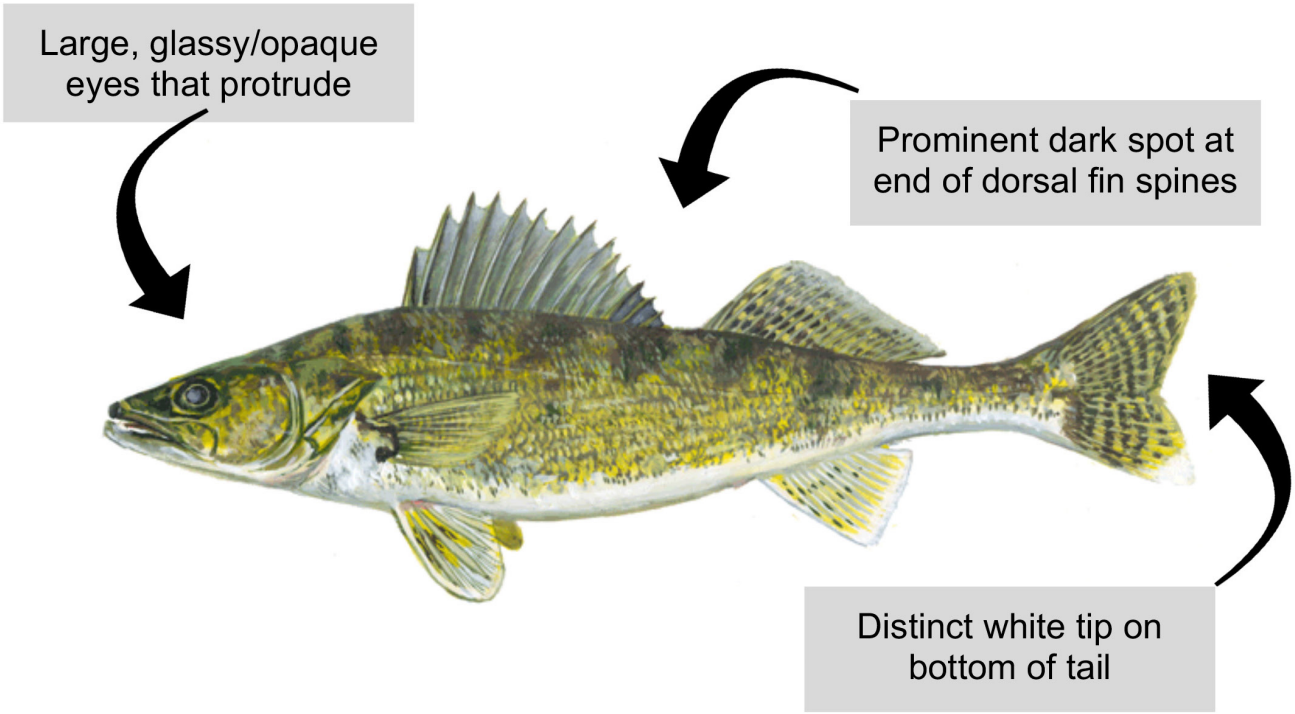
Iowa Dept of NR

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Perch family

Walleye (Sander vitreus)

- 2lbs - 6lbs (Saratoga Lake record = 14lbs, 3oz) … 24-12” average length
- Found just outside weed beds in spring … travel into deep water (up to 60ft) during summer … hang out in shallow water above rocks during fall
- On water - trolling with downriggers at depths up to 60ft … on ice - 5-3” suckers
- From what I can tell, the only stocked fish on Saratoga Lake … between 8.5M and 13M are released annually



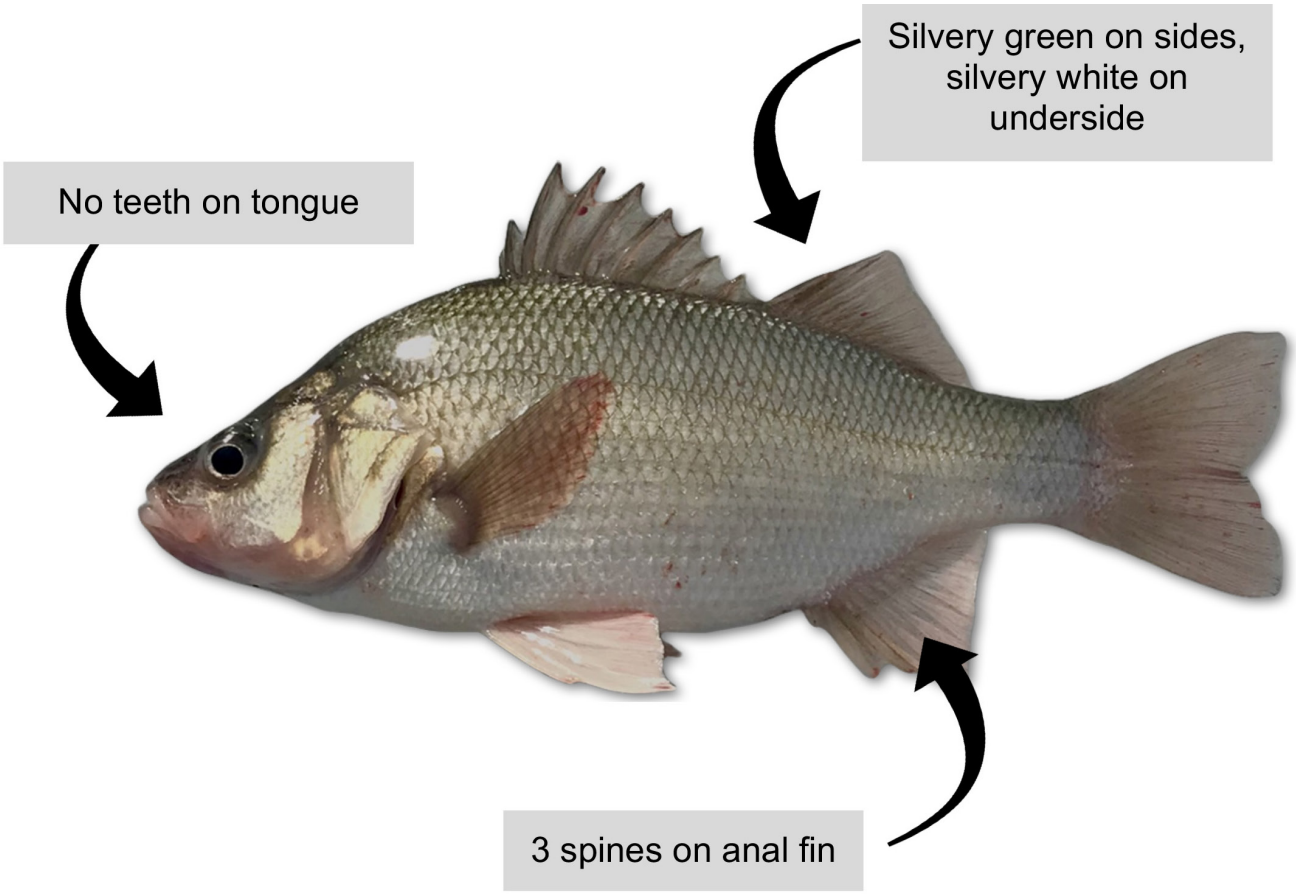
Wisconsin Dept of NR

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Perch family

White Perch (Morone americana)

- 2lbs - 3lbs (Saratoga Lake record = unknown) ... 10-7” average length
- Prefer areas near shore with little vegetation and muddy/sandy/silty substrate
- Known to feast on natural bait (nightcrawler worms and medium-sized minnows)



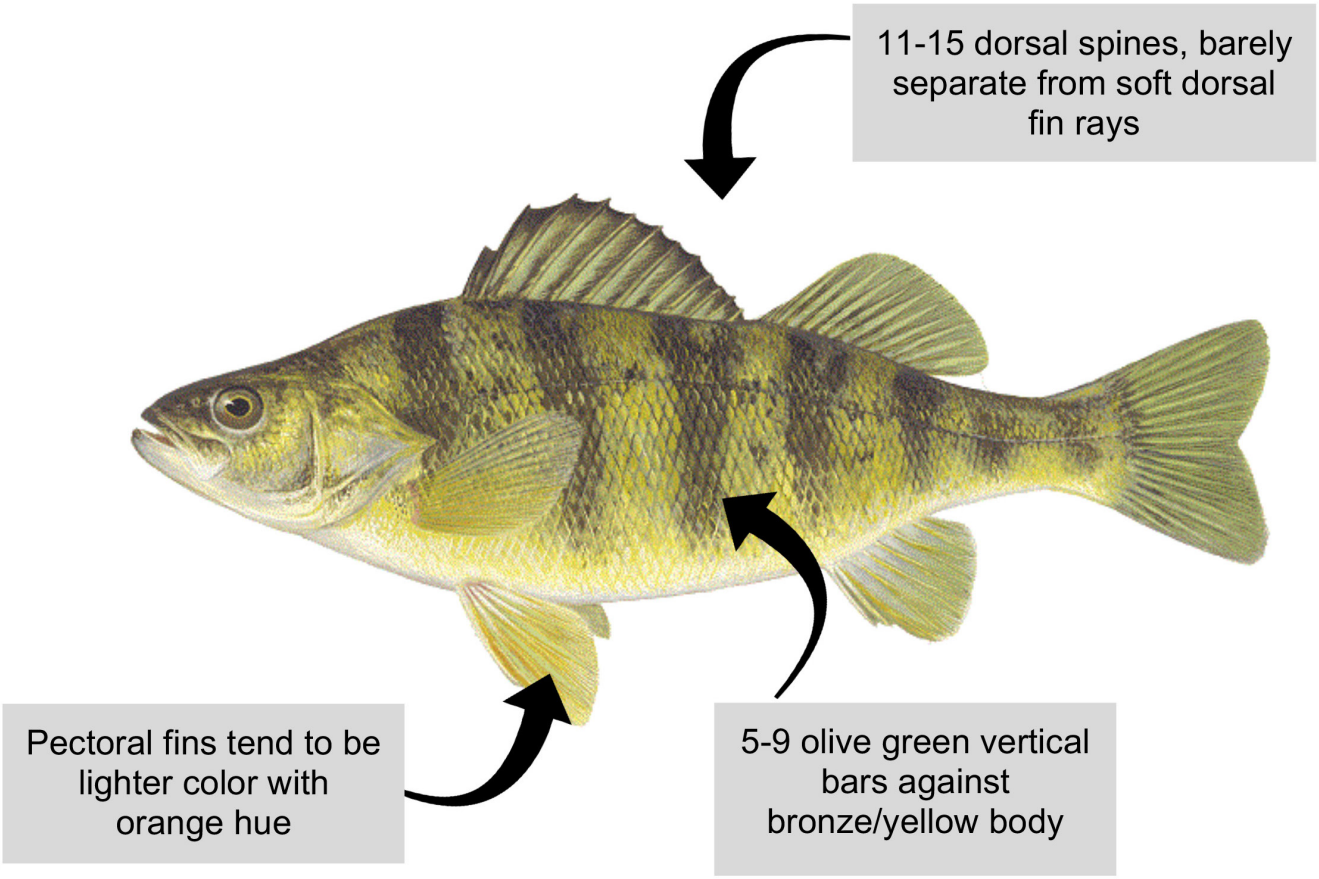
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept.

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Perch family

Yellow Perch (Perca flavescens)

- 2lbs - 3lbs (Saratoga Lake record = 3lbs, 8oz) … 14-6” average length
- In the spring, they tend to school in littoral zones … most commonly found in clear water with an abundance of vegetation
- Minnows are typical bait



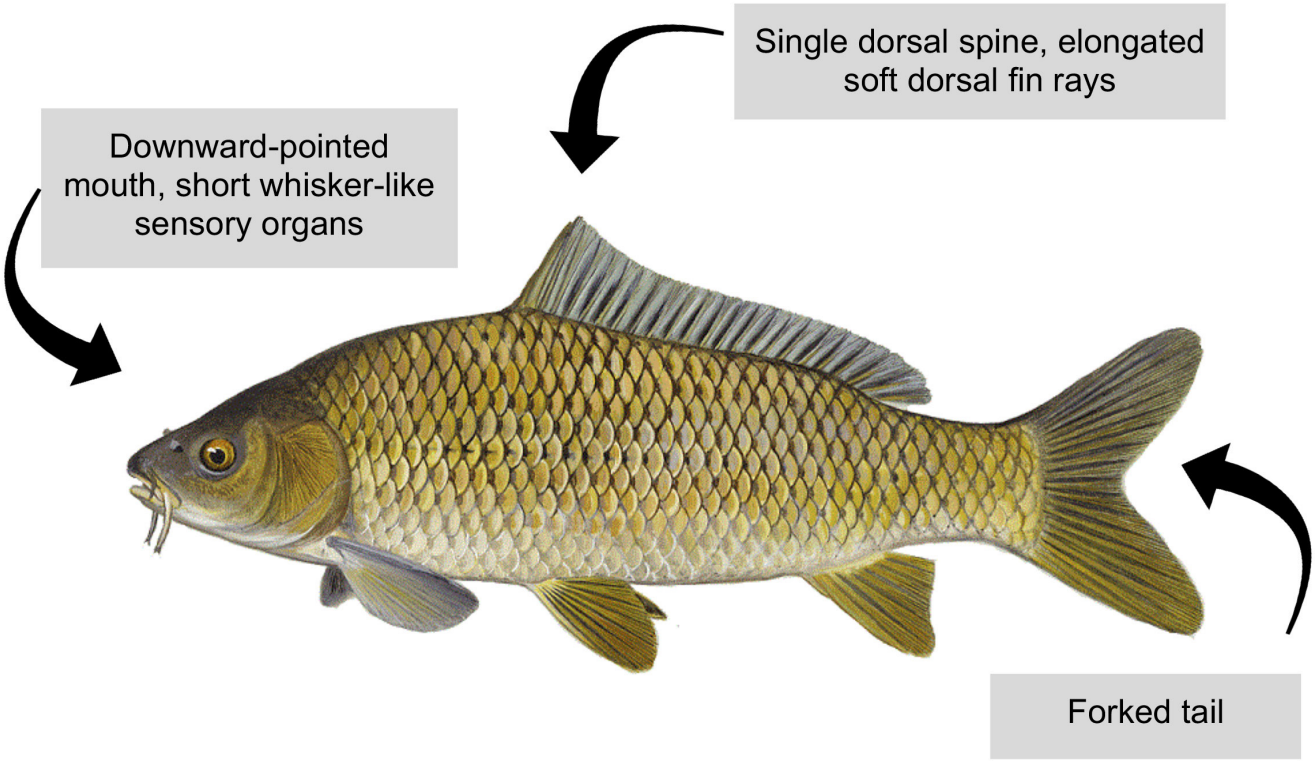
Iowa Dept of NR

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Carp family

Common Carp (Cyprinus carpio)

- 5lbs - 30lbs (Saratoga Lake record = unknown) … 24-12” average length
- Prefer to dwell in slow-moving water with soft + vegetative sediments and warmer temperatures
- Often caught at night using spotlights and bow/arrows, but also using worms + breadballs + manufactured bait



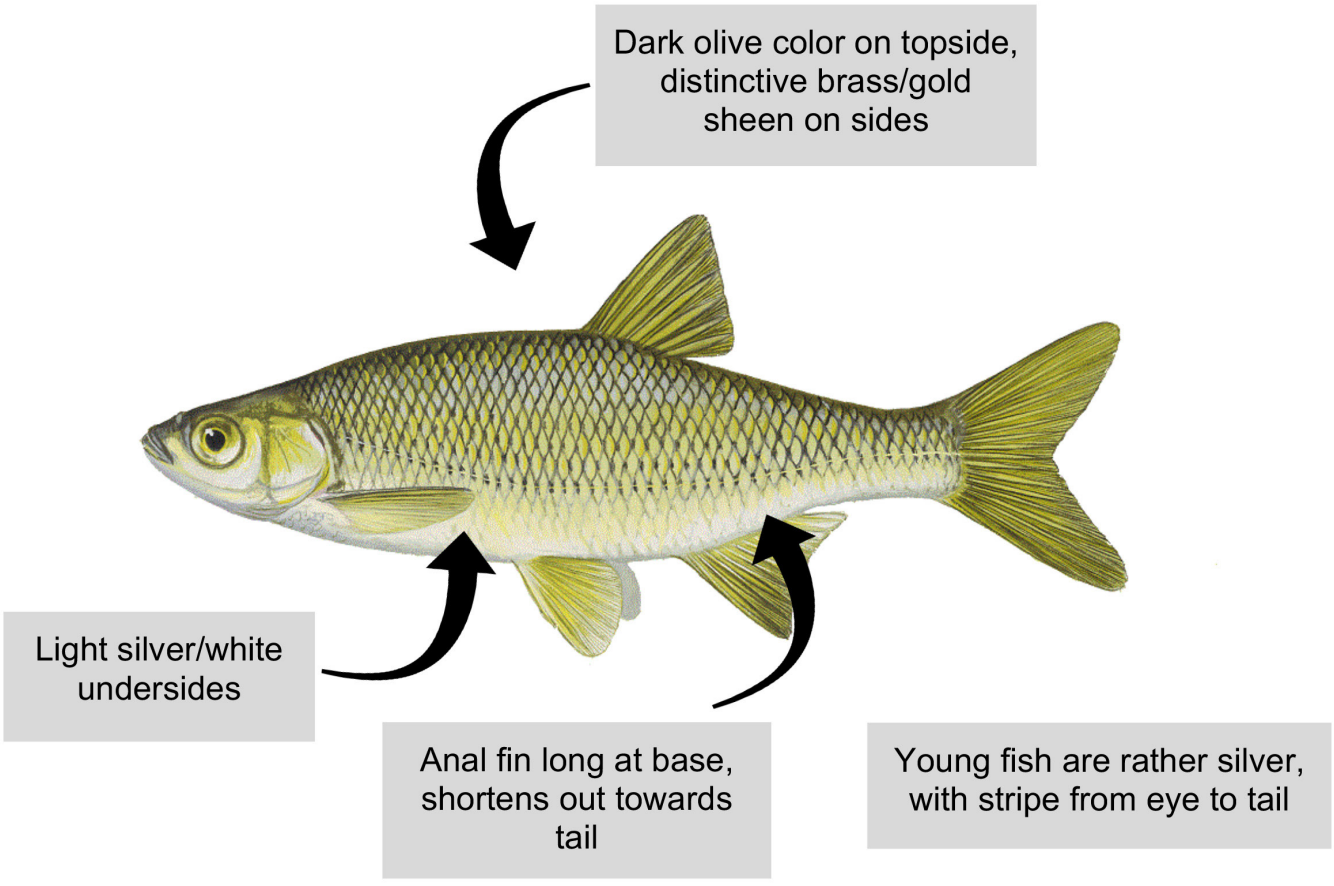
Iowa Dept of NR

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

Carp family

Golden Shiner (Notemigonus crysoleucas)

- 1lb - 2lbs (Saratoga Lake record = unknown) … 5-3” average length
- Spend time in the quietest weedy regions of water … slow-moving wetland environments, shorelines with isolated cove, etc.
- Oatmeal flakes or breadballs attached to hooks work well, along with tiny bits of earthworm



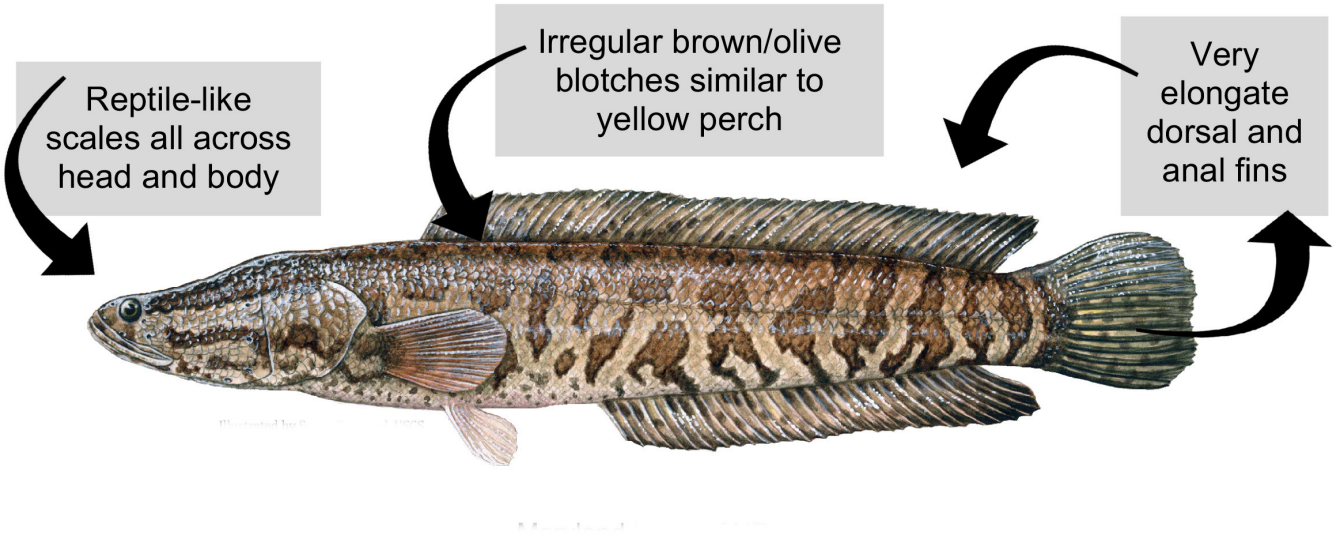
Iowa Dept of NR

Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

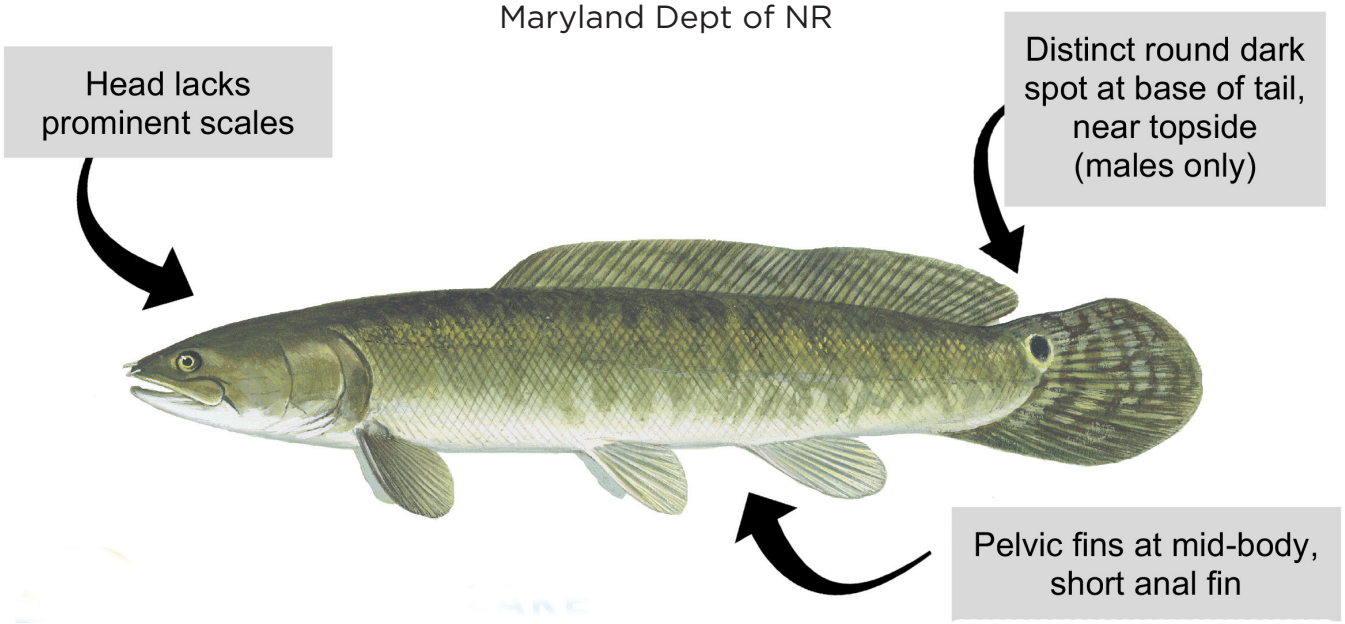
Not in Saratoga Lake

Northern Snakehead (Channa argus) - Potential Invasive

- 8lbs - 16lbs … 32-18” average length
- Native range includes watersheds throughout eastern Asia (China, Korea, Siberia)
- Fierce apex predator w/ no natural enemies in North America, tolerant of wide temperature ranges + highly anoxic or turbid conditions … can survive up to 4 days on land and wriggle approximately 4/1 mile to seek better habitat
- Native look-alike, Bowfin, pictured below Northern Snakehead for comparison



Maryland Dept of NR

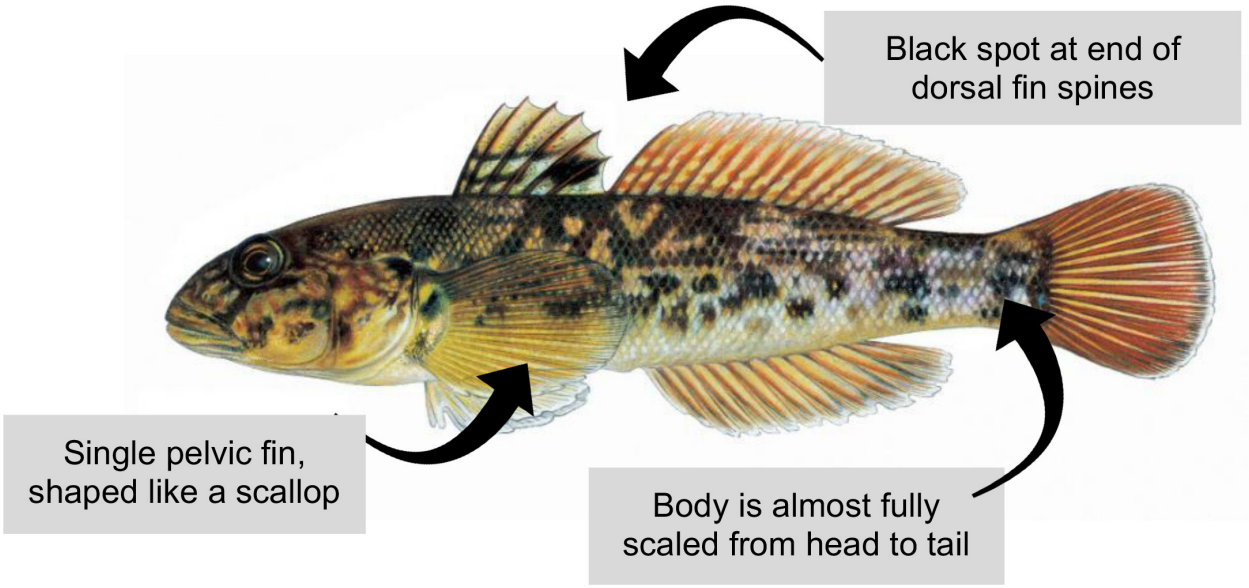


Fishing Species within Saratoga Lake

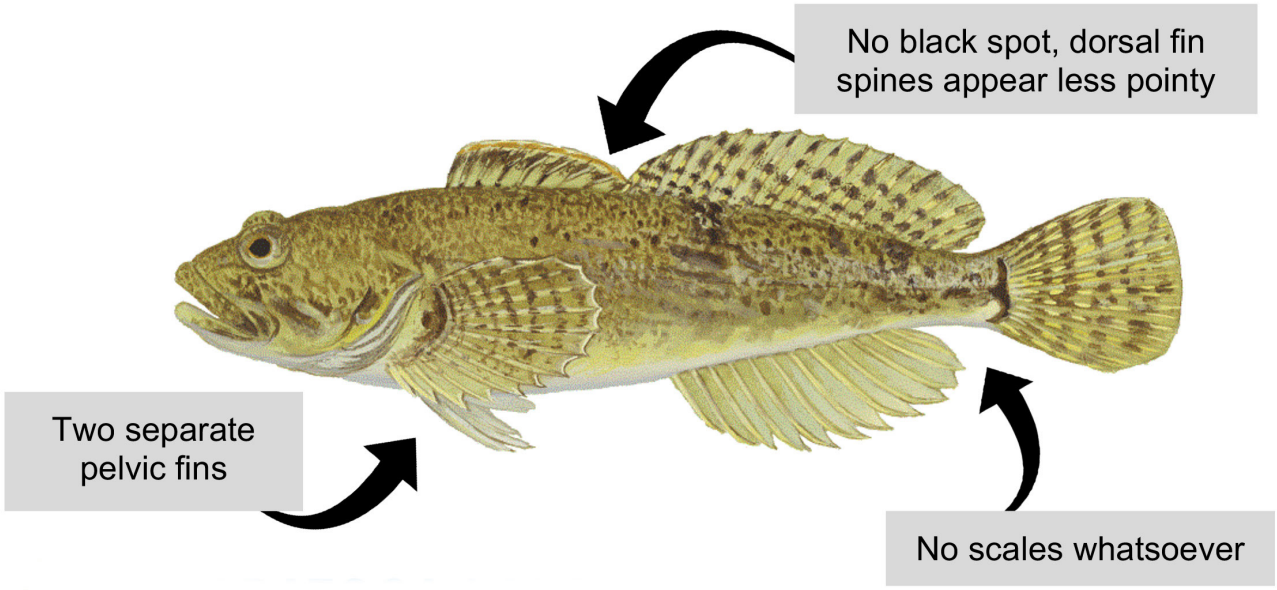
Not in Saratoga Lake

Round Goby (Neogobius melanostomus) - Potential Invasive

- Less than 1lb … 8-4” average length
- Native to Black + Caspian Seas, as well as Sea of Marmara
- Outcompetes native species for food/shelter, able to survive in degraded environments
- Native look-alike, Slimy Sculpin, pictured below Round Goby for comparison



Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program



Fishing Regulations on Saratoga Lake

Sources

- FISHBUOY “An all-in-one fishing app that connects anglers to data that matters" https://www.fishbuoy.com/index.php
- NY Almanack “Northern Snakeheads in New York State” (Paul Hetzler, 2020) https://www.newyorkalmanack.com/06/2020/northern-snakeheads-in-new-york-state/
- NYSDEC “Beaureu of Fisheries Technical Brief #tb522007” (Kyle Jones) https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/tb5saratoga.pdf
- NYSDEC “Fisheries Survey of Saratoga Lake 2015” (R. Fiorentino and B.D. D’Arco) https://slpidny.gov/wp-content/uploads/-2015/05/2021DEC-Fisheries-Survey-of-Saratoga-Lake.pdf
- NYSDEC “NYS Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide” https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/fishguide.pdf
- Saratoga Lake Association “Fishing” https://saratogalake.org/saratoga-lake-information/fishing/3-1452281247141#b6326a-92f94
- SLPID “Fishing on Saratoga Lake” https://slpidny.gov/fishing-on-saratoga-lake/