



White Perch

Morone americana



Description:

- ♦ olive to silvery green above, brassy sides and white belly
- ♦ deep body (deepest under first dorsal fin)
- ♦ no dark stripes on adults
- ♦ 2 dorsal fins, barely connected; first with 8-10 strong spines
- ♦ no teeth on tongue

Size:

- ♦ up to 22 inches, most commonly between 7-10 inches

Range:

- ♦ Atlantic drainages from St. Lawrence River, Canada to Peedee River, South Carolina, Lake Ontario

Facts:

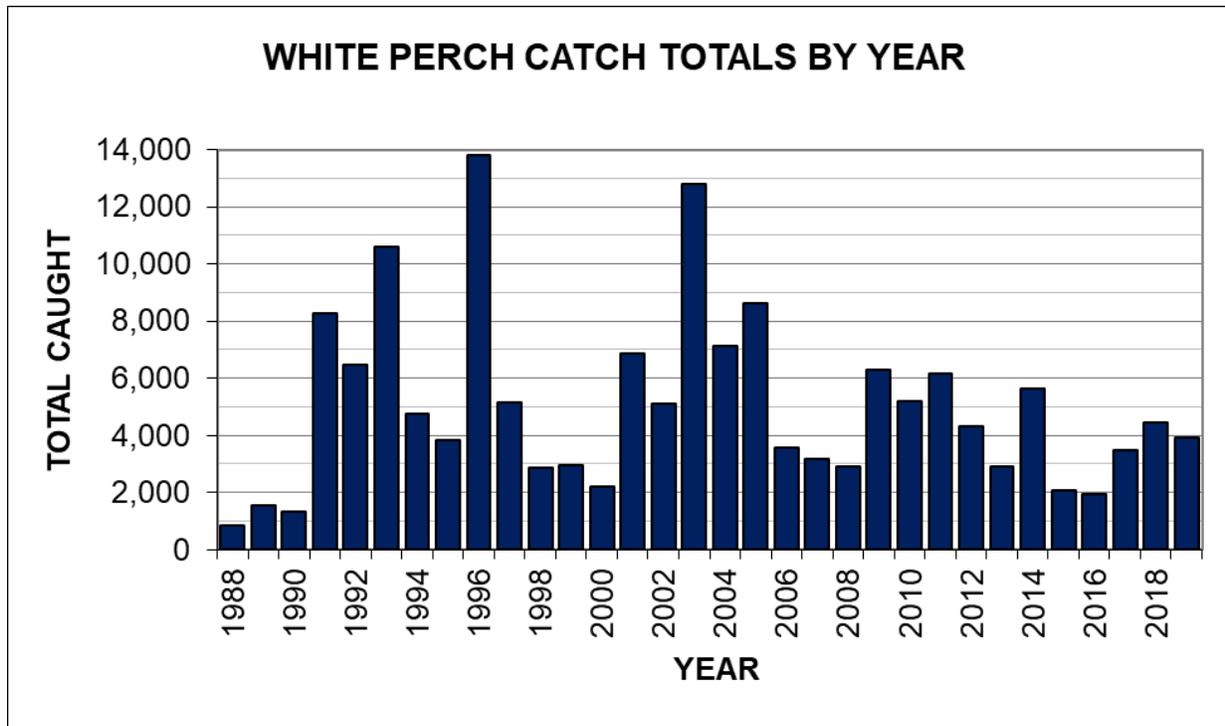
- ♦ prefer brackish waters but also found in freshwater
- ♦ begin spawning run in spring as water temperatures rise, adults move upstream to freshwater
- ♦ eggs hatch in 1-6 days
- ♦ juveniles will stay near hatching grounds through summer and fall
- ♦ spend much of their lives in the same area where they hatched
- ♦ winter in deeper waters throughout the bays
- ♦ live an average of 10 years; but can live up to 17 years



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The abundance of white perch has also increased over the survey years. The average per-haul number increased substantially from 1990 to 1991, with average numbers caught jumping from 10 fish per haul to 32 fish per haul. To date, the best year was 1996 when white perch numbers reached an average of 67 fish per haul. This was a productive year for many other species as well. Since 1996, the number of white perch has fluctuated without trend showing an additional peak in 2003.



*from 1980 to 1987, the largest catch was 393 fish in 1984

For more information about white perch, please check out this article:

Feisty White Perch: Fine Fish in a Small Package

*click on link below and then scroll down to digest page 26

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2012/digmar22-30.pdf>