

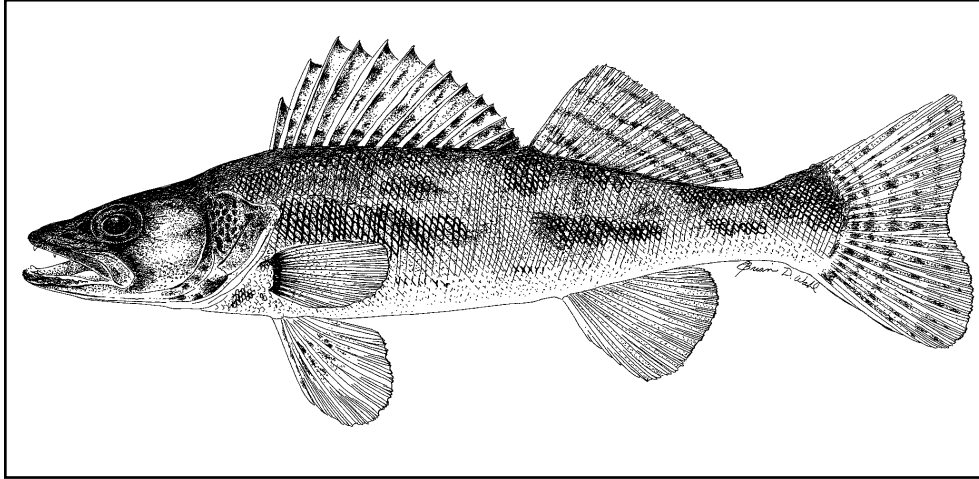
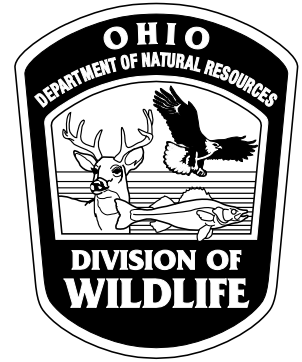
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Wildlife

Life History Notes

Saugeye

Scientific Name: *Stizostedion vitreum x S. canadense*



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Identification:

Saugeye are a cross of the walleye and sauger. The dark bars on the dorsal fin are the best identifying characteristic for this fish. Sharp canine teeth, dark blotches on the sides, and a white tip on the lower tail also help identify the saugeye.

Range and Habitat:

Saugeye have been stocked into many impoundments in Ohio. They can also be found in streams and rivers below stocked impoundments. Saugeye are highly adaptable to most lake and river environments and are tolerant of turbid waters.

Life History:

Saugeye are created by crossing walleye eggs with sperm from a sauger. The result is a fast growing fish that has excellent survival abilities. This also makes it ideal for stocking into Ohio reservoirs and rivers; however, saugeye

can create some problems. Generally, most hybrid species do not reproduce, but saugeye do occasionally reproduce with walleye and sauger. This can create genetic problems in the fishery.

Adult Size:

Saugeye average 1 pound and range between 13 and 16 inches in length. The state record fish weighed 12.42 pounds.

Fishing Methods:

Many saugeye are caught in tailwater areas downstream from the impoundments where they have been stocked. Crankbaits, lead headed jigs with hair, feathers, or plastic tails are good artificial lures. Live minnows and nightcrawlers are also productive. Winter is an excellent time to catch saugeye.