

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

RECEIVED
OCT 26 1931
FISH DIVISION

Report 99.

Identification of Wall-eyes (yellow pickerel;
pike-perch) from Lake Michigan

The request for the identification forming the base of the present report was a letter from Mr. Westerman dated October 15, 1931 and received October 18.

The letter is quoted:

"The following letter has just been received from Conservation Officer M. Kuite, Holland,

'I am sending you under separate cover 3 pike that were taken from Lake Michigan, Grand Haven Port, by the commercial fishermen. Now I am under the impression that they are nothing but the wall-eyed pike as the commercial fishermen had them in the pond nets all summer but as you well know the fishing has been very poor this fall and most of the fishermen are in poor shape.

Now comes the trick they are getting quite a number of them in the perch nets all over the lake and have changed the name to Sanger Pike.

In checking the fish with Mr. Loutit at Grand Haven with a book that he has it so describes the Sanger Pike as an altogether different fish. Now will you kindly check same and let me know as soon as possible as I have stopped them from taking them until I hear from you.'

We are forwarding the original package in which these fish were received to you and shall be glad to have your report at your convenience."

The three fish referred to were received the same day, preserved in formaldehyde, in a two quart jar, in an unbroken package marked as shipped from Mr. Kuite at Holland, Michigan, to Fred A. Westerman, Department of Conservation. This package had been rewrapped and forwarded to The Institute.

These Three fish were gill-net fish 11 5/8, 11 3/4 and 12 inches long. When fresh none would have exceeded 13 inches in length.

In order to clearly indicate the species determination which we have made of these fish, we list below their characters, in comparison with those of the

two species of this type of fish living in Lake Michigan:

SAUGER
(= sand pike)

WALL-EYE
(= yellow pickerel
= yellow pike
= pike-perch)

THE 3 SPECIMENS BEING IDENTIFIED.

Very rough to the feel.

Rather smooth to the feel

Rather smooth to the feel.

Cheeks usually closely scaled.

Cheeks usually sparsely scaled.

Cheeks sparsely scaled.

End of first dorsal fin without large black blotch.

End of first dorsal fin with a large black blotch.

End of first dorsal fin with a large black blotch.

Dorsal fins with rows of round black spots.

Dorsal fins without definite round black spots.

Dorsal fins without definite round black spots.

Blotch at base of pectoral fin very distinct.

Blotch at base of pectoral fin indistinct.

Blotch at base of pectoral fin indistinct.

Number of soft (=main) rays in second dorsal fin 17 to 20, usually fewer than 18 or 19.

Number of soft (=main) rays in second dorsal fin 18 to 22, usually 20 or 21.

Number of soft (=main) rays in second dorsal fin 20 in 2 fish and 18 in 1.

Number of pyloric caeca 5 to 8, the longest shorter than stomach.

Number of pyloric caeca 3, each as long as stomach.

Character not determined.

CONCLUSION: The 3 specimens of the pike-perch group from Lake Michigan, submitted for identification on October 15, 1931, are without any question examples of the species of fish variously known as wall-eye, wall-eyed pike, pike-perch, yellow pike-perch, yellow pike, yellow pickerel, doré, etc. They are below the legal size of this species, and are of about the usual run of size of the sauger, but they most certainly are not of that species.

Examination made and report prepared by the Director of the Institute.

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Carl L. Hubbs

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Director.