

WHITE PERCH (*Morone americana*)

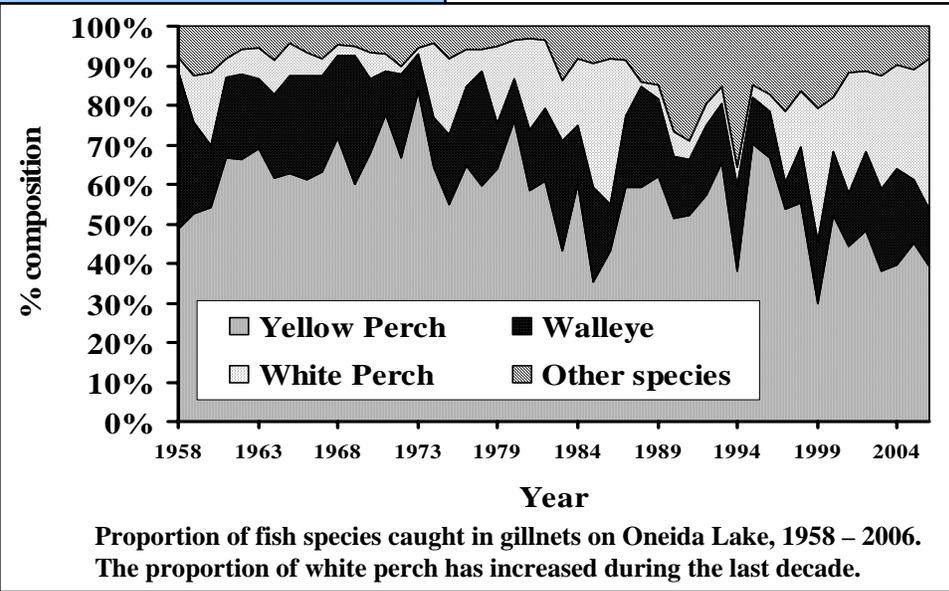
**Oneida Lake Status:
Abundant**



Oneida Lake white perch

- Discovered in Oneida Lake in 1951
- Large die-off occurred following the winters of 1987 and 1988
- Popularity as a panfish has increased in recent years

White perch are native to the lower Hudson River and Atlantic coast drainages. A population was first discovered in Oneida Lake in 1951 and likely migrated from the Hudson River westward through the Erie-Barge Canal.



Adult white perch have a dark gray or brownish back that fades to silver on the sides and then to white on the belly. Average weight is ¾-pound and average length is 5 to 7 inches. The white perch diet consists of amphipods, chironomids, and fish eggs. Adults will consume small fish as well.

White perch can live in both fresh and saltwater but prefer brackish water. They are actually members of the temperate bass family which includes white bass and striped bass (see photos at right), but white perch lack the horizontal striping that is characteristic of those species. White perch are very abundant in Oneida Lake. They are fun to catch and good to eat.



Striped bass
<http://www.floridaconservation.org>



White bass
Wisconsin Sea Grant

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