

# White Perch

*Morone americana*

## Iowa Aquatic Invasive Species Fact Sheet

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**Description:** The white perch is usually 5-7 inches in length. Coloration on sides are variable, dark gray-green, silver green, brown to almost black on dorsal side. The belly is silver or white.



**Distribution:** Native to Atlantic coastal regions, white perch invaded the Great Lakes through the Erie and Welland canals in 1950.

White perch are found in southern Iowa tributaries of the Missouri River.

**Threats:** White perch have been found to eat the eggs of walleye, white bass, other white perch and possibly other species as well. Another concern is that white perch, actually a species of the bass genus have hybridized with native white bass in western Lake Erie.

**Control:** The best method to control white perch is to prevent their spread. To do so: learn to identify it and report any sightings to your local natural resource management agency, always drain water from your boat, livewell, and bilge before leaving any water access, always dispose of your unwanted bait on land, never dip your bait bucket into a lake or river if it has water in it from another, and never dump live fish from one body of water into another.

**Law:** Iowa law makes it illegal to 1) possess, introduce, purchase, sell, propagate, or transport aquatic invasive species in Iowa, 2) place a trailer or launch a watercraft with aquatic invasive species attached in public waters, and 3) operate a watercraft in a marked aquatic invasive species infestation. The scheduled fine is \$500 for violating any of the above regulations. The law also requires the DNR to identify waterbodies infested with aquatic invasive species and post signs alerting boaters. The DNR may restrict boating, fishing, swimming, and trapping in infested waters.

