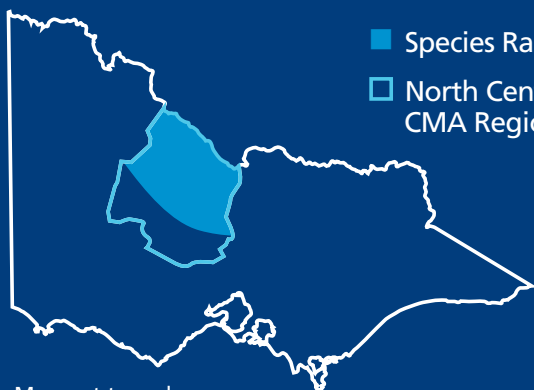


Golden Perch (*Macquaria ambigua*)

Tail fin shape



Map not to scale

■ Species Range

□ North Central CMA Region



Family: Perchichthyidae

Other common names: Yellow Belly, Callop, Murray Perch

Description: The Golden Perch is a medium to large fish which is laterally compressed. It has a large mouth, the lower lip of which protrudes in front of the upper one. Its colour is generally olive-green with a yellow belly. The adult can grow to 400 mm (maximum size is about 760 mm).

Fins: Pectoral, pelvic, dorsal and anal fins present. Tail is truncate.

Habitat: Prefers lowland areas, with slow flowing, turbid warm water, which has deep, slow flowing pools with logs and overhanging vegetation.

Conservation status & distribution: Widespread, but declining. Found throughout the Murray-Darling Basin, it can also be found in the Dawson and Fitzroy rivers (Queensland) and in Lake Eyre and the Bulloo River drainage basins.

Breeding: Spawning occurs during floods in spring and summer when water temperatures exceed 20°C. Individuals have been found to migrate upstream, at times well over 1,000 km during the breeding season. Males mature at around two years and females at four years.

Eggs: A female can lay up to 500,000 eggs, which are water hardened, large (3 to 4 mm in diameter), and semi-buoyant, allowing them to drift downstream. Hatching occurs after one to two days.

Diet: The Golden Perch is carnivorous; eating shrimp, yabbies, small fish and benthic aquatic insect larvae.

Threats: River regulation has disrupted migration and spawning behaviour, and cold water pollution has led to elimination of some populations. Other threats include barriers to migration and recolonisation posed by weirs and dams.

Interesting facts and features: Individuals can live for at least 26 years, more commonly up to 12 years.

Spawning time

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

The North Central Catchment Management Authority acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners within the region, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country. We also recognise and acknowledge the contribution and interest of Aboriginal people and organisations in land and natural resource management.

The information on this Fact Sheet is extracted from the North Central Waterwatch Fish Field Guide. Please visit the North Central Catchment Management Authority website, www.nccma.vic.gov.au for more information.

