

My Profile

Golden Perch

I am 11 years old.

I was born in the **lower-Murray River, near the Darling River junction**, during the spring of 2007. I travelled from this area before I was caught in the mid-Murray River area, at **Chinamans Lagoon**, on the **2nd of December 2018** by **xx (ANGLER)**. That's over 1000km!

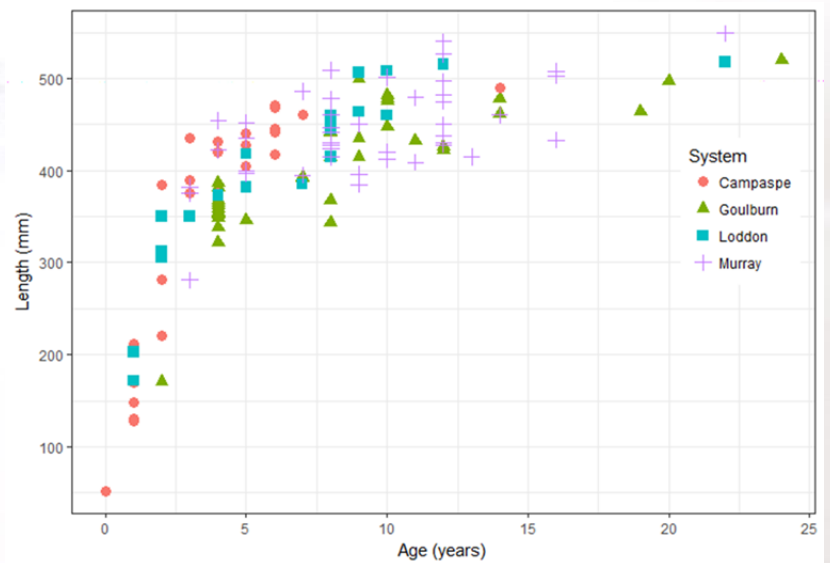
I have grown to be **43 cm long**. If you're interested in how my growth compares with other Golden Perch, here's a graph which brings together information from fish from many surveys over the last 10 years.

Dispersal of fish throughout the river system is a critical process required for sustainable populations of species such as Golden and Silver Perch, and Murray Cod. This allows them to access areas which are most suited to each life stage, such as spawning, feeding and nursery habitats. Environmental flows are being used in Victorian rivers to enhance this process by providing cues for movement between river systems and through fishways. Environmental water (also called 'water for the environment') is being used to maintain suitable water quality, available habitat and food for native fish. Recent research has found that the population of Golden Perch in many northern tributaries has increased since 2012 (see a recent VEFMAP [fact sheet](#)). For more info on how water for the environment is managed in the northern Victorian tributaries check out: <https://vewh.vic.gov.au/rivers-and-wetlands/northern-region>

Golden Perch, *Macquaria ambigua*



Golden Perch otolith (earbone) - 11 years old



What Do Golden Perch Like?

Golden Perch:

- live in many different habitats – from slow to fast flowing rivers and streams, to lakes and billabongs.
- love snags and deep water.
- eat a varied diet including shrimps, yabbies, small fish and insect larvae.
- are long-lived - up to 27 years.
- are fast growing, reaching up to 76cm in size. Our growth can vary a lot and depending on river conditions including how much food is around.
- start breeding at about three years old, and females can produce a lot of eggs – up to 500,000!! (but usually around 200,000).
- spawn when water temperatures reach 17°C in spring and early summer and water levels rise, so our eggs and larvae can drift downstream.
- eggs hatch after 1-2 days and larvae (which are only 4 mm long) can drift for 10-12 days, including along the main river channel and its edges.
- young fish often hang out in floodplains and in habitats along the edges of rivers.
- vary in how far they move. Some like to stay in just one area, while others can move hundreds – sometimes thousands - of kilometres along the Murray River and its tributaries.

A Golden Perch once swam 255km from South Australia to Victoria in 21 days. That's an average of 12km each day.

One fish was recorded moving from South Australia to Queensland – that's about 4000km!

- like to move/migrate in spring and summer, often during spawning, and when water levels rise and fall.

For more info on how Golden Perch respond to water for the environment, see the results of the VEFMAP (Victorian Environmental Flow Monitoring and Assessment Program):

<https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/research/rivers-and-estuaries/assessing-benefits-of-environmental-watering>