

Bluegill – All Lakes

- Colony Nesters (20-50 nests)
- Spawn when water temps reach the upper 60's
- In our climate most spawn once per year
- Nest from right on shore to a depth of 12'
- Prefer sand to mud substrate with sparse vegetation/debris
- Males aggressively guard nests for 10 days or so
- In summer, adults move to deep water, often suspending just below the surface.
- Adults most active at dawn and only come shallow to spend the night.



Pumpkinseed – All Lakes

- Most abundant sunfish in NY
- Noted for red margin on gill cover
- Nest building begins when water temps reach upper 50's to low 60's.
- May nest in small colonies but not like bluegill due to strong territorial nature
- Spawn in shallow water, often less than 12" of water and in dense vegetation
- Eggs hatch in 3 days and males guard the nest for another 11 days
- After young fry leave males build a new nest and start over.
- Adults typically roam in small packs (2-4 fish)
- Feed primarily during the day and rest at night



Crappie (Black) — Honeoye, Sodus, Keuka, Conesus & Canandaigua

- Spend much of their lives suspended in deeper water
- Move very shallow to feed at ice-out
- Move in and out until spawning in May-July
- Spawn on sandy bottom with vegetation but prefer hard structure (stumps and logs)
- Males will guard nest until fry big enough to feed on their own (2 weeks)
- Following spawn adults move to outside weedlines for a week or two before many move to deep water.
- Feed in early morning and between midnight and 2:00am, on insects and fish.
- Overwinter in deep areas



Yellow Perch – All lakes

- Perch spawn in April – May when water temps reach 42 – 52 degrees
- Spawn in shallow (< 10ft) and lay eggs in strips over debris/vegetation.
- No nest building or parental guarding
- After hatching young perch hang near shore for a 30-40 day period, then move off shore and school.
- Adults travel in schools often around edges of vegetation.
- Perch don't mind current.
- Adults eat insects, crayfish and small fish
- Efficient feeding on bottom and up in water column



Alewife — Conesus, Sodus, Seneca Canandaigua and Keuka

- Adults are greyish green above with silvery sides and usually around 5" long
- Adults have dark spot on shoulder
- Not well adapted for life in freshwater
 - Susceptible to mass die-offs (temp)
 - Predator stocking to control alewives
- Spawn from late May through June in Finger Lakes and as late as August on Lake Ontario (50-60 degrees)
- Spawning involves 2-3 alewives spiraling toward surface.
- Flit around just under surface when dying.
- No nests, but eggs hatch in about a week.
- Adults feed on insects, eggs, vegetation, etc.
- Predation on zooplankton can lead to algae problems in nutrient rich waterbodies



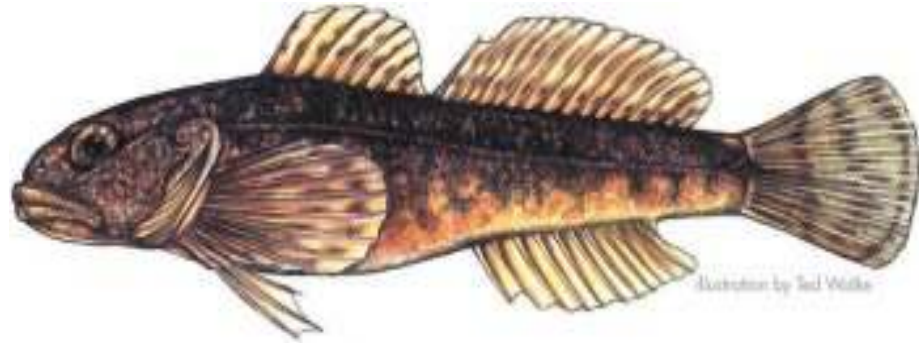
Round Goby – Lake Ontario, Oneida, and ??

- Adult gobies range from 4-7” in length
- Overwinter in deep water but migrate to shallows for spawning.
- Typically spawn in rock crevices and guarded by males. Females will spawn up to 6 times per season from April- Sept.
- Soft bodied with distinctive black spot on first dorsal fin. Juveniles are a mottled gray but turn as the get older.
- Spawning males are often jet black in color.
- Bottom dweller that prefers rocks but will use sandy areas and weed beds.
- Feed heavily on zebra mussels, insect larvae and other food found on the bottom.
- Sensory system that detects prey movement only works while stationary. Can feed in complete darkness.



Sculpins – Erie, Lake Ontario Keuka, Canandaigua, Seneca, Conesus

- Adults mottled brown to pinkish above with saddle shaped darker blotches and measure 3-5"
- Breeding males will have bright orange margins/edges on fins.
- Spawn in crevices under rocks and logs when temps reach 40 degrees.
- Nest builders and males guard nest.
- Mainly eat insects and worms.
- Bottom dwellers that live as deep as 350 feet.



Golden Shiner — Honeoye, Canandaigua and Keuka

- Adults are golden yellow with redish fins, while juvenile silvery with mid lateral stripe
- Spawns in later spring when water temps reach 68 degrees.
- They lacy sticky eggs over shallow algae and vegetation.
- Fast growing and adults typically grow to a length of 10-11 inches.
- Diet consists of zooplankton, algae and insects.
- Likes slow water, abundant vegetation and clear water.



Gizzard Shad — Oneida and Sodus Bay

- Dark gray or blue along top, silver sides and white below.
- Caudal fin is deeply forked and last ray in dorsal fin is very long
- Adults typically 10-14 inches long but can reach 22 inches.
- Spawn when water temps are between 50-70 degrees (April- June). Groups of adults mill around at the surface.
- Filter feeder that feeds on zooplankton.
- Likes slack water but tolerates clear and turbid conditions.
- Preferred LMB prey — easy to swallow until they get too big.

