

## Pirate Perch

*Aphredoderus sayanus*



By John Ransom

## Taxonomy

Class – Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)

Order - Percopsiforms (Trout-perches)

Family – Aphredoderidae (Pirate Perches)

Genus - *Aphredoderus*

Species - *sayanus*



## Characteristics and Identification

- The anus of adults is located just posterior to the gills.
  - Anus of juveniles in usual location
- Coloration-monotone tan to black with a purple sheen, black band on caudal peduncle.
- Terminal mouth
- Fusiform body
- Max length 144mm
- Rounded tail
- Single dorsal fin
- 2-3 dorsal and 1-2 anal fin spines
- Jaws, vomers, palatines, and pterygoids covered with fine rows of teeth



## Key Features

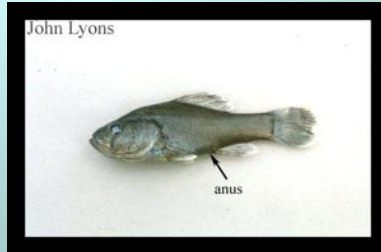
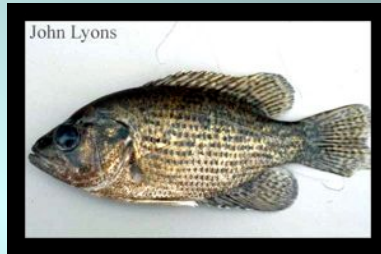
Anus in adults is located just posterior to gills

Single dorsal fin



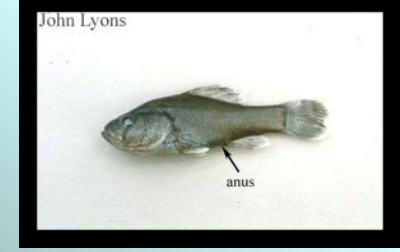
## Similar Species

- Rock Bass
- Two distinct dorsal lobes with 10 or more spines.
- Pirate Perch
- One dorsal fin with 2-3 spines



## Similar species

- Warmouth
- Two distinct dorsal lobes with 10 or more spines.
- Pirate Perch
- One dorsal fin with 2-3 spines



## Habitat

- Lakes, ponds, or backwater of slow moving streams.
- Usually associated with aquatic vegetation or leaf litter
- Substrate mud to sand
- Shallow waters



## Breeding Habits

- Transbranchial spawner
- Gametes of both sexes are passed directly from the urogenital pore through the branchial and oral cavities.
- Hide eggs in vegetation or soft substrate
- Do not guard nest
- Spring spawners.



## Spawning

[Pirate Perch Spawning](#)



## Range

USGS

*Aphredoderus sayanus*



Native HUCs  
HUC 8 Level Record  
HUC 6 Level Record  
Non-specific State Record

Map created on 11/8/2011, United States Geological Survey

## Life, Diet, and Human Interaction

- Mature after 1yr
- Live up to 4-5yrs
- Eat insects and smaller fishes
- Generally nocturnal
- No major human interaction as sport or aquarium fish.



## Pirate Fish Style

