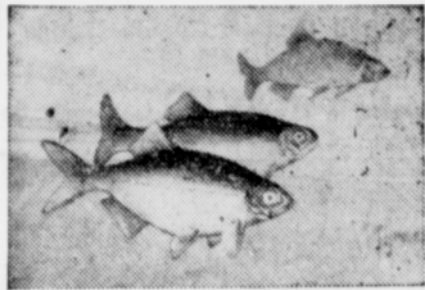


MOONEYE

By E. LAURENCE PALMER

The larger rivers and lakes of eastern North America from Hudson bay through the St. Lawrence region and the Great Lakes and south through the Mississippi valley to Alabama and Arkansas is the home of the Mooneye. It apparently is not found along the Atlantic seaboard south



Mooneye
©1952 National Wildlife Federation

of the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain drainage area. The Mooneye is a member of the mooneye family of fishes and has a close relative, the smaller Goldeye which commonly is more abundant than the Mooneye. There is a southern relative,

the Southern Mooneye, which is less well known and differs from the typical fish by having a keel on the under side of the body absent from the region of the pelvic fins. In the Mooneye, these fins are at about the middle of the fish along the under side.

The Mooneye is a silver and olive fish which may give off a steel blue luster from the olive-colored upper areas. The sides are silvery. The related Goldeye or Northern Mooneye averages a foot in length and is usually about a pound in weight, though 2-pound fish have been taken. Mooneyes of two pounds weight are not uncommon and fish in excess of that weight have been taken.

Mooneyes will rise to a fly and when hooked qualify as a game fish. The food is normally insects and small fish and the bait used is of course governed by this food habit. It is best taken on a fly during the season when the fish are feeding near the water surface.

Mooneyes may be taken on hooks baited with worms but, like the trout, win their best reputations when they are taken on artificial flies. The best time for

fishing for Mooneyes using wet or dry flies such as would be used for trout is the early dawn or period just before dawn, or late evening. They often feed in schools, sometimes in swift water, and a school of these fish actively feeding may give the angler a most satisfying experience.

Naturally the Mooneye gets its name from the rather large eyes. It is probable that other fish of equal length have eyes as large or larger without winning claim to the name. The reason the eye of a Mooneye appears so large is particularly because the head is relatively small.

Mooneyes resemble herring and like them are prepared for use as food by smoking. They are not considered good as fresh fish chiefly because the flesh is dry and too well supplied with small bones to win complete popularity. Mooneyes are sometimes called "toothed herring" but they are not true herring.

The spawning season in the New York area is from June through July at which time the eggs may be found in rapid waters commonly below dams.

NOTICE!

No more work accepted after the printing of this notice as I'm closing April 30. People who have articles in the shop, please call for them.

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—FORGIVENESS

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, you're heavenly Father will also forgive you:—*Christ Jesus.*

Being destroyed, sin needs no other form of forgiveness.—*Mary Baker Eddy.*

A brave man thinks no one his superior who does him an injury; for he has it then in his power to make himself superior to the other by forgiving it.—*Alexander Pope.*

The noblest revenge is to forgive.—*Italian Proverb.*

Hath any wronged thee?—Be bravely revenged—slight it, and the work is begun: forgive, and it is finished. He is below himself that is not above an injury.—*Quarles.*

To err is human; to forgive is divine.—*Alexander Pope.*

Brookings Harbor Pilot 3
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1953

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