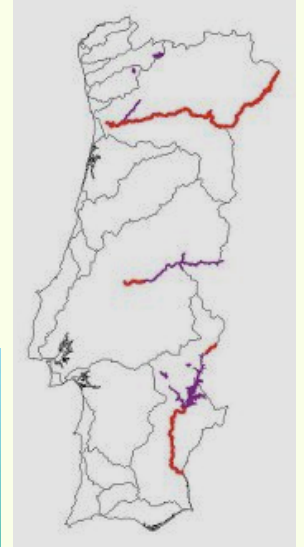


-  **ZANDER**
Sander luciperca
-  SNOEKBAARS
-  LÚCIO-PERCA
-  LUCIOPERCA
-  SANDRE

Geographical Distribution

The zander is very widely distributed across Eurasia, occurring in the drainages of the Caspian, Baltic, Black, Aral, North and Aegean Sea basins. Its northern distribution limit is Finland. It has been introduced to Great Britain, southern Europe, and continental Europe. The zander was introduced illegally in Spain - during the seventies of the twentieth century - to promote sport fishing, for its high value for this activity. It is currently expanding in Portugal (mainly Douro, Tejo and Guadiana rivers).



Habitat

Zander inhabit freshwater bodies, preferentially large rivers and lakes. They tolerate brackish water and will make use of coastal lakes and estuaries. Individuals living in brackish water habitats migrate upriver (for up to 250 km) for spawning.

Description

The zander is closely related to perch. Zander are often called **pike-perch** as they resemble the pike with their elongated body and head, and the perch with their spiny dorsal fin. It may reach 20 kg of weight, although typical catches are considerably smaller. Zander reach an average length of 40–80 cm with a maximum length of 120 cm.

Feeding behavior

The natural diet of zander includes anything edible that moves - small fish, ducklings and amphibians.

Fishing

Closed season: none

The zander is considered one of the most valuable food fish native to Europe. It is esteemed for its light, firm but tender meat with few bones and a delicate flavor. Zander is especially well suited for fish fillets, sushi and sashimi, it can be served whole, baked, smoked or cooked.