



PUMPKINSEED

Lepomis gibbosus



ZONNEBAARS



PERCA SOL



PERSICO SOLE



PERCHE SOLEIL

Geographical Distribution

Coming from the Northeastern US and southern Canada, it was first imported to Europe in the late 19th century, most likely to be used as ornamental fish. The pumpkinseed is referred to Spain from the first decade of the twentieth century and was introduced in Portugal at the end of the seventies, where it is currently in wide expansion, occurring in all the hydrographic basins.



Habitat

Pumpkinseeds typically live in warm, calm lakes, ponds, and pools of creeks and small rivers with plenty of vegetation. They prefer clear water where they can find shelter to hide. They tend to stay near the shore and can be found in numbers within shallow and protected areas. They will feed at all water levels from the surface to the bottom in the daylight.

Description

Pumpkinseeds typically are 10 cm in length, but can grow up to 40 cm. They typically weigh less than 450 g, with the world record being 620 g. They are orange, green, yellow or blue in color, with speckles over their sides and back and a yellow-orange breast and belly. The coloration of the scales of the pumpkinseed is one of the most vibrant of any freshwater fish and can range from an olive-green or brown to bright orange and blue.

Feeding behavior

Pumpkinseeds feed on a variety of small food both at the surface of the water and at the bottom. Among their favorites are insects, mosquito larvae, small molluscs and other crustaceans, worm and even other smaller pumpkinseeds.

Fishing

Closed season: none

The pumpkinseeds are typically very likely to bite on a worm, which makes them easy to catch while fishing. Many anglers consider the pumpkinseed to be a nuisance fish, as it bites so easily and frequently when the fisherman is attempting to catch something else.

Although many people consider the meat of a pumpkinseed to be good tasting, it is typically not a popular sport fish due to its small size.