

June 5, 1935

IDENTIFICATION OF BLUE PIKE-PERCH SUBMITTED BY CONSERVATION OFFICER KOBOSKI

On June 3, 1935, the Institute for Fisheries Research received from Conservation Officer Thomas Koboski of Petoskey the fish referred to in his letter of May 29, which read as follows:

Petoskey, Michigan 5/29/35

Gentlemen:

Am sending you for proper identification four fish which I think are perch pike (Yellow Pickerel) or Walleyed Pike.

These fish were shipped under the name of Blue Pike and offered for sale under the name of Blue Pike. Am sure your report will settle all question of doubt as to the kind of fish these are.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Very truly yours,
Thomas Koboski (signed)
Conservation Officer

These fish are without question Blue Pike-perch, commonly called Blue Pike. The evidence for this statement is given in the accompanying table. The characters assigned the "yellows" and the "blues" in general are those used in distinguishing the two species in Hubbs "The Check-list of the Fishes of the Great Lakes and Tributary Waters (1926, p. 57).

Character	Yellow Pike-perch	Specimens from Petoskey	Blue Pike-perch
Body color	With brassy yellow mottlings, never bluish	Grayish blue, without brassy yellow	Grayish blue without brassy yellow
Color of lower fins	Yellowish	Bluish white	Bluish white
Eyes (orbit)	Small, set rather far apart	Large, set close together	Large, set close together
Bony width between orbits measured into orbits	1.1 to 1.4	1.5 to 1.7	1.4 to 2.0
Size	Large, to 20 or 40 lbs., usually immature under 1 lbs.	Smaller, 11" + to 12" +	Smaller, seldom 18" long
Flesh	firm	rather soft	rather soft

It is therefore clear that these fish are not Yellow Pike-perch
(= Yellow Pickerel = Walleyed Pike).

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Carl L. Hubbs
Director