

# Invasive Species Alert

## Zander

(*Sander lucioperca*)

\*Not detected in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Slender body, grey-green back, white belly, dark transverse rings
- Average length: 50 cm
- 2 dorsal fins, pointed head, many small teeth and a few large teeth
- **Not** a hybrid of a pike and perch



eLNuko

**Habitat:** Eutrophic lakes, brackish coastal lakes/estuaries, and large turbid rivers. Homing is well developed and migrations can be as far as 250 km.



U. S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org

**Diet:** Predominantly feed on gregarious fishes in pelagic waters

**Native Range:** Continental Europe to western Siberia

**U.S. Distribution:** There is an established population of zander in Spiritwood Lake in North Dakota.

**Local Concern:** Introduction into Michigan waters could lead to a crash in some fish communities. There is also a concern for hybridization with walleye.

**Potential Means of Introduction:** Bio manipulation, illegal stocking

**Other Names:** European pike perch

**Native look-alikes and how you can tell them apart from a zander:**

- ✓ **Walleye:** Body color is much more golden, light dorsal fin with a dark area at the base, white spot on the bottom of the tail
- ✓ **Sauger:** Spots on the dorsal fin
- ✓ **Yellow Perch:** 6-9 vertical bars on their sides, no canines

Report this species at  
[www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu) or download  
the MISIN smartphone app and  
report it from your phone