

Perch

Perca fluviatilis

Fish · Here all year · spawns Apr-Jun



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A deep-bodied, striking fish: olive-green with five to nine bold dark vertical bars along the flank, bright orange-red pelvic and anal fins, and a spiny first dorsal fin that it raises when alarmed. Perch live in the lochs, ponds and slower reaches around Dumfries, often in shoals as juveniles and more solitary as they grow larger.

BEHAVIOUR

Young perch hunt in packs, herding small fish and fry into the shallows; older, larger fish become more solitary ambush predators, using weed beds, sunken timber and structure as cover. The vertical bars are camouflage against reeds and stems. Spawning is distinctive — the female drapes long, lace-like ribbons of eggs over submerged branches and weed in spring.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Perches (Percidae)
SIZE	Commonly 20-35 cm
UK STATUS	Native; widespread in lochs and slow rivers

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