

Predation efficiency of Nile perch, *Lates niloticus*



Nile perch in the catch of Lake Nasser

Nile perch, *Lates niloticus* is a large food and game fish which is found in River Nile and other rivers and lakes of Africa. The specimens in the photos are taken from the fish catch of Lake Nasser. Nile Perch is one of the largest freshwater piscivorous fish species that is accessible to anglers.

This species which was introduced into Lake Victoria showed a powerful predation impact on native cichlids in the lake resulting in a sharp decline in their populations.

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Image credit: David Sykora (Paraguay)

The large mouth of Nile perch as shown in the photos enables them to capture large preys. The maximum size of prey is determined by the body shape of the prey and of course the size of Nile perch as reflected in the size of their mouth as well as the mouth gapes. It is estimated that Nile perch can feed on Nile tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus* of about 33% of their own length.

The powerful predation of Nile perch has placed them among the 100 on the list of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species.