

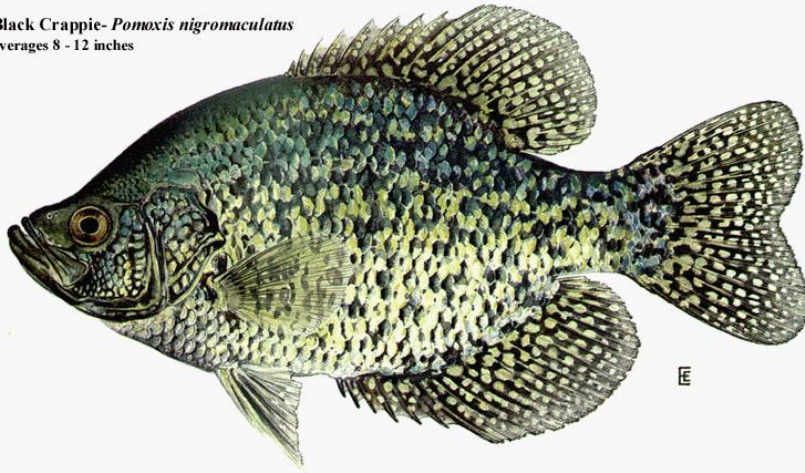
BLACK CRAPPIE

(*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)

Oneida Lake Status:
Common

- Part of the sunfish family
- Inhabits weedy bays and marinas
- The largest crappies in Oneida Lake are about 15 inches long

Black Crappie- *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*
averages 8 - 12 inches



Black crappies are part of the sunfish family. *Pomoxis* is a Greek word meaning sharp operculum, which references their spined gill covers. *Nigromaculatus* is a Latin word meaning “black-spotted”. They are typically silver-gray to green in color and have mottled or irregular black blotches all over their body.

A line drawing of the black crappie to show its markings and coloration
-NYDEC

They can be identified by locating seven or eight spines on their dorsal fin. The dorsal and anal fins also resemble each other in shape. Black crappies have large mouths extending below their eyes, and have thin lips, which is common for piscivorous feeding habits.

The black crappie is common in Oneida Lake, and is occasionally fished for as a sport or game fish. When it comes to their diet, black crappies are opportunists, but they typically eat small fish, like minnows.

They can be found in weedy bays and marinas in Oneida Lake. Also, black crappies can grow to be about 15 inches long in the lake, but are 9 inches long on average.



A black crappie netted on Oneida Lake -CBFS



A black crappie caught on Oneida Lake -CBFS

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