



ROCK BASS

Identification

- "Frying pan" shaped
- Greenish or brownish sides with horizontal rows of black spots
- **Large red to orange-red eyes**

Habitat

- Shallower, rocky areas of lakes and rivers, especially if woody cover is available.

Spawning Patterns

- Late June to early July at water temperatures between 15–21°C.
- Males build nests in shallow water. Nests may be large, up to two feet in diameter.
- Males aggressively guard the eggs and fry until they disperse.
- A single female may lay up to 11,000 eggs.

Diet

- Very aggressive feeders with a diet consisting of aquatic insects, crayfish and small fish.

Age and Size

- Can live 10-12 years.
- Usually 6-10 inches long; Ontario Angler Award minimum length is 10 inches.
- Ontario record weight is 3.00 lb.

Fishing Tips

- Very aggressive and will often hit larger baits targeted at Smallmouth or Largemouth Bass.
- Use live bait such as worms or small minnows, or artificial lures such as spinners and small crankbaits.
- Cast to rocky areas, or near docks and boathouses.
- They are moderately hard fighters for their size, making them an excellent fish for children to catch. They have white flaky flesh that is delicious.