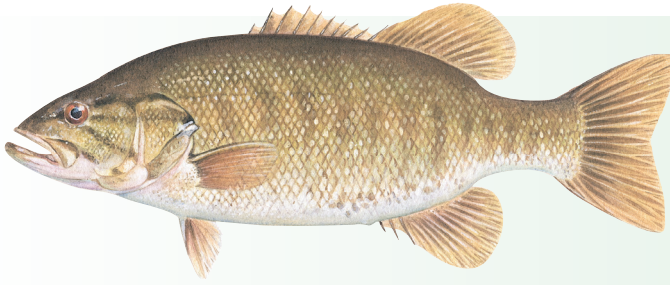




SMALLMOUTH BASS



Identification

- "Football" shaped
- Usually golden brown to olive green with 8-15 vertical bars on the sides
- Dark bars radiating from the eyes
- **Mouth reaches only as far back as the middle of the eye**

Habitat

- 🐟 Found in rocky areas, steep slopes and around fallen trees.
- 🐟 Preferred water temperature is around 21°C.

Spawning Patterns

- 🐟 Late spring to early summer at water temperatures between 13-20°C.
- 🐟 Spawning sites are located in 2-20 feet of water on sandy, gravel, or rocky bottoms. Nest sites are usually associated with some form of cover, usually fallen trees, boulders and occasionally dense vegetation.
- 🐟 Females can produce anywhere between 5,000 – 14,000 eggs. A successful nest, however, may only produce about 2,000 fry.

Diet

- 🐟 Crayfish are 60-90% of their diet.
- 🐟 Fish and aquatic insects make up the remainder of the diet. May also eat frogs, tadpoles and other fish.

Age and Size

- 🐟 Can live 15 years.
- 🐟 Usually 8-15 inches long; Ontario Angler Award minimum length is 17 inches.
- 🐟 Ontario record weight is 9.84 lb.

Fishing Tips

- 🐟 Exciting, hard fighting fish that are known for jumping out of the water.
- 🐟 In early summer, use top-water lures during calm evenings.
- 🐟 In mid-summer, try deeper diving crankbaits that imitate crayfish.
- 🐟 Soft plastic tube baits, grubs and worms, on a jig head are also popular.
- 🐟 Keep a net handy for landing fish safely.