



LARGEMOUTH BASS



Identification

- "Football" shaped
- Green color with a dark horizontal stripe extending the length of the body
- ***Lower jaw extends past the eye***

Habitat

- 🐟 Warm water in small lakes, shallow bays of larger lakes, and larger slow-moving river systems. Prefer shallow water, but can be found in depths up to 20 feet.
- 🐟 Near dense vegetation or cover like stumps, lily pads, cattails, and other aquatic plants.

Spawning Patterns

- 🐟 Late spring to early summer when water temperatures reach 16-18°C.
- 🐟 Spawning sites are over soft, muddy bottoms with bulrushes, lily pads or reeds.
- 🐟 Males are very territorial at this time and spawning sites are rarely closer than 30 feet from each other.
- 🐟 Females can produce over 100,000 eggs! Eggs usually hatch within five days but remain with the male for protection for up to a month.

Diet

- 🐟 Eat a wide variety of food including other fish, crayfish, frogs, and large insects.

Age and Size

- 🐟 Can live 15 years.
- 🐟 Usually 10-20 inches long; Ontario Angler Award minimum length is 18 inches.
- 🐟 Ontario record weight is 10.43 lb.

Fishing Tips

- 🐟 Exciting, hard fighting fish that will jump out of water for prey.
- 🐟 Use shallow-running crankbaits or top-water baits (especially during calm water evenings).
- 🐟 Use plastic worms such as a Senko-style bait, and fish slowly through dense cover.
- 🐟 A simple option is to use a hook, bobber and worm.
- 🐟 Keep a net handy for landing fish safely.