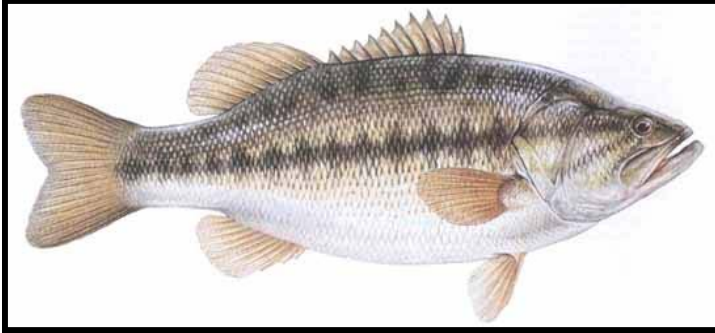


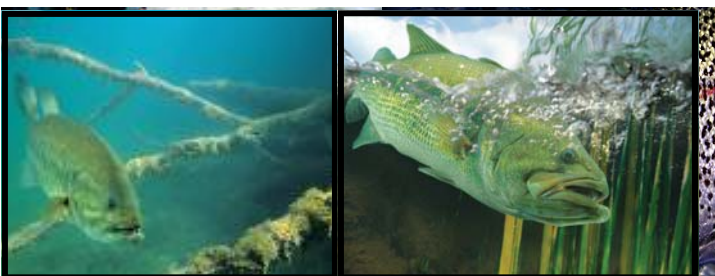


LARGEMOUTH BASS

Micropterus salmoides



The largemouth bass is marked by a series of dark blotches forming a ragged horizontal stripe along the length of each side. Some individuals are darker and can appear almost totally black. The upper jaw of a largemouth bass extends beyond the back of the eye. Like the smallmouth bass, this species spawns in late spring or early summer. The male constructs a nest on rocky or gravelly bottoms, although occasionally the eggs are deposited on leaves and rootlets of submerged vegetation. After the eggs hatch, the fry form a tight nest over the bed and the male bass stands guard over them.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The largemouth bass can reach lengths of up to 22 inches.

WEIGHT

The largemouth bass can weigh as much as 22 lbs.

FOOD HABITS

Largemouth bass eat minnows, sunfish, and practically any other available fish species, including their own.

HABITAT

The largemouth bass, lives in shallow aquatic habitats among reeds, water lilies and other vegetation. Largemouth bass are adapted to warm waters and are seldom found in water deeper than 20 feet.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The largemouth bass is native to eastern North America and historically ranged from southern Canada to northern Mexico, and from the Atlantic coast to the central region of the United States. Since the beginning of the twentieth century largemouth bass have been introduced successfully all over the world.

FUN FACT

Largemouth bass live much longer in the wild than they do in captivity. The longest known lifespan of a wild largemouth bass was 23 years.