

Largemouth Bass



What does a largemouth bass look like?

Largemouth bass are black or dark green with varying shades of green to brownish green on its sides, and an off-white belly. Its most distinctive marking is the dark black band running along the side from head to tail. The head is a greenish gold color. When you look at the back of the mouth when it is closed, the large mouth will extend past the eye. The smallmouth bass mouth does not extend that far.



What type of habitat does the largemouth bass like?

Largemouth bass can be found in a wide range of freshwater habitats. They prefer warm, slow streams and quiet, heavily vegetated lakes. Largemouth bass prefer clear water such as found in reservoirs and ponds; however they can also be found in backwaters and sloughs.



What do largemouth bass eat?

The largemouth bass eats a wide variety of different animals. The diet includes: minnows, baitfish, insects, frogs, mice, ducklings, and crayfish. Fry (young bass) feed on zooplankton, insect larvae, and microscopic crustaceans. At about 1-2 inches in length is when the largemouth bass become active predators and start to eat other fish.



What are the mating habits of largemouth bass?

Largemouth bass usually spawn between mid-April and mid-June. Nests are constructed by the male in 1 to 6 feet of water. The female lays between 2,000 and 20,000 eggs in several different nests; one nest can contain eggs from several females. The male guards the eggs until they have hatched.



Largemouth male fanning the nest.

Fishing for largemouth bass is a multi-million dollar business.

Largemouth bass will bite on almost anything. They can be caught on minnows, worms, or other live bait, plus poppers or streamers presented with a fly rod, or plugs thrown from a casting or spinning rod. Because the bass is usually associated with weeds, a weedless bait will often be necessary. Best fishing times are early morning and evening during the warm months. Bass like warm water and warm weather. Few bite in the winter.

