

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

LARGEMOUTH BASS

(Micropterus salmoides)

NATIVE RANGE

Largemouth Bass are native to central and eastern North America, extending from the Great Lakes in Quebec to as far south as northern Mexico.

DESCRIPTION

Largemouth Bass...

- Are bright green to olive on dorsal (back) side, lighter green to golden on body sides, and white on ventral (under) side
- Have two dorsal(back) fins that are fused together; anterior section of fin has spines and posterior section has soft rays
- Have a mouth that extends past the center of the eye
- Can grow to be 30-40 cm long when adults
- Have a horizontal, dark spotted line running from gills to tail

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Largemouth Bass...

- Can have adverse ecological effects on native species and ecosystems once introduced
- Are to blame for decline and local extinction of native prey species (fish and amphibians), in other regions where they have been introduced
- Can feed on juvenile salmon, thus posing a risk to recreational and commercial fisheries in B.C.
- Are capable of carrying parasites that can harm native fish species

BIOLOGY AND SPREAD

Largemouth Bass are spreading into B.C. primarily through intentional introductions for sport fishing. Natural dispersal has also occurred from the US, through the Columbia River system and other trans-boundary rivers and streams.

Once introduced, populations can increase quickly as females lay thousands of eggs at a time and spawn several times per season. Largemouth Bass are opportunistic feeders, predated on insects, juvenile fish and even terrestrial species such as frogs.

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

www.reportinvasives.ca



Photo: Eric Engbretson, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bugwood.org

PRIMARY IMPACT:
Largemouth bass are voracious feeders, preying on a variety of prey species.

DID YOU KNOW?

When Largemouth Bass eggs hatch, the young are black and form a large cloud above the nest; this is why they are part of the “Black Bass” family.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

(*Micropterus salmoides*)

HABITAT

Largemouth Bass prefer to live in shallow lakes, ponds, and rivers. They tend to be found in warmer waters, near vegetation and debris where they can hide. Lack of dietary restrictions allows them to invade a variety of habitat types.

ARE THEY HERE YET?

Yes. In B.C., Largemouth Bass have been introduced into watershed systems of Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Okanagan and, Thompson, and Kootenay regions.

HOW CAN WE STOP THEM?

- Do not possess, breed, ship or release Largemouth Bass in B.C.
- Never use live fish as bait
- Do not release aquarium fish into the wild
- Raise awareness to avoid the spread of this species into B.C.

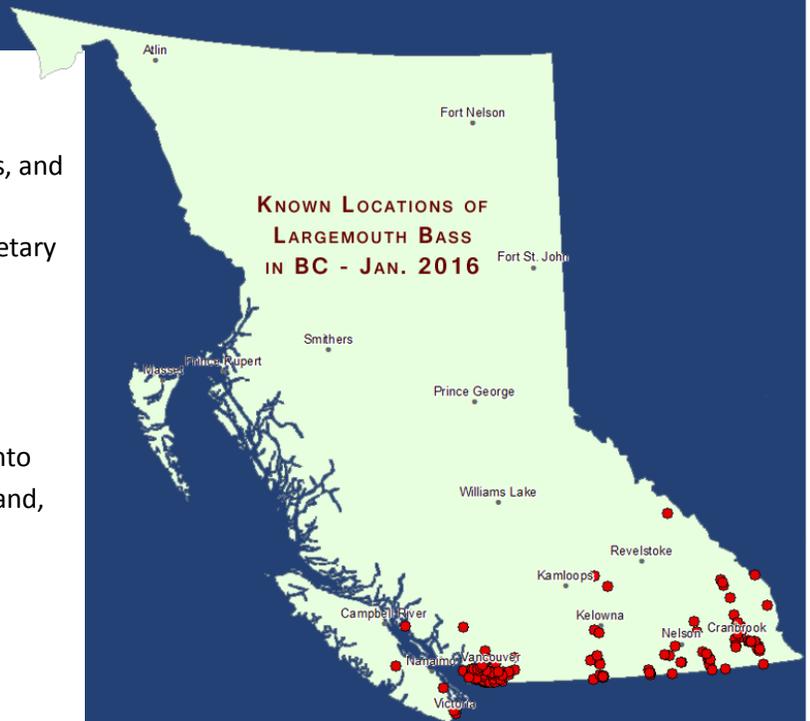
LOOK-ALIKES

Largemouth Bass can be confused with Smallmouth Bass. The main distinguishing features are side-body pattern, and mouth size. In comparison to Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass have **vertical dark bands on sides, and have a smaller mouth that only extends to the beginning of the eye.**

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND ONE?

Report Largemouth Bass, or any other invasive species via the **Report Invasives phone app**, or via the **webform** available on the B.C. Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group website:

www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species



Largemouth Bass

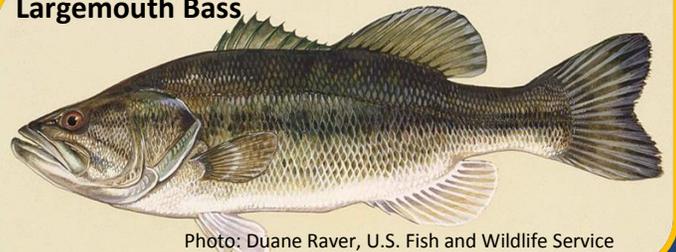
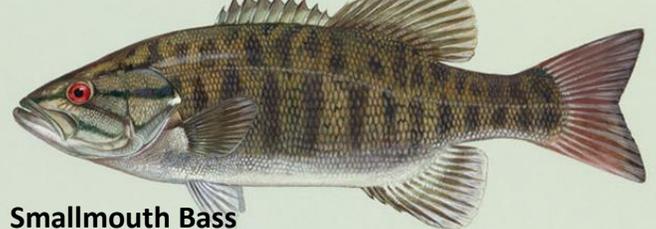


Photo: Duane Raver, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Photo: Duane Raver, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Smallmouth Bass