



Website Record

Project/Plant for which Website was accessed: CCNPP

Date Website was accessed and text copied: November 2, 2009

Team member accessing Website: R K Kropp

Internet location of website captured (URL):

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishfacts/lgmouthbass.asp>

Text used from website for EIS below (copy and paste below):

[Fisheries Home](#) | [DNR Home](#) | [License Information](#) | [Fish Facts](#)

[Fisheries Service Contacts](#)

Maryland FISH FACTS



Largemouth Bass

Micropterus salmoides

Key Distinguishing Markings:

- Largemouth bass can be recognized by the lower jaw which extends past the back edge of the eye.
- It is dark green above with silvery sides and belly.

- A dark stripe runs across its body.

Size:

- Largemouth bass have been known to reach weights of over 20 pounds.

Distribution:

- North America: St. Lawrence - Great Lakes, Hudson Bay (Red River), and Mississippi River basins; Atlantic drainages from North Carolina to Florida and to northern Mexico. The species has been introduced widely as a game fish and is now cosmopolitan.
- Largemouth bass are found in all waters of Maryland from freshwater to brackish (a mix of fresh and saltwater) waters.

Habitat:

- Largemouth bass are found in all waters of Maryland from freshwater to brackish (a mix of fresh and saltwater) waters.
- They like large, slow moving rivers or streams with soft bottoms.
- They especially like clear water.

Food Preference:

- Greedy carnivores (meat eating), largemouth bass feast on minnows, sunfish, gizzard shad, insects, frogs and occasionally snakes.
- Adult fish feed near water plants in shallow waters.

Spawning:

- Largemouth bass spawn as early as March or as late as June.
- The males build saucer shaped nests 20 - 30 inches in diameter.
- The male guards the nest and eggs from all intruders, until the fish hatch.
- Largemouth bass may live for 13 years.

Fishing Tips:

- These fish are an extremely popular sport fish.
- They are excellent fighters when caught on light spinning tackle.
- Good baits for catching largemouth bass include live minnows, night crawlers, and worms.
- Popular methods of fishing are fly-fishing, bait casting, or bottom fishing.
- For current recreational size and creel limits, see Maryland's updated [regulation page](#).

Fun Facts:

- This species is considered the most popular gamefish in the United States.
- Largemouth bass fishing tournaments have become very popular in recent years.

Family:	Centrarchidae (Sunfishes)
Order:	Perciformes (perch-likes)

Class: Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)

For information concerning largemouth bass and their management, please contact - Mary Groves at 301-888-2423 or mgroves@dnr.state.md.us

Illustration courtesy of Duane Raver, USFWS

This Page Updated on April 04, 2007