



Largemouth Bass

Micropterus salmoides



Description:

- ◆ first dorsal fin spiny
- ◆ second dorsal fin soft
- ◆ nearly separate dorsal fins
- ◆ large mouth
- ◆ upper jaw extends past eye
- ◆ brassy green above fading to off white belly
- ◆ broad black stripe, broken into oval shapes along side and onto snout

Size:

- ◆ up to 38 inches

Range:

- ◆ Native to St. Lawrence- Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and Mississippi River basins from south Quebec to Minnesota and south to Gulf; Atlantic drainages from North Carolina to Florida
- ◆ Gulf drainages from south Florida into northern Mexico; introduced over much of U.S. and extreme southern Canada

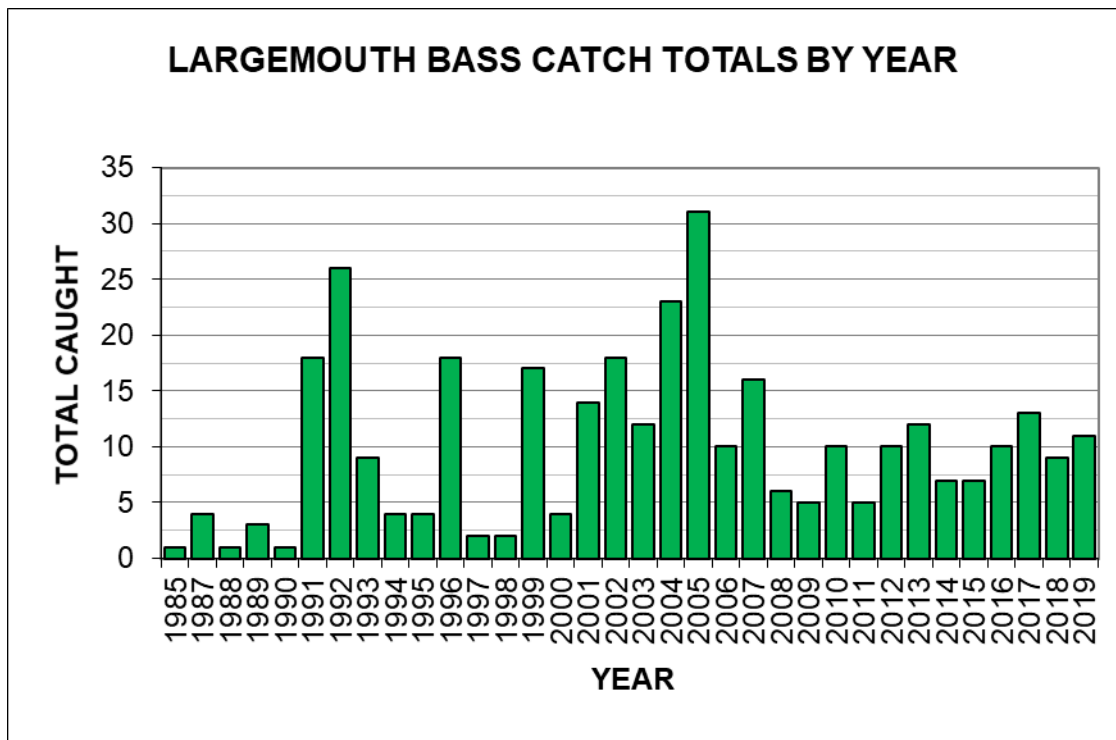
Facts:

- ◆ prefer quiet, clear, well-vegetated waters
- ◆ males build nests in shallow water
- ◆ females lay eggs in nest
- ◆ larvae hatch within 3 to 4 days
- ◆ average 3000 fry per nest, as many as 6000 observed
- ◆ fry remain close to male for a month at most
- ◆ average lifespan in wild is 15 years; oldest known wild fish is 23 years
- ◆ average lifespan in captivity is 6 years; oldest known captive fish is 11 years
- ◆ food of choice for adults is sunfish



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*largemouth bass were only caught during the years shown