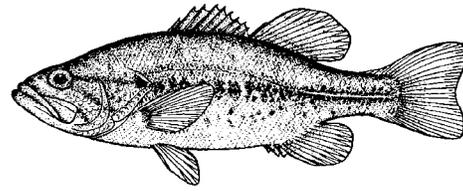


# Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)

## General Information

The most popular of game fishes, largemouth bass are found throughout the state of New Jersey. Although lakes and slow moving rivers are preferred, largemouth bass are highly adaptable and are found in a wide variety of habitats.



## Native Range

Eastern U.S., excluding the North Eastern States. However, largemouth bass have been introduced in many locations outside the range so that it is now found east of the Rocky mountains from Maine to Florida and in isolated areas in the western U.S. (MacCrimmon and Robbins 1975)

## Habitat Description

**Lake:** Prefer clear lakes with extensive shallow areas (25% surface area  $\leq$  6 meters) which are well vegetated. Optimally, 40 -60 % of the littoral area should provide cover in the form of vegetation, logs, overhanging brush etc..). 40 - 60% of the lake area should also be  $>$  6 m for overwintering habitat. Largemouth bass reside in the upper water column along the shoreline where cover in the way of vegetation, logs, brush are prevalent. Adapt well in small ponds, intolerant of suspended solids and sediment. (Carlander 1977)

**River:** Clear, wide, low gradient streams ( $<$  1 m/km - gradients above 4 m/km not tolerated), with soft bottoms and some aquatic vegetation. (Stuber and Gebhart 1982)

## Optimum Habitat Requirements

Dissolved Oxygen	$\geq$ 8.0 mg/l
Temperature	24° - 30° C
pH	6.5 - 8.5
Turbidity	5-25 ppm
Current	$\leq$ 6 cm/sec

## Diet

Fry	microcrustaceans, small insects
Juveniles	insects, small fish
Adults	fish, crayfish, lg. Insects & frogs
Notes: Two feeding peaks in the early morning and late evening. (Scott and Crossman 1973)	

## Growth (mm)

Age	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
	94	196	287	344	366	412	424

Growth data is taken from a summary of lake inventories completed from 1990 - 1995

## Reproduction

Time of Year	April - June	Age Males Mature	II
Temperature Range	16° - 22° C	Age Females Mature	II - III
Water Depth	0.3 - 0.9 m	Nest Builder	male
Substrate	gravel	Egg Type	
Time of Day		Parental Care	male
Critical pH	6.2	Days to Hatching	2 - 7 depending on temp
Vegetation	Necessary for fry survival	Stable Water Level	critical

Notes: Although gravel is the preferred substrate, largemouth bass will nest on a wide variety of substrates, including vegetation, roots, sand, mud & cobble. Reproduction information taken from Kramer and Smith 1960; Carlson and Hale 1972; Newell 1960; Harland and Speaker 1956; Swingle and Smith 1950.