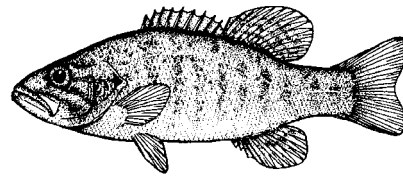


Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*)

General Information

Smallmouth bass are not as commonly found within the state as largemouth bass due to their stricter habitat requirements. However, they are still found in numerous locations in the northern and central portions of the state and in Manasquan Reservoir and Union Lake in south Jersey.



Native Range

Originally from the Great Lakes south to northern Georgia and Alabama, east to the Appalachian range, and west to eastern Oklahoma but like many species it has been widely introduced outside its native range (Edwards and Gebhart 1983).

Habitat Description

Lake: large, clear lakes & reservoirs with average depths > 9m., rock & gravel substrate, abundant shade & cover in the form of deep pools, broken rock, stumps and submerged trees. Can tolerate short term turbid conditions. Smallmouth bass use cooler areas of the waterbody such as dropoffs away from vegetation. (Turner and MacCrimmon 1970)

River: cool, clear mid order streams > 10.5 m wide, with gravel & rubble substrate with gradients of 0.74 - 4.70 m/km which exhibit alternating pool & riffle areas. Occupy the pools or areas behind rocks. (Carlander 1977)

Optimum Habitat Requirements

Dissolved Oxygen	> 6 mg/l
Temperature	21° - 27° C
pH	7.9 - 8.1
Turbidity	< 75 JTU
Current	

Diet

Fry	microcrustaceans
Juveniles	lg. Insects, crayfish & fish
Adults	crayfish & fish
Notes:	

Growth (mm)

Age	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
	95	177	262	334	401	428	447

Notes: Grow faster in lakes & reservoirs than in rivers. Growth data taken from Lake Hopatcong 1995, Monksville Res. 2002, Manasquan Res. 2004 and Spruce Run Res. 2006.

Reproduction

Time of Year	April - June	Age Males Mature	III-IV
Temperature Range	13° - 21° C	Age Females Mature	IV - V
Water Depth	0.3 - 0.9 m	Nest	built by male
Substrate	Coarse rubble	Egg Type	adhesive
Time of Day		Parental Care	male
Critical pH		Days to Hatching	4 - 10
Vegetation	not required	Stable water Level	critical

Notes: spawn earlier than other centrarchids within the same area, several females may spawn the same nest. Over 85 % of males return to within 150 yards of where they nested previous years. Reproduction data taken from Turner and MacCrimmon 1970; Carlander 1977; Edwards and Gebhart 1983 and Scott and Crossman 1973.