

LARGEMOUTH BASS ARE AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT TO LAKE GEORGE FISHERY

Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) are found throughout New York State and are highly sought after by anglers. Largemouth bass were likely introduced either accidentally or intentionally into Lake George. Previous records suggest that some of the first largemouth bass were taken in the 1940s near the outlet of Lake George at the north end. In 1949, records also indicate that stocking of largemouth bass occurred in Trout Lake, a lake in the uplands of the Lake George watershed, which outlets into Huddle Brook. Regardless of how they were initially introduced into the lake, largemouth bass are now widespread and are an important component to the Lake George fishery.

Preferring shallow, weedy portions of lakes or rivers bass are typically found in water that is less than 20 feet deep. They are the largest member of the sunfish family and are elongate, robust, with olive to dark green mottled backs. The

LARGEMOUTH BASS



Largemouth bass put up an amazing fight for anglers!

sides of the fish are greenish yellow with a dark mid-lateral stripe, which makes it easy to distinguish them from a smallmouth bass. The upper jaw of a largemouth bass extends well beyond its eye.

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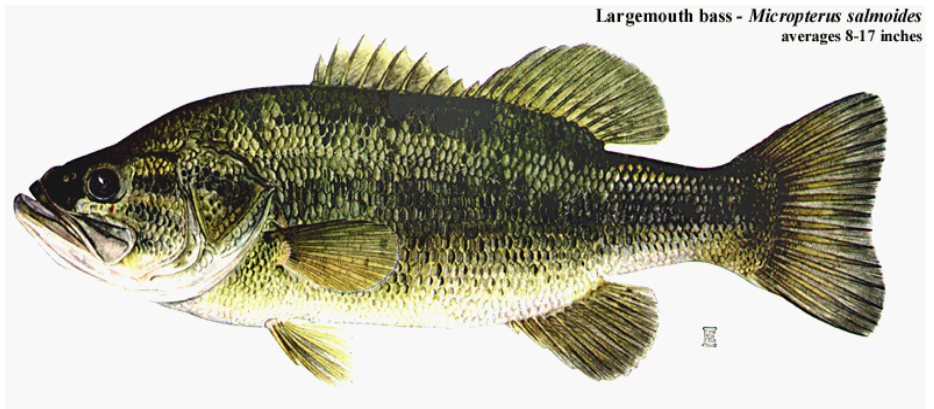
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Largemouth Bass

LAKE GEORGE FACT SHEET

Largemouth bass usually spawn in water depths of 1 to 4 feet during the late spring or summer. Males build nests that can be 3 feet wide in diameter by sweeping the lake bottom. The nests are built near protective cover and are made far away from each other. Males entice females into the nests by nipping and circling them. Once in the nest, the female positions herself alongside the male who remains upright. Eggs are emitted in several small batches about every 30 seconds, but thousands of eggs can be produced during the event. After spawning the female leaves the nest although she or another female may return to spawn again later. The eggs hatch in a few days and the young fish will remain near the nest until they reach about 1 inch in length, where the adult males may provide protection. Maturity is reached at age five and these fish can live as long as 15 years.



Largemouth bass - *Micropterus salmoides*
averages 8-17 inches

Newly hatched largemouth bass will feed heavily on tiny crustaceans and other zooplankton until in reaches about 2 inches in length. Adult fish will consume a variety of different things including other fish, crayfish, worms, and insects.

Largemouth bass can be caught in the weedy areas of Lake George using live bait or a wide variety of lures.

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