

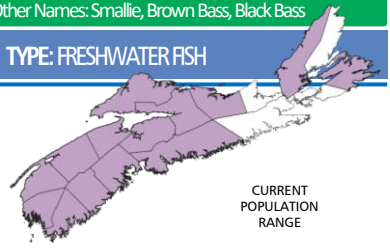


Smallmouth Bass

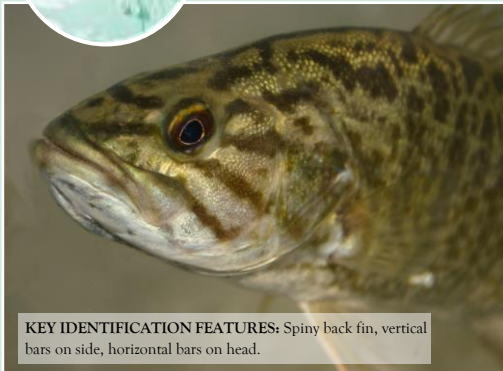
Micropterus dolomieu

Other Names: Smallee, Brown Bass, Black Bass

TYPE: FRESHWATER FISH



CURRENT
POPULATION
RANGE



KEY IDENTIFICATION FEATURES: Spiny back fin, vertical bars on side, horizontal bars on head.

Distinct horizontal bars on head

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Robust body and spiny back fin



Typical habitat where Smallmouth Bass thrives

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White Perch, a fun-to-catch native fish species

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DESCRIPTION: Robust, brown to green body with a white belly. Back fin is spiny. Sides have dark, blotchy, vertical bars, and head has several dark horizontal bars. Average length is 9 to 15 inches (23 to 38 cm).

HABITAT & IMPACT: Inhabits lakes and streams with rocky bottoms and plenty of shade. An efficient predator of many smaller fish, mammals and amphibians. Not only eats native species, but also consumes much of the food which some native fish require for survival. Spread of both the Smallmouth Bass and Chain Pickerel threatens native fish communities in more than half of the primary watersheds in Nova Scotia.

PATHWAY: Authorized release in 1942 in Bunkers Lake, Yarmouth County, as sanctioned by government. The last authorized introduction occurred in 1984.

INTERESTING FACT: Smallmouth Bass are inactive and do not eat during the winter.



NATIVE
DISTRIBUTION

Native Alternative

The native White Perch is similar in appearance, and is known for its thrilling fight and delicious flavour.

Stewardship Actions

If you're in a lake or river that is known to have Smallmouth Bass, keep your fishing gear, boating gear, livewell and buckets clean so that you're not accidentally transporting fish or fish eggs into another watershed. It is illegal to use or possess Smallmouth Bass as bait in Nova Scotia. Report any new Smallmouth Bass sites to the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture at aquaculture@novascotia.ca or 902.424.4560.