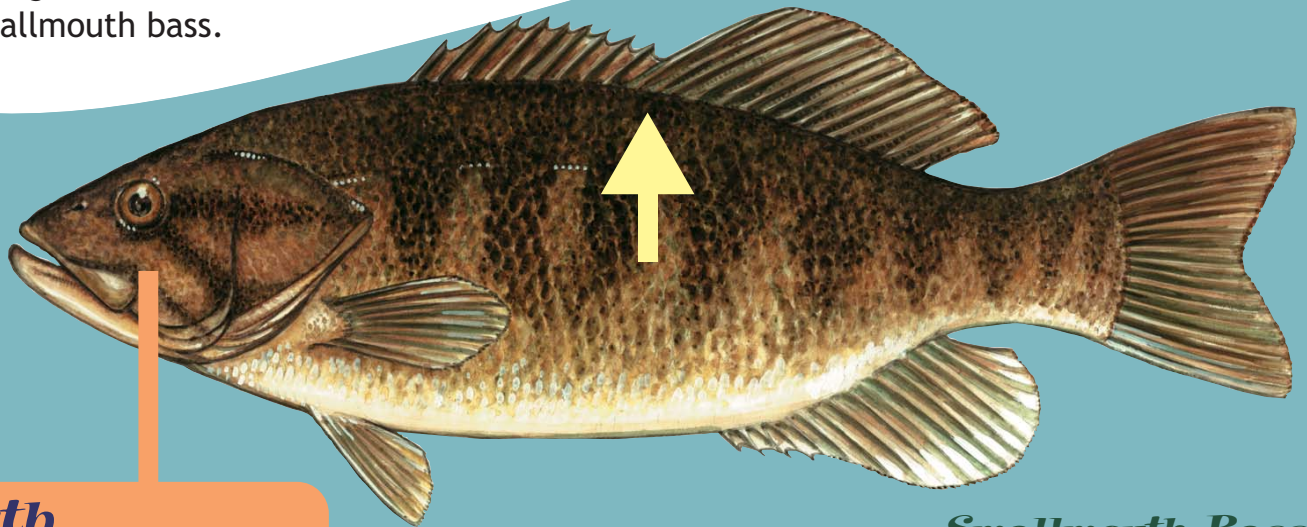


Know Your Bass!

Do you know your bass? Some anglers do not know how to tell a largemouth bass from a smallmouth bass.



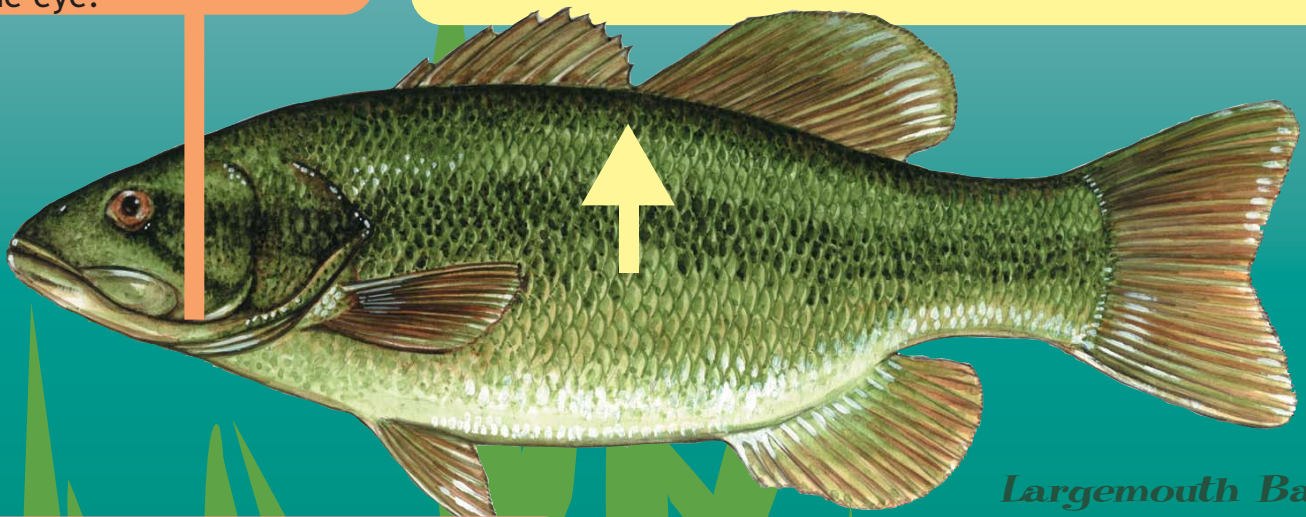
Smallmouth Bass

Mouth

The mouth of a largemouth bass extends past the eye. The mouth of a smallmouth bass extends only to the middle of the eye.

Dorsal fin

The fin on the back or top of the fish is called the dorsal fin. On a largemouth bass, the dorsal fin appears almost separated. Smallmouth bass have one, undivided dorsal fin.



Largemouth Bass

Color

Largemouth bass are most often greenish. Smallmouth bass are brownish to bronze. They are sometimes called "bronzebacks." Color is not always a good test because colors may vary depending on age and habitat.

Body markings

Bass can also be identified by the distinct markings on their bodies. The largemouth bass has a dark, horizontal stripe that runs from the gill to the tail. The smallmouth bass has vertical bars on its sides. However, these markings may be very light. In fact, older fish sometimes lose their markings completely.