

On the next few pages, consider the great variety of fishes you can catch in Lake Erie.

Lake Erie



The smallmouth bass is a member of the sunfish family.

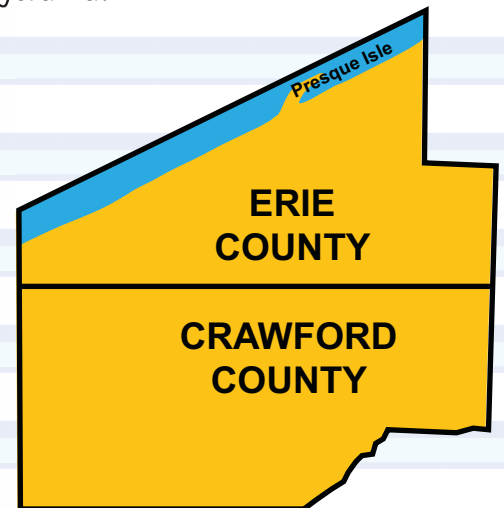
Smallmouth Bass

Identification

Smallmouth bass have a brownish or bronze cast and a white or pale-yellow belly. They have eight to 15 olive-colored vertical bars along each side and gold-colored scales. The upper jaw does not extend beyond the back edge of the eye.

Where to catch them

Lake Erie is known around the country for its great smallmouth bass fishing. Catching 5-pound "smallies" is common. Once in a while you can even catch a 6-pound or 7-pound lunker. Until the mid-1800s, the only place you could find smallmouth bass was in the Great Lakes and Ohio River watersheds. After the railroads began to spread around the country, smallmouth bass were transported throughout the United States. They are now found all across Pennsylvania.



Fish facts

You can fish for smallmouth bass any time of year in Pennsylvania and in Lake Erie. From mid-April through mid-June, smallmouths spawn. Check the *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary* for more information on Lake Erie fishing regulations or visit the Commission's web site, www.fish.state.pa.us.