

Is it a Largemouth Bass?

Bass (Sunfish Species)

Largemouth Bass

Micropterus salmoides



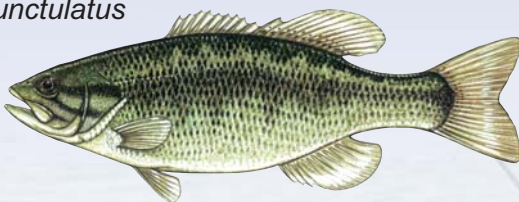
Smallmouth Bass

Micropterus dolomieu



Spotted Bass

Micropterus punctulatus



See the *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary* for seasons, sizes and creel limits for these species.

Identification

Largemouth bass has bright-green to olive-green head and back; sides are lighter green; usually has a broad black stripe or line of broken splotches running along the sides from head to tail; belly is white or pale yellow. Dorsal fin sections are deeply notched and nearly separated.

Upper jaw extends beyond the back edge of the eye.

Identification cont.

Smallmouth bass has brownish to bronze cast to its back, shading to lighter hues on the sides with dark, vertical bars on sides; belly is white or pale yellow. Dorsal fin sections are separated by a shallow notch.



Upper jaw does not extend beyond the back edge of the eye.

Spotted bass has light to dark olive-green back with silvery green sides and diamond-shaped spots on its sides above a splotchy dark band that runs from head to tail. Scales below the band have black bases that form a pattern of horizontal small spots.



Upper jaw does not extend beyond the rear portion of the eye.

For more information about largemouth bass and their place in the sunfish family, enter this address into your browser:

http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/pafish/fishhtms/chap22.htm.

