



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

Maine Bass Waters



Caring for Maine's Outdoor Future
www.mefishwildlife.com

Dear Angler:

Here is a list of some of the many waters in Maine that offer fine bass fishing. This list is by no means a complete listing of every water in Maine which contains bass, and is intended only as a guide to sportsmen wishing to take advantage of the excellent bass fishing Maine has to offer.

Following the listing is an article on bass management in Maine. We have also included a copy of our length-weight tables for smallmouth bass and largemouth bass. The tables are accompanied by a few brief paragraphs on bass fishing.

Have a nice bass fishing day!

Roland D. Martin
Commissioner
Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

SOMEONE'S STEALING MAINE'S FISHERIES

**Introduction of fish to any
pond, lake, or stream is illegal.**

To report
violations of Maine's
fish and wildlife laws call

1-800-ALERT-US
(1-800-253-7887)



Bass Management in Maine

Maine's bass resource is an extremely valuable asset for several reasons. First, bass are found in 613 lakes and ponds representing over 0.5 million acres of water in Maine. Secondly, although Maine's bass resource requires careful management to remain healthy, our bass populations are based on natural reproduction, that is, annual stocking programs are not required. Third, while most of bass waters are, as yet, lightly fished, the popularity of bass fishing is growing rapidly in Maine and the fishery is becoming increasingly important to local economies.

Until the 1980s, Maine fishery biologists had utilized a 'laissez faire' approach to bass management. After all, bass maintain themselves through natural reproduction so the species can manage quite nicely on their own, can't they? Well, for many years, they did!

More recently, the increase in bass fishing effort and the results of the work of biologists in Ontario has led the Department to rethink this philosophy. Basically, the work of the Ontario scientists indicates that black bass in the northern part of their range are susceptible to climate-induced year-class failures.

Furthermore, bass are slow-growing in Maine waters so it takes many years for a bass to reach desirable size and there are not very many "trophy-size" bass in a given lake. For example, in eastern Maine, a 12-inch bass is usually 6 years old, and bass from 15-20 inches long can be up to 20 years old! These biological facts are complicated by the fact that Maine anglers preferentially seek larger bass, the very fish that are few in number, and that when removed, take a long time to replace. Clearly, size quality in many Maine bass populations is likely to decline when fishing pressure, and removal, is high.

So the Department's fishery biologists set out to devise a management approach that would preserve size quality in most Maine lakes and restore it where it has degraded. After long, sometimes heated discussions, the Department promulgated a 12 inch length limit for all but northern and eastern Maine and 1 fish bag limit for the period January 1 through June 20. A 3 fish bag limit, only 1 of which can exceed 14 inches, was established for the remainder of the open water season. Dire predictions to the contrary notwithstanding, the changes were well received by the public. In the intervening 9 years the general law regulations have changed somewhat and special regulations have been adopted for a few individual lakes but all in all our new bass management philosophy has not changed.

Presently Maine's bass resource is in good shape and is highly rated on a national level by knowledgeable anglers. With continued vigilance by fishery managers and continued cooperation by anglers, it promises to remain so.

*by Rick Jordan, Fisheries Biologist and
Dennis McNeish Fisheries Management Supervisor*

For hunting and fishing license information:

visit our web site: www.mefishwildlife.com

or **call** 207-287-8000 or **write to:**

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Information Center
284 State St., 41 SHS
Augusta, ME 04333-0041

For accomodations, call 207-623-0363

or **write to:** Maine Tourism
PO Box 2300
Hallowell, ME 04347-2300

KEY

S smallmouth bass
L largemouth bass

Regional Headquarters (Game Wardens and Biologists)

Ashland	207-435-3231	Gray	207-657-2345
Sidney	207-547-5300	Bangor	207-941-4440
Greenville	207-695-3756		

If you are unable to locate a warden at the above numbers, contact either the Department's office in Augusta (207-287-8000) or any State Police Barracks.

Additional Regional Biologists

Enfield	207-732-4131	Jonesboro	207-434-5925
	Strong	207-778-3322	

Androscoggin County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Androscoggin River	Brunswick to Lewiston	S&L	several landings
Androscoggin Lake	Leeds, Wayne	S&L	state ramp Rt 133
Auburn Lake	Auburn	S&L	ramp at Rt 4
Beals Pond	Turner	S&L	carry in off Rt 4
Gulf Island Pond	Turner, etc	S&L	Center Brook Road
Lower Range Pond	Poland	S&L	state park (no motors greater than 10 hp)
Middle Range Pond	Poland	S&L	via Upper Range Pond
Upper Range Pond	Poland	S&L	state ramp at causeway
Sabattus Pond	Sabattus	S&L	public ramp, Martin Point
Thompson Lake	Poland	S&L	Rt 121, Heath Road
Tripp Pond	Poland	S&L	town landing Johnson Hall Rd
Worthley Pond	Poland	L	at outlet

Aroostook County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Deering Lake	Weston	S	private access by permission N end
East Grand Lake	Danforth	S	Greenland Cove, Danforth & Weston off Rt 1
Mattawamkeag Lake	Island Falls	S	public landing, (limited) Upper Lake off Rt 2, Island falls
Molunkus Lake	Molunkus Twp.	S	unimproved off of Rt 2
Nickerson Lake	New Limerick	S	public ramp off Drew's Lake Rd
Pleasant Pond	Island Falls	S	public ramp off Rt 2, west end of lake
Spaulding Lake	Oakfield	S	off Spaulding Lake Road
Wytopitlock Lake	Glenwood	S	by outlet off of Rt 2

Cumberland County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Brandy Pond	Naples	S&L	Naples Marina, Songo Locks via Long Lake
Coffee Pond	Casco	S&L	at outlet
Crescent Lake	Raymond	S&L	town ramp off Rt 85
Crystal Lake	Gray	L	town ramp
Crystal Lake	Harrison	S&L	town ramp off Rt 117
Highland Lake	Bridgton	S&L	town ramp at outlet
Highland Lake	Windham	S&L	carry in, state landing off Mast Rd
Horne Pond	Limington	L	at town beach
Little Sebago	Windham	S&L	state ramp in Windham
Little Watchic Lake	Standish	L	limited

Cumberland County *cont'd*

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Long Lake	Naples	S&L	public ramp at Harrison Rt 35/Plummers Landing
Moose Pond	Bridgton	S&L	public ramp at Rt 302
Otter Pond	Bridgton	L	off Rt 302
Panther Pond	Raymond	S&L	Panther Run at outlet/ Crescent Lake (Rte 85)
Parker Pond	Casco	S&L	off Rt 121 (cartop)/Owl Pond, Outlet Road
Peabody Pond	Sebago	S	town property at outlet
Pleasant Pond	Casco	S&L	town ramp in Casco off Mayberry Hill Road
Sebago Lake	Standish	S&L	State Parks or state ramp Raymond Beach
Thomas Pond	Casco	S&L	off Rt 302 at outlet
Trickey pond	Naples	S	state ramp off Rt 11, Rt 114
Watchic Lake	Standish	S&L	off Rt 113
Woods Pond	Bridgton	S&L	town ramp off Rt 160

Franklin County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Androscoggin River	Jay, etc	S	many points, canoe or car top off Rt 2 and 140
Clearwater Lake	Farmington	S	ramp east of gas station in Allen's Mills, Rt 141
Crowell Pond	Chesterville	S&L	canoe and cartop access along Rt 41
Horseshoe Pond	Chesterville	L	canoe and cartop access, on road south of Chesterville Village
Locke Pond	Chesterville	L	canoe and cartop
Lufkin Pond	Phillips	S	canoe and cartop
Mount Blue Pond	Avon	S	canoe and cartop near pumphouse
Norcross Pond	Chesterville	L	canoe and cartop off Ridge Rd
North Pond	Chesterville	L	walk in from Chesterville WMA
Parker Pond	Jay	L	ramp next to pumphouse near outlet
Pease Pond	Wilton	L	walk in off Rt 133
Porter Lake	Phillips, New Vineyard	S	ramp on west shore
Sand Pond	Chesterville	S&L	canoe or cartop
Webb Lake	Weld	S	ramp in Mt. Blue State Park (fee)
Wilson Lake	Wilton	S	ramp in Wilton near outlet
Sandy River	Phillips to Norridgewock	S	many points, canoe and cartop

Hancock County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Beech Hill Pond	Otis	S	public launch along SW shore
Branch Lake	Ellsworth	S	public launch at outlet dam
Graham Lake	Ellsworth	S	public launch just west of outlet dam on Rt 180. Also highwater launch at Fletcher's Landing on Rt 179
Great Pond	Great Pond Plt.	S	ramps at USAF recreation and at SE end of lake
Green Lake	Dedham & Ellsworth	S	public landing at south central area of lake in Ellsworth; fee landing at west end of lake
Long Pond	Mount Desert & Southwest Harbor	S	public landings at both north and south ends of lake
Molasses Pond	Eastbrook	S	public launch at north end
Nicatous Lake	T3 ND, etc	S	public and sporting camp landing (limited) near outlet and improved landing off Stud Mill Rd.
Silver Lake	Bucksport	S&L	public landing on western shore off Silver Lake Road
Toddy Pond	Orland	S&L	state owned public ramp on S side of Rt 1
West Lake	T3ND	S	improved northwest end of lake off Nicatous Rd.

Kennebec County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Annabessacook Lake	Monmouth	S&L	Annabessacook Road (adjacent to Wilson St. bridge)
Belgrade Stream	Mt. Vernon & Belgrade	S&L	state ramp at mouth of Messalonskee Lake, Rt 27, Belgrade
China Lake	Vassalboro & China	S&L	town ramp and state ramp off 202/9 in China and off Rt 32, E. Vassalboro
Cobbossee Lake	Winthrop	S&L	state ramp off Rt 135, No. Monmouth and state car top access off 202 in E Winthrop
Cobbossee Stream	Manchester to Gardiner	L	canoe and cartop access at the bridges
Great Pond	Belgrade, Rome	S&L	state ramp 300 yards east of Rt 27
Kennebec River	Madison to Augusta	S	several ramps including Skowhegan, Hinkley, Sidney, and Waterville. Car top at Shawmut (Fairfield Landing)

Kennebec County cont'd

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Long Pond	Belgrade, Rome	S&L	state ramp on Castle Island Road, 2 miles west of Rt 27
Long Pond	Windsor	S&L	state ramp, east shore of outlet
Maranacook Pond	Winthrop	S&L	state ramps in Winthrop and Readfield
McGrath Pond	Oakland	S&L	via boat from Salmon Pond
Messalonskee Lake	Belgrade	S&L	state and town ramps in Belgrade, Oakland, and Sidney
Parker Pond	Mount Vernon	S	town ramp on the road leading west from Mt. Vernon Village
Pleasant Pond	Gardiner	L	state ramp at south end
Salmon Lake	Belgrade	S&L	state ramp in No Belgrade
Tacoma Lakes (3)	Litchfield, Monmouth	S&L	state ramps
Threemile Pond	China, Windsor	S&L	state ramp on Rts 3 & 9, China
Togus Pond	Augusta	S&L	off Rt 105
Webber Pond	Vassalboro	S&L	public ramp by dam

Knox County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Megunticook Lake	Camden	S&L	state ramps off Rt 105 & Rt 52, both in Camden
Round Pond	Union	S&L	via outlet from Seven Tree Pond
Sennebec Pond	Appleton	S&L	town ramp (outlet)
Seven Tree Pond	Union	S&L	state ramp, Rt 235
South Pond	Warren	S&L	town ramp
Washington Pond	Washington	S	state ramp, car top, Rt 105

Lincoln County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Biscay Pond	Damariscotta	S&L	north end ramp
Clary Pond	Jefferson	S&L	off Rt 126
Damariscotta Lake	Jefferson, Nobleboro	S&L	fee ramp at "Lake Farm" on Rts 126-213, Jefferson town ramp in Nobleboro, state ramp off Rt 213, Jefferson
Dyer Long Pond	Jefferson	S&L	state ramp, car top, west shore
Dyer Pond (Little)	Jefferson	S&L	woods road
McCurdy Pond	Bremen	S&L	off Turner Road; car top
Medomak Pond	Waldoboro	S&L	west shore ramp, unimproved car top
Little Medomak Pond	Waldoboro	S&L	west shore car top
Pemaquid Pond	Nobleboro	S&L	state ramp at North end off Route 1

Lincoln County cont'd

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Sherman Pond	Edgecomb	S&L	town ramp under Route 1 bridge

Oxford County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Androscoggin River	Canton-Rumford	S	many points, canoe or car top off Rt 2
Androscoggin River	Rumford-Bethel		ramp and canoe or car top, many points off Rt 2
Bickford Pond	Porter	S&L	at outlet
Black Pond	Porter	L	unimproved access north shore
Bunganock Pond	Hartford	L	at outlet
Canton Lake	Canton	S	Rt 140
Colcord Pond	Porter	S&L	at outlet
Ellis Pond	Roxbury, Byron	S	state ramp at south end of pond
Granger Pond	Denmark	L	limited
Hancock Pond	Denmark	S&L	state ramp
Hicks Pond	Greenwood	L	near outlet
Hobbs Pond	Norway	S&L	off Rt 118 (car top)
Horseshoe Pond	Lovell	S	at outlet
Indian Pond	Greenwood	S	unimproved access east shore
Keewaydin Lake	Stoneham	S&L	town ramp at outlet
Keoka Lake	Waterford	S&L	off Rt 35
Keys Pond	Sweden	S	near outlet (unimproved)
Kezar Lake	Lovell	S&L	north end and "narrows"
Kezar Pond	Fryburg	S&L	Hemlock Bridge Road
Lovewell Pond	Fryburg	S&L	state ramp
Moose Pond	West Paris	L	state ramp
North Pond	Norway	L	at outlet
North Pond	Woodstock	S&L	via outlet to South Pond or off Rt 26
Norway Lake	Norway	S&L	state ramp off Rt 118
Pleasant Pond	Sumner	L	Rt 119 (car top)
Pond in the River	Township C	S	hand carry north of East B Hill Rd.
Sand Pond	Denmark	S&L	state ramp on Hancock Pond
South Pond	Buckfield	L	railroad bed
South Pond	Greenwood	S&L	outlet at Locke Mills
Stanley Pond	Porter	S&L	Tripp Road off Rt 160
Stearns Pond	Sweden	S&L	near outlet
Twitchell Pond	Greenwood	S&L	at outlet
Umbagog Lake	Upton, etc	S	ramp in New Hampshire near state line
Virginia Lake	Stoneham	L	at outlet
Worthley Pond	Peru	S&L	at outlet

Penobscot County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Brooks Pond	Corinna	L	north end
Caribou, Long, and Egg Ponds	Lincoln	S&L	via Sweet Road on west end of Long Pond
Chemo Pond	Bradley	S	public landing off Rt 9, south end and fee landing at Dean's Eddington (also off Rt 9)
Crooked and Folsom	Lincoln	S	unimproved access over woods road on south end Folsom Ponds
East Branch Lake	T3 R9 NWP	S	via Cedar Lake Road and Mattamiscontis Road
Endless Lake	T3 R9 NWP	S	unimproved access by west side of outlet
Hermon Pond	Hermon	S	state ramp
Junior Lake	T5 R1, NBPP	S	boat landing at Bottle Lake; travel down Bottle Lake Stream to Junior Lake
Lower Sysladobsis Lake	Lakeville Plt., T5 ND	S	limited dirt landings on both north and south ends of lake private roads open to public paved public ramp, Lincoln
Mattanawcook Lake	Lincoln	S	various access sites along river
Penobscot River	Milford - Medway	S	
Pleasant Pond	Stetson	S&L	unimproved public ramps, west and east shores
Pushaw Lake	Old Town, Glenburn	S	paved ramp south end of lake
Saponac Lake	Burlington	S	unimproved access off of Rt 188
Sebasticook Lake	Newport	S&L	state ramp in Newport Village
Seboeis Grand Lake	T7 R7, T8 R7	S	via North Maine Woods gate at Oxbow
Shin Pond, Lower & Upper	Mt Chase	S	unimproved on lower, private by permission on upper
South Branch Lake	Seboeis Plt.	S	public landing Seboeis
Wassookeag Lake	Dexter	S	via fish and game club ramp on Little Wassookeag

Piscataquis County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Bear Pond	Bowerbank	S	Hike in trail from Sebec Lake
Branns Mill Pond	Dover-Foxcroft	S&L	public ramp on Notch Hill Road
Ebeemee Lake	T5 R9 NWP	S	hand carry
First Buttermilk Pond	Bowerbank	S	hike in trail from Bucks Cove on Sebec Lake or fly

Piscataquis County *cont'd*

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Harlow Pond	Parkman	S&L	public landing on Harlow Pond Road
Indian Pond	Big Moose Twp.	S	public access on north end off Burnham Pond Rd
Manhanock Pond	Sangerville	S&L	public landing through recreation area off Rt 23
Moosehead Lake		S	Lily Bay State Park, Greenville Jct., and Rockwood
Piscataquis River	Guilford,	S	public ramp above Guilford dam
	Guilford,	S	canoe and cartop access at Guilford ball field
Piscataquis River	Howland		public ramp next to bridge on Rt 116
	Dover-Foxcroft,	S	public ramp off Rt 7
Prong Pond	Dover-Foxcroft	S	canoe and cartop access on River Road in East Dover
	Beaver Cove	S	public ramp off Lily Bay Road
Sebec Lake	Dover-Foxcroft,	S	public ramp at Greeley's Landing in Dover-Foxcroft and
	Sebec		public landing in Sebec
Sebec River	Sebec, Milo	S	carry in site below Sebec Dam, public ramp in Milo
Seboeis Lake	T4R9 NWP	S	public lands ramp on inlet off of Rt 11

Sagadahoc County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Nequasset Lake	Woolwich	S&L	new town ramp above old Rte 1 bridge, unimproved landing at North end.
Winnegance Pond	West Bath	S&L	town road

Somerset County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Baker Pond	Solon	S	walk in from Brighton Rd
Barker Pond	Cornville	S&L	canoe or car top off Rt 151
Big Indian	St. Albans	S&L	town ramp, south end
East Pond	Smithfield	S&L	state ramp off East Pond Road
Embden Lake	Embden	S	state ramp at outlet
Fahi Pond	Embden	S	canoe access off Fahi Pond Road
			state ramp off Rt 151, Hartland
Great Moose Pond	Hartland	S&L	canoe or cartop
Hancock Pond	Embden, Lexington	S	

Somerset County cont'd

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Indian Pond	Indian Stream Twp.	S	paved ramp on south end on Harris Station Rd.
Kennebec River	Indian Stream Twp. to Skowhegan	S	many points, ramps, canoe, car top
Lake George	Canaan	S	state ramp at park
Long Pond	Taunton & Raynham	S	canoe and cartop access off West Outlet Road
Moxie Pond	The Forks Plt., etc.	S	ramp at outlet
North Pond	Rome	S&L	state ramp, north end off Shore Drive
Oaks Pond	Skowhegan	S&L	walk in
Sandy Pond	Embden	S	canoe access off Fahi Pond Rd
Wentworth Pond	Solon, Athens	S	ramp at north end of pond
Wesserunsett Lake	Madison	S&L	ramps at outlet and Lakewood Theater
West Outlet (Kennebec River)	Sapling	S	canoe launching site near Rt 15 bridge and along the West Outlet Road
Wyman Lake	Moscow, etc.	S	ramps at Moscow, Ridge Plt., Caratunk, and Pleasant

Waldo County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Branch Pond	Palermo	L	near dam south end, unimproved
Carlton Bog Pond	Troy	L	off Bog Road
Passagassawaukeag	Brooks	S&L	woods road, north end, unimproved
Quantabacook Lake	Searsmont	S&L	town ramp off Rt 3
Sheepscot Lake	Palermo	S&L	state rampd Rt 3
St. George Lake	Liberty	S&L	state ramp off Rt 3
Stevens Pond	Liberty	S&L	state ramp
Swan Lake	Swanville	S	west shore state ramp
True's Pond	Montville	S&L	car top by dam
Unity Pond	Unity	S&L	state ramp on west shore

Washington County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Baskahegan Lake	Brookton	S	public landing, Brookton
Big Lake	T 27 ED (south of village of Grand Lake Stream	S	Greenlaw Chopping landing at eastern end of road that follows Grand Lake Stream
Boyden Lake	Perry	S&L	public landing at NW end
Cathance Lake	Plt 14	S	state ramp on western side off Rt 191

Washington County cont'd

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Crawford Lake	Crawford	S&L	town landing on eastern shore
Crooked Brook Flowage	Danforth	S	public landing, Danforth
East Grand Lake	(see under Aroostook County)		
Gardner Lake dam	East Machias	S	town landing west of outlet
Grand Falls Flowage	Baileyville, Princeton	S	Princeton just west of Rt 1 bridge and Lamb Farm landing in Baileyville
Hadley Lake	East Machias	S&L	public launch at Palmer Landing along SE shore unimproved off of Rt 169
Hot Brook Lakes	T8R4 NBPP	S	
Lower Sysladobsis Lake	(see under Penobscot County)		
Meddybemps Lake	Alexander	S	state landing behind store on Rt 191
Pleasant Lake	T7R2 NBPP	S	state launch at MFS campsite on south shore
Pocomoonshine Lake	Alexander,	S&L	state landing off NE corner of Brown's Cove on eastern shore
Third Machias Lake	T 42, T43 MD	S	landings at outlet by bridge and at end of Midland Flats peninsula
West Grand Lake	Grand Lake Stream	S	public landing both sides of dam
Woodland Flowage	Baileyville	S	landing courtesy of Domtar Corp. just north of Stud Mill on west shore

York County

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Adams Pond	Newfield	S&L	camp road off Rt 11
Balch Pond	Newfield	S&L	private (pay site) east shore
Bonney Eagle Pond	Buxton	S&L	at outlet (town residents only)
Bunganut Pond	Lyman	S&L	town ramp at recreation area
Estes Lake	Sanford	S&L	private
Great East Lake	Acton	S&L	state ramp at outlet
Horn Pond	Acton	S&L	road adjacent to pond
Kennebunk Pond	Lyman	S&L	town landing
Killick Pond	Hollis	L	off dirt jeep road (west shore)
Little Ossipee Lake	Waterboro	S&L	Rt 5 town landing
Long Pond	Parsonfield	S&L	off shore road (near outlet)
Milton Pond	Lebanon	S&L	via Milton, NH ramp
Mousam Lake	Shapleigh	S&L	state ramp off Rt 109
Northeast Pond	Lebanon	S&L	at thoroughfare/Fernald Shores Beach
Ossipee Flowage	Waterboro	S&L	New Dam Road

York County cont'd

Water	Town	Bass	Public Access
Pickerel Pond	Limerick	S&L	Rt 11
Roberts Pond	Lyman	S&L	off dirt road between Roberts and Wadley Ponds
Saco River (Skelton Head Pond)	Dayton	S&L	at Shelton Dam
Saco River	Dayton to Biddeford	S&L	Skelton Dam/Rt 5 (hand carry)
Scituate Pond	York	L	at outlet (no motors)
Shapleigh Pond	Newfield	S&L	at outlet
Square Pond	Shapleigh	S&L	state ramp on Stiles Brook off West Shore Dr.
Swan Pond	Lyman	L	private
Symmes Pond	Newfield	L	at outlet
Town House	Lebanon	S&L	via Milton or Northeast Pond or Milton, NH ramp
Wadley Pond	Lyman	S&L	off dirt road between Wadley and Roberts Ponds
West Pond	Parsonsfield	S&L	off shore road
Wilson Pond	Acton	S&L	at outlet

SMALLMOUTH BASS

(Micropterus dolomeui)

The smallmouth bass is one of Maine's most valuable sport fish. Originally, smallmouths were distributed in the St. Lawrence, Ohio, Tennessee, and upper Mississippi rivers, and in the Great Lakes. The smallmouth bass is not native to Maine, being first introduced into the state in 1869. Cochnewagon Pond, Phillips Lake, and Cobbosseecontee Lake were among the first waters to receive smallmouth bass. Since then, there have been many additional introductions. Smallmouth bass are now present in 432 lakes comprising 485,471 acres.

Smallmouth bass thrive in lakes and ponds with clean, fertile water. Smallmouths also do well in Maine's rivers and streams. Suitable shoreline gravel for spawning, and rock rubble for cover are important features of good smallmouth habitat. Stable water levels are also important.

Male smallmouths mature at 3 to 5 years of age, while females mature at 4 to 6 years of age. Size at maturity ranges from 8 to 12 inches. Parental care is highly developed, with nest construction and protection of eggs and fry practiced by the male only. The male smallmouth begins nest construction when water temperatures approach 60° F. A bed of coarse gravel is selected with some protection preferred, such as an overhanging tree or large boulder. Water depths may range from 10 inches to 12 feet. Spawning usually takes place when water temperatures are between 59° F and 65° F. The eggs are adhesive and attach themselves to the gravel. After spawning, the female leaves and may spawn in another nest with another male. The male remains to guard the eggs and young. A few days after hatching, the fry begin to darken and rise from the gravel as "black fry". Gradually the young bass move farther away from the nest to feed and seek cover in the form of piled stones, woody debris, or vegetation. Young bass begin to feed on plankton and small insects, and gradually shift to fish and crayfish as they increase in age and size.



Weights of Maine Smallmouth Bass

LENGTH (in.)	WEIGHT (lb-oz)	LENGTH (in.)	WEIGHT (lb-oz)
12	0—13	17 1/8	2—6
12 1/8	0—14	17 1/4	2—7
12 1/4	0—14	17 3/8	2—8
12 3/8	0—14	17 1/2	2—9
12 1/2	0—15	17 5/8	2—10
12 5/8	0—15	17 3/4	2—11
12 3/4	1—0	17 7/8	2—12
12 7/8	1—0	18	2—13
13	1—1	18 1/8	2—14
13 1/8	1—1	18 1/4	2—15
13 1/4	1—2	18 3/8	3—0
13 3/8	1—2	18 1/2	3—1
13 1/2	1—3	18 5/8	3—2
13 5/8	1—3	18 3/4	3—3
13 3/4	1—4	18 7/8	3—4
13 7/8	1—4	19	3—5
14	1—5	19 1/8	3—6
14 1/8	1—6	19 1/4	3—7
14 1/4	1—6	19 3/8	3—8
14 3/8	1—7	19 1/2	3—9
14 1/2	1—7	19 5/8	3—10
14 5/8	1—8	19 3/4	3—11
14 3/4	1—9	19 7/8	3—12
14 7/8	1—9	20	3—13
15	1—10	20 1/8	3—15
15 1/8	1—10	20 1/4	4—0
15 1/4	1—11	20 3/8	4—1
15 3/8	1—12	20 1/2	4—2
15 1/2	1—12	20 5/8	4—3
15 5/8	1—13	20 3/4	4—5
15 3/4	1—14	20 7/8	4—6
15 7/8	1—15	21	4—7
16	1—15	21 1/8	4—9
16 1/8	2—0	21 1/4	4—10
16 1/4	2—1	21 3/8	4—11
16 3/8	2—2	21 1/2	4—12
16 1/2	2—2	21 5/8	4—14
16 5/8	2—3	21 3/4	4—15
16 3/4	2—4	21 7/8	5—1
16 7/8	2—5	22	5—2
17	2—6		

LARGEMOUTH BASS

(Micropterus salmoides)

Largemouth bass were originally distributed in waters of southern Canada, the Great Lakes drainage, the Mississippi Valley, northern Mexico, Florida, and the Carolinas. Its range has been gradually extended northward into New England and waters west of the Rockies to California. The first largemouth introduction in Maine probably occurred incidentally with planned introductions of smallmouths in the mid-1800s. The first recorded largemouth introduction in this state was in Forbes Pond, Gouldsboro in 1897. Some of the first large lakes in which largemouths became firmly established were Great Pond and Messalonskee Lake, both in the Belgrade Lakes Region. Today, largemouth bass are found in about 246 lakes comprising about 154,000 acres.

Although largemouth bass occur in a variety of habitats in Maine, they thrive in the shallow, weedy areas of our most productive lakes, and sluggish rivers and streams. This species grows best in waters that have average summer temperatures in the high seventies.

Spawning habits of largemouth bass are similar to those of smallmouth bass. Largemouth bass spawning behavior is initiated in late spring and early summer as water temperatures exceed 60° F. The nests of largemouth bass are usually less elaborate than those of the smallmouth. They may be found at depths of from one to three feet on a mud bottom, often at the base of old stumps and submerged plants. Largemouths will also spawn along gravel shores. The male largemouth remains near the nest for several weeks, during which time he guards the eggs and fry. A few days after hatching, schools of young largemouths may be found among aquatic vegetation, which affords them protection from predators and other hazards. Young largemouths feed largely on plankton and small insects. As they become larger, they feed on crayfish, frogs, and small fish.



Weights of Maine Largemouth Bass

LENGTH (in.)	WEIGHT (lb-oz)	LENGTH (in.)	WEIGHT (lb-oz)
12	0 — 15	17 1/8	2 — 13
12 1/8	0 — 15	17 1/4	2 — 14
12 1/4	1 — 0	17 3/8	2 — 15
12 3/8	1 — 0	17 1/2	3 — 0
12 1/2	1 — 1	17 5/8	3 — 1
12 5/8	1 — 1	17 3/4	3 — 2
12 3/4	1 — 2	17 7/8	3 — 3
12 7/8	1 — 2	18	3 — 4
13	1 — 3	18 1/8	3 — 5
13 1/8	1 — 4	18 1/4	3 — 6
13 1/4	1 — 4	18 3/8	3 — 8
13 3/8	1 — 5	18 1/2	3 — 9
13 1/2	1 — 5	18 5/8	3 — 10
13 5/8	1 — 6	18 3/4	3 — 11
13 3/4	1 — 7	18 7/8	3 — 12
13 7/8	1 — 7	19	3 — 14
14	1 — 8	19 1/8	3 — 15
14 1/8	1 — 9	19 1/4	4 — 0
14 1/4	1 — 9	19 3/8	4 — 1
14 3/8	1 — 10	19 1/2	4 — 3
14 1/2	1 — 11	19 5/8	4 — 4
14 5/8	1 — 11	19 3/4	4 — 5
14 3/4	1 — 12	19 7/8	4 — 7
14 7/8	1 — 13	20	4 — 8
15	1 — 14	20 1/8	4 — 10
15 1/8	1 — 14	20 1/4	4 — 11
15 1/4	1 — 15	20 3/8	4 — 12
15 3/8	2 — 0	20 1/2	4 — 14
15 1/2	2 — 1	20 5/8	4 — 15
15 5/8	2 — 2	20 3/4	5 — 1
15 3/4	2 — 2	20 7/8	5 — 2
15 7/8	2 — 3	21	5 — 4
16	2 — 4	21 1/8	5 — 5
16 1/8	2 — 5	21 1/4	5 — 7
16 1/4	2 — 6	21 3/8	5 — 9
16 3/8	2 — 7	21 1/2	5 — 10
16 1/2	2 — 8	21 5/8	5 — 12
16 5/8	2 — 9	21 3/4	5 — 13
16 3/4	2 — 10	21 7/8	5 — 15
16 7/8	2 — 11	22	6 — 1
17	2 — 12		

Accessing Private Land: It's a Privilege

Whether you are a hunter, angler, snowmobiler, or one of the many other outdoor recreationalists, everyone must work with all private landowners.



Remember, your actions reflect not only all hunters and anglers but anyone who wants to access private land for outdoor recreational use.

LOONS & LEAD DON'T MIX



Lead tackle is deadly to waterbirds!

Lead sinkers and jigs cause fatal lead poisoning in loons and other waterfowl.

Lead ingestion is the #1 killer of loons in Maine, but any waterbird can die from swallowing just one lead sinker or jig!

YOU CAN:

Use steel, tin, bismuth, or plastic instead. Ask local tackle shops to stock alternatives. Properly dispose of old lead sinkers and jigs.



Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife



**Trouble by
the bucketful.**

**Please help fight illegal
stocking.**

1-800-ALERT-US

**There is a
\$2000.00 reward
for information leading
to a conviction.**

