Black Bass Identification Tips

**Alabama Bass (invasive)**
- Olive-green on top; lighter colored on sides
- Tooth patch on tongue
- Rows of spots on sides
- Jaw does not extend beyond back of eye when mouth fully closed
- Horizontal band blotchy in front of tail
- Scales feel rougher than on Largemouth Bass

**Bartram’s Bass (native)**
- Olive to bronze on top, often with vertical bars or blotches on sides
- May have tooth patch on tongue
- Rows of spots on sides
- Jaw does not extend beyond back of eye when mouth fully closed
- Second dorsal, caudal and anal fins are usually green-to-yellow near the outer portions with pale to white margins

**Largemouth Bass (native)**
- Darker green on top; lighter colored on sides
- Usually no tooth patch on tongue
- Rows of spots on sides
- Notch between dorsal fins deeper than on other bass species
- Jaw extends beyond back of eye when mouth fully closed

**Smallmouth Bass (native)**
- Bronze to brownish-green, often with vertical bars
- Usually no tooth patch on tongue
- Rows of spots on sides
- Jaw does not extend beyond back of eye when mouth fully closed

**Spotted Bass (native)**
- Olive-green on top; lighter colored on sides
- Tooth patch on tongue
- Rows of spots on sides
- Jaw does not extend beyond back of eye when mouth fully closed
- Horizontal band more solid in front of tail
- Scales feel rougher than on Largemouth Bass

Photos courtesy of iNaturalist