

Black Bass Identification Tips

Spotted Bass (native)

Olive-green on top; lighter colored on sides

Scales feel rougher than on Largemouth Bass

Horizontal band more solid in front of tail

Tooth patch on tongue



Jaw does not extend beyond back of eye when mouth fully closed

Rows of spots on sides

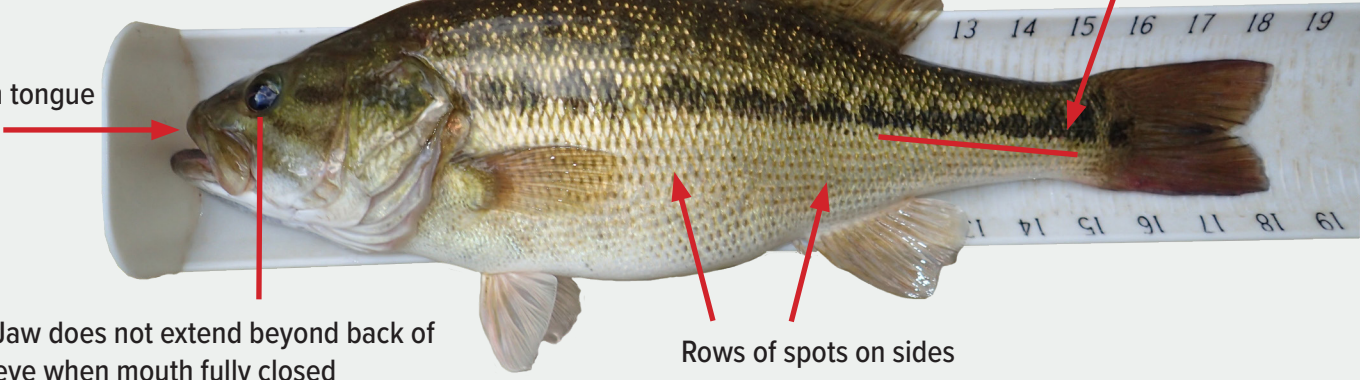
Alabama Bass (invasive)

Olive-green on top; lighter colored on sides

Scales feel rougher than on Largemouth Bass

Horizontal band blotchy in front of tail

Tooth patch on tongue



Jaw does not extend beyond back of eye when mouth fully closed

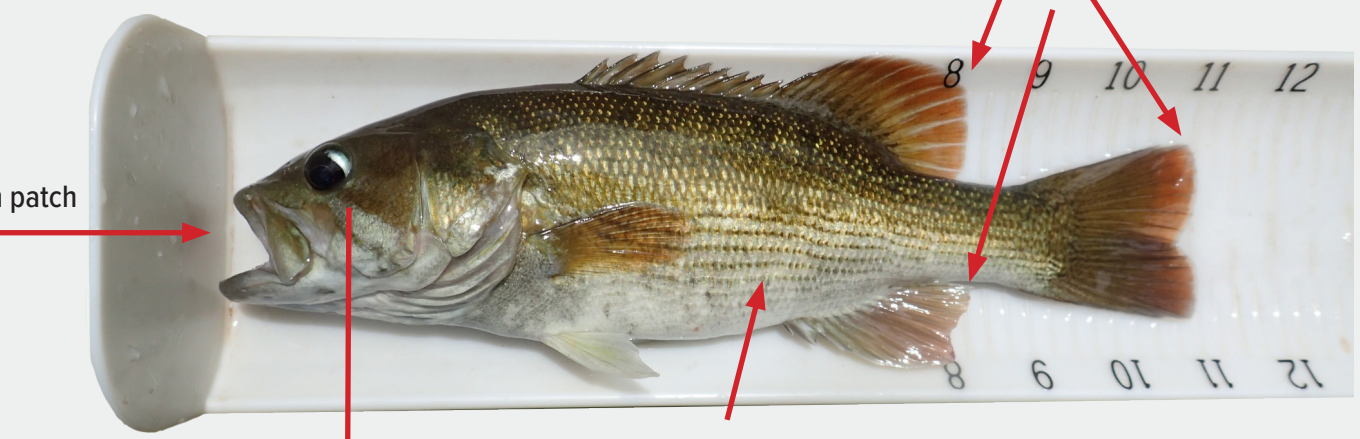
Rows of spots on sides

Bartram's Bass (native)

Olive to bronze on top, often with vertical bars or blotches on sides

Second dorsal, caudal and anal fins are usually green-to-yellow near the outer portions with pale to white margins

May have tooth patch on tongue



Jaw does not extend beyond back of eye when mouth fully closed

Rows of spots on sides

Largemouth Bass (native)

Darker green on top; lighter colored on sides

Notch between dorsal fins deeper than on other bass species

Usually no tooth patch on tongue



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



Jaw does not extend beyond back of eye when mouth fully closed