

North Carolina Sport Fish Profiles



Spotted bass

Scientific Name:

Micropterus punctulatus

Other Names:

spot, Kentucky bass

Identification:

The spotted bass gets its name from the numerous dark spots that cover the lower side of its greenish, slender body, below a dark lateral line. Often confused with the largemouth bass, spotted bass have a sandpaper-like tooth patch on the tongue that largemouths lack and the rear of the jaw does not extend behind the eye as it does in largemouths.

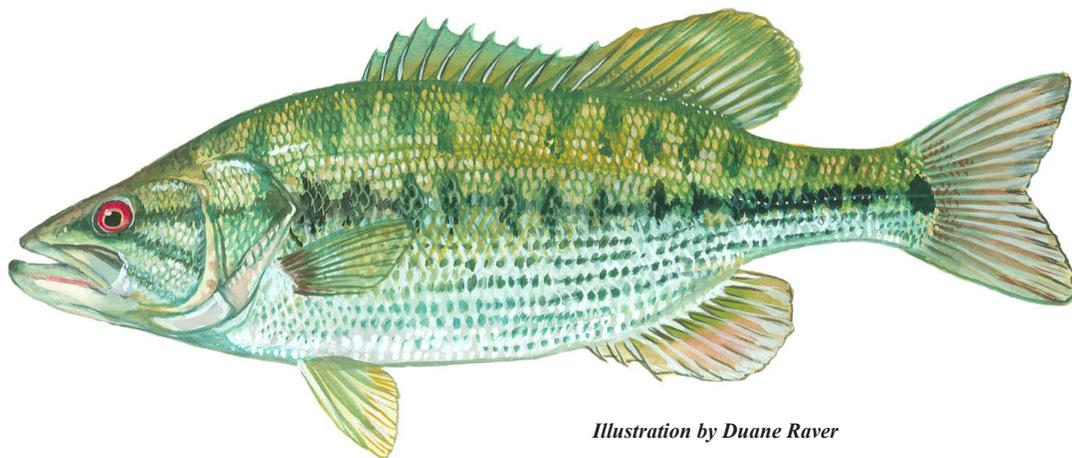


Illustration by Duane Raver

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Habitats and Habits:

Spotted bass are native to southern Illinois, Missouri and Ohio, southward to eastern Texas and the Gulf, covering major drainages of the Mississippi River.

Crayfish and immature insects make up the bulk of their diet. They also eat small fish such as bluegill.

Fishing Techniques:

Strong fighters, spotted bass can be caught on a wide variety of natural and artificial baits using casting, spinning and fly-fishing gear. Look for spotted bass around aquatic vegetation, submerged logs and rock or riprap walls in small-to medium-flowing streams and rivers. While they may be found in reservoirs, they are seldom found in natural lakes. Spotted bass are usually caught much deeper than largemouth and are more inclined to school.

Good Places to Fish:

In North Carolina, spotted bass are found in several mountain reservoirs, with Lake Chatuge offering some of the best fishing. W. Kerr Scott and Hiwasee reservoirs also contain good populations of spotted bass. Spotted bass can also be caught in Lake Norman and in the upper Cape Fear River, where they co-exist with largemouth bass. As their populations expand within a water body, spotted bass will often out-compete and replace smallmouth bass or largemouth bass. For this reason, introductions of spotted bass can often have negative impacts on existing sport fisheries

Other Information:

NCARP Minimum Requirements: 2 pounds or 15 inches

State Record: 6 lbs., .5 pounds from Lake Norman, Dec. 26, 2003

World Record: 10 lbs., 4 oz., from Pine Flat Lake, Ca., April 21, 2001*

** Anglers provide information on their potential world-record catches directly to the International Game Fish Association, which maintains the world records for sport fishing.*