



**Largemouth Bass**  
*Micropterus salmoides*

<http://www.clemson.edu/cef/fish%20images/largemouthbass.jpg>

## Characteristics

- **streamlined sunfish w/ very large mouth**, upper jaw reaches far beyond rear margin of eye (smallmouth bass w/ mouth not extending this far)
- **1<sup>st</sup> dorsal fin highest at middle, low at rear**; 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dorsal almost separate
- **broad black stripe along side & onto snout** (often broken into series of blotches)
- **greenish body w/ brown eyes** (smallmouth is brownish w/ red eyes)

## Ecology and Distribution

- found in clear, vegetated lakes, ponds, swamps, & backwaters/ pools of creeks & small-large rivers; usually over mud or sand
- most common in lakes/impoundments