

ONTARIO BASS FISHING 101

SMALLMOUTH *VS* LARGEMOUTH

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE. CATCH MORE BASS.



SMALLMOUTH BASS

VS

LARGEMOUTH BASS



Mouth extends past the back of the eye.



MOUTH

Mouth does not extend past the back of the eye.



Upper jaw ends even with or behind the eye.



JAW

Upper jaw extends behind the eye.



Bronze to olive color with vertical bars or blotches.



BODY / PATTERN

Green to olive color with a dark horizontal stripe along the side.



Spiny dorsal fin and soft dorsal fin are separated.



DORSAL FIN

Spiny dorsal fin and soft dorsal fin are connected.



Tail is more rounded.



TAIL

Tail has more of a square shape.



HABITAT



SMALLMOUTH

Prefer clear, cooler waters with rock, gravel, and clean structure. Common in lakes, rivers, and rocky shorelines.



LARGEMOUTH

Thrive in warmer waters with vegetation, weeds, docks, laydowns, and slower moving areas.

BEST TIME TO CATCH



SMALLMOUTH

Spring through fall. Very active in cooler water temperatures.



LARGEMOUTH

Late spring through early fall. Love warm water and cover.

TOP LURES THAT WORK

SMALLMOUTH

Tubes, small crankbaits, dropshot, jerkbaits, Ned rigs



LARGEMOUTH

Topwater frogs, spinnerbaits, Texas rigs, chatterbaits, crankbaits



QUICK TIP When in doubt, look at the mouth and dorsal fin – these are the fastest ways to tell the difference!

MORE TIPS. HOT SPOTS. SEASONAL GUIDES & LIVE FISHING INTEL.

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