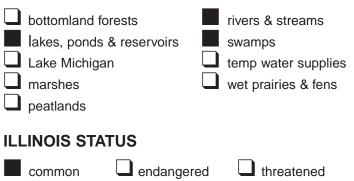


## HABITATS



### **ILLINOIS RANGE**

statewide

native

# **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999. *Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

exotic

largemouth bass

Micropterus salmoides

Animalia
Chordata - vertebrates
Osteichthyes
Perciformes
Centrarchidae

### FEATURES

The largemouth bass has an average life span of five to six years. Its average length is 10 to 20 inches. The upper jaw of the large mouth extends behind the eye when the mouth is closed. A dark stripe is present along each side. The body is dark green on the back and upper sides with a white belly.

### BEHAVIORS

The largemouth bass lives in lakes, ponds, swamps, rivers and impoundments. It seeks areas with little or no current. This fish is active at night. Reaching maturity at an age of two years, this fish spawns from May through June. The male builds a nest by fanning his fins near the bottom. The female deposits 2,000 to 100,000 eggs which hatch in three to six days. The male guards the eggs and young, staying with them for some time after they leave the nest. The largemouth bass eats mainly fishes, crayfish and large insects but will eat most any animal in the water that it can swallow.