

BASSMASTHER

Fishing Guide



BASSMASTHER

Women's Initiative



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An initiative designed to advance the sport of fishing among females worldwide through workshops hosted by the Bassmaster staff alongside professional female anglers. Network with a community of anglers to develop your skill sets and confidence on and off the water at one of our BassmastHER workshops.

#BassmastHER

BASSMASTER

HER

Women's Workshop



General Agenda

9:00am - 9:30am

Registration/Swag Grab/Breakfast

9:30am-10:00am

Welcome/Introductions

10:00am - 12:00pm

Bait Basics and Gear Basics (Rod/Reel/Line)

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Casting Class and Boat Basics (kayak and bass boat)

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Elite Pro Speaks on Patterning Bass



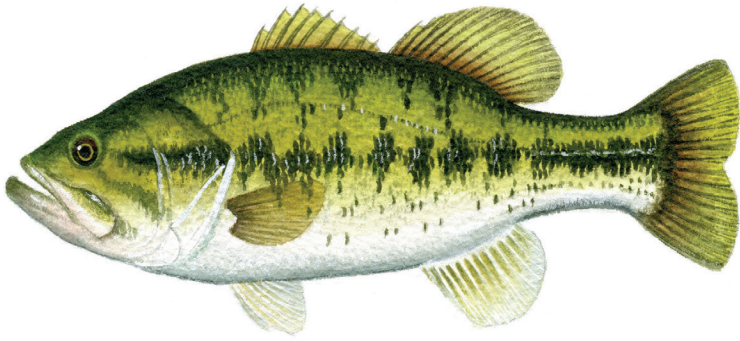
Workshop Locations

- St. Johns River Elite - Palatka, FL April 20th
- Wheeler Lake Elite - Decatur, AL June 15th
- St. Lawrence River - Waddington, NY August 17

Sponsorship Opportunities

- Onsite branding
- Swag/Giveaways
- Public Speakers
- Sponsored Anglers as Instructors

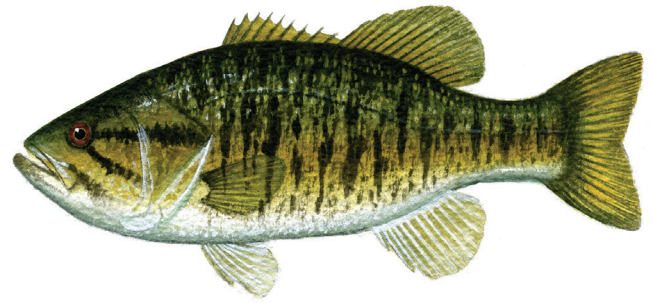
DIFFERENT SPECIES OF BASS



DETAILING LARGEMOUTH: MICROPTERUS SALMOIDES

The LARGEMOUTH BASS is the most common of the bass species. It also has the largest size capability; the world record largemouth weighed 22 pounds, 5 ounces. The largemouth gets its name from its big, bucket-shaped mouth, which it uses to gulp down a wide variety of prey species, including shad, shiners, bluegill, crawfish and frogs. This ability to feed on practically anything it can swallow helps make the largemouth the most widespread of all bass species. Identify the largemouth by its dark top, lighter sides/belly and prominent stripe running along its side.

Largemouth bass live in lakes, rivers, reservoirs and ponds. They prefer warm water and show a strong tendency for hanging around cover (objects in the water, including weeds, brush, stumps, logs and rocks), which they use for concealment when ambushing prey. Largemouth usually prefer shallow water (8 feet or less), but may inhabit deep water in



some reservoirs.

DETAILING SMALLMOUTH: MICROPTERUS DOLOMIEU

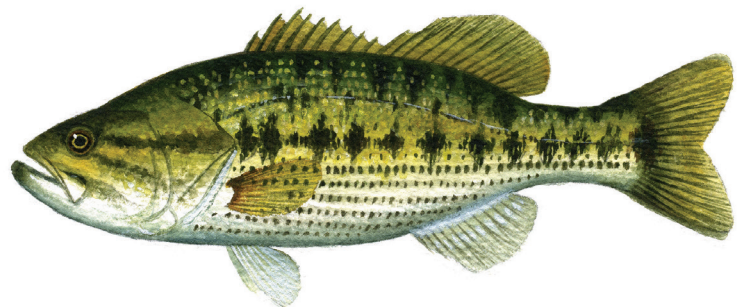
The SMALLMOUTH BASS is prized by anglers for its fighting ability. It's most common in the Midwest, Northeast, Southeast and Northwest. Its brownish coloration gives it the nickname "bronzeback." The smallmouth uses its pointed nose for rooting out crawfish, its favorite quarry. It also feeds on small fish and insects.

The smallmouth tends to prefer cooler, deeper, rockier water than the largemouth, and, with its sharp-cornered fins and powerful tail, is well suited to river current. While largemouth thrive in thick cover, smallmouth prefer to hide around isolated stumps, rocks or other large, scattered objects as well as dropoffs and ledges.

DETAILING SPOTTED BASS: MICROPTERUS PUNCTULATUS

The SPOTTED BASS is native to the Southeast and also has been stocked in some Western reservoirs. Although it looks much like a largemouth with more distinct markings, its shape, mouth size, habits, food preferences and fighting abilities are more similar to those of the smallmouth. It's also known as the Kentucky bass or "spot."

Spotted bass are most commonly found in rocky reservoirs, rivers and streams. Rather than hold tight to thick cover, it often suspends in deep water around steep rock bluffs and may follow schools of baitfish into open water. Spotted bass will go deeper than either largemouth or smallmouth — they've been caught as deep as 100 feet!



BASS SENSES

SMELL

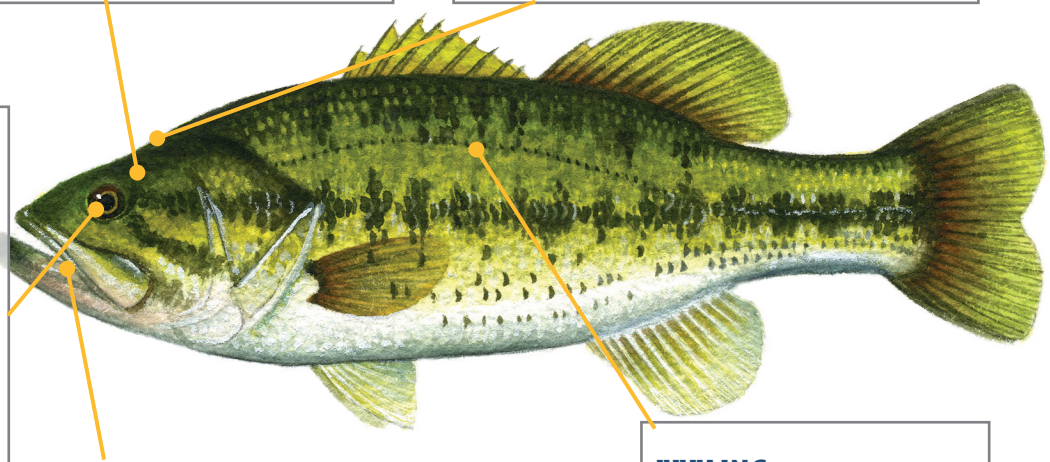
Bass possess finely tuned senses of smell that can perceive low concentrations of dissolved substances. They know food is near when their olfactory receptors detect amino and bile acids produced by prey. Although they're not attracted to the odors themselves, the association of a smell with food often prompts bass to feed.

HEARING

The ability to hear provides bass with a broad picture of what's going on around them. Their hearing isn't like ours and they don't have external ears, but small, internal bones called otoliths are equivalent to inner ears. Bass use them to detect, localize and interpret sounds made by objects up to hundreds of feet away.

SIGHT

Bass see quite well and can learn a lot about an object by looking at it, but this sense is limited to adequate light and water clarity conditions. Their eyes have rods and cones similar to ours, meaning they have the ability to see colors. But they're truly adept at picking out contrasting hues — especially under low-light conditions.



TASTE

There are taste buds inside a bass' mouth and on its tongue, but they don't use them to determine whether or not they enjoy eating something as we do. Like smell, they use taste to detect food — even trace amounts. It's most important when searching for meals at night or when water clarity is low.

FEELING

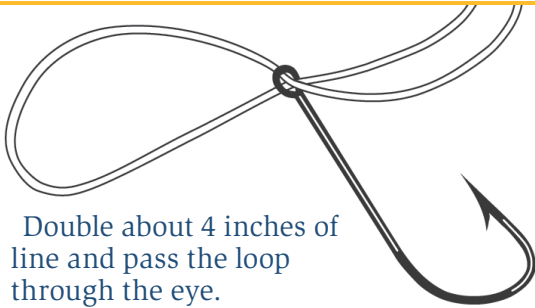
Bass have sensory structures related to hearing that allow them to feel vibrations and water flow. Like our ability to touch only when close to something, they use their lateral line system to detect low-frequency pressure waves over short distances. Once they get close, it's an important tool for tracking prey trying to escape.

KNOTS TO KNOW

PALOMAR

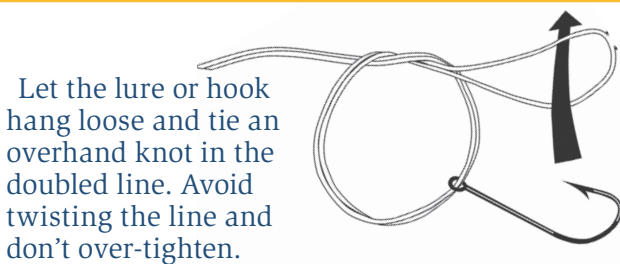
The Palomar Knot is easy to tie, exceptionally strong and very popular with bass fishing pros for tying on jigs and worm hooks. It's somewhat awkward to tie when using lures with treble hooks, but it is the recommended knot for braided lines.

1



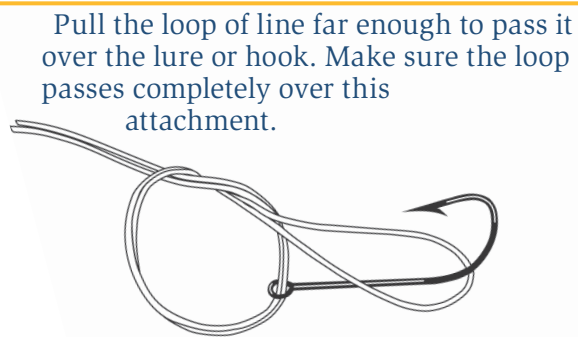
Double about 4 inches of line and pass the loop through the eye.

2



Let the lure or hook hang loose and tie an overhand knot in the doubled line. Avoid twisting the line and don't over-tighten.

3



Pull the loop of line far enough to pass it over the lure or hook. Make sure the loop passes completely over this attachment.

4



To tighten, pull the tag end while holding the standing line. Clip the tag end.

IMPROVED CLINCH

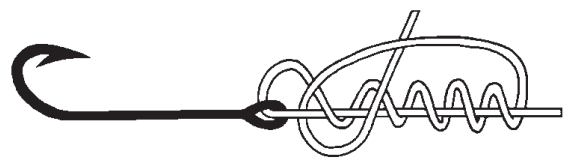
The Improved Clinch is very easy to tie, which is the main reason it's so popular for connecting monofilament to terminal tackle. It's most effective on lines under 20-pound test.

1



Pass the line through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure. Double back and make five turns around the standing line.

2



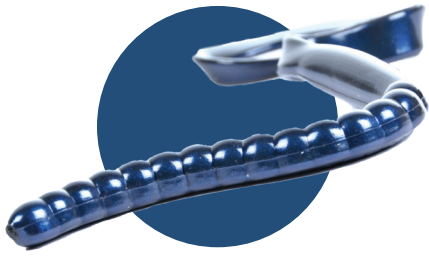
Holding the coils in place, thread the tag end of the first loop above the eye, then through the big loop.

3

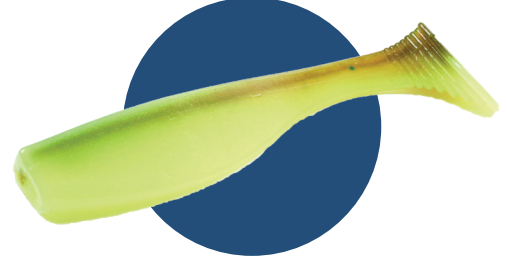


Hold the tag end and standing line while pulling up the coils. Make sure the coils are in a spiral, not overlapping each other. Slide against the eye. Clip the tag end.

SOFT PLASTICS, TERMINAL TACKLE, RIGS





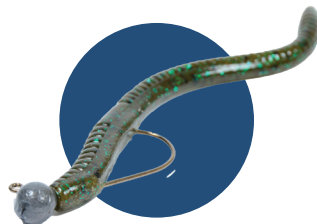












RODS & REELS



Spinning Rod



Baitcaster Rod



Spinning Reel



Baitcaster Reel

ESSENTIAL CHECKLIST FOR LAUNCHING & RETRIEVING A BASS BOAT

Boat Following this checklist will help ensure a smooth and safe experience when launching your bass boat at a ramp.

PREPARATION BEFORE ARRIVAL

1. Inspect the Boat and Trailer:

- Check for any damage or necessary repairs.
- Ensure the trailer lights are functioning properly.

2. Secure All Equipment:

- Make sure all gear and equipment are securely stowed.
- Remove any items that could shift during transport.

3. Fuel Up:

- Ensure the boat has enough fuel for the outing.

4. Check Safety Equipment:

- Life jackets for all passengers
- Fire extinguisher
- First aid kit
- Emergency flares or signaling devices
- Horn or whistle

AT THE RAMP

1. Assess the Ramp:

- Ensure the ramp is clear and in good condition.
- Check water depth and current conditions.
- If fishing in tidal waters, check tide schedules to ensure you don't get stuck.

2. Prepare the Boat:

- Remove the transom saver.
- Plug in depth finders.
- Plug in and turn on navigation lights (if dark outside).
- Install drain plugs.
- Disconnect boat straps.
- Unhook the winch strap/cable at the front of the boat (if you have a partner).
- If backing a trailer at night with other people around, turn off headlights to avoid blinding others.

3. Position the Boat:

- Back the boat and trailer down the ramp, ensuring a straight approach.
- Stop when the boat is in the water but still on the trailer.
- If the winch strap/cable is unhooked, ensure your partner is in the boat or wait to unhook until the boat is in the water.

4. Final Checks:

- Double-check that all gear is secured.
- Ensure the motor is trimmed up to avoid damage.

LAUNCHING THE BOAT

1. Release the Winch:

- Release the winch strap slowly.
- Push the boat off the trailer if necessary.

2. Start the Motor:

- Lower the motor and start it to ensure it's running properly.
- Allow the motor to warm up.

3. Move the Boat:

- Move the boat to a safe area away from the ramp to allow others to use the ramp.

4. Park the Trailer:

- Park the trailer in the designated parking area.
- Ensure your vehicle is locked and secure.

POST-LAUNCH

1. Safety Briefing:

- Brief all passengers on safety procedures.
- Ensure everyone knows where the safety equipment is located.

2. Final Gear Check:

- Make sure all fishing gear is ready.
- Confirm all electronics are functioning.

RETURNING TO THE RAMP

1. Approach the Ramp:

- Approach the ramp slowly and carefully.
- Ensure the area is clear of other boats and obstacles.

2. Retrieve the Trailer:

- Back the trailer down the ramp into the water until the top of the trailer fenders are just at or slightly above the water's surface.
- On steeper ramps, you might need to back the trailer further into the water to achieve the same result. Be cautious and ensure your vehicle's wheels stay on dry ground.

3. Load the Boat:

- Drive or guide the boat onto the trailer.
- Attach the winch strap/cable and secure the boat to the trailer.

4. Secure the Boat:

- Attach safety chains and check all connections.
- Raise the motor to avoid ground contact.
- Pull out and park in a clear area.

5. Drain the Boat:

- Remove the drain plug to allow any water to drain out.

6. Final Walk-around:

- Connect back straps.
- Apply the transom saver to the motor.
- Unplug and stow away depth finders.
- Make sure all gear and equipment are securely stowed.
- Perform a final check to ensure everything is secure.
- Double-check all trailer connections and equipment.

POST-TRIP MAINTENANCE

1. Clean the Boat:

- Rinse off any dirt, mud, or saltwater.
- Clean and dry all equipment.

2. Inspect for Damage:

- Check the boat and trailer for any signs of damage.
- Make necessary repairs.

3. Store the Boat:

- Store the boat in a safe, dry place.
- Cover the boat to protect it from the elements.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Practice backing up the trailer in an open area if you're not confident with it.
- Keep a set of basic tools on hand for any minor repairs or adjustments.
- Always check local regulations and requirements for launching boats in specific areas.



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