

# LARGEMOUTH BASS

*Micropterus salmoides*



FORELBAARS



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PERSICO TROTA

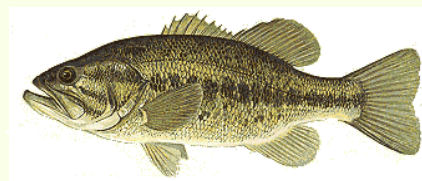
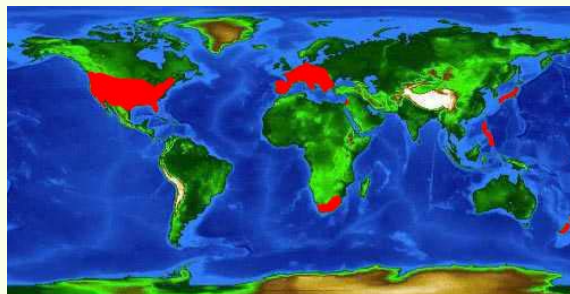


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## Geographical Distribution

This bass is one of the most widely distributed fishes in the world. This is due in large part to the popularity of bass as a sport fish which has led to the introduction of LB populations into many areas where are not native. Their current range includes the U.S. South Africa, Europe, Japan, Lebanon, New Zealand and the Philippines.

In Portugal, the bass is found in all the lakes in the south, many in the center and a few in the north of the country.



## Habitat

The LB lives in all types of water, including swamps, ponds, lakes, reservoirs, creeks and large rivers. The bass can even be found in estuaries. It prefers weedy oxbows and clear floodplain lakes. Since it is generally a warm water (27.2-30°C) fish, it is seldom found at depths of more than 5 meters.

## Description

The LB is an olive green fish, marked by a series of dark, blotches forming a jagged horizontal stripe along each flank. The upper jaw (maxilla) of a LB extends beyond the rear margin of the orbit. In comparison of age, a female bass is larger than a male. The LB can reach a maximum recorded overall length of 75 cm and a maximum weight of 11.4 kg. The fish lives 16 years on average.

## Feeding behavior

LS is a predator, it may consume small fish, insects, mosquitoes, blackfly larvae, mayfly nymphs, worms, adult insects, mussels, crayfish, snails, tadpoles, frogs, small fish, salamanders, mice, turtles.

## Fishing

**Closed season:** April 15-May 15. **Minimum retention size:** 20 cm.

The flesh of LB had high culinary value but strong cultural pressure among anglers encourages the practice of catch and release especially for larger specimens (generally breeding females).