Different Types of Bass

If you are an expert angler or just getting started fishing as a beginner you need to know the difference between species. Gaining knowledge about various basses not only improves your understanding but also help you to build a rich fishing career.

A huge range of different bass fishes is available around the world. They differ in size, colour, design and characteristics. As a result, many people could not distinguish bass fishes properly.

Moreover, Fishing becomes difficult if you don’t have any idea about the fish that you are chasing. In this article, I will present a detailed description of different type of bass so that you can have a clear idea about that specific type of fish.

**What is Bass?**

Generally, a wide range of fish shares a common name and the name is Bass. However, the name ‘Bass’ is originated from the Middle English bars, meaning "perch".

Moreover, the term ‘Bass’ includes trimly fashioned, gamy, active fishes of both salt and fresh water, mostly found in northern American regions. These types of fish are often caught for sport or food.

**Type of Bass**

Basically, 3 types of basses are known worldwide. Each type also contains a large number of fishes. The types are:

1. Black Basses
2. Temperate Basses
3. Asian Sea Basses

* **BLACK BASSES**

Black basses are usually extended, carnivorous and inherit a big mouth size. There are 9 known species including Florida bass, Alabama bass, Largemouth bass, Redeye bass, Guadalupe bass, Smallmouth bass, Shoal bass, Suwannee bass and Spotted bass.

* 1. **FLORIDA BASS:**

The scientific name of this fish is *MICROPTERUS FLORIDANUS*. Florida Bass is registered as a separate species in the year 2002. But, it is considered as a subspecies of largemouth bass fishes by the AFS( American Fisheries Society).

You can easily identify this fish from their distinctive look. Their upper jaw is extended forward. The dorsal fin has 9 spines while anal fin has only 3 spines.

* 1. **ALABAMA BASS:**

Alabama bass’s scientific name is *MICROPTERUS HENSHALLI.* They are 2 subspecies of spotted bass. Soft and spiny fins connected with dorsal. Usually it has 71 or more lateral line scales.

* 1. **LARGEMOUTH BASS:**

Scientifically it is called *MICROPTERUS SALMOIDES.* They have a long upper jaw. Its anal fin has 3 fins. However, they got 59 to 72 lateral line scales.

* 1. **REDEYE BASS:**

*MICROPTERUS COOSAE* is their scientific name. Surprisingly, it has 5 subspecies including coosae*,*chattahoochae*,*warriorensis, cahabae*,*andtallapoosae.

Moreover, Redeye basses have spiny and soft dorsal fins. Tiny, dark spots below lateral line provide them with a gorgeous appearance.

* 1. **GUADALUPE BASS:**

This fish was first described at1874 and named *MICROPTERUS TRECULII* scientifically. Their upper jaw is not that long. However, its dorsal fin is constructed with 10 spines but anal fin has only 3 spines.

* 1. **SMALLMOUTH BASS:**

They have three subspecies. You can detect this fish by 3 dark bars on both cheeks. It has 9 to 10 spines on Dorsal fin and 3 spines on the anal fin. The scientific name of smallmouth bass is *MICROPTERUS DOLOMIEU.*

* 1. **SHOAL BASS:**

Shoal bass was considered as redeye bass before 1999. However, scientifically it is called *MICROPTERUS CATARACTAE.* They have some black spots below the side line. Additionally, they have 11dorsal and 3 anal spines.

* 1. **SUWANNEE BASS :**

This type of fish is usually sorter in length. It length stays around 15 inches. Scientifically it is known as *MICROPTERUS NOTIUS.* It has 57 -65 lateral line scales and total 13 spines on dorsal and anal fins.

* 1. **SPOTTED BASS :**

This fish was first discovered in 1819. However, the base of anal and dorsal fins has tiny scales. The lower side scales form dark, parallel stripes with 55 to 71 lines. Scientifically it is called *MICROPTERUS PUNCTULATUS*.

* **TEMPERATE BASSES**

These basses are also called the ‘sea’ basses or ‘True’ basses. The temperature basses are represented by three species including white bass, white perch and striped bass. They appeared deep bodied from side view while seem compressed from frontal view.

Moreover, temperature basses are usually top water fishes. They like to travel and feed in groups.

* 1. **WHITE PERCH:**

*MORONE AMARICANA* is the scientific name of this fish. The colour of this fish is silver. It has 2 dorsal fins which are separated by a tiny notch. The fish is decorated with 10 dorsal and 3 anal fins.

Moreover, this fish can grow up to 15 inches and about 2 pounds. They can live more than 10 years. It does not like shallow water and loves to eat small fish, crabs, squid etc.

* 1. **WHITE BASS:**

White basses are mostly found in freshwater. It is called *MORONE CHRYSOPS.* The Name ‘CHRYSOPS’ refers to golden eye. However, the white bass has a deep compressed body. They usually don’t get longer than 20 inches and weight doesn’t normally exceed 3 pounds.

This kind of fish prefers to stay in clear water mostly in lakes and rivers. White bass always feed and travel in a compact group.

* 1. **STRIPED BASS:**

This kind of fish loves to stay in salt water but travels to fresh water to spawn. However, it can live in fresh water whole life. Striped basses are slimmer and more streamlined then hybrid basses.

Moreover, Striped bass are top water fish and travel and feed with groups. The scientific name of this fish is *MORONE SAXATILIS.* Surprisingly, they prefer to take food at night.

* **ASIAN SEA BASSES**

Asian sea basses are mostly found in Asian region. There are 2 types of Asian bass are known commonly. They are Japanese sea bass and Blackfin sea bass.

* 1. **JAPANESE SEA BASS:**

This species are popular as a game fish and also has commercial significance. You can identify them easily by their shiny white flesh. When this fish gets 60 cm long, it is called Suzuki.

*LATEOLABRAX JAPONICAS* is the scientific name of this fish. There are many black dots on the lateral body part of Japanese sea bass. Its regular length is 13 cm and its weight is around 8.7Kg.

* 1. **BLACKFIN SEA BASS:**

Blackfin sea basses are mostly found in shallow water. It is called *Lateolabrax latus* scientifically. This fish contains spines on the anal and dorsal fins for defence against enemy.

It can be 94 cm long and weighing up to 9 kg. They eat shell fish, worms, small fish etc.

**Conclusion**

Bass is one of the most popular sporting fish around the world. The good thing is that, you can have them in both fresh and salt water. However, different types of bass have different attributes and delicious taste too.

Now that you have gain knowledge about the various types of bass fish, hope that will help you to get a good preparation about the next trip. Enjoy!