

Some Great Facts about Smallmouth Bass Fishing in Canada

Smallmouth bass is regarded to be ranked among the hardest fighting freshwater fish. It is also often referred to as the brown bass, brownies, bronzebacks, smalls and smallies. Many anglers and fishermen love the challenge of catching these aggressive fishes and the great feeling after a well-fought battle.

Smallmouth bass fishes are well thought-out by most people to be the sportiest freshwater fish. They are known for their fighting stamina and beyond belief leaping ability. Like largemouths, they will take almost any kind of lure or bait, but they commonly prefer smaller sizes. Favorites include jigs, crankbaits, spinners, streamer flies, shiner minnow, crayfish, hellgrammites, leeches, and nightcrawlers.

The jaw of a brown bass, which extends directly below the eye, is smaller compared to that of a largemouth bass. Its cheeks have from twelve to seventeen rows of scales and the dorsal fins are joined with ten spines and thirteen to fourteen soft rays.

It is golden bronze or brown in color, with a lighter, more creamy underbelly than the largemouth which has a greenish one. It has vertical dark bands or marks on the sides and its eyes have a dash of red.

Most brownies weigh between 1 and 1.5 and they can run as high as 4 or 5 pounds.

They have a preference of cool water, but will have a tendency to follow food sources. It is sensitive to environmental factors and can be greatly affected by polluted waters. Clean rivers and lakes are necessary for them to survive. They will move about from one habitat to another as temperature changes throughout the year.

Smallies prefer rock strewn, gravelly hard bottoms. It is not common for them to stay in areas with soft sandy or muddy bottoms. Bronzebacks, which are found in rivers, usually hangout in shallow rocky pools and ledges during the cooler spring weather. It is also likely for them to settle on grass beds and weedy patches growing on small islands and along the banks, especially as the growth attracts forage. When the water heats up, they will tend to transfer to the deeper pools in the rivers main channels, or to the faster moving parts of the riffles that offer cooler water.

In lakes, they in general move to deeper water as the water warms up. They cling to around structure and shade. Smallies can be found in deeper grass and

weed beds where forage and cover is available.

They prefer to spawn in water temperatures within 62 to 65 degrees. They can usually be found spawning sometime between April and June. They will spawn in depths of 2 to 10 feet. The male cleans debris from a small circular area to create the nest and guards it for about a month after spawning to allow the fry to grow to swim freely.

The rocky lakes of Canadian Shield produce a perfect environment for not only the large trophy of these species but for a great number of other fishes. On Lake Panache, it is not uncommon to catch your limit right off the dock of smallmouth. If you are looking for big smallmouth bass then you'll probably want to visit this lake. Smallmouths are one of the hardest fighting fish in Canada but it's definitely easy to look for it in Lake Panache, its maybe because of the cool spring fed water that makes them extra scrappy and they also taste fantastic.

Northern Ontario is also well-known for big trophy brown bass especially in Five Mile Lake. They are found off rocky points, shoals, reeds and islands.

Even though this kind of fish is not a dominant specie in the lake, it still has a healthy population and can still provide a full day of fishing if you go after them. They are usually around 2 pounds but a fair number of 3 and 4 pounders are also caught. Another lake which is in close proximity with the Five Mile Lake also offers a good site for bass fishing, smallmouth bass in particular.

One more lake in Ontario provides an excellent fishing, particularly for smallmouth bass fishes. Norse Lake remains calm even in windier days. The smallmouth bass population in this lake reaches into the 5 pound class.

Truly, the Canadian coasts have a lot to offer especially when we speak of Smallmouth Bass. Visit the net for more information, tips and guides and see for yourself!