

stance and are thus prevented from being washed away. When the fry are a few days old they scatter along the shore in shallow water and hide amongst weeds in an instinctive effort to avoid their many enemies, amongst which the larger members of their own tribe are probably the most dangerous.

All fish vary very much in coloration and somewhat in form in different waters and this peculiarity is very noticeable in the bass, so much so that in most of our large lakes and rivers an experienced angler can tell what part of the water a fish came from by its appearance.

Both the large-mouthed and the small-mouthed black bass are sufficiently well known to need no detailed description, but as they are sometimes confused the one with the other, I may as well point out the marks of distinction between them. In the small-mouthed bass the angle of the mouth does not extend beyond the eye, in the large-mouthed it does. The small-mouthed is marked by irregular blotches or bands, extending from the back downwards over the sides; sometimes these are well marked, at others they are indistinct. The large-mouthed has a more or less distinct black line extending from the gills to the tail; in very large specimens this is sometimes lost and in both species the markings are likely to disappear soon after they are caught if they are exposed to the sun and air.

The large-mouthed black bass is much more widely distributed than the small-mouth and is blessed with a great variety of local names amongst which yellow bass, green bass and Oswego bass are the most common. It will live and thrive in marshy lakes, weedy ponds and slow, mud-bottomed rivers; for this reason it is a splendid variety with which to stock ponds. Like the small-mouth it is a very voracious fish and must have a good supply of food to grow on, but if this is provided and the water kept fairly pure it is sure to succeed. It is not so game as the small-mouth, but grows to a larger size. Its

favorite haunts are about weed beds or sunken logs and it is very fond of lying under the floating leaves of water lilies; from these places it is sometimes difficult to extricate them, when hooked. It takes the same bait as the small-mouth and seems particularly partial to small frogs.

Both species are frequently taken by trolling for them with a spoon; a sad fate for such good, game fish as the bass, which above all others are entitled to be dealt with in a fair and sportsman-like manner and when they meet their fate, it should be at the hands of a man who uses rod and reel.

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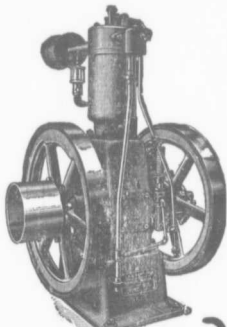
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