

## CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

Recognizing the value of California's black bass fishery, the California Legislature adopted the Black Bass Conservation and Management Act of 1980 that states:

*"It is the policy of the state to preserve and enhance black bass resources and to manage black bass populations to provide satisfactory recreational opportunities to the public."*

The Act also includes a provision that the Department of Fish and Wildlife's black bass management program include management for trophy-sized black bass in some waters. To help fulfill that policy the Trophy Black Bass program was adopted by the Fish and Game Commission in February, 1993. The purpose of the Program is to provide a reasonable opportunity for an angler to catch a trophy-sized black bass at designated waters.

## TROPHY BASS AND WATERS

In the Trophy Black Bass Program policy, trophy-sized black bass are recognized by the following minimum weight standards:

Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	10 lb
Smallmouth Bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	6 lb
Spotted/Alabama Bass	<i>Micropterus punctulatus/henshalli</i>	6 lb

As part of the program, the Department is charged to:

1. Identify and submit to the Commission certain waters within the state to be designated as trophy-sized black bass waters based on the following criteria:

- A. Angler access:
  - i. Open for public angling with unrestricted access, or
  - ii. Open for public angling with controlled access consistent with Commission policy.
- B. Historically or biologically demonstrated the capability of producing, with appropriate angling regulations or other fishery management actions, catch by anglers in most years of fish meeting the above trophy-sized black bass standards.

2. Manage at least one water in each of the Department's six management regions as a Trophy Black Bass Water.

3. Develop a management plan for each designated water. The plan shall include a description and evaluation of the fishery, an assessment of environmental factors conducive to or limiting trophy black bass management, recommendations for management actions needed to increase abundance of trophy black bass, and an assessment of personnel and fiscal resources needed to carry out the intent of the program.

4. Establish a Trophy Black Bass Recognition Program. In February 1994, the Commission designated Trinity, Oroville, Clear, Isabella, and Castaic lakes as trophy black bass waters. Trophy black bass management plans were developed for these waters as part of the program.

CDFW - F B  
Inland Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring  
830 S Street  
Sacramento, California 95811



# California Trophy Black Bass Program



Bass angling provides recreation and economic value to the state of California. For several years, California has been the center of attention for producing trophy-sized black bass. In a list of the top 25 largest Largemouth Bass caught in the U.S., 20 of the bass are from California waters. Nationwide attention to California's Largemouth Bass fisheries began with the success of Florida Largemouth Bass introductions. Numerous catches of Largemouth Bass over 10 pounds were reported following the introductions and in 1972, the first Largemouth Bass over 20 pounds from California was caught at Lake Miramar. In addition to trophy-sized Largemouth Bass, the introduction of Alabama Bass in 1976 and subsequent introductions to other California waters has produced trophy-sized and state and world record catches from California waters.



Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

# Trophy Black Bass Angler Recognition Program

## RECOGNITION PROGRAM

As part of the Trophy Black Bass program the Department keeps records of anglers who catch a trophy size bass and submit a recognition form to the Department. Successful anglers can complete and mail the Trophy Black Bass Recognition Program application form included with this leaflet. Verified catches are entered into Department databases and provide information on trophy fish catches to managers. Anglers will receive a certificate documenting their catch and if the fish is released back to the water, an attractive California Trophy Black Bass Program Catch and Release hat/lapel pin.

Direct inquiries or the Trophy Black Bass Verification form to: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fisheries Branch, Attention: Inland Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring, 830 S Street, Sacramento, California, 95811.

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

(916) 323-5556

**PLEASE PRINT**

## California Trophy Black Bass Recognition Program Angler Verification Form

Mr./Ms.     
First Name M.Initial Last Name

Mailing Address

City State Zip (Area Code) Daytime Phone

**Optional:** E-mail Address:

**I hereby certify that I caught a trophy**  **from**  **in**  **on** .  
(use fish name listed below) (name of water) (name of county) (date caught)

The fish weighed  lbs.  oz. The fish measured  inches (nose to end of tail fin) and  inches in girth (measured around largest part of body)

AND was weighed and/or measured in the presence of other witnesses, whose names and addresses are:

Witness #1

Witness #2

The fish was  kept  released. The gear used to catch this fish was  bait  lure  fly. The fish was caught from  shore  boat  wading.

**Enclosed Supporting Documentation:**  photograph  news item  weight slip **Remarks:**

Signature of Applicant:  Date of Application:

Form: DFW 737B  
Revised 04/2017



**Largemouth Bass, *Micropterus salmoides***, were first introduced into California from Quincy, Illinois, into Lake Cuyamaca (San Diego County) in 1891, and are now found throughout California. Two subspecies are recognized, the northern subspecies *M. salmoides*, and the Florida subspecies *M. s. floridanus*. The first introduction of Florida Largemouth Bass was made in 1959 into southern California. The value of Florida Largemouth Bass has been demonstrated by increased catches of trophy-sized fish and nationwide public attention. Many bass greater than 10 pounds have been caught from California waters including a 22.01 pound bass caught and released by Robert Crupi from Castaic Lake, Los Angeles County, in 1991.

**Spotted Bass, *Micropterus punctulatus*, and Alabama Bass *M. henshalli*** have been introduced into California. Although they are colored similar to Largemouth Bass, they are easily distinguished by a smaller mouth and the fact that the first and second dorsal fins are connected. A tooth patch is located on the tongue and can be felt when you run the tip of your finger over it. However, a portion of Largemouth Bass also possess the tooth patch. The Alabama Bass was introduced to the state in 1974. Subsequently, angler catches of Alabama Bass over six pounds from many waters have been verified by Department biologists including the current state record that weighed 11 pounds 3 ounces, caught at New Bullards Bar Reservoir in 2015.

**Smallmouth Bass, *Micropterus dolomieu***, were first introduced into California in the Napa River in 1874 from Lake Champlain, New York. Historical records indicate that anglers "fished out" the first plant and the introduction was considered unsuccessful. An introduction a few years later into Crystal Springs Reservoir, a water supply reservoir south of the city of San Francisco, was successful and provided an abundant source of smallmouth bass for additional stockings throughout the state. Most trophy-sized smallmouth bass from California have been caught in northern California waters. The current California state record Smallmouth Bass was caught from Pardee Reservoir, Amador County in 2007 and weighed 9 pounds 13 ounces.