

# **BASS WATCH**

## **Lake residents and boaters ...**

can play a big part in bass conservation because they spend so much of their time around the water.

Keep an eye out for spawning bass from mid-May to July.

Look around your docks and shoreline for nests the bass will be guarding.

- *Largemouth Bass lay eggs on logs or branches in mucky bottoms.*
- *Smallmouth Bass scoop out saucer-shaped nests along the rock shorelines.*

Try not to disturb the nests. Avoid swimming too close or running motorboats over nests.

Watch for anglers casting along shore. Use this pamphlet to help educate them.

If they appear defensive, write the boat licence number down.

## **Who Can You Call?**

Please report the license number of the boat to the MNR at **1-800-667-1940** on weekdays, or the MNR Kemptville District at **613-258-8402** on evenings or weekends. Or you may contact Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-8477**.

For more information please call the Big Rideau Lake Association (BRLA) 1-613-272-3629

For more information on fishing in the Rideau Region visit the Rideau Waterway Fishing Page at:

[www.rideau-info.com/canal/fishing.html](http://www.rideau-info.com/canal/fishing.html)

***Let us all help in protecting our fish stocks for present and future fishing enjoyment.***

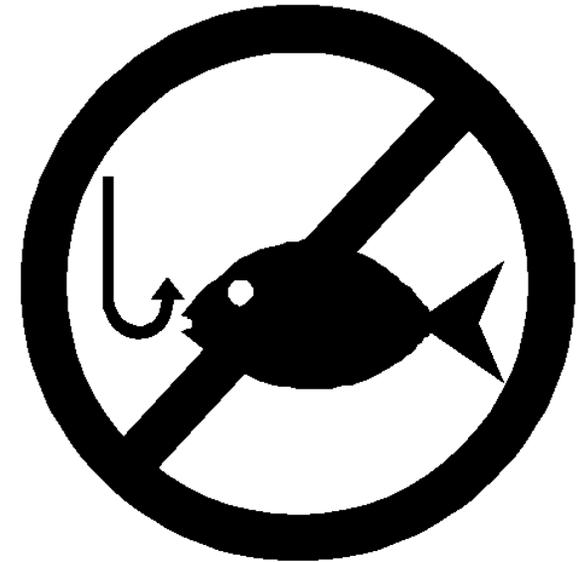
## **Fish responsibly - obey the law!**

This pamphlet was adapted from the Bass Out Of Season pamphlets produced by the Big Rideau Lake Association. [www.brla.on.ca](http://www.brla.on.ca)

Information for this pamphlet was provided through: S.J. Kerr and R. Cholmondeley [ed], Bass Management in Ontario Workshop Proceedings, WP-004, Oct 3, 1994, Queens University Biological Station, Ontario.

# **BASS**

## **Out of Season**



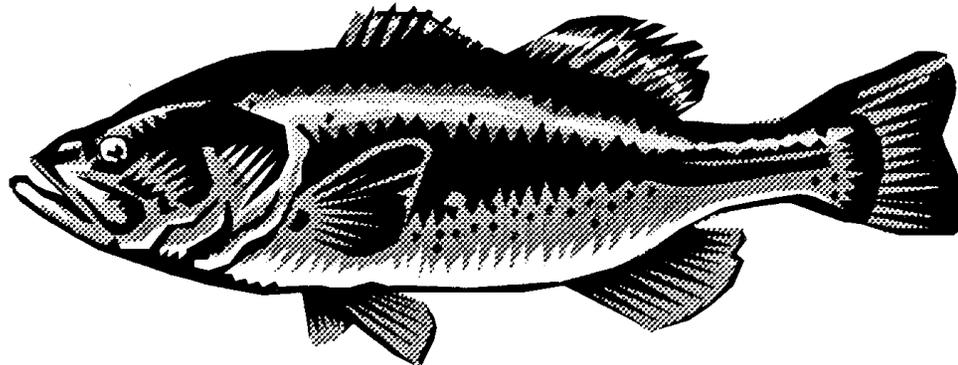
**Keep them  
Off  
The  
Hook**

# BASS SPAWNING

Begins when water temperatures reach about 15°C (60°F), generally by mid-May, and can last into mid-July.

*Why are Bass so vulnerable at this time of the year?*

- They are one of the most prized sports fish in Ontario.



- They spawn in shallow areas making highly visible nests.
- Males guard the young for a month or more, **usually up to 2 weeks after the season is open.**
- Guard bass are aggressive and are likely to strike at any lure.
- Predators (such as Sunfish) are quick to eat unguarded eggs or fry.

# ANGLERS

Targeting pre-season bass can jeopardize the health of future bass stocks.

*Using catch-and-release is not a harmless alternative!*

In just minutes a nest can be wiped out and there is only a 50% chance that the guard bass will return to the nest.

If you do accidentally hook a bass, keep handling to a minimum and release it quickly.

On the Rideau lakes many guard bass may stay on the nest well past opening day.

By avoiding fishing in 6 ft or less of water until mid-July, you can help to increase bass populations.

# The Law

It is illegal to fish for or take bass before **the third Saturday in June** and after December 15<sup>th</sup>.

This means any type of fishing which potentially targets bass:

- Casting along shorelines and shoals up to 6 ft in depth.
- Using bass lures and live bait.

**This includes catch-and-release.**

If you are found fishing for bass, you could face:

**A FINE OF UP TO  
\$100,000.00**

**and**

**CONFISCATION OF  
BOATS, GEAR and  
even VEHICLES.**