

LARGE MOUTH BASS

Micropterus salmoides



Aquatic Invasive Species: Control and Prevention

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) impede recreation, degrade water quality and, once established, are very difficult to control. There currently are invasive plants, invertebrates, mollusks, and fish in Lake Tahoe. Partner organizations around the lake have been implementing preventative measures to ensure that additional AIS are not introduced. Species of the highest concern that are not currently present in the Tahoe Basin include Zebra mussels, Quagga mussels, and New Zealand mudsnails. A diverse group of dedicated partner agencies, including the TahoeRCD, University of Nevada-Reno, University of California-Davis, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, have collaborated to prevent, monitor, and control AIS in Lake Tahoe.

How did largemouth bass get here?

Largemouth bass have recently been found in Lake Tahoe and are of growing concern to biologists. Bass is one of the most popular warm-water game fish in North America and occupies the role of top predator in many habitats. The fish was most likely introduced by anglers in the early 1990s in the Tahoe Keys and is slowly spreading around Lake Tahoe.



Origin: Warm-water habitats

Means of Introduction: Anglers; dumping

Habitat: Adapted to warm waters (80-82F) and rarely live deeper than 20 feet; live among reeds and water lilies

Reproduction: Spawn in gravel or roots in late spring or early summer

Characteristics: Two dorsal fins with a deep notch; body longer than deep; upper jaw extends beyond rear of eye; dark lateral streak

Size: Up to 37 inches and 23lbs.

Food: Minnows, carp, any other available fish

Why is it a threat to the Tahoe Basin?

- ⊗ Main threat is direct predation on native minnows, Lahontan red side shiners, speckled dace, and tui chub.
- ⊗ Has potential to alter Lake Tahoe's natural ecology.
- ⊗ If left unchecked, bass could threaten Lake Tahoe's cold water fishery.

Current Management

Monitoring techniques are being utilized in Lake Tahoe to prevent Largemouth Bass from establishing large populations.

Research: Tracing movements of bass to find out how the fish move in order to prevent further spread around the lake.

