

Largemouth Bass



The Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) is a popular game fish that is native to Central North America, and has been introduced to many other parts of the world, including Washington State.

This fish got its name because its huge mouth can open larger than any other species of bass!

Other names for this fish are this fish are “bucketmouth,” “green bass,” and “bigmouth,”

The fry (juvenile) Largemouth Bass primarily eat macro invertebrates and insect larvae, but adults primarily eat other fish. Sometimes adults will eat snakes, mice, or small birds too!

These fish are such amazing predators that even at only $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long, they will try and eat other small fish!

Largemouth Bass have tiny teeth that can grab and catch fast-moving prey. Their teeth aren't for chewing though, as they prefer to swallow their prey whole!



When introduced to habitats they are not native to, Largemouth Bass can greatly reduce populations of aquatic insects that are important food for salmon and other native fish.

They have been present in Lake Washington since the mid-1980s, and 2016 was the first year they were seen in the Magnuson Wetlands.

Pumpkinseed Sunfish



The Pumpkinseed Sunfish (*Lepomis gibbosus*) is a warm-water fish that is native to the Northeastern United States.

It was introduced to Washington State waters in the 1890's, and was first seen in the Magnuson Wetlands in 2015.

Other names for this fish are the "pond perch" or "common sunfish," "punkys," and "sunny".

Pumpkinseed Sunfish eat insects, aquatic macro invertebrates, worms, and sometimes smaller fish!

At only 3-6 inches long and weighing less than 1 lb., it's too small to be a game fish, but is known for being easy to catch with a hook and worm!



The Pumpkinseed Sunfish is brightly colored and has reflective scales that mimic the pattern sunlight makes on the water.

The Pumpkinseed Sunfish has another cool adaptation: The "eye spot" on its side makes the fish look bigger than it is by tricking predators into thinking its eyes are bigger and further back than they actually are!



Stickleback



Sticklebacks (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) are native to Washington state, and are related to Pipefish and Seahorses!

The Stickleback gets its name because of the strong and very visible spines on its back. They can lock their spines in an upright position, making them extremely hard to swallow by a predator.

Another unusual thing about them is that Sticklebacks don't have scales, but many have bony plates on their back, sides, and belly!

The most common species is the Three-spined Stickleback, which are usually 2-4 inches long.

Sticklebacks can live in saltwater and freshwater, which is also unusual. They usually breed in freshwater or brackish ponds, and have an unusual breeding behavior for the world of fish: The male Stickleback defends a territory, builds a nest, and takes care of the eggs until they hatch!



ree-spined stickleback
(*asterosteus aculeatus*)



3 cm
1 inch

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Sticklebacks have four photoreceptors in their eyes (humans only have two!). This means that they can see ultraviolet, and humans cannot!

They eat aquatic macro invertebrates, plankton, and even insect prey that falls into the water. 2015 was the first year they were seen in the Magnuson Wetlands.