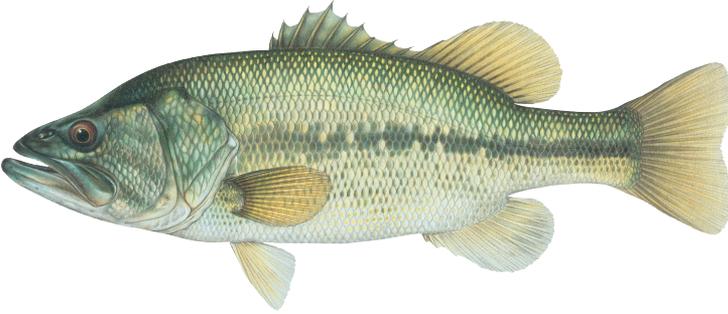


## **SUNFISHES (family Centrarchidae)**

### **Largemouth bass**

*Micropterus salmoides*



**Similar Species:** Smallmouth bass

Identification: Jaw extends well past the eye, dark lateral band. (Smallmouth bass are brownish and their jaws do not extend past the eye.)

The largemouth bass is native to eastern South Dakota but has been stocked throughout the state. Largemouth bass thrive in natural lakes and reservoirs, especially those with an abundance of aquatic vegetation and flooded timber. In South Dakota, they do best in waters that are somewhat protected from wind, relatively clear (18 inches or greater transparency for most of the year), and have submerged aquatic vegetation. Largemouth bass will eat whatever is available, including fish, crayfish, and insects. They spawn in the spring, when water temperature reaches about 65 F. The male sweeps out a nest in sand or gravel. After spawning, he guards the eggs and fry. Largemouth bass may live 16 years in the north and commonly reach 3 to 5 pounds as adults.

