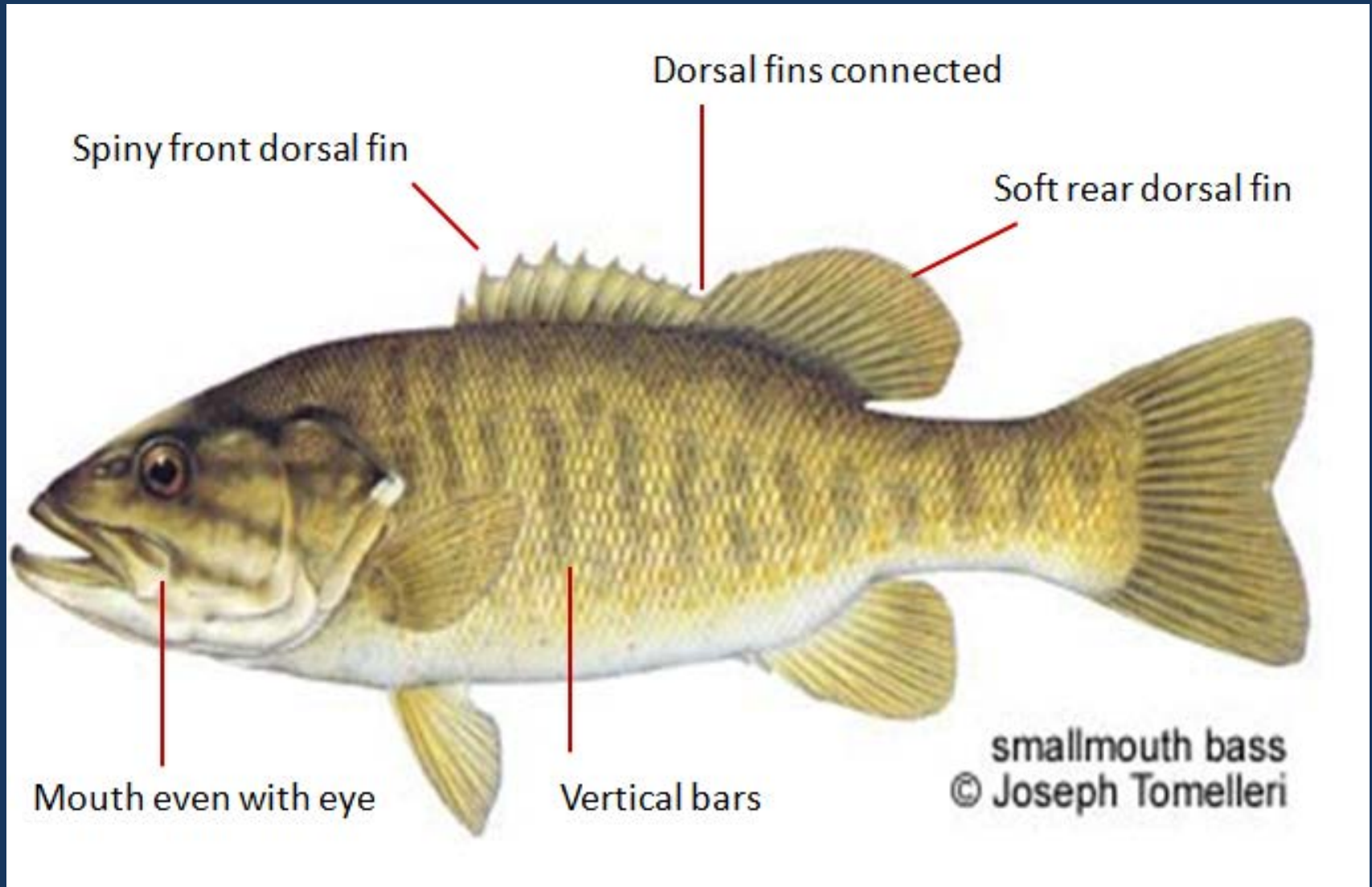


Smallmouth Bass Fishing



Let's Get You Hooked!

How to identify a Smallmouth bass



What other fish look like SMB?

Smallmouth Bass



Largemouth Bass

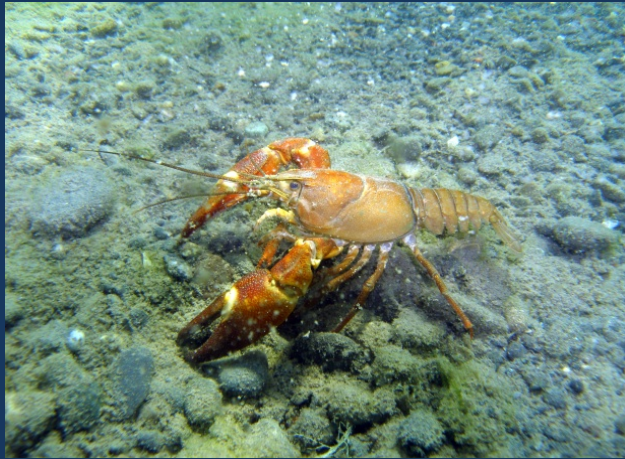


Yellow Perch



What do they eat?

- Predator which feeds on fish, crustaceans, aquatic and terrestrial insects
- Where crawdads are present up to 2/3 of SMB diet can be comprised of them





Where Do They Live?

- Smallmouth Bass are aggressive predators, they hide in cover and then ambush their prey
- Smallmouth Bass can be found near submerged boulder, cobbles or wood
- Humps, channels and points are good places to look for smallmouth
- Smallmouth are typically found in water 20 feet deep or less

How to Catch Smallmouth

- Since smallmouth bass are ambush predators, fish near cover like rock, wood, humps, channels or points.
- Presenting your lure to as many of these areas as possible will maximize your catch.
- If a smallmouth is there, and you present your lure well, it will probably eat.
- Match your lure to the type of cover or depth of water you are fishing.

Rocks

- Fish near cobbles and boulders
- Humps, points or islands can be good
- Rip rap dams almost always have smallmouth



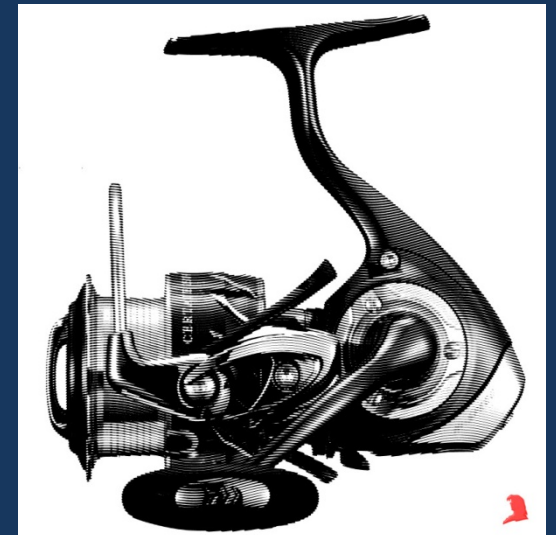
Wood

- Fish near submerged trees or stumps
- Bushes can be good
- Wood near humps, channels or points is great
- Weedless lures are important in thick cover



Equipment

- Bait/Lure Type
- Fishing Rod
- Reel
- Line



Bait Type

- Night crawlers



- Crawdads



- Minnows



Lure Type

- Plastics/ jigs
- Crank baits
- Spinners/ spinner baits
- Topwaters



Lures: Plastics and Jigs (0-15 feet)

- Weedless worms



- Tube Jigs



- Curly Tail Jigs



- Skirted Jigs



- Texas Rig



How to make a Plastic "Weedless"



Lures: Crankbaits (0-20 feet)

- Jerkbait
– 0-15 feet



- Shallow Diving
– 0-7 feet



- Deep Diving
– 7-20 feet



Lures: Spinners and Spinnerbaits (0-5 feet)

- Spinners



- Spinner baits



Lures: topwaters (surface)

- Poppers



- Walkers



Fishing Rods

- Length
 - Long Rod
 - Long distance casting, strong hook sets
 - Short Rod
 - Tighter Spaces, more sensitive
 - Multiple Piece Rods
 - Easy to pack
 - Less Sensitive
- Graphite vs. Fiberglass



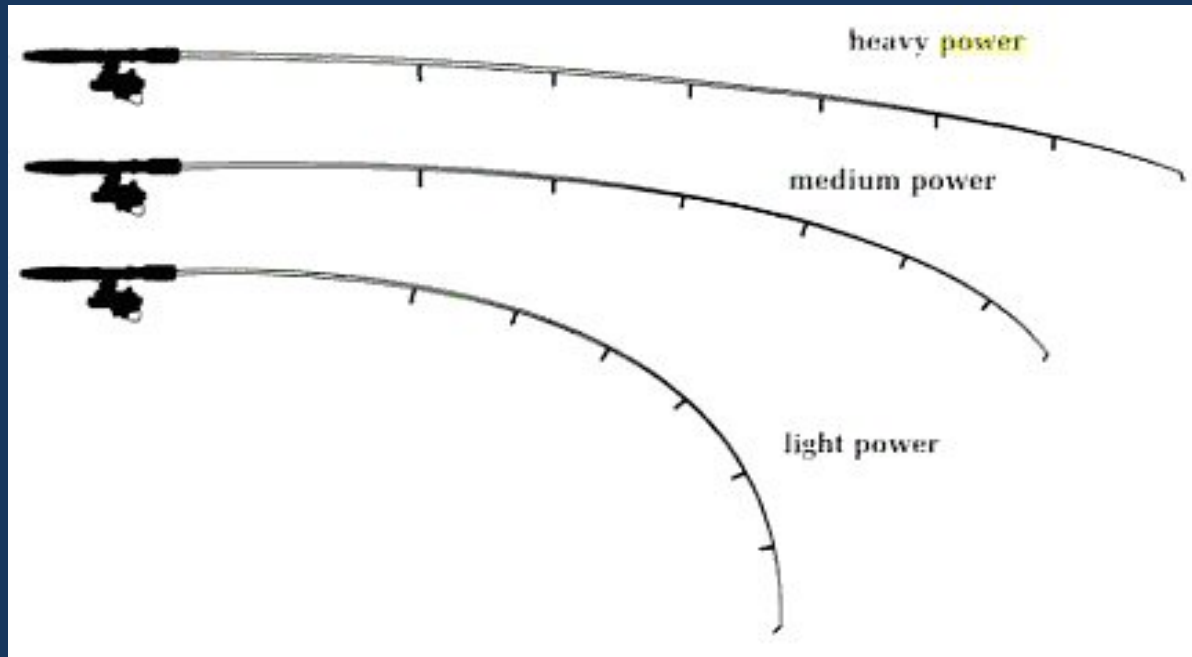
Rod Weight

Light Rod

- More Sensitive to feeling fish
- Easy to control line
- Have to work fish carefully
- Better for light line and lures

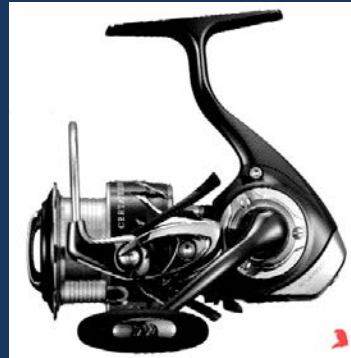
Heavy Rod

- Casts easier
- More control in strong current
- Difficult to feel fish
- Better for heavy line and lures



Reels

- Spin Cast Reels
 - Easiest to use
 - Difficult to service
- Spinning Reels
 - Easy to use
 - Easy to Service
- Casting Reels
 - Difficult to learn
 - Better on still water
 - Smooth, powerful drag



Line

- Weight
 - Measured in Tested Pound Limits
 - Dependant on water and species size
 - Change Frequently
 - Monofilament, fluorocarbon or braided line



Rod, Reel and Line Combo for Smallies

- Rod
 - 6-7 feet long
 - Medium or medium-light
 - Graphite
- Reel
 - Medium sized spinning reel
- Line
 - 8-12 pound monofilament



Yes you can catch a Smallmouth Bass on a fly rod

- 5-7 weight rod (5 weight for smaller patterns, 7 weight for casting larger patterns, longer distances.
- 9' leader, 8lb test



Fly types

- Poppers – Sneaky Pete
- Streamers – Woolly buggers
- Dry Flies - Stonefly
- Terrestrials – grasshopper, ant
- Crawdad imitation



Other Gear

- Weights
- Bobbers
- Bubbles
- Snap Swivels
- Extra Line
- Stringer
- Pliers/forceps
- Polarized glasses



Tying Knots

The Palomar Knot

The Palomar Knot is another very simple knot for terminal tackle. It is regarded by the International Game Fish Association consistently as the strongest knot known. Its great virtue is that it can safely be tied at night with a minimum of practice.

- 1 Double the line and form a loop three to four inches long. Pass the end of the loop through the hook's eye.



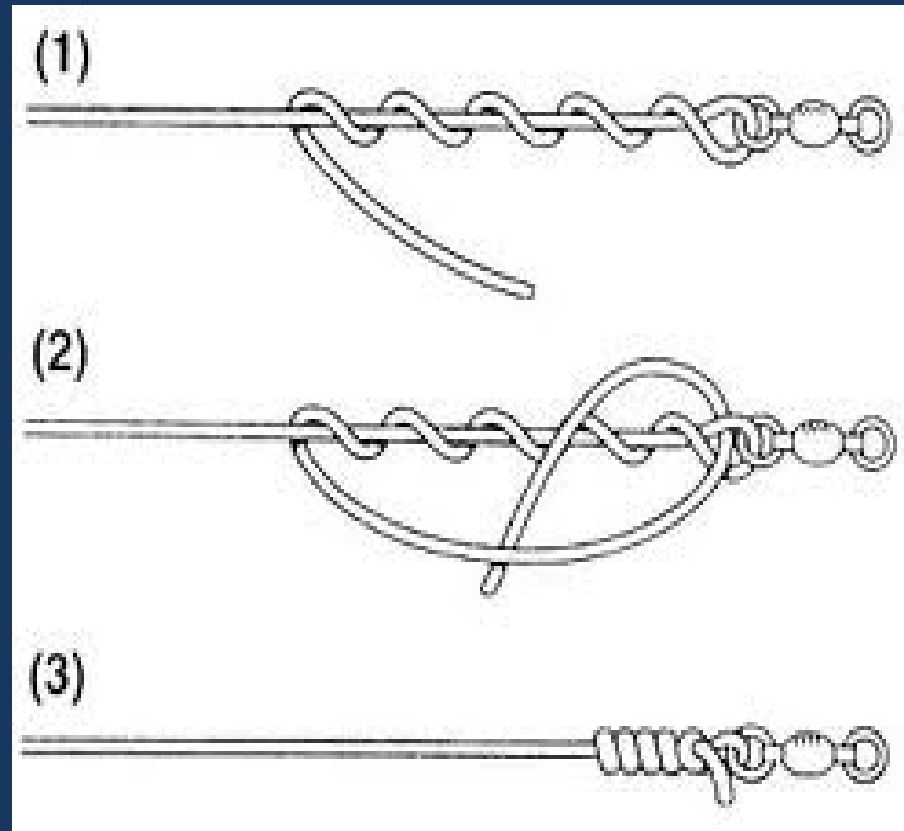
- 2 Holding standing line between thumb and finger, grasp loop with free hand and form a simple overhand knot.



- 3 Pass hook through loop and draw line while guiding loop over top of eyelet.



- 4 Pull tag end of line to tighten knot snugly and trim tag end to about 1/8 inch.



Waters in Western Colorado with Smallmouth Bass



Ridgway State Park



Rifle Gap Reservoir



McPhee Reservoir

Ridgway Reservoir

- Smallmouth bass were illegally introduced
- If they escape the reservoir they could damage the Gunnison River fishery
- We have removed the limit on smallmouth at Ridgway
- Catch and keep as many as you want
- Smallmouth are a good eating fish



GET OUT THERE AND FISH

