

# A Summary of Connecticut's Bass Action Plan

May 2022

Largemouth and Smallmouth bass, referred to collectively as black bass, are among the most popular recreational freshwater fish in Connecticut.

The purpose of the plan is to maintain and improve recreational black bass fishing in Connecticut.



## FISHERIES DIVISION

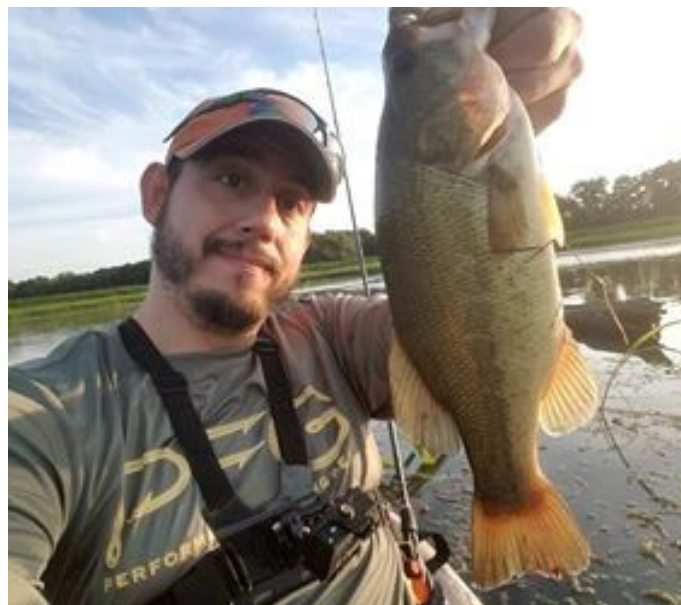
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# THEMES

## FOUR FOCAL POINTS

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### Enhance Existing Fisheries

Build upon our understanding of bass populations including spawning success, fisheries induced evolution, and factors resulting in loss or reduction of smallmouth bass. Use this information to improve bass fishing quality .



### Create New Fisheries

Pursue access to waters currently closed to fishing as well as modify regulations on bass management lakes to allow for increased fishing.



For such a small state, Connecticut has outstanding natural resources and our black bass populations play a vital role ecologically, recreationally and economically. With responsible conservation management plans and an engaged citizenry, we can ensure Connecticut's bass fisheries remain viable for many years into the future. Public input and innovative thinking will continually enhance our ability to reach our management goals and adapt to new technological, environmental, political, and social challenges.



## Monitor Bass Fisheries and Habitat Management

Keep tabs on the status of bass populations and available habitat to ensure bass can continue to be successful.



## Public Engagement

Engage with anglers and the general public to increase the awareness and relevance of bass fishing in Connecticut.



**Themes and Goals:** The primary purpose of this action plan is to improve fishing opportunities for black bass (Largemouth Bass, *Micropterus salmoides* and Smallmouth Bass, *Micropterus dolomieu*) throughout Connecticut's publicly accessed waterbodies. Specifically, this plan aims to meet the changing desires and preferences of Connecticut's anglers while conserving bass populations statewide to provide quality fishing well into the future. Creation of this plan was guided by the relevant scientific literature, extensive public input, and an open-minded approach to new ideas in order to produce and/or maintain high quality fisheries for black bass. Detailed action items for each objective are found within the full action plan.

### ***Enhance existing fisheries***

Goal 1.1 Improve understanding of black bass populations in Connecticut.

Goal 1.2: Increase numbers of preferred size Largemouth and Smallmouth bass statewide.

Goal 1.3: Maintain or improve recruitment of young bass in all bass lakes statewide.

Goal 1.4 Increase bass catch opportunities in Community Fishing Waters (CFWs) and other urban fishing locations.

Goal 1.5 Reduce impacts of Fisheries Induced Evolution (FIE) in heavily fished bass lakes.

Goal 1.6 Determine extent and reason(s) for decline/disappearance of Smallmouth Bass in certain Connecticut lakes and rivers.

Goal 1.7 Enhance existing access for bass fishing in public waters in Connecticut.

Goal 1.8 Increase number of Smallmouth Bass > 12 inches in Connecticut rivers/streams.

### ***CREATE NEW FISHING OPPORTUNITIES***

Goal 2.1 Pursue fishing access in select drinking water supply reservoirs currently closed to fishing.

Goal 2.2 Allow certain tournament exemptions to statewide bass regulations, including on Bass Management Lakes.

### ***MONITOR BASS FISHERIES AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT***

Goal 3.1 Monitor BMLs and other important bass fisheries (e.g., Lake Candlewood, Connecticut River).

Goal 3.2 Protect habitat in all BMLs and other important bass fisheries

Goal 3.3 Protect Largemouth Bass in Connecticut's public waters.

Goal 3.4 Determine if artificial habitat structures are effective in providing habitat for bass and other resident fish species in the Housatonic River impoundments.

### ***PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT***

Goal 4.1 Increase the relevancy of bass and bass fishing to both users and non-resource users in Connecticut.

**Access the full plan  
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phone camera here**

