

A SPECIES AT RISK

Numbers of Guadalupe bass have declined dramatically in recent years. This is partly due to changes in habitat. After eons of adapting to its stream environment, our state fish is at a disadvantage in modern-day reservoirs and in streams with diminished flow. However, the greatest threat to its continued existence is hybridization with the introduced smallmouth bass.

In 1974, TPWD began stocking smallmouth bass in the Edwards Plateau region with the goal of improving fishing in Central Texas streams and reservoirs. This stocking program had an unforeseen result: the two species crossed, producing hybrids that threatened to displace native populations. Through the Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative, TPWD is working with partners to recover populations that have been diminished or lost, and to protect and conserve populations that are still intact. We are stocking pure Guadalupe bass to combat hybridization and implementing landscape-scale habitat improvements to benefit Guadalupe bass and other aquatic plants and animals that make the Hill Country their home.

Efforts are currently focused on the Llano, Pedernales, Guadalupe, and Blanco rivers. The long-term goal is to restore and protect the Guadalupe bass throughout its historic range.

FISHING TIPS AND REGULATIONS

The Guadalupe bass has long provided a popular sport fishery in the Texas Hill Country, particularly for those anglers who emphasize quality of the experience over quantity of the catch. The agile, fast-water Guadalupe bass provides hours of fun for people who enjoy fishing in one of the most beautiful parts of Texas.

As a protected game fish, the Guadalupe bass can be caught only with pole and line. Many anglers practice catch-and-release, but limited harvest is allowed. The daily bag limit for Guadalupe bass is the same as for the other black basses (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted) at five fish per day, but there is no minimum length limit for Guadalupe bass.

Special regulations apply at Lost Maples State Natural Area, where all black basses are catch-and-release only.



Life's better outside.®

4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744
(800) 792-1112
www.tpwd.texas.gov

© 2015 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department PWD BR T3200-191 (6/15)
In accordance with Texas Depository Law, this publication is available at the Texas State Publications Clearinghouse and/or Texas Depository Libraries.



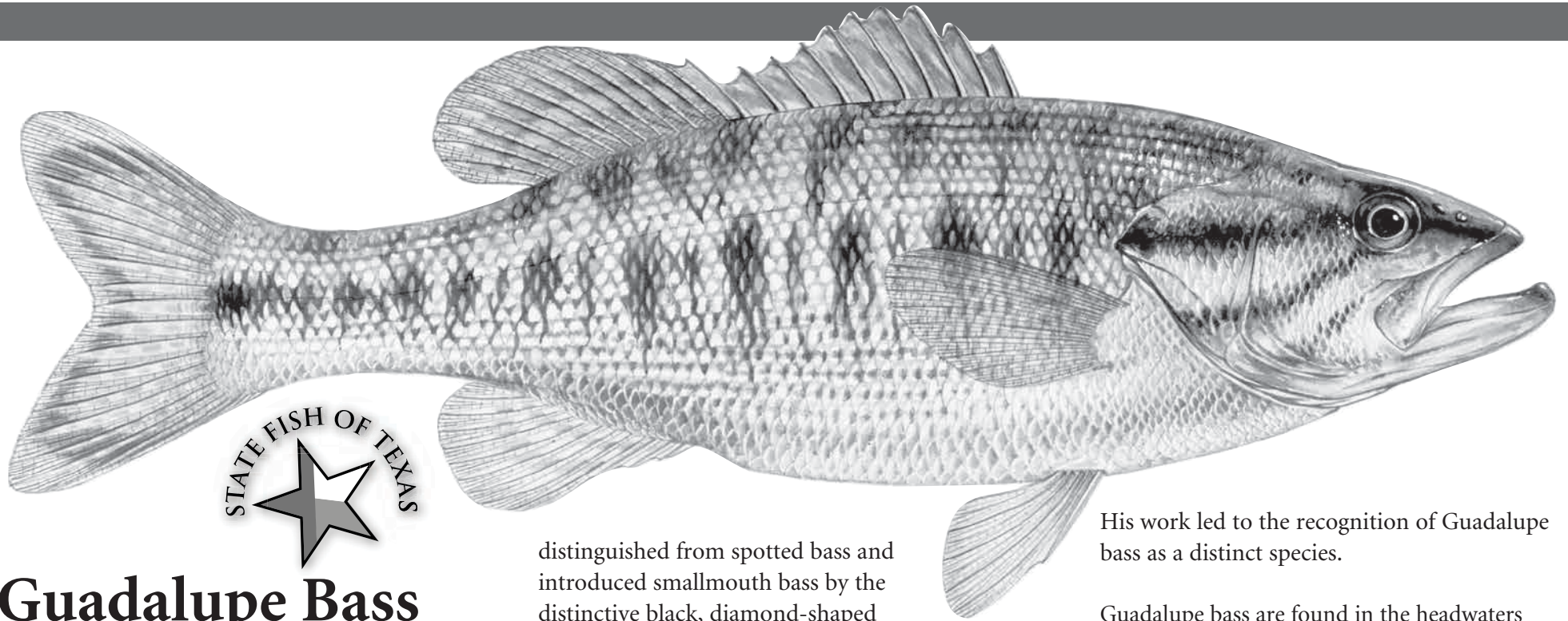
TPWD receives funds from the USFWS. TPWD prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, and gender, pursuant to state and federal law. To request an accommodation or obtain information in an alternative format, please contact TPWD on a Text Telephone (TDD) at (512) 389-8915 or by Relay Texas at 7-1-1 or (800) 735-2989. If you believe you have been discriminated against by TPWD, please contact TPWD or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Workforce Management, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041.

THE STATE FISH OF TEXAS

Guadalupe Bass



Life's better outside.®



Guadalupe Bass

By Gary P. Garrett, Ph.D.

The Guadalupe bass (*Micropterus treculii*) is the official State Fish of Texas. A Hill Country native, it lives only in streams of the Edwards Plateau region of Central Texas. Because it is specialized for living in streams, it doesn't grow to huge sizes: the state record is 3 pounds, 11 ounces. However, it is a popular sport fish for anglers who enjoy pursuing a lively fish in attractive, natural settings.

The Guadalupe bass is one of our native species of black bass, a close relative of the largemouth and spotted basses. It can be

distinguished from spotted bass and introduced smallmouth bass by the distinctive black, diamond-shaped pattern along its sides and the rows of spots that form stripes on its belly. It differs from largemouth bass in having a smaller mouth, with the jaw not extending beyond its eye, and also in its choice of habitat. Largemouth bass thrive in deep, still pools. Guadalupe bass are adapted to flowing streams. Like other black basses, the Guadalupe bass eats fish, crayfish and insect larvae. Males build nests for spawning in early spring.

This species was originally described in the 1870s as a race of largemouth bass. Much later, it was reclassified as a form of spotted bass. In the early 1950s, Dr. Clark Hubbs of the University of Texas found Guadalupe and spotted bass living together in several streams.

His work led to the recognition of Guadalupe bass as a distinct species.

Guadalupe bass are found in the headwaters of the San Antonio, Guadalupe and Colorado river systems, as well as some tributaries of the Brazos River. In 1973, before the natural range of Guadalupe bass was well understood, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) introduced them into the headwaters of the Nueces River.

Because the fish had become established in the Nueces River system, in 1988 TPWD developed a Guadalupe bass refuge in the Sabinal River at Lost Maples State Natural Area. This location offers habitat similar to the natural environment of the bass and provides security for protection of the species. Facilities were developed to allow the public to see the fish and learn about the benefits of the program.