



Protecting Our Bass Population | New bass nesting area signs

Responsible Angling During Spawning Season

The Wolfe Lake Association Westport has taken new steps to help protect our valuable bass population during the important spring spawning season. Following the lead of neighboring lakes, including Big Rideau Lake where 200 bass nesting area signs were recently printed, our association now has 100 Bass Sanctuary signs for Wolfe Lake residents available, preferably for paying members.

This week, the signs will be distributed to members whose lakefront supports nesting bass. The signs can be placed along the waterfront during peak bass spawning/nesting season, May through early July.



Catching nesting bass is proven harmful to bass populations

Research has shown that pre-season angling of nesting black bass can seriously impact fish populations by causing:

- Reduced spawning success
- Smaller adult bass populations
- Long-term changes in bass behavior
- Lower catch rates for anglers in future years

Although bass season is closed in spring, anglers targeting other species can still unintentionally catch nesting bass. Studies on nearby lakes have shown that male bass guarding nests may be caught multiple times during a single spawning season. This creates major problems because male bass play a critical role protecting eggs and newly hatched fry.

Bass Nest Area
PLEASE **No Fishing**
UNTIL BASS SEASON OPENS
Result: More and Bigger Fish
wolfelake.org/
fishing-news

Why Nesting Bass Need Protection

During spring spawning, male bass build and guard nests in shallow water close to shore. If a nesting bass is caught and removed from its nest - even briefly - eggs and young fish are left vulnerable to predators. Repeated disturbance can cause the male bass to abandon the nest completely, resulting in the total loss of that brood.

Male bass are not feeding while nesting. They strike lures only to defend their territory.

Protecting nesting bass helps ensure healthy fisheries for future generations.

What Anglers Can Do

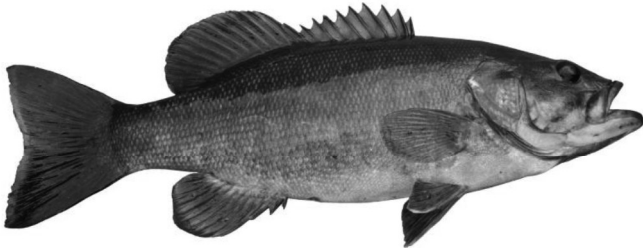
Please help protect Wolfe Lake's fishery by:

- Avoiding shallow spawning areas during spring
- Not targeting visible nesting bass
- Releasing accidental catches quickly and carefully
- Fishing deeper water instead
- Moving to a new area if you accidentally catch a bass.

Be a Good Sport

Bass nests are typically found close to shore in shallow water during May and June. Residents and visitors are encouraged to avoid disturbing shoreline habitat with:

- Power watercraft
- Excessive wake
- Swimming near nesting areas
- Shoreline fishing during spawning periods



2026 Fishing Regulations | FMZ 18

Please remember that Wolfe Lake falls within Fishing Management Zone 18.

KEEPING AN EYE ON THE BASS NESTING AREA SIGNS

Wolfe Lakers who are willing to place the poster board signs (including stands) near their waterfront during bass nesting season are kindly asked to keep an eye on them;

The boards will be removed after the bass nesting season, early July (2026). Season.

If anyone notices a floating sign in the lake (e.g. after a storm), please retrieve them promptly to help prevent any environmental impact.

More information on where to pick up your sign

WLAW members can pick up the signs from Bill and Donna at their home, at the Lions RNR on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

For more information, contact Bill and Donna Garland: donna.garland@gmail.com.

Anna Rijk
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