

Smallmouth Bass Game

Follow the journey of smallmouth bass in this game. You will need a game piece (a coin or small stone will do), and a die from another game. Just place your game piece at the starting line and roll the die!

Smallmouth bass are found all across Pennsylvania. But that wasn't always true. Before the mid-1800s, smallmouth bass were found only in the Great Lakes and in the **Ohio River Watershed**. The Ohio River Watershed includes all of the land, streams, and rivers that eventually flow into the Ohio River. How do you think smallmouth bass traveled over land and into the waterways near where you live?

Cars and buses weren't around. During this period our ancestors relied on one means of transportation—trains. Areas that were once separated by land were now connected by the railroads.

Anglers in the eastern part of the state learned of the smallmouth bass fishing in the Potomac River. The ancestors of these fish were stocked using fish taken from the Ohio River. Smallmouth bass were placed in metal milk jugs and loaded on trains headed east. The first stocking occurred in the Lehigh River at Easton around 1862.



Moving trout for stocking from the hatch house, Pleasant Gap state fish hatchery, around 1920.



June 1892, railroad tracks adjacent to Walnut and 6th Streets, Harrisburg. Person in photo is probably William E. Meehan, who later became President of the Fish Commission.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Bureau of Fisheries train car #3.

