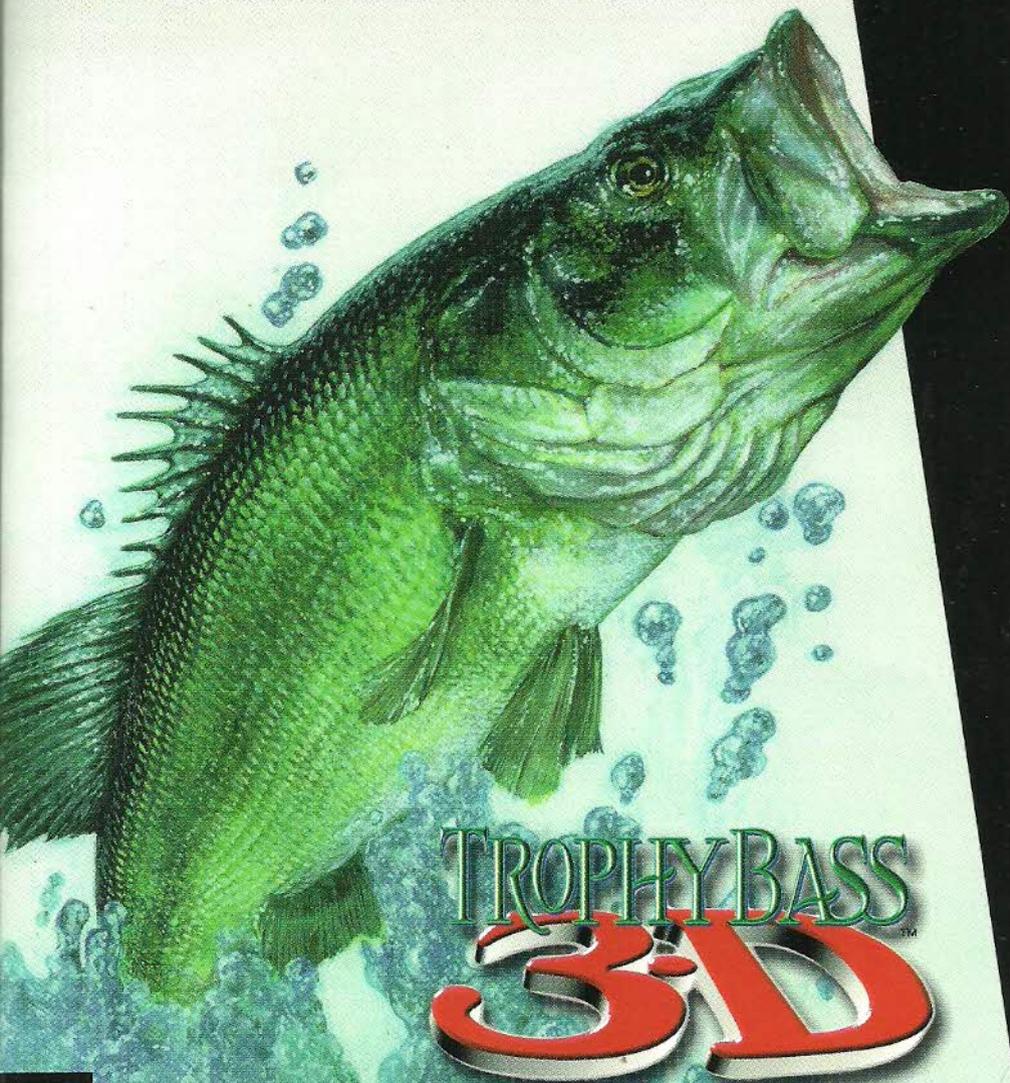


FIELD & STREAM

SIERRA
SPORTS

GUIDE & LOG BOOK

THE ULTIMATE BASS FISHING GUIDE BY KEN SCHULTZ



TROPHY BASS
3D

NOTE: THIS LOG BOOK IS NOT THE GAME MANUAL.
SEE THE CD-CASE BOOKLET AND ONLINE HELP FOR GAMEPLAY INSTRUCTIONS

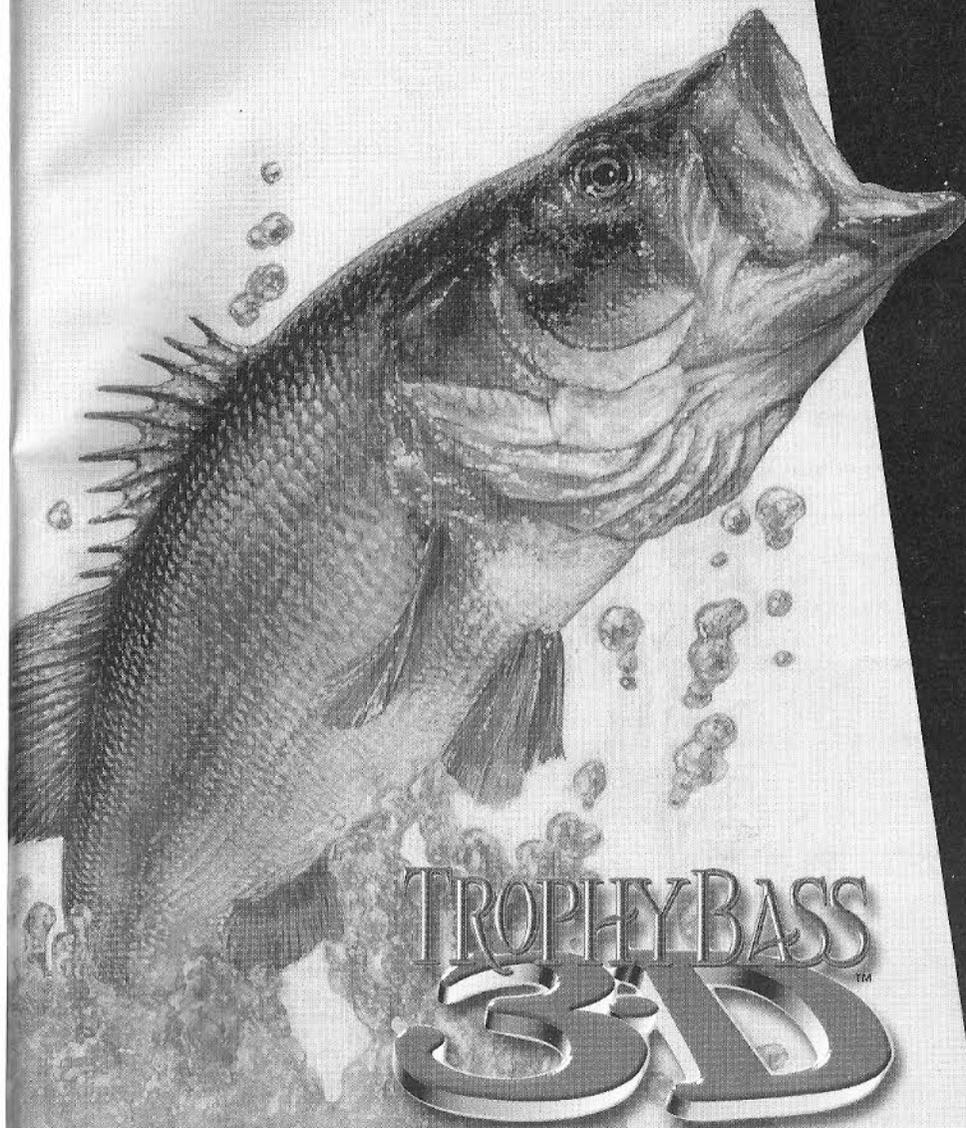


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.....THE AUTHOR.....

Ken Schultz has been a staff fishing writer for FIELD & STREAM for more than two decades, and is the author of a dozen books. His 1996 book, *Successful Bass Fishing*, was recently called one of the Top 25 Fishing Books in print by FIELD & STREAM. His monumental book about all aspects of sportfishing and all species of gamefish, *The Macmillan Fishing Encyclopedia & Worldwide Angling Guide*, will be published in September 1999; it will contain over 2,000 entries, have more than 1,500 illustrations, and be over 1,700 pages long.

.....INTRODUCTION.....

One of the reasons why bass are America's favorite gamefish is that angling for them encompasses so many different elements. Very diverse waters, a host of specific habitats, a wide range of lures, varied techniques, and different seasons all contribute to the challenge of finding and catching bass. The following information focuses on the major issues of these varied elements of bass fishing to give you a solid foundation for catching bass in real or virtual waters.

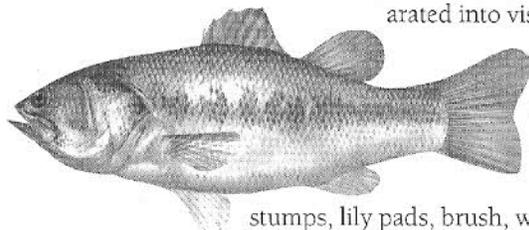
.....HOME & FOOD.....

HABITAT

Bass reside in a variety of places in any body of water. A bass may pick a particular site because it offers comforting shade, an ambush point, or protection from predators. Most bass orient to cover, and usually to cover near the bottom. Most of their preferred food is found in or near cover of some form.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

Largemouth bass are found in all imaginable situations. Call these factors cover, objects, or structure, bass seek them out, and they can roughly be separated into visible (that which can be seen in relatively shallow water) and non-visible (existing entirely below the surface and usually in moderate depth or very deep water).

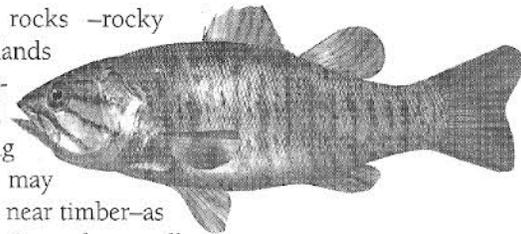


Visible cover includes logs, stumps, lily pads, brush, weed and grass beds, bushes, docks, fence rows, standing timber, bridge pilings, rocky shores,

boulders, and points. Nonvisible, or submerged, cover includes weedline edges, stone walls, timber and stumps, creek beds, house foundations, roadbeds, points, ledge-like dropoffs, humps, shoals, and islands.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Smallmouth bass prefer rocks—rocky points, cliff-like shores, rocky islands and reefs, and rip-rap. They prefer golf ball- to brick-sized rocks, but larger rocks, including boulders, are also suitable. You may find them on weedbed edges, or near timber—as long as there are rocks nearby. In rocks, smallmouth can find the crayfish that are their predominant food. Certainly smallmouths eat whatever is most abundant in their environment, and they'll readily consume small fish when they are plentiful or when the proper opportunity presents itself. But crayfish are their staple.



WATER COLOR/CLARITY

The turbidity of bass waters varies markedly from one lake to another through the course of the fishing season. Many larger lakes and reservoirs in northern areas are reasonably clear. Light penetrates deep there, and bass are either well secured in what thick cover might exist or are more likely deep enough to avoid the discomfort of light. Here, bass tend to be spooky, and a refined fishing presentation, utilizing small- to moderate-size lures and light line, is very beneficial.

Other waters may be blue-green colored and allow visibility for 3 to 6 feet below the water's surface. Such a condition is considered very clear by many southern anglers, who never see the ultra-clear waters of mountain-region lakes.

Many bass waters allow only limited visibility. This doesn't require a stealthy approach or light line use as clearer waters do. Muddy, milky, slate-gray, and tea-colored water is common in many reservoirs after heavy rains; farmland runoff, sediment from tributaries, and bank erosion cause this condition. In some large waters the upper ends are only affected like this while the lower ends remain relatively unchanged, or at least unaffected for several days. In still other bass waters, the high tannic acid content gives the lake a blackish-brown tint.

In waters where visibility is limited, bass are likely to be relatively shallow and holding tight to cover, especially in the early part of the season and when

