Black Bass.

Black bass are lively, muscular, voracious, bite very well, and afford excellent sport. When freshly caught they smell of musk. They are a great table delicacy. Their range is from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian lakes. They are a fresh water fish, weighing 4 to 5 pounds, and occasionally as much as 8 pounds in the north and 12 to 14 pounds in the higher temperature of the south. They live on very small animals, fish eggs, insects, crawfish, frogs, mussels, etc. At two years of age they weigh one pound, and generally increase thereafter at the rate of one pound per annum. They spawn on rocky ledges, on gravel or sandy bottoms, and deposit their eggs in a nest scooped out of the sand. Their spawning time is March in the south; middle of May to the middle of July in the north. The eggs adhere to surrounding objects and are hatched in one to two weeks; the young fish remaining in the nest from 2 to 7 days; and both eggs and young fish are carefully guarded by the parents. During the cold season Black bass become lethargic, cease to eat, and dig themselves holes in the mud, or retire to fissues in the rocks, or seek deep waters under moss and aquatic plants, where they sleep until the next spring.