

ROCK BASS, LETTER TO MIDWEST OUTDOORS, 2014



12 inch Rock Bass, Crystal Lake, Benzie County

Dear Midwest Outdoors,

I really enjoyed the article on Rock Bass written by John Bennett in the September 2014 issue of Midwest Outdoors. He gives credit to a species of fish often neglected, but fun to catch and good to eat. In the article he mentioned that an 8 inch fish is a pretty good size, but that they have good sized mouths and attack artificial lures aggressively. Recently I fished a week on Crystal Lake near Traverse City, Michigan. It is a deep (180 feet) and clear (lure visibility in 30 feet) with few weeds, making fishing tough. If your readers are looking for big Rock Bass, this might be the lake. My son-in-law and I caught around 300 rock bass during the week and few of them were under 8 inches. I believe that the major fish species in this lake is Rock Bass because we caught so many. Most were caught trolling artificial lures in 24 to 40 feet of water. Other fish caught at these depths were a few perch and Smallmouth Bass and one pike. The smallmouth were beauties, but not numerous. Mr. Bennett was correct that Rock Bass aggressively attack artificial lures, since the majority of them were caught on #100, #700, and #800 Spoonplugs, even though we were using 3-way rigs with smaller lures. The largest Rock Bass caught was a hefty 13 inch fish that I thought was a smallmouth when first hooked

because it fought so well. I believe this lake could hold some record fish because of its' depth and large size. Attached are pictures of a 12 inch Rock Bass and a couple of nice smallmouth caught by my son-in-law.

Sincerely,

Chase Klinesteker, Certified Spoonplugging Instructor



2 nice Smallmouth Bass, Crystal Lake, Benzie Countie