



Photo by John N. Felsher

Wayne Miller shows off a largemouth bass (left) and a Kentucky spotted bass (right) that he caught while fishing the Mobile-Tensaw Delta wetland system near Mobile.

‘OTHER’ BASS getting in on the action

Spotted bass are often exciting fighters

BY JOHN N. FELSHER

Ferocious, hard-fighting and aggressive predators, spotted bass populate most Alabama waters, but often go almost overlooked by many anglers who usually catch them by accident while targeting largemouth bass.

“Quite often, I’ll catch largemouths and spots when fishing the same points or ledges with the same bait,” explained Brooks Holland with Boogerman Guide Service (334-549-2126) in Prattville. “A few years ago, I caught a 6.5- and a 6.75-pound spotted bass in the Jones Bluff area of the Alabama River in 10 casts.”

Sometimes called Kentucky spotted bass, these fish with a greenish-white coloration look very similar to largemouth, but with slightly smaller mouths and more black splotches along their lateral

lines. The defining feature, a rough “tooth patch” on its tongue distinguishes this species. Phillip C. Terry set the Alabama spot record with an 8-pound, 15-ounce spot he pulled out of Lake Lewis Smith near Cullman. Once considered a subspecies, but now reclassified as an entirely separate species, an Alabama bass looks almost identical to a spot, but grows a bit larger.

“Spotted bass are found all throughout Alabama,” advised Michael P. Holley, a fisheries biologist for the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries in Eastaboga. “We now recognize the spotted bass as the Alabama bass in the Mobile drainage lakes and rivers. Pound for pound, in my opinion, Alabama bass fight harder than any other species of

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