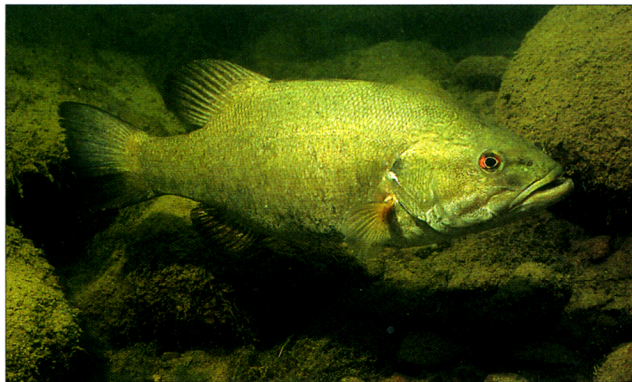


Biologists Track Mobile Smallmouths

KITCHENER, ONTARIO—Recent Canadian research shows smallmouth bass, at least northern smallmouths, are more mobile than anglers or fishery biologists ever imagined.

Christopher Bunt, a research scientist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, has been tracking smallmouth movements in an Ontario river system since 1995. Using radio transmitters on some fish, fin tags on others, Bunt followed the bass, which were released at three separate sites to ensure the fish were distributed evenly.

Remarkably, 20 percent of the displaced fish moved back to their original capture sites, some covering distances of over 16 miles. Bunt also recorded seasonal movements to and from overwintering areas that covered distances up to 50 miles. However, he does note this migration is temperature oriented, and suggests smallmouths likely move much less in southern climes.—Jon Storm



Biologists recently discovered that northern smallmouths are far more mobile than many anglers believe, especially during seasonal migrations.