

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill	Red Bill # HB 07						
	Referred to Committee: House 2						
Authors: Eashwar Soma, Jordan Meddings	Action on the Bill <table> <tr> <td>House</td> <td>Senate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	House	Senate	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
House		Senate					
___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed		___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed					
___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated						
School: Belfry High School							
City: Belfry							

1 An act to sustain the Strongest Specimens of Largemouth Bass in the Commonwealth of Kentucky

2
3 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

4
5 Section 1: In the Commonwealth, fishing is deeply rooted in our state culture. To preserve fishing, this state
6 has developed many fishing regulations. Currently, many fish, including Largemouth Bass, have minimum
7 catch size limits under the logic that by preserving the smaller specimens the young may grow, develop, and
8 reproduce. While this concept has good intentions, this policy is flawed because the larger fish are removed
9 from the gene pool of a species resulting in the decrease of average size over time. Smaller fish tend to
10 produce fewer eggs with smaller nutritional content. This will result in the decline of the species over time if
11 nothing is done.

12
13 Section 2: The average number of 20" or larger bass caught per hour has decreased from six to one. The
14 average number of 12.0"-14.9" bass caught per hour has risen from twenty-five in 1993 to forty in 2010.
15 The smaller sizes of Largemouth Bass have actually increased, which will decrease the vitality of the species
16 in the future.

17
18 Section 3: Currently, the daily limit of bass is six with a minimum size limit of 12". To remedy the decrease of
19 larger fish, the daily limit will change to three Largemouth Bass with a range of 8"-12" and two 12" and
20 above. Bass reach reproductive maturity at 8", so lowering the size limit to this number will not affect the
21 young. This proposal will increase the concentration of bigger Largemouth Bass thus ensuring the prosperity
22 of Largemouth Bass for future generations of Kentuckians. This law will take effect Jan. 1st, 2014.

23
24 Section 4: An ad campaign will bring awareness of this change with notifications and updates on preexisting
25 websites such as <http://fw.ky.gov/>. Fishing license distributors will also be responsible for informing this
26 change of regulations.

27
28 Section 5: This law shall be regulated and enforced as the current fishing regulation laws. This law will be
29 enforced with penalties and suspensions. Each offense is constituted by catching fish outside the prescribed
30 limits in Section III. If the person who commits an offense also was fishing without a license, the appropriate
31 penalty of the county of residence may be added to fines listed below.

32
33 1st offense: \$50 fine

34 2nd offense: \$150 fine

35 3rd offense: Suspension of fishing license for two years

36
37 Section 6: The researchers and ichthyologists under the Department of Fish and Wildlife will record the
38 average measures of Largemouth Bass from time to time over the next two years to observe the effects of
39 this law. This will not incur any costs as the Department of Fish and Wildlife measures these average lengths
40 of all Kentucky fish.