

In 2006, expanded stocking effort resulted in the release of thousands of pure strain Guadalupe Bass in the North and South forks of the river as well as the main stem of the upper Guadalupe River. UGRA and HCFF are assisting the program by applying for grants and seeking donations to offset the cost of the five year plan.

Funding must be available not only for raising and stocking the Guadalupe Bass, but also for sampling and genetic testing. TPWD will breed, raise, and stock the necessary fingerlings. They will also assess the effectiveness of the stocking program by sampling the bass population in the streams and conducting genetic testing to determine the presence of hybrid bass.

This project will assure the Guadalupe Bass's survival in the Guadalupe River and will raise the public's awareness of the unique value of the Guadalupe River to Kerr County.



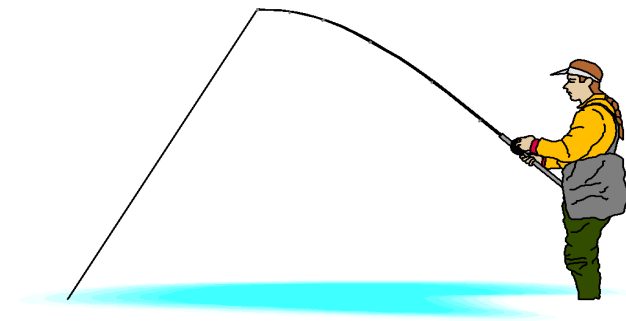
Guadalupe Bass

You can help!

The community and surrounding businesses can take part in the Restoration Project through cash donations, which will help raise Guadalupe Bass fingerlings and stock them in our Hill Country rivers. We would like the public to be a part of saving our Texas State Fish.

If you can make a monetary contribution to help solidify the future of our State Fish, please make checks payable to "Texas Parks and Wildlife Department" and mail to TPWD; HOH Fisheries Science Center; 5103 Junction Highway; Mountain Home, TX 78058.

Please feel free to call Tara Bushnoe at UGRA (830) 896-5445 if you would like more information. Thank you for your support.



GUADALUPE BASS RESTORATION



**Working together to
save our Texas State
Fish and restore a
viable population to
the pristine
Guadalupe River in
Kerr County**

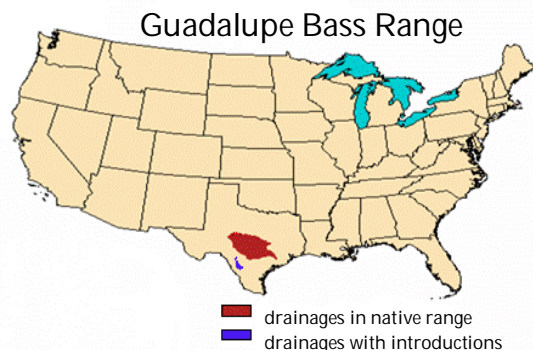


What are Guadalupe Bass?

The Guadalupe Bass (*Micropterus treculii*) is found only in Texas where it was named the State Fish in 1989 because of its distinctive nature. It is native to Central Texas streams draining the Edwards Plateau region. Specifically, it lives in streams of the San Antonio, Guadalupe, Colorado and Brazos river systems. Guadalupe Bass have also been transplanted into headwaters of the Nueces River and a sanctuary population was established in the Sabinal River.

Guadalupe Bass have adapted to small streams where they use large rocks, cypress roots, and stumps to their advantage for cover. They are uniquely designed to flourish in flowing waters measuring 6 to 30 feet in width.

This particular bass has become popular among anglers due to the beautiful surroundings of its natural habitat in small streams. It is recognized as a challenging sport fish because of its ability to use fast moving water to its advantage when taken on light tackle.



Why are Guadalupe Bass so vulnerable?

The greatest threat to Guadalupe Bass is the hybridization with Smallmouth Bass. A Smallmouth Bass stocking program was begun in 1974 in the Edwards Plateau region in an effort to increase angler harvest in Central Texas. As a result of the stocking program, hybridization between the native Guadalupe Bass and the non-native Smallmouth Bass has occurred.

Smallmouth Bass are similar in life history to Guadalupe Bass and the two species lack sufficient reproductive isolating mechanisms. Due to this interbreeding, there are few pure Guadalupe Bass populations left.



Smallmouth Bass

Why are Guadalupe Bass Important?

Guadalupe Bass are found nowhere else in the world but the Texas Hill Country. They exemplify the qualities and natural resources of the Hill Country.

Guadalupe Bass are truly a top-tier indicator of environmental quality, meaning that a healthy and thriving population shows that the river and its tributaries are of excellent quality.

The abundance of the native Guadalupe Bass confirms the purity of the state's freshwater streams. However, recently, the State Fish has taken a turn towards extinction and is in need of saving. Though its future is unresolved, our actions will positively affect its existence.

The Restoration Project

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA), and the Hill Country Fly Fishers (HCFF) have teamed together to raise funding to stock Guadalupe Bass in the Guadalupe River in Kerr County.

The Restoration Project is a 5 year plan to stock up to 225,000 pure-strain Guadalupe Bass fingerlings per year. The goal of this project is to restore the Guadalupe Bass populations in the upper Guadalupe River. TPWD has undertaken remedial stocking in genetically contaminated areas in an effort to reduce or replace the hybrid populations.



Guadalupe Bass