

State biologists tout Thoroughbred Bass breakthrough

BY THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources researchers believe the genetic keys have been found to unlock the potential for bigger largemouth bass, the most popular species sought by anglers.

Biologists with the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Division, collaborating with the Center for Aquaculture Technologies, identified specific genetic markers associated with enhanced size in native largemouth bass.

The discovery was made through the Fisheries Division's Thoroughbred Bass Program, which has a research goal of selectively breeding Kentucky-origin bass that carry these markers in order to stock public waters with fish that have a higher probability of reaching trophy size.

Adam Martin, Fisheries Division biologist with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, said the discovery marks a major advancement in fisheries science and management.

"Modern genetic tools are opening up a whole new world of potential that biologists even 10 years ago could only dream about," he said in a news release summarizing

the findings. "To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time such markers have been identified in largemouth bass."

In a process known as a Genome Wide Association Study, researchers used whole-genome sequencing to identify a single genetic markers linked to large size potential.

Fisheries biologists clipped fins from 300 largemouth bass statewide to use for genetic testing. The sampled fish included 150 bass weighing more than 5 pounds from 30 different lakes and 150 slow-growing bass under 3.5 pounds from the same lakes. All samples were confirmed as pure largemouth bass before undergoing full genome sequencing. Researchers then analyzed more than 3 million markers per fish to identify genetic markers common in trophy fish but rare in the smaller ones.

Department staff can screen potential largemouth bass broodfish for genetic purity and use fish with the

best complement of trophy genetics. Then, they will selectively breed fish in state hatcheries to maximize the size potential of the offspring. As selectively bred fish reproduce with wild bass in stocked waters, the biologists say the desirable growth genetics can integrate into wild populations over time, creating sustained, generational improvement.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife plans to stock public waters with fish having greater

trophy-size potential under the name of "Thoroughbred Bass."

"This process is very similar to the traditional selective breeding programs used in agriculture for millennia," said Jeff Ross, Fisheries Division assistant director. "The only difference is that we are using genetic markers to pick which fish to breed. Most importantly, we can use bass caught right here in Kentucky - which preserves local adaptation and

genetic integrity."

"The Thoroughbred Bass Program represents a science-driven, sustainable investment in Kentucky's bass fisheries," Fisheries Division Director Dave Dreves said. "By

combining advanced genetics with traditional hatchery practices, we are working to ensure that future generations of anglers have the opportunity to continue to catch exceptional bass in Kentucky waters."

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Hardin County Planning and Development Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 31 March 2026, in the Hardin County Government Building, 150 N. Provident Way, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. Consideration will be given on a request to change the zoning map from the C-1 Convenience Commercial Zone to the R-1 Urban Residential Zone for a +/- 0.12 acre site located at the corner of Robinson Street and Federal Street in Cecilia, KY.

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Notice

The City of Elizabethtown will hold a public hearing to receive citizens' comments on the City's 2026-27 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan which will include proposed activities and expected benefits of the annual CDBG funding allocation of approximately \$200,000. Public comments on the drafted 2026-27 Action Plan are welcomed and encouraged. The drafted Action Plan will also be available for review at www.elizabethtownky.org. A thirty-day comment period will be open from April 1-April 30, 2026. All public comments are to be submitted electronically during the open comment period to: melissa.harrell-nepi@elizabethtownky.gov.

Additionally, the City will propose a substantial amendment to the 2022, 2023, 2024 CDBG program years to reallocate remaining grant funds and shift those to the current public improvement project, West Railroad Improvements.

The public hearing will be held on April 1st @ 5 PM at City of Elizabethtown Council Chambers, 212 West Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, KY. The building is accessible for individuals with disabilities as well. If an interpreter and/or other accommodations are needed, please submit a request to: melissa.harrell-nepi@elizabethtownky.gov.

LEGAL NOTICE

Hardin County Truck and Trailer located at 102 Magnet Drive in Elizabethtown, phone 270-765-5707 is notifying the following owners of notice to sell the following vehicles titled in their names on or after April 30, 2026, for payment of towing bill.

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- Lily Gibson, 2018 Nissan Versa, VIN: 3N1CN7AP9JL801861, Plate: E032564 TEMP TAG
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