

OLD BRONZEBACK

Good day everyone...it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.

Is this the day you feel like fighting? Then how about tackling what Dr. James Hensall, a pioneer fishing expert, once called "pound for pound, the toughest fighting fish of them all". That's a small-mouth bass, my friend, and he's not hard to find for a fight in Pennsylvania. There's bass stream or lake with easy driving distance of your home. Up northwest, you could try Presque Isle Bay, Conneaut, Canadohta, the Allegheny, Kinzua or Tionesta Reservoirs. Northcentral has such bass hotspots as Hills Creek Lake in Tioga, the north branch of the Susquehanna, Pine Creek and Kettle Creek. Southwest gives you all kinds of lakes and loads of bass. Southcentral, too, with the Raystown Branch, the Juniata, Sherman's Creek or Possum Lake near Carlisle. Over east, try the Delaware, Lake Wallenpaupack or good lakes and streams in the Pocono, Pinchot State Park, Brandywine Creek and others. Bass fishermen have their own ideas and trade secrets on success. First, of course, you've got to know where in those streams and lakes, "Old Bronzeback" is most likely to be found. Most of the time in rivers and streams they will be resting in pools waiting for the food to come down the riffles. When they're on the prowl at eating time, watch for action along the shoreline shallows, in the riffles or around the islands. In big waters of lakes and reservoirs, bass are most likely to be found over gravel bars or around rocky ledges. Best time to go fishing for bass? To begin with, when you have time, but most bass are caught between mid-

June and mid-July, then again the the fall--September through October--when they are feeding heavily for the winter slow-down. When you pull one out this year--(a great year for bass-fishing) wish bronzeback a happy birthday--the Fish Commission and the small mouth bass are celebrating their centennial. I don't mean that they're 100 years old. Nope! They're celebrating the fact that 100 years ago, there weren't any small mouth bass at all east of the Alleghenys. In 1870 a couple of sportsmen from Philadelphia and Boston decided to correct the mistake of Mother Nature. They got some small mouths from the Potomac River at Harper's Ferry, put them in milk cans and hauled them back to Pennsylvania. They released the bass in the Delaware at Easton. And for the past century fisherman have been having a ball battling this great American game fish all over Pennsylvania. So head for the Pennsylvania fishing waters! "Old Bronzeback" is waiting for you--you might not find the biggest--the record is 6 pounds, 2 ounces and 24 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches long--but you will have a real fighting fish to contend with. Nothing relaxes like a fight with old bronzeback bass. It's fun for everyone in Pennsylvania.

This is Pete Wambach. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.