

# San Gabriel River Guadalupe Bass Prize Giveaway

## Celebrating a Conservation Milestone for the State Fish of Texas

In 2010, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and partners established an ambitious 10-year conservation goal to restore and conserve 10 self-sustaining populations of the official state fish, Guadalupe bass, in creeks and rivers of central Texas. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of a passionate and committed network of public and private partners, that goal was realized in 2019. To celebrate, the San Gabriel Fly Fishers is co-sponsoring a prize giveaway program to reward anglers for catching the state fish.



Beginning March 21, 2019 and continuing until March 31, 2020, any angler who catches one of 40 tagged Guadalupe bass from the San Gabriel River or its tributaries will be entered into a monthly prize drawing. Each monthly winner will be given their choice of one item from an assortment of fly fishing gear and gift cards provided by San Gabriel Fly Fishers, Texas Council of Fly Fishers International, Bass Pro Shops, and Living Waters Fly Fishing.

### Contest Information:

- Eligible Guadalupe bass will be tagged with visual Floy anchor tags (see below photo) that reads “Reward – Clip tag and call TPWD 512-754-6844.” Each Guadalupe bass will have a unique ID number.
- Tagged Guadalupe bass are being stocked by TPWD in the San Gabriel River at multiple locations from the City of Leander, through the City of Georgetown, and downstream to the community of Jonah.
- Anglers who catch an eligible Guadalupe bass should:
  - 1) Clip the tag from the fish and take a photo of the tag legible enough for the tag number to be read. NOTE: DO NOT pull out the tag.
  - 2) Take photos with the fish, preferably with the segment of river and habitat where the fish was caught in the background of the photo.
  - 3) Call the number on the tag to report the tagged fish and to be entered into the monthly prize drawing. Anglers should be prepared to provide the tag number and describe the segment of river where the fish was caught. Anglers who catch and report a tagged Guadalupe bass will remain entered in the monthly prize drawings until they are successfully drawn or the prize giveaway program concludes.
- Available prizes include fly rods, fly fishing packs, fly fishing vests, landing nets, fly fishing toolkits, fly assortments, and \$50 gift cards to Bass Pro Shops.



**Photo:** Tagged Guadalupe Bass caught by Russell Husted (Fort Worth Fly Fishers) during the 2017-2018 Guadalupe Bass prize giveaway on the South Llano River.

#### **Guadalupe Bass in the San Gabriel River:**

In addition to celebrating this remarkable conservation milestone for Guadalupe bass, the prize giveaway aims to raise awareness of the unique and high-quality fisheries for Guadalupe bass and other stream-dwelling fishes in central Texas. The San Gabriel River is a prime example of the tremendous stream fishing opportunities available in central Texas within or just a short drive from major urban centers. The San Gabriel River is home to 57 species of native freshwater fishes, and provides quality fly fishing opportunities for Guadalupe bass, spotted bass, largemouth bass, Rio Grande cichlid, and various species of sunfish and catfish. The San Gabriel River represents a unique transition zone at the intersection of the Edwards Plateau and Blackland Prairies ecoregions, each of which provides distinct stream habitats that support a unique set of fishes. The Edwards Plateau ecoregion offers the spring-fed, clear, rocky streams home to our state fish, Guadalupe bass, whereas stream reaches in the Blackland Prairies ecoregion (and eastward into the Post Oak Savannah and East Texas Pineywoods ecoregions) offer habitats more conducive to spotted bass. As a river that flows through these distinct ecoregions, the San Gabriel River uniquely supports both Guadalupe bass and spotted bass and is a

natural mixing zone. The physical characters of the two species are nearly identical, so genetic testing is the only method currently available to confirm whether a fish caught from the San Gabriel River is a native Guadalupe bass, a native spotted bass, or a hybrid black bass. Regardless of the identity, these fish offer high-quality fly-fishing opportunities and should be managed and conserved for future generations.

**Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative:**

TPWD is currently collaborating with an extensive network of conservation partners to preserve intact populations of Guadalupe bass in Brushy and Gorman creeks and the Pedernales and lower Colorado rivers. Guadalupe Bass were also recently restored to the South Llano River, Blanco River, and Mission Reach of the San Antonio River. Efforts to restore Guadalupe bass to the namesake Guadalupe River are ongoing, along with efforts to assess the status of Guadalupe bass in the San Gabriel River. Future directions include assessing the status of native Guadalupe bass populations in Cibolo Creek and the upper San Antonio and Medina rivers and assessing the status of refuge populations of Guadalupe bass in the Nueces, Frio, and Sabinal rivers. To learn more about efforts to conserve Guadalupe bass, please review TPWD's [2018 Annual Report for the Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative](#).