



DESCRIPTION – Tamiami Canal (C-4) is in Miami-Dade County. It drains eastward from Water Conservation Area 3 past Miami International Airport to a non-navigable salinity control structure that prevents saltwater intrusion from the Atlantic Ocean. Tamiami Canal provides excellent freshwater fishing in more than 27 miles of boat accessible canals and small lakes. The canal ranges from 40 to 100+ feet in width, averages about eight feet deep, and some lakes are over 50 feet deep.

GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION – Tamiami Canal offers some of the most exciting and varied canal fishing in all of southeast Florida. Several anglers have reported canal ‘trifecta’ or ‘grand slam’ catches of **Butterfly Peacock Bass** and **Largemouth Bass** topped-off with a snook or even a tarpon. The Butterfly Peacock Bass is a world-renowned gamefish that was successfully introduced in the mid-1980s by FWC to eat undesirable exotic fishes, and to provide more sportfishing for anglers in the metropolitan Miami-Ft. Lauderdale area.

Tamiami Canal supports excellent populations of Butterfly Peacock Bass and Largemouth Bass. Fishing for Butterfly Peacock Bass is usually best from March through May, but they are caught consistently

throughout the year. Butterfly Peacock Bass feed only during daylight and normally close to shore, although schooling peacocks will sometimes feed aggressively in open water. Largemouth Bass fishing tends to be best during the winter when the water cools, and early in the morning, evenings, and even at night during the summer. Fallen trees, canal intersections, sharp bends, and dead ends are generally productive areas for catching most species of fish.

Butterfly Peacock Bass are best targeted with live bait such as small Golden Shiners purchased at local tackle shops. They are the best overall bait for both Butterfly Peacock Bass and Largemouth Bass. For those who enjoy fishing with artificial lures, just about any fast-moving minnow imitating plug or fly can be used to entice a peacock.

The number and quality of panfish over six inches in Tamiami Canal is about average for area canals. Live worms and crickets are the choice baits for many panfish anglers, although fresh bread works well, is readily available, and costs less.

Shoreline anglers will need to do some exploring to find the best locations for shoreline fishing, and always be sure to park cars safely. Tamiami Canal anglers might also catch a **Jaguar Guapote** from Central America, **Oscar** from South America, or **Spotted Tilapia** from Africa. These exotic fishes are good to eat and have no bag limit.

BOAT RAMP & DIRECTIONS – The only public boat ramp is located in Antonio Maceo Park, 5135 N.W. 7th St, Miami, FL 33126. GPS Coordinates 25.7796, -80.2786. This park is open from dawn to dusk and there is a fee to launch boats on weekends and holidays. Note: manatees are quite common, so be careful boating and watch for posted regulations.

Southeast Florida Canals

Angler's Guide to Tamiami Canal (C-4) Miami-Dade County



South Region Freshwater Fisheries Office
8535 Northlake Blvd
West Palm Beach, FL 33412
(561) 625-5122

