

FISH! SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CANALS

ANGLER'S GUIDE TO

DIVERSION CANAL

C-24

ST. LUCIE COUNTY



MARCH 2018

Description- Diversion Canal, C-24, in St. Lucie County provides 21 miles of navigable freshwater flowing from the G-81 structure to the S-49 structure, see map on back. The width of the canal ranges from 85 to 195 feet. The western end of the canal has sloping sandy banks and a sandy bottom while the eastern end is sea-walled.

Due to the quiet setting, this canal typically contains more alligators than more urbanized canals to the south. Please remember, it is illegal to feed or harass alligators.

Boat Ramps- There are two boat ramps along this section of the C-24, see map:

- 1) Oak Hammock Park: 1982 SW Villanova Rd., Port Saint Lucie, FL 34953
 - City Park- amenities include restrooms, fishing piers, playground, walking trails
 - N27.27919, W80.40794
- 2) Canal Road south of Orange Ave./Highway 68 (approx. 9 miles west of I-95)
 - Stand-alone gravel ramp (no facilities)
 - N26.8164, W80.54661

More information can be found at:

MyFWC.com/boatramps

General Fishing Information- The Diversion Canal, C-24, provides fishing for many freshwater sportfish including Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish. Be sure to review the current freshwater fishing regulations on MyFWC.com/fishing.

Most species of sportfish congregate in areas that provide shelter such as areas with shoreline vegetation or fallen trees and shady areas near bridges, culverts, and docks.

Fishing for Largemouth Bass is typically better during the winter months when water temperatures are cooler. In summer months, fishing for bass is best early or late in the day. Suggested baits include plastic worms, crank baits, and spinner baits, as well as live bait such as shiners.

For Black Crappie anglers, fishing at night with small live minnows as bait is best for this species. Try slow trolling light-colored crappie jigs in the early morning or early evening to help locate these fish. Crappie tend to travel in schools, once you find one, there are often more crappie close by.

Anglers targeting panfish, such as Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Warmouth, and/or Mayan Cichlid, have a variety of productive live and artificial baits available to them. Any of several types of live worms are the most common live bait choice, and grass shrimp or crickets are very productive as well. Any of these fished close to cover on a small hook and just enough weight to cast, with or without a bobber is the standard approach. Small spinners, jigs, and crankbaits are popular choices for artificial lures.

Please be sure to secure your vehicle and keep valuables out of sight or take them with you when parking at boat ramps.

For more Florida fishing information, please visit Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Website:

MyFWC.com/fishing

More southeast Florida angler guides are available at www.bit.ly/AnglerGuide

DIVERSION (C-24) CANAL

