

(Maps Not to Scale)

-  Boat Ramp
-  Fishing Pier
-  Geoweb Fish Attractor
-  Campground



## Bass fisheries

■ **Largemouth bass** are the most sought after sportfish in the Osborne-Ida chain of lakes. An excellent fishery exists due to a large forage base and fast bass growth rate. These factors combine to contribute to a catch rate for bass in Lake Osborne almost three times higher than the statewide average. Largemouths are generally caught during early morning and late afternoon hours. Areas with aquatic vegetation such as hydrilla or other cover concentrate and hold bass. Plastic worms, floating-diving lures, spinnerbaits, and live shiners all work well to catch largemouths.

■ **Sunshine bass** are the hybrid cross of a white bass with a striped bass. Because hybrids are unable to reproduce, the **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)** stocks these hard hitting, good tasting fish in Osborne and Ida annually. Unlike largemouth bass, sunshines prefer deeper open water. Their main food source consists of threadfin and gizzard shad. Fishing is generally

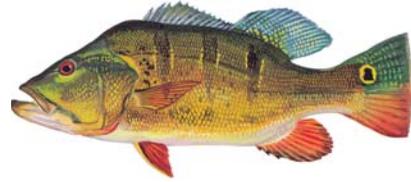


best from November to March. Live shad is the preferred bait but

sunshines can also be caught on chrome/black-backed crankbaits, jigs, and cut shrimp fished on the bottom. Places to try include deep open water, drop-offs, and around bridge pilings. A good spot for the latter is at the 6th Avenue bridge over Lake Osborne. This area bottlenecks fish as they swim between the northern deeper section of the lake and the larger, shallower southern section.

■ **Butterfly peacock**, also known as **peacock bass**, are an exotic species from South America. They were stocked in

Florida by FWC to control an illegally-introduced exotic, the **spotted tilapia**. These highly desirable gamefish are known for their swift strike and strong fight. Peacocks will fall to most minnow imitations, and they prefer a quick retrieve. Small jigs and various topwater lures are other favorites.



Live shiners are the best bait. Butterfly peacock are sensitive to low temperatures and the Osborne-Ida chain represents the northernmost limit of their range. They are subject to winter kills in this system and may not always be present, depending on the severity of the cold.

## Panfish

■ **Bluegill** and **redecor sunfish** are found near vegetation or structure. Live worms or crickets fished a few feet under a small bobber work well. Doughballs and small pieces of cut hot dog are also effective. Good lures include small jigs, beetle spins, and tiny spinners. Flyrod anglers can score with small popping bugs, wet flies, and nymphs.

■ **Mayan cichlid** are illegally-introduced exotics from Central America. These colorful fish will



take the same baits and lures as sunfish, although not as readily. They are hard fighters and provide good eating.

## Other species present

The Osborne-Ida chain of lakes is also home to many other highly edible and fun to catch species. These include:

**catfish** (channel, white, and brown and yellow bullheads), **black crappie** (specks), and **spotted tilapia**. All of these fish make excellent table fare.

## Fish attractors

There are 15 fish attractors dispersed throughout the Osborne-Ida chain of lakes. These sites were built by FWC and Palm Beach County's **Department of Environmental Resources Management** and were funded by Palm Beach County's freshwater vessel registration fees. The artificial reefs are constructed of man-made materials. Geowebb netting and PVC pipe are fastened together to form panels that sit on the bottom and stand upright in the water column. One to two dozen panels are grouped together to enhance the habitat of each site. The panels provide a surface for algae and other organisms to encrust on, furnishing both food and cover for small baitfish. This in turn attracts the larger predatory sportfish to the site such as bass and crappie. Artificial reefs are marked with PVC buoys.

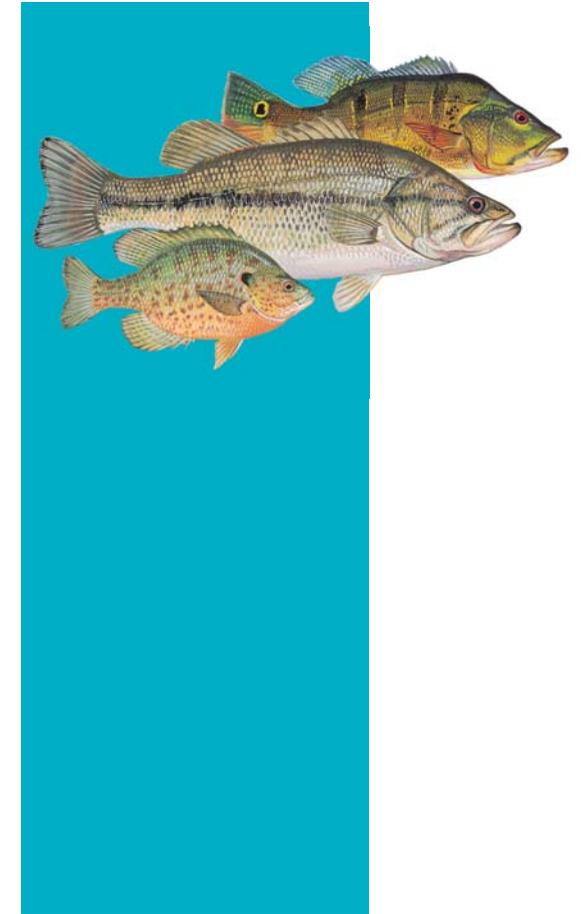
## Sportfish restoration

Your tax dollars are at work every day to improve the quality of fishing for everyone. Federal tax dollars collected from the sale of fishing equipment and accessories provide funding that supports access improvements, educational programs (including this brochure), aquatic habitat improvement, and fisheries research.



## Sportfishing opportunities in the

# Osborne-Ida Chain of Lakes



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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