

# Northeast Region

## Freshwater

# *Fishing Guide*

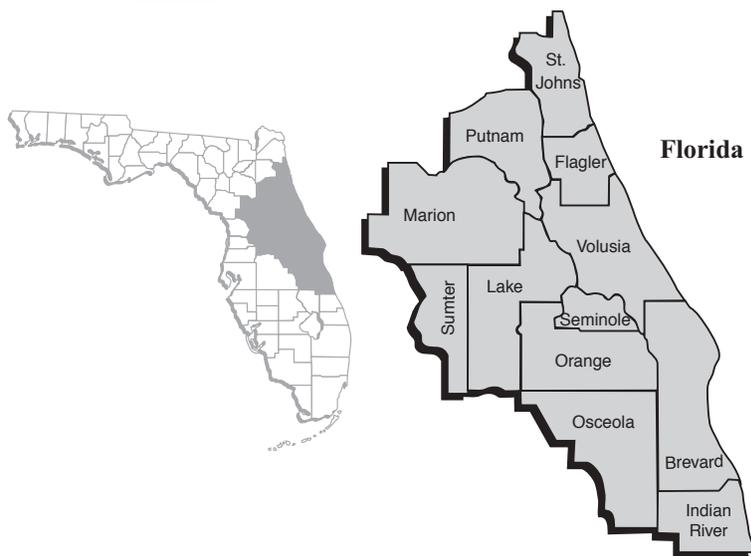


Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
[MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com)

# Northeast Region

## Freshwater

# Fishing Guide



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*High levels of mercury have been discovered in largemouth bass, bowfin and gar from certain water bodies in the Northeast Region. The Department of Health has issued advisories recommending limited consumption of these species from the affected waters. For specific information, consult the Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations Summary or call a Commission office.*

# Northeast Region

## POPULAR FISHING AREAS

Special regulations in effect for waterbodies below are in bold. Some Fish Management Areas (FMA) may have other special regulations. Regulations are subject to change. Consult a current *Florida Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations Summary* (also available at [MyFWC.com/fishing](http://MyFWC.com/fishing)) for up-to-date, statewide or regional daily bag and length limits.

### BREVARD COUNTY

**St. Johns River** – This unique Florida river flows 300 miles north from its origin near Lake Blue Cypress west of Vero Beach to the Atlantic Ocean beyond Jacksonville. Its flow is sluggish because waters at its source lie less than 20 feet above sea level, creating a gentle gradient throughout its run. The St. Johns is dependent upon rainfall for its flow, but is navigable nearly to its source, except in times of drought, when the upper section (south of Lake Harney) is almost dry. Near Jacksonville, the river is brackish and freshwater species are not available; however, saltwater fishing opportunities include croaker, trout, redfish, flounder and shrimp. The remainder of the river southward towards its headwaters offers most of Florida's freshwater sportfishes including largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, striped bass, channel catfish and the seasonally migratory American shad. (A recreational saltwater fishing license is required to harvest American shad and other saltwater species.) Brevard County access to the river is available at a number of lakes that exist in widened portions of the river. Brevard County access to the river is also available at or near lakes Poinsett, Sawgrass, Hellen Blazes, Washington and Winder, which are actually widened portions of the St. Johns. These areas are noted below.

**Lake Poinsett** – Generally considered one of the best largemouth bass fishing lakes in the St. Johns River south of Lake George, Poinsett is a large, shallow lake covering more than 5,000 acres. This lake has a diversity of fish habitat including bulrush, maid-

encane and numerous coves covered with lily pads. The lake produces good black crappie catches during the fall and winter months. These fish also will move upstream into the river and along inshore vegetation during the spawn. Fish for crappie with small lead head jigs ( $\frac{1}{32}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  ounce) rigged with pink or chartreuse soft plastic tails – tube-style or curly-tailed. Panfish (bluegill and redear sunfish) also are available in good numbers around shoreline vegetation during the warm months of the year. Fly-rodding with a surface popper is a popular way to catch bass, bluegill and redear sunfish. Anglers, especially those with small boats, should try exploring the river section downstream from the lake. Access the lake west of Cocoa, where SR 520 crosses the St. Johns River, just downstream from Lake Poinsett.

**Lake Sawgrass and Lake Hellen Blazes** – Lakes Sawgrass (407 acres) and Hellen Blazes (381 acres) are two of the smaller natural lakes along the St. Johns River, upstream from Lake Washington. Excessive hydrilla coverage has been a nuisance during recent years. When hydrilla is present, anglers should not hesitate to fish the 2½-mile stretch of river connecting the two lakes and the additional 3-mile stretch downstream (north) to Lake Washington. Largemouth bass, black crappie and bluegill will be found throughout these areas. Plastic worms, crankbaits, spinnerbaits and topwater lures will work well for bass. Late winter to early summer are productive times of year to fish these lakes. Lakes can be accessed by traveling upstream from the ramp situated at the US 192 crossing, or from the Lake Washington launch site (see Lake Washington) west of the city of Melbourne.

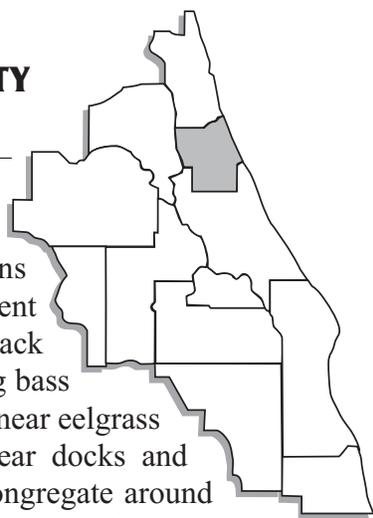
**Lake Washington** – A 4,600-acre lake fed by tannin-stained waters of the river, this is the first large lake in the St. Johns River system. This lake produces good catches of largemouth bass, black crappie and bluegill. Bass and crappie can be caught throughout

the year on this lake. Bass are usually caught around the bulrush that line the lake, while most crappie are caught drifting or trolling in open water with small artificial jigs and live minnows. Bluegill are caught around shoreline vegetation during late spring and early summer. Plastic worms, crankbaits, spinnerbaits and topwater lures will work well for bass. A public ramp is available: exit east off I-95 to Eau Gallie Blvd., north on Wickham Rd., west on Lake Washington to ramp at end of the road.

**Lake Winder** – About five miles upstream of Lake Poinsett in the St. Johns Chain, 1,496-acre Lake Winder can only be reached by an extended boat run from Lake Poinsett. Heavy hydrilla has plagued this lake during the past 10 years, but successful herbicide treatments in 2000 have eliminated much of the hydrilla. Largemouth bass fishing should be excellent from late fall through spring, around most emergent and submerged plant communities that extend into the lake. Plastic worms, crankbaits, spinnerbaits and topwater lures work well for bass. Some of the best black crappie fishing occurs in the river just downstream from the lake during winter through late spring. Black crappie anglers trolling and drifting with small artificial jigs and live minnows in open water should find good fishing. Many crappie anglers sometimes use floats to mark areas where several fish are caught in order to concentrate their effort where fish may be congregating. During warm months of the year, bluegill and redear sunfish can be caught along the edges of the lake around bulrush and submerged grasses. Fly-rodding with a surface popper is a popular way to catch sunfish.

## FLAGLER COUNTY

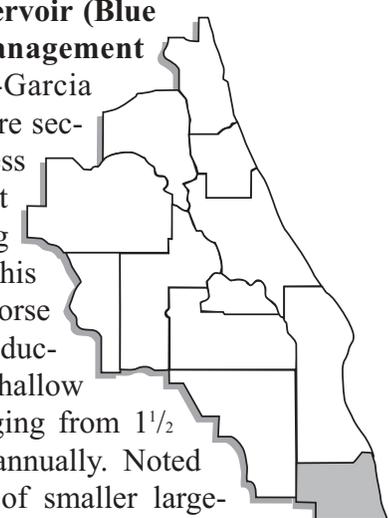
**Crescent Lake** – This 15,960-acre lake is connected to the St. Johns River via Dunns Creek, and offers excellent largemouth bass and black crappie fishing. Catching bass is best in the springtime near eelgrass beds, and in the fall near docks and structures. Bass often congregate around deeper docks and pilings where depth is more than 3 feet. Fishing is best using live shiners and artificial baits including plastic worms, spinnerbaits, jerk-



baits and topwater lures. Crappie anglers do well drifting in open water with minnows or jigs (Hal flies are popular) in winter and early spring. The south end of Crescent Lake near the mouths of Dead Lake and Haw Creek is usually productive. Knowledgeable “off-season” speck anglers do well working lily pads in the summer. Boat access is available at a private ramp on CR 2006 off SR 305 at the southeast end of the lake.

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

**Ansin-Garcia Reservoir (Blue Cypress Water Management Area)** – Ansin-Garcia Reservoir is a 3,150-acre section of the Blue Cypress Water Management Area. Prior to flooding in 1991, sections of this area were used for a horse farm and row crop production. The reservoir is shallow with water depths ranging from 1½ to 6 feet, fluctuating annually. Noted for its good numbers of smaller largemouth bass, this impoundment usually produces a number of trophy-sized fish during winter and early spring. Largemouth bass fishing should be good among the variety of habitats throughout the lake, including cattail, hydrilla, pepper grass and several species of floating water lilies. Bass anglers should try the deeper northwestern block and the submerged borrow pit located at the west end. Live shiners, plastic worms, soft jerkbaits, spinnerbaits and floating minnow imitations will produce. Other popular sportfish found in the reservoir include black crappie, bluegill and redear sunfish. Bluegill anglers should encounter fair numbers of fish along sandy bottoms that can be found around submerged drainage canals and borrow pits. Live crickets and small jigs work best. Black crappie anglers should try the deeper waters within the submerged borrow pit. Access is at SR 512, 1.5 miles north of SR 60 junction, just southwest of the town of Fellsmere.



**Lake Blue Cypress** – This 6,555-acre Fish Management Area is bordered by marsh and cypress swamp, and to the north lie the headwaters of the St. Johns River. This picturesque lake offers good fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill, shellcracker, warmouth,

spotted sunfish, black crappie and catfish. The only access point is Middleton's Fish Camp, Blue Cypress Road, four miles off SR 60, approximately 12 miles east of Yeehaw Junction from the Florida Turnpike; or 25 miles west of Vero Beach. Blue Cypress is best known for its black crappie that are caught in abundance by anglers drifting to locate a school, then anchoring to fish. Primary baits are Missouri minnows or small jigs. Bass fishing is good around areas of structure or cover such as the cypress shoreline. Bluegill can be taken on live worms and crickets, or on a fly rod, with summer months the best. The FWC has constructed fish attractors to provide habitat for bass, crappie and bluegill.

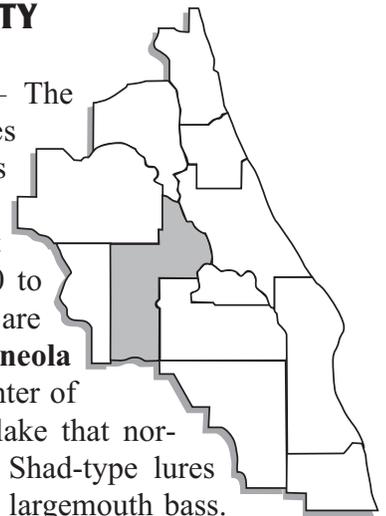
**Farm 13/Stick Marsh Reservoir;** (St. Johns River Water Management Area; also known as Barney Green Reservoir) – This management area with many names was created in 1987 by flooding 6,500 acres of farmland. The highly productive system has remained one of the top largemouth bass fishing hot spots in the state since the early 1990's. The reservoir also has excellent black crappie, bream (bluegill and redear sunfish) and catfish populations. A special regulation on the reservoir requires all largemouth bass to be released immediately. Hydrilla is a major factor that affects where fish will congregate during spawning season. Water conditions will dictate lure selection. Plastic worms (Junebug or red shad-colored), spinnerbaits (light-colored, willow leaf blades), prop baits, soft jerkbaits, shallow-running crankbaits and live shiners will produce. Fish for black crappie with minnows or small jigs ( $\frac{1}{32}$  -  $\frac{1}{8}$ -ounce) in screw-tail or tube-style; green or chartreuse colors work best. In deeper areas like Ditch 7 and Ditch 13, the key is determining if crappie are holding near the bottom, suspended. Bluegill can be caught in fair to good numbers in these same areas. From the north, take exit 70 off I-95, east on Malabar Road (SR 514), south on Babcock Street (SR 507), before going west on the Fellsmere grade. From the south, exit off I-95, proceed west on CR 512 into Fellsmere, north on SR 507, before going west on the Fellsmere grade. The launch site is about six miles west from the grade. **All black bass must be released immediately.**

**Kenansville Lake** (S. N. KNIGHT TRACT) – A shallow 2,500-acre impoundment, this lake has an average water depth of four feet, fluctuating annually. Prior to flooding in 1993, this area was used as a cat-

tle pasture. Therefore boaters unfamiliar with the lake should navigate with caution, due the large number of submerged fence rows and canal berms throughout the lake. This lake is most popular for its outstanding black crappie and bluegill fisheries. Most crappie will be caught within the submerged drainage canals that run along its north, east and southern borders. Fish also can be taken in the center canal that runs through the middle of the lake. Traditional techniques with artificial and natural baits, including trolling with live minnows, should produce. The largemouth bass fishery has been characterized by low angling pressure and high catch success. Better catches occur during the winter and early spring when bass move into cattails and emergent grass along the western shoreline. Try fishing the deeper northwestern portion if the water level is low, flipping Junebug-colored plastic worms in cattails, knotgrass and maidencane. A special regulation on Kenansville Lake requires that **all black bass must be released immediately.** Bluegill, redear sunfish and catfish (white "cats" and brown bullhead) can be caught in fair numbers on live worms by those targeting them. A public ramp is available: exit off US 441 (Kenansville Rd.) in Kenansville onto Fellsmere Rd., then go east 12 miles to the ramp at the end of the road.

## LAKE COUNTY

**Clermont Chain** – The city of Clermont lies along the shore of this 11-lake chain. All lakes are Fish Management Areas, ranging from 20 to 3,634 acres, and most are tea-colored. **Lake Minneola** (1,888 acres), in the center of the chain, is the only lake that normally has clear water. Shad-type lures are productive baits for largemouth bass. Worms, crickets and small spinnerbaits are good baits for bluegill and redear sunfish. Minnows and jigs are good baits for black crappie. Channel catfish are abundant and 20-pounders are not uncommon. An unusual bait for catfish is freshly caught gar, filleted and cut into one-inch cubes and fished near the bottom. A fishing pier on Lake Minneola provides access to bank anglers. Most Clermont Chain lakes have fish attractors that are marked with a buoy to



indicate the center of the attractor. Public boat ramps are located on **Lake Minneola** (fee area), and on the **Palatlahaha River**, on Hull Road off CR 561A, just upstream of **Lake Louisa** (3,634 acres).

**Lake Dorr** – At 1,765 acres, this deeply tannin-stained lake is one of the larger lakes in the Ocala National Forest. Public boat ramps are located on the western shore just off SR 19. The northern ramp is in a fee area operated by the U.S. Forest Service, while the southern-most FWC ramp is free. Black crappie fishing is usually good using minnows and jigs, especially in the fall and early spring when drifting live bait along the western shoreline. Bluegill and redear sunfish are caught seasonally using crickets, worms or grass shrimp on a small hook in vegetated areas. Largemouth bass generally are small, but an occasional trophy-sized fish is caught. Anglers should use live bait or artificial lures near vegetated areas when fishing for bass.

**Grasshopper Lake** – This is a relatively deep and clear 147-acre Ocala National Forest lake. A public boat ramp is located on the western shore about 1/2-mile east of SR 19 and three miles south of SR 40. A public fishing pier adjacent to the ramp provides bank fishing opportunities. Like most lakes in the Ocala National Forest, largemouth bass typically are small, but a few bragging-sized fish are caught. Anglers should use live shiners or artificial worms in heavily vegetated areas. For best results with bluegill, try live worms, grass shrimp, crickets or small spinnerbaits along the grassline. If redear sunfish are your preference, remember that they are bottom feeders, so fish your bait accordingly. Bedding redear provide lots of action on cane poles and light spinning tackle baited with live worms. Although deep-water pools exist, a small boat is recommended to reach expansive grassy flats. **A catch-and-release restriction on black bass is in effect through June 30, 2004. Consult current Florida Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations for possible changes to this regulation in the future.**

**Lake George** – See Putnam County. Boat ramp access is available from Blue Creek Lodge Road off SR 40 in Lake County.

**Holly Chain** – This is a three-lake chain north of Umatilla, with access via a public boat ramp on CR 450. Largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish and

black crappie are the dominant sportfish. These lakes feature unusual contours for Florida lakes. The deepest water is found near shore, with a ridge rising in the center. There is little vegetation or other structures on the lake bottoms. A border of cattail and intermingled grasses rings each lake. Bass are often found near the deep water closest to shore and where the bottom rises to the center ridge. Shad-type crankbaits fished in deeper water and floating prop baits in shallow, vegetated areas are productive methods for bass. Drifting open water areas with minnows or a jig/minnow combination during the winter and early spring should result in good catches of crappie.

**Ocklawaha Chain** – The Ocklawaha Chain of Lakes (Harris chain) originates primarily from its headwaters in Lake Apopka through the Beauclair Canal and from the Clermont Chain of Lakes through the Palatlahaha River into Lake Harris. Lake County waters include **Beauclair** (1,111 acres), **Dora** (4,475 acres), **Eustis** (7,806 acres), **Denham** (269 acres), **Griffin FMA** (9,412 acres), **Harris** (13,788 acres) and **Yale** (4,042 acres). Lake levels are regulated by dams located in the Beauclair Canal between lakes Apopka and Beauclair (controls water level of Lake Apopka); in Haines Creek between lakes Eustis and Griffin (controls levels of Eustis, Harris, Dora, Beauclair, Carlton and Denham); and in the Ocklawaha River (C-231 Canal) at Moss Bluff about 11 miles downstream of Lake Griffin (controls Lake Griffin). All dams have locks that enable boat passage during normal operating hours.

**Lake Eustis** – This 7,806-acre lake has two excellent access points for boats and three fishing piers for bank anglers. A boat ramp and pier are situated on US 441 west of Tavares and on the south end of the lake. Another boat ramp and fishing pier are in the City of Eustis off Lakeshore Drive on the northeast side of the lake. The Lakewalk in downtown Eustis offers excellent fishing opportunities. Lake Eustis produces largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill and redear sunfish. Bass fishing is best from December through April. Weedless rigs are good in the maidencane along the shore, while topwater baits are good in the canals. Black crappie (speckled perch) are primarily caught during the same time frame. Anglers fishing for crappie should drift with minnows, or jigs tipped with minnows, in deeper waters early in the season (December through January); then follow the fish to

shallower waters as they begin spawning. A cove on the west side of the lake known as "the gator hole" can be a good place to start fishing. Bluegill and redear sunfish are caught most frequently from April through June in the grass line and in canals using worms, crickets and grass shrimp.

**Lake Harris** – This large 13,788-acre lake provides the best fishing in the Ocklawaha Chain-of-Lakes. Ten-pound largemouth bass are frequently caught on artificial and live baits from the grass line surrounding the lakes, and in the winter months from the many miles of canal systems connected to the lake. The tributaries of **Helena Run** and **Palatlahaha River** near Leesburg, and **Double Run** near Astatula are excellent for bass in cooler months. The water in Lake Harris is a dark green or rusty-color due to algae, and slow-moving, noisy baits like rattletraps work best. Jerkbait fishing along the bottom also work well. Black crappie fishing is at its peak from January through March, first in deeper waters, then in the shallows as fish move inshore to spawn. Baits such as minnows, shrimp and jigs can be used. Black crappie, bluegill and redear sunfish can be caught throughout the year, fishing at night under the US 19 bridge. Sunshine bass also are available, and anglers should have luck trolling saltwater shrimp, small shiners or Missouri minnows, near the three marked fish attractors on the lake. Access to the lake in Leesburg is from Singletary Park on US 27 south of Leesburg (there is a fishing pier there as well); in Leesburg off Dixie Avenue at Venetian Gardens; at Hickory Point on US 19 between Tavares and Howey-in-the-Hills (a \$2 per vehicle fee is charged, and there is a nice park and fishing pier at this location); and from a small boat ramp off Florida Ave. in Astatula.

**Lake Yale** – This 4,042-acre lake is known for abundant, but small largemouth bass and occasional lunkers. Water clarity has decreased in recent years and the amount of shoreline vegetation also has been reduced. Therefore, anglers must spend some time with a depth finder mapping the ledges and drop-offs in the lake in order to be consistently successful. Black crappie fishing is good, with the best fishing opportunities occurring from November through March. The water in Yale is generally murky due to algae, so anglers should try techniques that work well in low visibility situations. Largemouth bass anglers using Texas-rigs generally find dark-colored, 6- to 10-

inch plastic worms (black with blue tail, Junebug, and red shad) to be the most reliable lures. Carolina-rigging with a 2- to 4-foot leader over submerged drop-offs or brush piles is also a good technique most of the year. For bass, relatively large spinnerbaits (1/4 - to 1-ounce with white or yellow trailer) may produce, especially in pre spawn conditions. Various crankbaits work well, notably lures that make a lot of noise and displace a good bit of water. Rattletraps in chrome/blue, deep-diving Bombers, and Rapalas can all work well. However, the most productive lure is the plastic worm. Speckled perch (crappie) are generally taken on minnows or "speck jigs" in light colors and occasionally on grass shrimp. The speckled perch fishery is active year-long. Heaviest fishing pressure occurs from December through April when they can be relatively easy to locate offshore, prior to heading for shoreline vegetation to spawn. Summertime can also be quite good for speckled perch in deeper water (12 - 20 feet). Bluegill are readily available in Yale, and worms or crickets fished along the edges of cattails will usually produce this tasty panfish. Anglers should start with a bobber rigged to keep the bait just off the bottom and then experiment until they find the depth that fish seem to prefer. Access to the lake is at Marsh Park on CR 452 just north of Eustis, or from a small ramp off CR 450 west of Umatilla on the north-east quarter of the lake.

**St. Johns River** – See Brevard County for general information about this River system. Lake County access is available from SR 40 east to SR 19, then north on Blue Creek Lodge Road to Lake George Road, and west to the ramp; and also at Astor, off old SR 40 on the west side of the river at Astor on Butler Street.

**Wildcat Lake** – This 258-acre lake is clear and unusually deep, located near the intersection of SR 19 and SR 40. A fee area public boat ramp, park, swimming beach and picnic area are available on the north shore. Largemouth bass more than 14 pounds have been caught, but most bass are between 10 and 14 inches in size. Black crappie, bluegill, and redear sunfish action is good seasonally. This lake is popular for water skiing and swimming, so fishing trips should be scheduled on weekdays, or early and late in the day. Fishing live golden shiners around maidencane and lily pads is an effective method for taking trophy bass, especially during the early spring. Black crappie are

primarily caught during winter and early spring by drifting minnows in deep, open-water areas. Bluegill and redear sunfish congregate in shoreline vegetation and coves from April through June, and are typically caught using worms and grass shrimp. **A catch-and-release restriction on black bass is in effect through June 30, 2004. Consult current Florida Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations for possible changes to this regulation in the future.**

## MARION COUNTY

**Lake George** – See Putnam County. The U.S. Forest Service has a boat ramp on Salt Springs Run off US 19 in Marion County.

**Ocala National Forest Lakes** – Approximately 600 natural lakes are within the boundaries of the Ocala National Forest in Marion and Lake counties. Several of these lakes are described below. A booklet titled “Fishing Opportunities in the Ocala National Forest” by the Ocala National Forest Interpretive Association is available at the Visitors Welcome Center at the intersection of SR 40 and CR 314. **Special harvest restrictions may apply in some of these lakes. Consult current Florida Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations for up-to-date restrictions.**

**Lake Bryant** – This lake covers 767 acres in the Ocala National Forest, but is not managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Public access is available at the Lake Bryant Fish Camp on 183rd Ave. off SR 40 (fee ramp). The water is tea-colored with a narrow border of grasses and lily pads around most of the shoreline. Seasonal fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill and redear sunfish is good. Black crappie fishing varies considerably. Live bait and artificial lures fished near vegetated areas are good for bass, bluegill and redear sunfish. Live grass shrimp is a good choice for bluegill and small bass. Largemouth bass concentrate in sawgrass pockets and in isolated, small stands of lily pads early in the year and are taken on live shiners and plastic worms. Schooling bass are caught during spring and summer at dawn and dusk on shad-imi-

tating crankbaits in open water areas. Black crappie are caught from December through March while drifting minnows in open water.

**Lake Eaton** – Lake Eaton (308 acres) is in the Ocala National Forest off CR 314A. Three fishing piers are provided by the U.S. Forest Service; one pier is ADA-accessible for mobility-impaired anglers. A small boat ramp will accommodate most vessels up to medium-sized bass boats. Eaton is deeply tannin-stained, shallow, and supports vast stands of lily pads. Bluegill, warmouth and black crappie are common sport fish. Largemouth bass fishing is fair for small fish with an occasional keeper taken. Many bank anglers fish just downstream of the CR 314 bridge in Eaton Creek for warmouth, bluegill and spotted sunfish (stumpknocker). Panfish action peaks in April and May when the fish are spawning. Bedding bluegill and warmouth concentrate on the western shore and may be caught on worms, crickets and flyrod poppers.

**Lake Jumper** – This 282-acre, shallow, tannin-stained lake in the Ocala National Forest, is about three miles north of SR 40 on CR 314. A private fee ramp offers the only boat access. Small boats are advised. The lake is not known as a good bass lake, but occasional lunkers are caught.

**Lake Kerr** – Similar to Lake Bryant, this 2,830-acre lake near Salt Springs in the northern section of the Ocala National Forest is not managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Access is via a FWC boat ramp off Forest Road 88 just south of the intersection of CR 316 and FR 88. Kerr is an unusual Florida lake in that water depth reaches more than 20 feet at normal level. Most largemouth bass are less than 14 inches in length, but this lake has a reputation for producing a few trophy-sized fish. Bullhead minnows (stonerollers) are commonly used as live bait for bass (instead of more popular golden shiners) in the spring and fall. Live grass shrimp and worms are good baits for redear sunfish and bluegill. Warmouth fishing is best during late spring and early summer in shallow water very close to vegetated banks.

**Mill Dam Lake** – A 210-acre lake in the Ocala National Forest, Mill Dam is seven miles east of Silver Springs on SR 40. An improved boat ramp with paved parking and picnic area are provided by the U.S. Forest Service (fee charged). Good catches of

largemouth bass, bluegill and black crappie make it a popular lake for anglers. Normal water depths are greater than average for the Ocala National Forest. Vegetation is confined to a shallow ledge around much of the shore. During drought, water levels recede past this vegetation and leave an open-water lake. Bass concentrate around isolated stands of lily pads along the western shore early in the year and may be caught on plastic worms, spinnerbaits and topwater lures. Bluegill bed in these same areas from April-June and are taken on worms, crickets and flyrod poppers.

**Sellers Lake** – Sellers Lake (378 acres) is south of SR 40 just west of SR 19 in the Ocala National Forest. An un-maintained boat ramp provides small boat access during normal water level conditions. The water is very clear with limited vegetation. Most largemouth bass are small and slow growing, but an occasional trophy is caught. The clear water may hamper fishing success, since angler and fish can see each other. Live bait (shiners) or artificial worms fished with light line at dusk or dawn is best for bass. Some anglers prefer to troll live bait near grassy edges for bass. Crickets, worms, and grass shrimp on a small hook and 4- to 6-pound monofilament are good for bluegill, warmouth, and redear sunfish. Casting to the fish, rather than dropping the bait straight down to fish, will produce better results.

**Ocklawaha River** – Near its confluence with Silver River, the Marion County portion of the Ocklawaha becomes a winding, tree-canopied stream that continues to Lake Ocklawaha (Rodman Reservoir). Access is available at a private fee ramp at Piper's Fish Camp at SR 42; Moss Bluff public ramps upstream and downstream of the Lock and Dam at CR 464; Ray Wayside Park at SR 40; Gore's Landing east of SR 315; Eureka ramps on CR 316 east and west of the bridge; Hog Valley Ramp on NE 245th Ave. Rd; Rodman Ramp downstream of Rodman Dam; and SR 19 Ramp north of Salt Springs. Largemouth bass fishing is good along all areas of the river, but is best during February, March and April. Redbreast and spotted sunfish action can be good in un-channelized areas. White and channel catfish are abundant below Rodman Dam. Live worms, cutbait, shad, and commercial catfish baits are good producers. Trophy bass are often caught on shiners fished on a slip-sinker rig on the deep outer bends of the river downstream of SR

40 from December through March. Redbreast sunfish and spotted sunfish are typically caught on small spinnerbaits and worms near stands of lily pads (redbreasts) and cypress trees (spotted sunfish) during the spring and summer.

**Lake Ocklawaha (Rodman Reservoir)** – Situated east of Gainesville and south of Palatka, this world famous lake covers 9,500 acres of prime fishery habitat. Since its creation in 1968, Rodman Reservoir has been known for trophy largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie and redbreast sunfish. Much of the fisheries' success is due to abundant habitat in the form of stumps and aquatic vegetation, along with periodic lake drawdowns. Rodman Reservoir is ranked as one of the top largemouth bass lakes in Florida and the state's largest bass of 2000 (15 and 17 pounds) came from the reservoir during March. Largemouth bass are most active during cooler months. Anglers targeting trophy largemouth bass use golden shiners either fished under a cork or free-lined. Most big bass are caught in the pool area, known as the "stump fields," along the river channel. However, many trophy bass come from the area between Cypress Bayou and Kenwood Landing, including Orange Springs. Successful anglers also use artificial lures such as deep-diving and lipless crankbaits, spinnerbaits and soft plastics. Black crappie fishing can be good throughout the year, but peaks in January, February, and March. Bluegill and redear sunfish generally are caught from April through August. During these months, look for patches of floating vegetation in the flooded trees, rake small holes in the vegetation and drop down a hook baited with grass shrimp. Bends in the river channel also produce nice catches of bluegill and redear sunfish. The area between Orange Springs and Kenwood Landing is a best bet. Anglers targeting redbreast (redbellies) and spotted sunfish (stump-knockers) should focus on the river section of Rodman Reservoir (upstream of Cypress Bayou). Worms or small beetle spins fished in either deep holes or along the trees will produce nice catches of these tasty fish. Marion County access is from Eureka East and West recreation areas off CR 316, the Orange Springs Recreational Area, Cypress Bayou, and Hog Valley Ramp on NE 245th Ave. Rd.

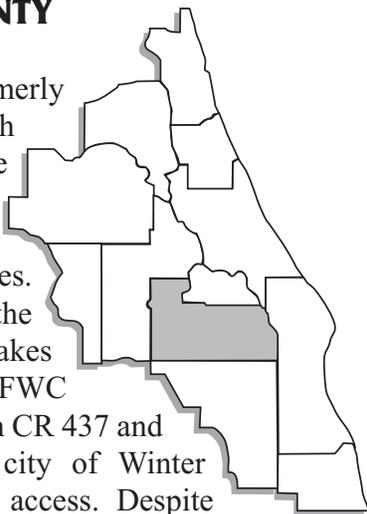
**Rainbow River** – This is a 5.8-mile tributary of the Withlacoochee River near Dunnellon. Public access is available at the US 41 bridge in Dunnellon

and K.P. Hole (a county park east of US 41). The river is closed to fishing from the spring's head-waters to a point 1,700 feet downstream of the spring. The water is clear and fish can easily be seen, even in deep springs. Largemouth bass, bluegill, and redear sunfish populations are good. Trophy bass and large shell-cracker are not uncommon. Clear water fishing techniques are necessary for good results. Anglers should fish during low light conditions, use light line, and avoid being visible to the fish. Tube-baits, plastic worms, and live shiners are productive bass baits, especially in deeper waters downstream of the US 41 bridge. Typical baits like live worms and shrimp work for sunfish.

**Lake Weir** – This 5,685-acre lake near Belleview and Weirsdale has public access available through a county ramp off Sunset Harbor Road. Another deep lake for central Florida, Lake Weir is more than 20 feet deep at normal water level. A narrow band of grass grows along much of the shore, and beds of pondweed (peppergrass) occur to depths of 10-12 feet. Common techniques are good for bass, and many anglers prefer to troll live shiners in deep waters near the shore. Other largemouth bass anglers use live bait in the deepest waters in the middle of the lake. Redear sunfish fishing is excellent during March and April for the angler willing to locate small, concentrated schools holding fish up to 1 pound. Brush fish attractors have been placed at several sites in 20-30 feet of water. A depth finder is very useful to locate structure, pondweed beds, and fish in open waters. Excellent crappie fishing is available during the winter. Live minnows or grass shrimp fished on an attractor is the most productive method.

## ORANGE COUNTY

**Lake Apopka** – Formerly famous for largemouth bass fishing, 30,671-acre Lake Apopka is now a highly polluted lake in Orange and Lake counties. It is also the head of the Ocklawaha Chain of Lakes (see Lake County). An FWC ramp in Magnolia Park on CR 437 and a county ramp in the city of Winter Garden provide boating access. Despite



poor quality fish habitat, black crappie populations support a decent fishery in the Gourd Neck Springs area during cooler months. Minnows and grass shrimp fished on a slip-bobber rig near the springs is a proven crappie technique during the winter and early spring.

## Orlando Area

Water bodies in the greater Orlando/Winter Park area collectively fall under the **Fish Orlando!** program. Areas that receive the most attention are the “**Fab Five**” (managed for quality-sized fish), and “**Urban Ponds**” (managed for novice anglers). Lots of other areas also offer good fishing for largemouth bass, panfish and catfish.

For more information, visit the Fish Orlando! Web site at <http://myfwc.com/fishing/FishOrlando>. To receive a free Fish Orlando! Fishing Map listing most local public water bodies, call 407-846-5300 or e-mail [FishOrlando@fwc.state.fl.us](mailto:FishOrlando@fwc.state.fl.us)

### Fish Orlando! “Fab Five” Lakes

**Starke Lake FMA** – A modern fishing pier (equipped with fish feeders), four marked brush fish attractors and enhanced western shoreline make this 225-acre “Fab Five” Lake worth checking out. Located in the town of Ocoee (northwest of Orlando), Starke Lake FMA has the potential to provide catches of 10-20 largemouth bass per day. Boating access is available via a ramp located adjacent to Ocoee City Hall. Successful winter/spring patterns include lipless crankbaits (gold/black) fished on outside eelgrass edges (try the southwest corner of the lake); or soft plastic crayfish (blue/pumpkin) flipped inside the Kissimmee grass and cattails (try the cattail point a long cast away from the boat ramp). In summertime, largemouth bass often congregate on fish attractors and areas that drop from 12 to 20 feet of water. Carolina- and Texas-rigged plastic worms (tequila sunrise-colored) are both good in this deep water. Contact the Fish Orlando! office for a free topographical map of Starke Lake.

**Turkey Lake FMA** – The management focus of this 339-acre lake is largemouth bass catch-and-release and quality black crappie harvest. Located in Turkey Lake Park (near the International Drive tourist district) this “Fab Five” FMA has no public boat access, but rental boats are available four days per week. The lake has five marked brush fish attractors,

two floating fishing piers (one within casting range of a fish attractor) and one fixed pier (equipped with fish feeders, lights and cleaning station). The western shoreline was cleaned up in winter 2000 and offers excellent fishery habitat. Excellent catch rates for largemouth bass caught from the rental boats have been experienced and black crappie sizes are impressive. Largemouth bass can be caught along the grass lines from December through early April using Junebug-colored plastic worms, soft jerkbaits (watermelon-seed or white) and topwater plugs (“walk-the-dog” types like the Zara Spook). For a starting point, try the grass around the bottleneck separating the north and south pools. During the summer and fall, try throwing lipless crankbaits (chartreuse) for schooling bass (in the southwest corner) or working the brush fish attractors (try the attractor near the Florida Turnpike) with plastic worms and deep-diving crankbaits (fire-tiger). Crappie usually are caught drifting or trolling minnows and/or jigs in deeper water of the south pool or around the “saddle” that is located between the north and south pool. For park or boat rental information, contact Turkey Lake Park (City of Orlando) at 407-299-5581. **All black bass must be released immediately. Panfish daily bag limit: 20. Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6.**

**Shadow Bay Park FMA** – Near the International Drive tourist district, Shadow Bay Park FMA has three ponds within its boundary (**Lupine** – seven acres; **Shadow Bay** – five acres; **Hidden Pond** – one acre). While boating is prohibited within the Park, each of the three ponds has bank access. The focus of this “Fab Five” fishery is Lupine Pond’s quality channel catfish fishery that features an aeration system and four fish feeders. This borrow pit is loaded with channel catfish that average three pounds and more, but fish up to 30 pounds have been caught. To hook into one of Lupine’s catfish, anglers should concentrate their efforts when the feeders activate in the morning and evening. A piece of beef or chicken liver fished weightless on a #2 hook is a great standby, but Lupine catfish “junkies” have found that flies or small artificials cast among the feeding catfish can bring quick action as well. While Lupine’s catfish get most of the attention at Shadow Bay Park, Shadow Bay Pond and Hidden Pond both offer the possibility of catching and releasing large bluegill. To catch these bluegill try a 1/16-ounce orange beetle-spin or a 1/32-ounce white twister tail jig tipped with a worm. **Within Shadow**

**Bay Park, all black bass must be released immediately. Additionally, there is a 30-inch minimum size on channel catfish (1 fish bag limit) and a 12-inch minimum on bluegill (5 fish bag limit).**

**Clear Lake FMA** – Within sight of the Citrus Bowl, this 313-acre “Fab Five” lake is managed for sunshine bass. Annual stockings provide good action, particularly during cooler months (November – March). The best way to catch these is to locate drop-offs and shad schools on a depth finder and then fish a “crappie” minnow at various depths under a slip bobber. Contact the Fish Orlando! office for a topographical map that will help in locating some of these drop-offs. The lake has two marked fish attractors, and one of the attractors is within a long cast of the pier at George Barker Park. Both attractors are good places to catch sunshine bass. **Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6.**

**Fish Orlando! Urban Ponds** - These four urban fishery sites are the **Barnett Park Frog Pond** (Northwest Orlando – 4.5 acres), **Beardall Pond** (Central Orlando – two acres), **Lake Santiago FMA** (Northeast Orlando – 4.5 acres) and **Bear Creek FMA** (Southwest Orlando – seven acres). All are stocked with channel catfish and have aeration systems, as well as areas baited to attract fish. No boating is allowed on these ponds, but bank fishing access is excellent. Although most of the fish caught will be less than 12 inches, these water bodies are a great place for beginners or those that want to catch a meal. Try fishing wigglers, night crawlers or liver on the bottom for the channel catfish. Use crickets and worms for panfish. Anglers should concentrate their efforts around the fish feeders, or signs indicating a baited fishing area. **Channel catfish daily bag limit in FMA: 6.**

**Lake Baldwin** – Previous overstocking of grass carp decimated the aquatic vegetation of this 225-acre lake. However, an adjacent wetland marsh along its northern shoreline appears to have provided benefits during high water periods. Located in Winter Park (northeast Orlando), the lake has bank fishing access and a boat ramp via a small city park on the south shore. Boats using the lake are restricted to engines of 10 horsepower or less. Largemouth bass anglers should try a four-inch Texas-rigged worm (tequila sunrise-colored) that has a 1/8-ounce bullet weight

pegged a foot or two above the hook.

**Conway Chain of Lakes** – Four interconnected pools (east, west, middle and south) in the south Orlando area are collectively referred to as Lake Conway. The larger of only two public boat ramps is located off Hoffner Avenue, two blocks east of Orange Avenue (SR 527). Public bank access is extremely limited. The chain has nearly 1,800 acres of clear water and hard sand bottom, with beds of peppergrass, eelgrass and hydrilla scattered offshore. Largemouth bass fishing is good in every season except summer when the bass often suspend and become difficult to catch. One of Conway's "claims to fame" is its schooling bass during late fall and early winter. In fact, schooling activity often seems to be best during cold, post-front conditions that shut down many of the area's shallow lakes. Schooling bass can be found by locating surface activity or by watching birds feeding in offshore areas (try the buoy line in the east pool). Jigging spoons, topwater lures, soft jerkbaits and white spinnerbaits will all catch schooling bass; however, it is important to remain flexible, because what worked one day will often be ignored the next.

**Lake Fairview** – In the past, stocked grass carp decimated the vegetation in this 401-acre lake. More recently, however, area homeowners have worked with the FWC to remove some of the carp. This, combined with natural grass carp mortality and revegetation efforts, have allowed eelgrass and other vegetation to return to the lake. The result has been some good bass fishing. The lake has little public bank access, but boat access is available via a City of Orlando park off Lee Road (SR 423). In summer, largemouth bass can be caught on black/grape Texas-rigged worms fished on the grassy saddles and points that connect to deep water (20 to 30 feet). Anglers should try the "saddle" between the main lake and the pool on the east shoreline. Fairview receives heavy jet ski traffic, so fish either early in the morning, late into the evening or after dark. Anglers, please note that the boat ramp closes at 11 p.m.

**Lake Ivanhoe** – Located in the heart of downtown Orlando, this 125-acre Fish Management Area is often overlooked because the headquarters of a water ski school is located here. Regardless, it has a good bass fishery. The lake has an aeration system, good bank access and high quality aquatic vegetation

(including eelgrass). Boat access is available via a City of Orlando boat ramp located off Orange Avenue (SR 527). In the winter/spring, be sure to try the lily pads in the middle pool. In the summer, investigate the drop-offs in the boat ramp pool with eelgrass. A good rig to try is 4-inch Texas-rigged worm (tequila sunrise-colored) that has a 1/8-ounce bullet weight pegged a foot or two above the hook. **Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6.**

**Johns Lake** – This 2,424-acre waterbody lies in Lake and Orange counties south of SR 50 and west of Winter Garden. Hit especially hard by Florida's drought, lake water levels were extremely low until 2003 and much of the once-outstanding fishery was lost. Subsequently, heavy rainfall refilled the lake. Such natural water level fluctuations and irregular bottom contours create habitat that produces excellent fisheries. Anglers should be ready for good action to return in several years as fish populations expand rapidly. The FWC stocked more than 200,000 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings in 2003 to aid in recovery of the sport fishery. Expect largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish and maybe black crappie to again become plentiful, although larger bass won't be available for several years. As emergent vegetation re-establishes, these areas act as natural fish attractors and again will become good places to fish for largemouth bass and panfish. Plastic worms, weedless spoons and topwater lures fished around emergent vegetation and flooded brush during high water periods will be effective for bass during the early spring. During summer months, most bass will be caught in deep open-water areas using shad-imitating crankbaits. Try for black crappie during winter and early spring, drifting open water with a minnow slip-bobber rig. Fly fishermen and live bait anglers using worms can expect to do well on bedding bluegill and redear sunfish during springtime in the lake's many shallow bays and coves. Public bank access is almost non-existent, but FWC's boat ramp south of SR 50 provides boat access. If extremely low water conditions return, access will be limited to small jon boats or canoes.

**Lake Lawne** – Barnett Park provides access to this 156-acre lake in west Orlando, right behind the Central Florida Fairgrounds on SR 50. Within Barnett Park a fishing pier and cleared shoreline on the west shoreline is available for bank fishing. A boat ramp is

at the northwest corner of the lake, but due to its shallow location, only can be used by small boats when water levels are low. Although relatively poor habitat and water quality exist here, the lake is noted for its black crappie fishery. Like most places in Florida, the majority of crappie fishing on Lawne occurs from November through April. For boat anglers, drifting minnows through the deep-water trough that runs along the east shore of the southern half of the lake is a good bet. Crappie also occur within casting distance of piers in Barnett Park and the Central Florida Fairgrounds. **Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6.**

**Little Econlockhatchee River** – This scenic stream probably supports one of the best panfishing secrets in Orlando. Situated in northeast Orlando, bank access can be found via Orange County’s Blanchard Park located off Dean Road (SR 425). Canoes and kayaks can also be launched along the riverbank in the park. For your best bet, fish behind the dam when the water is flowing after a big rain. Night crawlers, wigglers and grass shrimp fished beneath a split shot is all you’ll need to catch quality to trophy-sized panfish (bluegill, redear sunfish, red-breast sunfish). Don’t be surprised if you hook into a large white or channel catfish.

**Lake Underhill** – The East-West Expressway in east Orlando bisects this 147-acre Fish Management Area where bridge pilings provide shade and cover for both fish and anglers. Bank fishing is available along the southern shore and in Joe Kittinger Park on the west end of the northern pool. A public boat ramp is in a small park on the east end of the southern pool. Although Underhill has one of the best bass fisheries in the greater Orlando area, it receives heavy jet ski traffic. One way to avoid this conflict is to fish the northern pool, which is less traveled. A good late spring/summer pattern is to flip or pitch red shad plastic crayfish in the deep Kissimmee grass on the north shore of this pool. **All black bass must be released immediately. Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6.**

**Windermere Chain (Butler Chain)** – This 4,720-acre chain is made up of nine interconnected lakes. Boat access is available at only two county ramps (**Lake Down** on CR 439 and **Lake Isleworth** just south of Windermere). Orange County charges a launch fee at the Lake Isleworth ramp (the ramp is not open after dark). Public bank access is almost non-

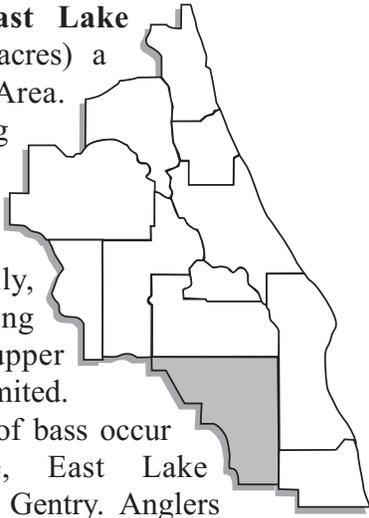
existent. The chain is primarily known for its excellent largemouth bass fishing. Most successful bass anglers pay attention to the bottom contours of the lake’s offshore structure where 4- to 5-pound bass are commonly produced. Live shiners free-lined over grass edges, humps, ledges and drop-offs adjacent to spawning flats is one method to consistently catch quality bass in the winter/spring (try Lake Butler). Jigging spoons fished over deep-water humps can produce exceptional bass fishing when the water gets cold and fish congregate tightly (try Little Lake Down). Another alternative is to escape Florida’s summer heat and sample some of the fine night fishing that’s available on this chain. Black buzzbaits and dark-colored plastic worms fished around the connections between the lakes are frequent producers after dark.

**Winter Park Chain** – This 2,781-acre chain is in downtown Winter Park. Lakes **Virginia**, **Mizell**, **Osceola**, **Maitland** and **Minnehaha** are interconnected with narrow, but relatively deep channels. A ramp behind Rollins College provides boat access, but you must purchase a ramp-use permit from the City of Maitland or Winter Park. Water skiers and sightseers in pontoon boats may give anglers the illusion that the chain is not a good fishery, but largemouth bass and black crappie populations are decent and can provide good angling in this highly urban setting. Lake Virginia is best for crappie, while Osceola and Maitland are known more for largemouth bass. Anglers fishing for crappie should drift with live minnows using several poles at various depths. Live shiners work best for bass. Lake Maitland has several pondweed beds that hold bass. Texas- or Carolina-rigged plastic worms are better in deeper water and pondweed beds; topwater baits work better in the shallows.

## OSCEOLA COUNTY

**Kissimmee Chain of Lakes** – The lakes in the Kissimmee Chain comprise the headwaters for the entire Everglades ecosystem. The upper part of the Chain originates in Orange County with lakes **Hart** (1,850 acres) and **Mary Jane** (1,158 acres), then continues south through the Alligator Chain of Lakes. These lakes include: **Center** (410 acres); **Trout** (273 acres); **Coon** (148 acres); **Lizzie** (792 acres); **Alligator** (3,406 acres); **Brick** (616 acres); **Gentry**

(1,791 acres); and **East Lake Tohopekaliga** (11,968 acres) a Fish Management Area. Characterized as having acidic, tannin-stained water, the Alligator Lake Chain is relatively unproductive. Generally, largemouth bass fishing success on the upper Kissimmee Chain is limited. However, good catches of bass occur from Alligator Lake, East Lake Tohopekaliga and Lake Gentry. Anglers should fish with live bait (shiners) or various popular artificial baits (jerkbaits, crankbaits, plastic worms). Access to East Lake Tohopekaliga is available in the city of St. Cloud on Lakeshore Drive. All lakes in the Alligator Chain, excluding Lake Gentry, are accessible from a ramp off CR 534 (Hickory Tree Road), five miles south of US 192 in St. Cloud. Access to Lake Gentry is available from a ramp on Lake Gentry Road off CR 534.



The lower Kissimmee Chain is much better known for quality fishing opportunities, and is comprised of **West Lake Tohopekaliga** (18,810 acres), lakes **Cypress** (4,097 acres), **Hatchineha** (6,665 acres), **Jackson** (1,020 acres), **Marian** (5,739 acres) and **Kissimmee** (34,948 acres). These lakes are all Fish Management Areas. Although many of the lakes experience periodic navigational problems with hydrilla, long-term appropriations have been mandated to fund an aquatic plant maintenance program that will maintain navigation. Lakes in the lower Kissimmee Chain are shallow, productive water bodies with vast expanses of native aquatic plant communities. Like in most Florida lakes, the passing of cold fronts during winter and spring affects fishing success. Largemouth bass anglers using live shiners are usually more successful during periods after strong cold fronts. During the spring, flipping or pitching artificial baits into shallow, vegetated shorelines works well. Popular lures include: spinnerbaits (1/4- or 3/8-ounce in white; or white/chartreuse skirted with gold, Colorado- or willow-leaf blades); soft-bodied jerkbaits (Arkansas shiner or grass shiner-colored); lipless crankbaits (chrome-colored with rattles, or shad-colored); minnow-type lures; and plastic worms and crayfish imitations (black grape, black/blue,

motor oil, red shad, and Junebug-colored). During summer and fall, when bass are offshore in deeper water near hydrilla and other vegetation, try some of the following popular lures: rattletraps, topwater propeller baits (Devil's Horse and Torpedos), buzz baits (lunker lures), spinnerbaits (white or chartreuse) and soft-bodied jerkbaits (green shiner and motor oil-colored), and Texas- or Carolina-rigged plastic worms. Deep-diving crankbaits (shad-colored) fished near deeper areas of the lakes (channels or bottom irregularities) can be productive. Black crappie (specks) typically begin to show up in vegetation in December and January for spawning. Although anglers do well in the vegetation, drifting open water with minnows is a proven technique. Live bait should be fished under a slip-cork and weighted with a small split-shot sinker 3 - 4 inches above the hook. Small (1/64- to 1/8-ounce) artificial lures such as mylar or tube jigs, natural hair jigs and beetle spins in white, chartreuse, salt-&-pepper, or yellow marabou, are popular. Lakes Kissimmee, Tohopekaliga and Marian are known for bluegill and redear sunfish (shellcracker) that may weigh over one pound. Shellcracker spawning activity typically is in full swing around the full moon phase during early spring (March/April). Anglers should seek areas of the lake having a clean, sandy bottom and use live bait (red wigglers or crickets) fished on the bottom (a split-shot sinker placed 5-6 inches above the bait). As shellcracker spawning subsides, bluegill begin their ritual and continue throughout the summer months. Small artificial jigs (tube lure or curly-tailed) and beetle spins (white or yellow-colored) work well also. All lakes in the lower Kissimmee Chain are accessible from the boat basin located in the City of Kissimmee (Lakeshore Blvd) through a lock at the southern end of Lake Tohopekaliga. Other points of entry include Lake Cypress Fish Camp; for Lake Kissimmee, Overstreet Landing, off CR 523 (Canoe Creek Road) and Oasis Fish Camp at SR 60. **In Lake Jackson black crappie less than 12 inches and all black bass must be released immediately.**

## PUTNAM COUNTY

**St. Johns River** – See Brevard County for general information about this river system. Numerous fish camps access the river in Putnam County. Also, six FWC ramps provide access from the following locations: East Palatka, Elgin Grove, the Palatka City

Dock, Palmetto Bluff, Shell Harbor and Welaka. Putnam County access to the river is also available at or near Lake George and Crescent Lake. These lakes are widened portions of the St. Johns and are noted below.

**Crescent Lake** – See Flagler County (page 3). Public access is available in Crescent City off US 17 and at fish camps in the Crescent City area.

**Lake George** – This 46,000-acre lake on the St. Johns River has been touted as the premier largemouth bass fishing lake in central Florida. It has extensive vegetation that provides excellent habitat for bass, bluegill and redear sunfish. **Little Lake George**, downstream of Lake George, is the site of a sub-surface spring called the Croaker Hole that provides fast and furious striper fishing from May through September. For largemouth bass, use live shiners and artificial baits near the eelgrass beds and deeper pilings. The area near the mouth of **Silver Glen Springs Run** is popular with bass anglers. Live shad and grass shrimp fished near the jetties when the river is flowing should produce catches of largemouth bass, sunshine bass and small stripers. Striped bass anglers also may find the Navy bombing targets productive. Popular black crappie fishing areas are Willow Cove and the sunken barge at the center bombing target. Live minnows are the bait of choice. For stripers and sunshine bass, grass shrimp are the most popular bait used. The mouths of **Silver Glen** and **Salt Springs** may provide some early morning and late evening action during warm water times of the year.

**Lake Oklawaha (Rodman Reservoir)** – See Marion County. Many trophy bass come from the area between Cypress Bayou and Kenwood Landing. Most crappie are caught by drifting or trolling live minnows or soft-plastic jigs along the edges of the Barge Canal and fishing in the river channel between Kenwood Landing and Kirkpatrick Dam. The area between Orange Springs and Kenwood Landing is the best bet for redear sunfish and bluegill. Access to Rodman is available at several locations. Among the most popu-

lar are Rodman Recreational Area west of SR 19 and Kenwood Landing off CR 315.

## SEMINOLE COUNTY

**St. Johns River** – See Brevard County for general information about this river system. In Seminole County, good catches of striped bass and sunshine bass are taken upstream (south) of **Lake Monroe**, near the river's confluence with **Lake Jesup**. Sunshine bass and striped bass also offer great spring fishing in the **Wekiva River**, two miles upstream from its confluence with the St. Johns. Favorite baits include menhaden, shiners and croakers. Premier American shad fishing is available upstream of Lake Jesup from January through April. A recreational saltwater fishing license is required to harvest American shad and other saltwater species that occur in this system. Public access is available at Mullet Lake Park off SR 46, and from the Lake Harney Fish Camp in Geneva. Seminole County access to the river is available at or near lakes Harney, Jesup, and Monroe, which are actually widened portions of the St. Johns. These areas are noted below.

**Lake Harney** – This is a 6,058-acre lake with an excellent largemouth bass and crappie fishery in early spring, as well as good bluegill and redear sunfish fishing in late spring and summer. Most black crappie anglers drift live Missouri minnows or crappie jigs while slow-trolling or drifting at varying depths. Access to Lake Harney is limited, although the lake may be reached from the St. Johns River via ramps on Mullet Lake Rd. off SR 46, and in Lemon Bluff south of Osteen.

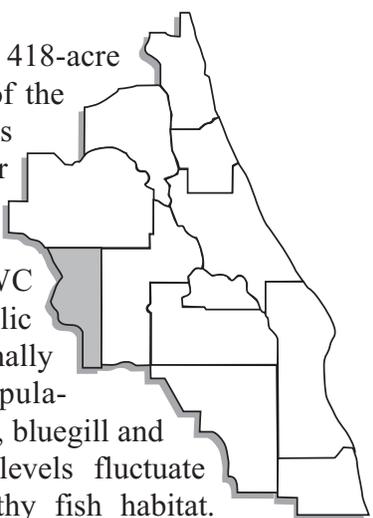
**Lake Jesup** – Unlike Monroe and Harney, Lake Jesup (10,011 acres) is not a mainstream lake on the St. Johns. The lake supports one of the best bluegill, redear sunfish and black crappie fisheries in the lower St. Johns River. Largemouth bass fishing opportunities are typically marginal, at best. Best baits for black crappie are minnows and small spinnerbaits, with worms or crickets preferred for bream. Crappie anglers should drift or slowly troll their bait at varying

depths. Access is available at Cameron Wight Park off SR 46, and at Black Hammock Fish Camp off SR 434.

**Lake Monroe** – This 9,406-acre lake has exceptional black crappie fishing from October through April. Sunshine bass also are caught on a regular basis in all but the hottest summer months. Striped mullet, Atlantic croaker, black crappie, bluegill and other species frequently are caught from the seawall adjacent to US 17 along the south shore of the lake. (A saltwater fishing license is required to harvest American shad and other saltwater species that occur in this area.) Recent restoration of aquatic vegetation has been responsible for improved largemouth bass fishing. Anglers do well drifting or trolling in open water using jigs or minnows from the power plant on the north to the mouth of the river on the southeast side. The most desirable habitat is the northern half of the lake. Quality-sized bass can be found in deeper bulrush patches, particularly on the western side of the lake. The south side of Mothers Arms (southeast end of the lake, near the mouth) provides excellent habitat for bass, black crappie, bream and occasionally sunshine or striped bass. Public ramps are at the intersection of US 17/92 and I-4, at the marina in downtown Sanford, and on Enterprise Rd. on the north side of the lake in Volusia County. **Black crappie less than 12 inches must be released immediately.**

## SUMTER COUNTY

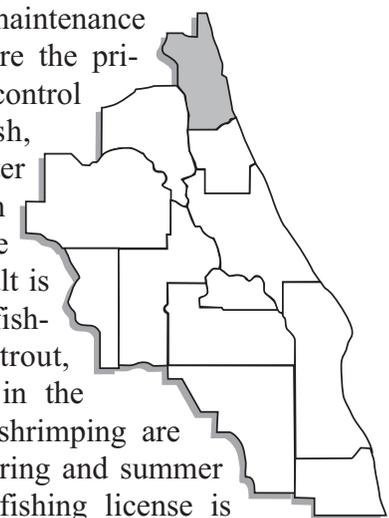
**Lake Miona** – A 418-acre lake on CR 472 south of the town of Oxford, Miona is a very fertile, open-water lake connected to a 125-acre marsh known as Black Lake. A FWC boat ramp provides public access. The lake normally produces excellent populations of largemouth bass, bluegill and redear sunfish. Water levels fluctuate naturally, creating healthy fish habitat. Basic fishing techniques are successfully used by anglers. Live shiners in the spring are good for bass. Worms and grass shrimp fished with cane poles are excellent for bluegill and shellcracker. Brush-pile fish attractors have been installed at two sites.



**Lake Panasoffkee** – This 4,460-acre Fish Management Area is by the town of Lake Panasoffkee. I-75 runs along the eastern edge and CR 470 along the southern and western shore. Several fish camps have boat ramps to provide access. A public ramp is available on the Outlet River, west of the lake on CR 470, south of SR 44. Panasoffkee is unusual – a true, spring-fed lake, with water depths seldom exceeding four feet. Dense stands of eelgrass cover much of the lake’s bottom. The lake is most noted for its redear sunfish (shellcracker) fishing. Shellcracker are located by drifting over beds of eelgrass until white spots are seen. The white spots are dead snail shells used for spawning by redear and bluegill. Most anglers use live worms as bait. Largemouth bass fishing also is popular. Due to the lake’s shallow nature and thick vegetation, anglers should use lures designed to fish this habitat. Soft plastic jerkbaits and worms, along with weedless spoons are good bass baits in “topped out” or heavily vegetated areas, while topwater lures are the choice in areas where vegetation doesn’t reach the surface. Bass action typically peaks from February-April, but remains good throughout the year.

## ST. JOHNS COUNTY

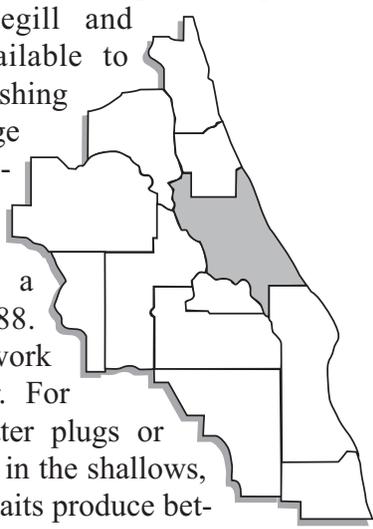
**Lake Ponte Vedra** – This is a 2,300-acre brackish water impoundment 13 miles north of St. Augustine on SR A1A. It is managed as a multi-use recreational area, but creation and maintenance of waterfowl habitat are the primary goals. The water control structure enables fish, shrimp and crabs to enter the reservoir with high tide, but prevents escape with low tide. The result is some of the best bank fishing for redfish, sea trout, flounder and croaker in the region. Crabbing and shrimping are excellent during the spring and summer months. (A saltwater fishing license is required to harvest shad and other saltwater species that occur in this system.) A FWC boat ramp six miles north of the dam (appropriately named Six Mile) is available for boaters. Boats are permitted on the lake from March 1 to November 1. The maximum engine size is 10 horsepower.



**St. Johns River** – See Brevard County for general information about this river system. In St. Johns County, the river from Palatka downstream to Jacksonville becomes very wide and more estuarine. While largemouth bass and black crappie fishing can be good, it is not quite as productive as the more upstream areas. There is an excellent bluegill and redear sunfish fishery in the springtime. This section of the river has several areas near seawalls that produce excellent striped mullet action. Other saltwater (marine) fishes such as redfish, sea trout and sheepshead are frequently encountered. Memorial Bridge in Palatka, Shands Bridge at Green Cove Springs and Buckman Bridge at Jacksonville afford good fishing for striped bass, with some as large as 25 pounds. This section of the river also is noted for its tremendous shrimp runs in summer and fall. Sport shrimpers report good catches by cast netting from boats, piers and shrimping platforms. (A saltwater fishing license is required to harvest saltwater species.) Plenty of boat access is available at public and private ramps, including FWC boat ramps at Trout Creek and Palmo Cove, both off SR 13.

## VOLUSIA COUNTY

**Lake Dias** – This is a 711-acre Fish Management Area on SR 11, 8½ miles north of Deland. A FWC boat ramp is the only public access. This is a dark, tannin-stained lake with little aquatic vegetation. Largemouth bass, bluegill and redear sunfish are available to anglers. Black crappie fishing is usually good and large fish are occasionally produced. A former state record of 3 pounds 8 ounces was caught on a beetle spin in 1988. Brightly colored lures work best in the dark water. For largemouth bass, topwater plugs or plastic worms work best in the shallows, while crankbaits or jerkbaits produce better in deeper areas.



**St. Johns River** – See Brevard County for general information about this river system. The river connects a series of lakes in Volusia County. Lakes

**Beresford** (800 acres), **Woodruff** (2,200 acres), and **Dexter** (1,902 acres) periodically produce excellent catches of largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish, sunshine bass and stripers, depending upon water levels and season. Between the lakes the river provides a well-protected area with good opportunities for bass, crappie, bluegill and redear sunfish along the edges of vegetation and near structure such as channel markers. Striped bass and sunshine bass can also be caught from areas where small streams or creeks such as Spring Run and Get-Out Creek meet the river. Black crappie anglers should use live Missouri minnows or jigs while slow-trolling or drifting at varying depths. Grass shrimp, small shad or menhaden are popular live baits for sunshine and striped bass. A recreational saltwater fishing license is required to harvest American shad and other saltwater species that occur in this system. Volusia County access to the river is also available at or near Lakes George, Harney, Monroe, and Puzzle Lake. These lakes are widened portions of the river and are noted below.

**Lake George** – see Putnam County. Jetties on the south end where the St. Johns River enters the lake are a hot spot for sunshine bass fishing in the spring and fall. Wooden structure bombing targets in the east side of Lake George produce good striped bass and black crappie catches from October through April. Striped bass are also caught at the mouth of **Juniper Run**, **Salt Springs Run** (Marion County), and **Silver Glen Run** (Marion & Lake Counties) during summer months. One public ramp is available off Blue Creek Lodge Road. Other ramps are located on the St. Johns River both upstream and downstream of Lake George.

**Lake Harney** – see Seminole County

**Lake Monroe** – see Seminole County. A boat ramp on the north side of the lake is available on Enterprise Road.

**Puzzle Lake** – This lake is a 1,300-acre maze of St. Johns River marshes and side channels. American shad are caught during their spawning run from January through April between Puzzle Lake and Lake Monroe. Best baits are shad darts, small spoons and brightly-colored shad flies. (A saltwater fishing license is required to harvest American shad and other

saltwater species that occur in this system.) Plastic worms, soft plastic jerk baits, spinnerbaits, weedless spoons and shallow-running minnow imitations work well for largemouth bass. Typical baits and techniques

work for bluegill and redear sunfish. Boat access is available at a public ramp at SR 46. This area also affords great catfish action during low water periods.

## WHO NEEDS A FISHING LICENSE and WHY?

**W**ho needs a freshwater fishing license? Fishing licenses are required for anglers 16 years old or older and for resident anglers less than 65 years of age. Non-resident seniors are required to buy a license. Other special exemptions apply, such as for residents fishing in their county of residence with a cane pole (for details see [MyFWC.com/Fishing](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing)). A license is your low cost ticket to enjoy all the recreational benefits of freshwater fishing in “Florida – The Fishing Capital of the World, where Water Works Wonders.”

**What are my fees used for?** Except for administrative fees charged by the tax collector or agent and processing surcharges, all of the money spent on fishing licenses goes to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to “Manage fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.” In addition, each license holder that buys a license helps the FWC to recover excise taxes from the Federal government, which you spend on items such as fishing tackle or boats, and for motor boat fuel taxes, through the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration program.

**Where do I get a license?** The least expensive place to buy is at your tax collectors office. For added convenience, many bait-and-tackle shops and sports retailers (e.g., Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Sports Authority) sell licenses, for a small additional fee.

Instant licenses also are available via the Internet ([MyFWC.com/license.html](http://MyFWC.com/license.html)) or a toll free call to 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). A credit card is required, and there is an additional convenience fee. Using these methods enables you to begin fishing right away. Starting dates for licenses may be designated by you for up to two months (60 days) from the date of purchase, to help you with trip planning. License fees, exemptions and surcharges are set by the Florida Legislature and are subject to change.

**What is the Total Licensing System (TLS)?** TLS electronically captures information from the sale of fishing licenses in real time, regardless of where they are sold. The system uses cash-register like licenses printed on a weatherproof paper or special coded number licenses. This enables the FWC to track and accurately verify license sales, lessens the burden on sales agents, reduces errors and provides greater convenience to anglers. Instant license coded numbers enable you to buy a license from home via the Internet or anywhere that you can access a phone and start fishing immediately – no more waiting for the store to open or worrying if they have sold out of a particular type of license. Get the urge, get your license and GO FISHING!



## Northeast Florida Accommodations Guide to Fish Camps & Other Access Points

(Information presented on fish camps is subject to change. Please contact the owner/operator to verify services available.)

County	Water Body	Fish Camp/Access Point	Ramp	Bait	Gas	Food	Ice	Lodg. Camp	Fishing License	Guides Boat Rental
Brevard	St. Johns River	Camp Holly (West of Melbourne, 3 miles west of I-95 near US 192 bridge over St. Johns River) 6901 US Hwy. 192 Melbourne, FL 32904 321-723-2179	✓	✓		G	✓	C RV		B
Brevard	St. Johns River	Lone Cabbage (4½ miles west of I-95 near Cocoa on CR 520/ King Street, near bridge over St. Johns River) 8199 King St. Cocoa, FL 32926 321-632-4199	✓			G R	✓			GD
Flagler	Crescent Lake	Bull Creek Fish and Campground (From the intersection of SR 100 and US 1 in Bunnell, take SR 100 north 0.8 mile to SR 20/SR 100, then head west 3.1 miles to CR 302. Take CR 302 west 3.5 miles to CR 305 and go south 3.1 miles to CR 318/CR 2006. Take CR 318/2006 west 3.8 miles to camp.) 3861 CR HWY. 2006 Bunnell, FL 32110 386-437-3451	✓	✓		G	✓	C RV		B canoes
Indian River	Blue Cypress Lake	Middleton's Fish Camp (From the intersection of I-95 and SR 60 west of Vero Beach, travel west on SR 60 for 17½ miles to Blue Cypress Road. Turn right and go 4½ miles.) 21704 73rd Manor Vero Beach, FL 32966 772-778-0150	✓	✓	✓		✓	L C		B GD
Lake	Dead River (Ocklawaha/Harris Chain)	Palm Gardens (Heading south from US 441 and US 27 intersection in Leesburg, take US 441 about 7 miles to Dead River Bridge. Turn left (north) at base of bridge into park.) 11801 US Hwy. 441 Tavares, FL 32778 352-343-2024	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L RV		B GD
Lake	Lake Dora	Mt. Dora Boating Center (From Eustis take US 441 south towards Mt. Dora, about 3 miles to Donnelly St. Go south on Donnelly 2 miles to Charles St. Turn left on Charles St.; boating center is on corner of Charles and Tremain.) 48 Charles Ave. Mt. Dora, FL 32757 352-383-3150	✓				✓			B
Lake	Lake Griffin	Lazy Oaks (From intersection of US 27 and US 441 in Leesburg, take US 27/US 441 north 1 mile to Picciola Rd. Turn east and go 4 blocks to North Lakeview, turn right, go to end of road; camp is on left.) 1414 N. LakeView Ave. Leesburg, FL 34748 352-787-3626	✓					L		B

LEGEND: ✓ – facility or service available

G- groceries, snacks R- restaurant L- cabins, cottages or rooms C- campsites RV- camper or RV hookups B- boat rental GD- guide service

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County	Water Body	Fish Camp/Access Point	Ramp	Bait	Gas	Food	Ice	Lodg. Camp	Fishing License	Guides Boat Rental
Lake	Lake Griffin	Morgan's Fish Camp (From intersection of US 27 and US 441 in Leesburg, take US 27/US 441 north 1 mile to Picciola Rd. (ABC Liquor Store is on SE corner.) Turn east and go 1/4 mile; camp is on right.) 4056 Picciola Rd. Fruitland Park, FL 34731 352-787-4916	✓	✓	✓	G		C RV		B
Lake	Lake Griffin	Pine Island (From US 441 in Lady Lake, go east on CR 466 (Lemon Rd.) to Lake Griffin Rd. (CR 466); go east 6 miles. Road ends at camp.) 6808 Lake Griffin Rd. Lady Lake, FL 32159 352-753-2972	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	C RV	✓	GD
Lake	Haines Creek & Lake Eustis	Sparky's Fish Camp (From Leesburg take US 441 south 2 miles and turn left on SR 44 east. Go 5 miles to CR 473 and turn right. Go 1/2 miles to Ocklawaha Rd. Turn left; camp is on left.) 11711 Ocklawaha Dr. Leesburg, FL 34788 352-742-1216	✓	✓				RV		B
Lake	Lake Harris	The Florida Anglers Resort (From Leesburg take US 441 south 7 miles. Entrance is across from Lake Square Mall. Turn south (right) on Anglers Ave. (next to Office Max) and go 1 block to Holloway Rd. Turn right and office is at end of road.) 32311 Anglers Ave. Leesburg, FL 34788 352-343-4141	✓					L C RV		
Lake	Lake Harris	Lake Harris Lodge (From US 441 in Tavares take SR 19 south 3 miles to Lake Park Rd. and turn right. Go 1/2 mile and camp is on left.) 11924 Lane Park Rd. Tavares, FL 32778 352-343-4111	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L RV		B GD
Lake	Lake Harris	Marina Del Ray (From US 441 in Tavares take SR 19 south 7 miles. Marina is on the right 1/4 mile past SR 19 (Howey) Bridge. Operated by Mission Inn.) 10400 CR Hwy. 48 Howey in the Hills, FL 34737 352-324-2024 ext. 26						L	✓	B GD
Marion	Lake Bryant	Lake Bryant Camp (18 miles east of Ocala on SR 40, 2 1/2 miles south on 183rd Ave. Rd., also known as Levy-Hammock Road) 5000 S.E. 183rd Ave. Rd. Ocklawaha, FL 32179 352-625-2376	✓	✓		G	✓	L C RV		B

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County	Water Body	Fish Camp/Access Point	Ramp	Bait	Gas	Food	Ice	Lodg. Camp	Fishing License	Guides Boat Rental
Marion	Lake Jumper	Lake Jumper (8 miles east of Silver Springs on SR 40, 3 miles north on CR 314A, 0.4 mile east on private road) 3171 N.E. CR Hwy. 314A Silver Springs, FL 34488 352-625-2345	✓							
Marion	Ocklawaha River	Blue Heron Cove (SR 42 at Ocklawaha River Bridge, east of Weirsdale) 19240 S.E. SR Hwy. 42 Weirsdale, FL 32195 352-821-3701	✓			R	✓	RV		GD
Marion	Ocklawaha River	Colby Woods RV Resort (4 miles east of Silver Springs on SR 40) 10313 E. SR Hwy. 40 Silver Springs, FL 34488 352-625-1122					✓	L C RV		B canoes kayaks
Marion	Orange Lake	McIntosh Fish Camp (South of Gainesville on US 441, turn east in McIntosh on Ave. H.) 5479 Ave. H McIntosh, FL 32664 352-591-1302	✓	✓		G	✓	L RV	✓	B GD
Marion	Orange Lake	South Shore Fish Camp (15 miles north of Ocala and 2 miles west of Citra, north side of CR 318) 18501 N.W. 3rd Ave. Citra, FL 32113 352-595-4241	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L RV		B GD
Marion	Rainbow River & Withlacoochee River	Rainbow Springs State Campground (From Dunnellon, east 2.5 miles on CR 484, then north 2.5 miles on 94th St.) 18185 S.W. 94th St. Dunnellon, FL 34432 352-465-8550				G	✓	C RV		B canoes
Marion	Salt Springs Run & Lake George	Salt Springs Run Marina and Landing (From intersection of SR 40 and CR 314 in the Ocala National Forest, go 16 miles east on CR 314 to SR 19. Take SR 19 north about 1/4 mile, then right on N.E. 134th Pl. to landing.) 25711 N.E. 134th Pl. Salt Springs, FL 32134 352-685-2255	✓	✓		G	✓			B
Marion	Lake Waldena	Lake Waldena Resort (16 miles east of I-75 near Ocala, and 2 1/2 miles west of CR 314A, on SR 40) 13582 E. SR Hwy. 40 Silver Springs, FL 34488 352-625-2851				G	✓	C RV		B rowboat

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County	Water Body	Fish Camp/Access Point	Ramp	Bait	Gas	Food	Ice	Lodg. Camp	Fishing License	Guides Boat Rental
Marion	Withlacoochee River & Rainbow River	Angler's Family Resort (From Ocala take SR 40 west 20 miles to Dunnellon. Turn left onto US 41 for 4.8 miles. Resort is on east side of US 41 and north side of river.) 12189 S. Williams St. Dunnellon, FL 34432 352-489-2397	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L	✓	B GD
Osceola	Alligator Chain of Lakes	Alligator Lakeside Inn (From intersection of US 192 and CR 15 just east of St. Cloud, go about 4 miles southeast on US 192) 6264 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy St. Cloud, FL 34771 407-892-3195	✓	✓		G R	✓	L		B GD
Osceola	Lake Cypress	Lake Cypress RV and Sports Club (From US 192 in St. Cloud, take CR 523 south about 12 miles, then right (west) onto Lake Cypress Rd. for 2.1 miles.) 3301 Lake Cypress Rd. Kenansville, FL 34739 407-957-3135	✓	✓		G R	✓	L C RV		GD
Osceola	East Lake Tohopekaliga	East Lake Fish Camp (From intersection of US 192 and CR 15 just east of St. Cloud, go north on CR 15 for about 7 miles, turn left (west) on Boggy Creek Road for 3 miles. Turn left on East Lake Fish Camp Road and follow to camp.) 3705 Big Bass Rd. Kissimmee, FL 34744 407-348-2040	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L C RV	✓	B GD
Osceola	Lake Kissimmee	Middleton's Fish Camp Too at Overstreet Landing (From US 192 in St. Cloud, take CR 523 south about 20 miles, then right on Joe Overstreet Road.) 4500 Joe Overstreet Rd. Kenansville, FL 34739 407-436-1966	✓	✓		G	✓	L C RV		GD
Osceola	Lake Marian	Lake Marian Paradise (From US 192 in St. Cloud, take CR 523 south about 35 miles. Turn right onto Arnold Rd. for 0.2 miles to camp.) 901 Arnold Rd. Kenansville, FL 34739 407-436-1464	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L RV	✓	
Osceola	Lake Marian	Fred's Fish Camp (From US 192 in St. Cloud, take CR 523 south about 35 miles. Turn right onto Landing Road and then right onto Lakeside Blvd.) 700 Lakeside Blvd. Kenansville, FL 34739 407-436-1472	✓	✓		G	✓	C RV		

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County	Water Body	Fish Camp/Access Point	Ramp	Bait	Gas	Food	Ice	Lodg. Camp	Fishing License	Guides Boat Rental
Osceola	West Lake Tohopekaliga	Big D's Bait To Go Lake Toho RV & Mobile Home Park (From US 192 in St. Cloud, travel south on Kissimmee Park Road (CR 525) about 7 miles. Follow road to the end and park will be on left.) 4715 Kissimmee Park Rd. Saint Cloud, FL 34772 407-892-8795	✓	✓		R	✓	RV		GD
Osceola	West Lake Tohopekaliga	Richardson's Fish Camp (From Florida Turnpike's Kissimmee/St. Cloud Exit, travel south on Shady Lane, and turn right onto Partin Settlement Road. Turn right onto Neptune Rd. for 0.8 miles, left onto Kings Hwy. for 1.9 miles, then right onto Scotty's Rd. Camp is located at end of road on left.) 1550 Scotty's Rd. Kissimmee, FL 34744 407-846-6540	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L C RV		GD
Osceola	West Lake Tohopekaliga	Big Toho Marina (From intersection of US 192 and US 441/17-92 in Kissimmee, travel south on Main Street 0.6 mile to Monument Ave.; left onto Monument Ave. to Lakeshore Blvd.; turn right on Lakeshore and follow 0.3 mile to ramp on left.) 101 Lakeshore Blvd. Kissimmee, FL 34741 407-846-2124	✓	✓		G	✓		✓	B GD
Osceola	West Lake Tohopekaliga	Southport Park (From intersection of US 17-92 and John Young Parkway, go south on US 17-92 (South Bermuda Ave.) for 2.6 miles to Pleasant Hill Road. Turn left on Pleasant Hill Road and go 7.5 miles to Southport Rd. Turn left on Southport Road and follow for 4.2 miles to camp.) 2001 E. Southport Rd. Kissimmee, FL 34746 407-933-5822	✓	✓		G	✓	C RV		GD
Polk	Lake Hatchineha	Port Hatchineha (From SR 60 in Lake Wales, travel north on SR 17 for 11 miles, then turn right (east) on CR 542 (Lake Hatchineha Rd.) for 10 miles.) 1600 Lake Hatchineha Rd. Haines City, FL 33844 863-439-1166	✓	✓	✓	G R	✓	C RV		GD
Polk	Lake Kissimmee	Camp Lester (From US 27 in Lake Wales, head east on SR 60 about 8 miles to Boy Scout Camp Rd. Turn left (Boy Scout Camp Rd. becomes Barney Keen Rd) for 3.4 miles to Camp Mack Rd. Turn right and for 5.2 miles to Camp Lester Rd. Turn left on Camp Lester Rd. for 0.3 mile and bear right at Reese Dr. 0.2 mile to camp. 14400 Reese Dr. Lake Wales, FL 33853 863-696-1123	✓	✓		G	✓	L RV		GD

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County	Water Body	Fish Camp/Access Point	Ramp	Bait	Gas	Food	Ice	Lodg. Camp	Fishing License	Guides Boat Rental
Polk	Lake Kissimmee	Camp Mack's River Resort (From US 27 in Lake Wales, head east on SR 60 about 8 miles to Boy Scout Camp Rd. Turn left (Boy Scout Camp Rd. becomes Barney Keen Rd) for 3.4 miles to Camp Mack Rd. Turn right and follow 5.2 miles to camp. 14900 Camp Mack Rd. Lake Wales, FL 33853 863-696-1108	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L C RV	✓	B GD
Polk	Lake Kissimmee	Grape Hammock Fish Camp (From US 27 in Lake Wales, travel east on SR 60 about 25 miles, then turn left on Grape Hammock Road for 1.5 miles.) 1400 Grape Hammock Rd. Lake Wales, FL 33898 863-692-1500	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L C RV		GD
Polk	Lake Kissimmee	Shady Oaks Fish Camp (From US 27 in Lake Wales, travel east on SR 60 about 25 miles, then turn left on Grape Hammock Road for 0.8 miles. Bear left (north) onto Shady Oak Drive for 0.2 mile.) 1800 Shady Oaks Rd. Lake Wales, FL 33898 863-692-1261	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	RV	✓	GD
Polk	Lake Kissimmee	Thomas Landing (From US 27 in Lake Wales, travel east on SR 60 about 15 miles, turn left on Sam Keen Road for 3.7 miles.) 3952 Sam Keen Rd. Lake Wales, FL 33898 863-692-1121	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L C RV		GD
Putnam	Crescent Lake	Lake Crescent Resort (in Crescent City, take US 17 north 0.4 miles past CR 308/Huntington Rd. to Grove Ave. Take Grove Ave. east 0.2 miles) 100 Grove Ave. Crescent City, FL 32112 386-698-2485	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L C RV		
Putnam	Crescent Lake	Hide Away Cove Camping & Fishing Resort (in Crescent City, take US 17 north 3.8 miles past CR 308/Huntington Rd. to Paradise Shores Rd. Take Paradise Shores Rd. north 0.3 miles to Smith Lane, take Smith Lane East 0.3 miles) 130 Smith Lane Crescent City, FL 32112 386-698-1022	✓	✓		G	✓	L C RV		
Putnam	Crescent Lake	Tangerine Cove Fishing Resort, Motel, Restaurant & Lodge (from the intersection of C.R. 308/ Huntington Rd. and U.S. 17 in Crescent City, take U.S. 17 south 3.7 miles) Crescent City, FL 32112 386-698-1170	✓	✓		G R	✓	L RV		

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County	Water Body	Fish Camp/Access Point	Ramp	Bait	Gas	Food	Ice	Lodg. Camp	Guides Fishing License	Boat Rental
Putnam	St. Johns River & Dunns Creek	Georgia Boy's Fish Camp (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 6.0 miles to Butler Dr., take Butler Dr. south 0.4 miles) 217 Butler Dr. Satsuma, FL 32189 386-325-7764	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L	✓	GD
Putnam	Lake George	Georgetown Marina & Lodge (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 14.1 miles) 1533 CR Hwy. 309 Georgetown, FL 32139 386-467-2002	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L RV	✓	GD
Putnam	Georges Lake	Lakeside Hills Fish Camp (About 14 miles northwest of Palatka, take Coral Farms Rd. north from SR 100 in Florahome for 4.2 miles; turn east onto Hernando Drive, which becomes Lake Drive.) 218 Lake Dr. Florahome, FL 32140 386-659-2350	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	RV		B GD
Putnam	St. Johns River & Lake George	Camp Henry Resort and Marina (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 14.1 miles) 1549 S. CR 309 Georgetown, FL 32139 386-467-2282	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L RV		B GD
Putnam	St. Johns River & Lake George	Porky's Landing (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 13 miles). 120 Georgetown Rd. Pomona Park, FL 32189 386-467-2310	✓			R	✓	L		
Putnam	St. Johns River	Acosta Creek Harbor (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 3.6 miles to Acosta Creek Dr., take Acosta Creek Dr. west 0.1 miles) 124 Acosta Creek Dr. Satsuma, FL 32189 386-467-2229					✓	L RV		GD
Putnam	St. Johns River & Rodman Reservoir	Bass Haven Lodge (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 5.0 miles to Mill St., take Mill St. west 0.3 miles) 1 Mill St. Welaka, FL 32193 386-467-8812			✓	R	✓	L		B
Putnam	St. Johns River & Lake George	Bass World Lodge and Marina (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 12.0 miles to Browns Fish Camp Rd., take Browns Fish Camp Rd. northwest 0.2 miles) 209 Browns Fish Camp Rd. Georgetown, FL 32139 386-467-2267	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L C RV		B GD

LEGEND: ✓ - facility or service available

G- groceries, snacks   R- restaurant   L- cabins, cottages or rooms   C- campsites   RV- camper or RV hookups   B- boat rental   GD- guide service

## Northeast Florida Accommodations Guide to Fish Camps & Other Access Points

(Information presented on fish camps is subject to change. Please contact the owner/operator to verify services available.)

County	Water Body	Fish Camp/Access Point	Ramp	Bait	Gas	Food	Ice	Lodg. Camp	Fishing License	Guides Boat Rental
Putnam	St. Johns River	Gateway Fish Camp (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 8.6 miles to Fort Gates Ferry Rd., take Fort Gates Ferry Road 1.2 miles southwest) 229 Fort Gates Ferry Rd. Fruitland, FL 32112 386-467-2411	✓				✓	L RV		B
Putnam	St. Johns River	Harley Paiute's Camping Village (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 11 miles) 1269 CR Hwy. 309 Crescent City, FL 32112 386-467-7050	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L  C RV		GD
Putnam	St. Johns River & Rodman Reservoir	Crystal Cove Marine Services (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 north 5.9 miles to comfort Road, take Comfort Road east 3 miles to Crystal Cove Drive) 121 Crystal Cove Dr. Palatka, FL 32177 386-328-4000	✓	✓	✓	G R	✓	L		B
Putnam	St. Johns River	Anglers Paradise Lodge (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 10 miles) 1171 CR Hwy. 309 Fruitland, FL 32112 386-467-2099	✓			R	✓	L RV		GD
Putnam	St. Johns River	Stegbone's Fish Camp (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 3.1 miles to Norton's Fish Camp Rd., take Norton's Fish Camp Rd. west 0.1 miles) 144 Norton's Fish Camp Rd. Satsuma, FL 32189 386-467-2464		✓	✓	G	✓	L		B GD
Putnam	St. Johns River & Rodman Reservoir	Sunset Landing (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 5.6 miles to Elm St., take Elm St. west 0.1 miles to Front St., take Front St./ Beecher Point Rd south) 110 River Bend Rd. Welaka, FL 32193 386-467-8430	✓	✓	✓	G R	✓	L RV		
Putnam	St. Johns River & Rodman Reservoir	Trail Boss Marina (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 5.6 miles to Elm St., take Elm St. west 0.1 miles to Front St., take Front St./ Beecher Point Rd south) 1007 Front St. Welaka, FL 32193 386-467-2319	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L C RV	✓	B GD

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## Northeast Florida Accommodations Guide to Fish Camps & Other Access Points

(Information presented on fish camps is subject to change. Please contact the owner/operator to verify services available.)

County	Water Body	Fish Camp/Access Point	Ramp	Bait	Gas	Food	Ice	Lodg. Camp	Fishing License	Guides Boat Rental
Putnam	St. Johns River & Rodman Reservoir	Wolfe's Camp (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 5.6 miles to Elm St., take Elm St. west 0.1 miles to Front St., take Front St./ Beecher Point Rd south) 1001 Front St. Welaka, FL 32193 386-467-2770						L RV		GD
Putnam	St. Johns River & Rodman Reservoir	Welaka Bait and Tackle and Guide Service (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 5.6 miles to Elm St., take Elm St. west 0.1 miles) 50 Elm St. Welaka, FL 32193 386-467-3845	✓	✓		G	✓			GD
Seminole	Lake Jesup & St. Johns River	Black Hammock Marina and Fish Camp (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 207 in East Palatka, take US 17 south 9.1 miles to CR 309, take CR 309 south 5.6 miles to Elm St., take Elm St. west 0.1 miles) 2356 Black Hammock Fish Camp Rd. Oviedo, FL 32765 407-365-1244	✓			G R	✓			B GD
Seminole	Wekiva River & St. Johns River	Wekiva Marina and Restaurant (from the intersection of SR 434 and SR 436 between Apopka and Fern Park, take SR 434 north 1 mile to Sand Lake Rd., take Sand Lake Rd. west 1.9 miles to Hunt Club Blvd., take Hunt Club Blvd. north 2.1 miles to Miamin Springs Dr./ Miami Springs Rd., take Miami Springs Dr./Miami Sprigs Rd. north 0.5 miles) 1014 Miami Springs Dr. Longwood, FL 32779 407-862-1500	✓	✓		G	✓			B canoes
Seminole	Wekiva River & St. Johns River	Wekiva River Haven (From the intersection of SR 46 and I-4 take SR 46 west 5 miles to Wekiva Park Dr., take Wekiva Park Dr. north 1.6 miles to Wekiva Haven Trail, take Wekiva Haven Trail Northwest 0.2 miles) 160 Wekiva Haven Trail Sanford, FL 32771 407-322-1909	✓	✓		G	✓			B
St. Johns	St. Johns River & Trout Creek	Pacetti's Marina, Campground and Fishing Resort (From the intersection of US 17 and SR 16 in Green Cove Springs, take SR 16 east 5.9 miles to SR 13, take SR 13 south 2.5 miles) 6550 SR Hwy. 13 North St. Augustine, FL 32092 904-264-1102	✓	✓	✓	G R	✓	L C RV		B GD canoes kayaks

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## Northeast Florida Accommodations Guide to Fish Camps & Other Access Points

(Information presented on fish camps is subject to change. Please contact the owner/operator to verify services available.)

County	Water Body	Fish Camp/Access Point	Ramp	Bait	Gas	Food	Ice	Lodg. Camp	Fishing License	Guides Boat Rental
Sumter	Lake Panasoffkee	Tracey's Point Fish Camp (North of Bushnell, take Exit 64/CR 470 west from I-75 exit, go about 3 miles and turn right on CR 437.) 960 CR Hwy. 437 Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538 352-793-8060	✓	✓		G	✓	L		B GD
Sumter	Lake Panasoffkee	Turtleback RV Resort (North of Bushnell, take Exit 64/CR 470 west from I-75 exit, go 0.3 mile and turn right on CR 488.) 190 CR Hwy. 488 Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538 352-793-2051	✓					L C RV		
Sumter	Lake Panasoffkee	Pana Vista Lodge, Inc. (North of Bushnell, take Exit 64/CR 470 west from I-75 exit, go about 4.5 miles and turn right on CR 421.) 417 CR Hwy. 421 Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538 352-793-2061	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L C RV	✓	B GD
Volusia	St. Johns River, Lake George & Hitchens Creek	Hitchens Island Marina (from SR 40 just east of the St. Johns River in Astor, go north for 2.8 miles on Riley Pridgeon Rd., then west for 3.4 miles on Volusia Bar Rd.) 2095 Volusia Bar Rd. Pierson, FL 32180 UNDER CONSTRUCTION, EST. COMPLETION DATE BY END OF 2004. Ramp and slips currently usable.	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L C RV		B GD
Volusia	Lake George	Pine Island Fish Camp (From the intersection of US 17 and County Road 305 in Seville, take Clayton Avenue .3 miles west to Lake George Road, then take Lake George Road .2 miles west. Located on South side of Lake George Road) 1600 Lake George Rd. Seville, FL 32190 386-749-2818	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L C RV		GD
Volusia	St. Johns River & Lake Monroe	Highbanks Marina and Camp Resort (just south of Deltona, take I-4 exit 53 and head west to US 17/92; go right into Debary to only red light on Highbanks Rd., turn west and go 2.5 mi to resort) 488 W. Highbanks Rd. Debary, FL 32713 386-668-4491	✓	✓	✓	G R	✓	L C RV		B
Volusia	St. Johns River & Lake Beresford	Holly Bluff Marina (From US 17 and SR 44 intersection in Deland, go west 2 miles on SR 44, left on Old New York Avenue for 2 miles, then left onto Hontoon Rd. 3.1 miles.) 2280 Hontoon Rd. Deland, FL 32720 386-822-9992	✓		✓	G	✓	L (coming soon)		B
Volusia	St. Johns River & Lake Beresford	Hontoon Landing Marina (From US 17 and SR 44 intersection in Deland, go west 2 miles on SR 44, left on Old New York Avenue for 2 miles, left onto Hontoon Road for 2.5 miles, then left on River Ridge Road for 0.9 mile.) 2317 River Ridge Rd. Deland, FL 32720 386-734-2474	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L	✓	B

LEGEND: ✓ - facility or service available

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## Northeast Florida Accommodations Guide to Fish Camps & Other Access Points

(Information presented on fish camps is subject to change. Please contact the owner/operator to verify services available.)

County	Water Body	Fish Camp/Access Point	Ramp	Bait	Gas	Food	Ice	Lodg. Camp	Fishing License	Guides Boat Rental
Volusia	St. Johns River & Lake Beresford	Tropical Resort and Marina (From US 17 and SR 44 intersection in Deland, go west 2 miles on SR 44, left on Old New York Ave. for 1.6 miles, then left onto Lakeview Dr. 1 mile to resort.) 1485 Lakeview Dr. Deland, FL 32720 386-734-3080	✓	✓		G	✓	L C RV		GD
Volusia	St. Johns River, Lake George & Morrison's Creek	Parramore's Fantastic Fish Camp and Family Resort (From SR 40 just east of the St. Johns River in Astor, go north 0.9 mile on Riley Pridgeon Rd., west for 1.1 miles on South Camp Moon Rd., then south 0.3 mile on South Moon Rd.) 1675 South Moon Rd. Astor, FL 32102 386-749-2721	✓	✓		G	✓	L C RV	✓	B
Volusia	St. Johns River & Lake Woodruff	Highland Park (From US 17/92 and SR 44 intersection in Deland, travel 2.7 miles west on SR 44 to Grand Ave., take Grand Ave. 0.6 mile north to Minnesota Ave., take Minnesota Ave. 0.4 mile west to Grand Ave., take Grand Ave. 1.4 miles north to Highland Park Road, take Highland Park Road 1.1 miles west.) 2640 Highland Park Rd. Deland, FL 32720 386-734-2334	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L C RV	✓	B GD
Volusia	St. Johns River & Lake George	South Moon Fishing Camp (From SR 40 just east of the St. Johns River in Astor, go north 0.9 mile on Riley Pridgeon Road, west for 1.1 miles on South Camp Moon Road, then south 0.3 mile on South Moon Road.) 1977 South Moon Rd. Astor, FL 32102 386-749-2383	✓	✓	✓	G	✓	L	✓	B
Volusia	St. Johns River, Lake Woodruff & Morrison's Creek	Tedder's Fish Camp (From US 17 and SR 44 intersection in Deland, go 7.4 miles north on US 17 to Lake Winona Rd., take Lake Winona Rd. 0.2 mile east to CR 5, take CR 5 0.5 mile south to Burts Park Road, take Burts Park Road 0.5 mile west to Tedder's Court, take Tedder's Ct. 0.1 mile west.) 760 Tedder's Ct. De Leon Springs, FL 32130 386-985-2989	✓	✓						
Volusia	St. Johns River & Lake George	Blair's Jungle Den Fish Camp (In Astor just east of the SR 40 Bridge, turn north off SR 40 onto Alice Dr. and go 0.7 mile, turn left on Ormand's Jungle Den Rd. and go 0.5 mile.) 1820 Ormand's Jungle Den Rd. Astor, FL 32102 386-749-2264	✓	✓	✓	G R	✓	L RV		
Volusia	St. Johns River & Lake George	Astor Bridge Marina (In Astor, on the east side of the St. Johns River and south of the SR 40 bridge.) 1575 W. SR Hwy. 40 Astor, FL 32102 386-749-4407 or 866-237-6887 toll-free	✓	✓	✓	G R	✓	L RV		

LEGEND: ✓ - facility or service available

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## Northeast Region

### FWC Managed Boat Ramps For Freshwater Fishing Access

County	Water Body	Landing	Directions
Brevard	Fox Lake	Fox Lake Park	Heading north on I-95 just west of Titusville, exit and turn right onto SR 50. Go east 0.5 mile to SR 405. Turn left on SR 405 and go 2.2 miles. Then turn left on Fox Lake Rd. and go 1.5 miles to Fox Lake Park entrance. Follow park road to ramp.
Brevard	St. Johns River	Hatbill Park	Heading east on SR 46 from intersection of CR 426 and SR 46 in Geneva, go 12.2 miles. Turn right onto Hatbill Rd. and follow 5.2 miles to ramp at dead-end of road. OR, Hatbill Rd. is 4.2 miles west of I-95 on SR 46.
Indian River	Blue Cypress Lake	Blue Cypress Lake	From the intersection of I-95 and SR 60 west of Vero Beach, travel west on SR 60 for 17.5 miles to Blue Cypress Rd. Turn right and go 4.5 miles to ramp.
Indian River	Farm 13/Stick Marsh Reservoir (Barney Green Reservoir)	C-54 Recreation Area	From intersection of I-95 and CR 512 west of Sebastian, travel west on CR 512 for 3.1 miles to Fellsmere. Turn right onto Broadway St. and go 0.4 mile to Carolina Ave. Turn left and go 0.4 mile to 138th Ave., then right and go 3.4 miles to the C-54 Canal. Before crossing C-54 Bridge, turn left onto Fellsmere Grade Rd. and go 6.2 miles to ramp.
Indian River	Kenansville Lake	Kenansville Lake	Heading southeast from St. Cloud, follow US 441 to Holopaw, then go about 20 miles to Fellsmere Grade Road, which is an unpaved road. The Cow Palace restaurant is situated at the corner of US 441 and Fellsmere Grade. Turn left (east) onto Fellsmere Grade Road and follow for 12 miles. The ramp is on the south side of the road.
Lake	Apopka/Beauclair Canal	Lake Jem Park	From Tavares go south on SR 19. Turn left onto CR 561 and go 1.6 miles to CR 448. Turn left on CR 448 and go 3.3 miles to park entrance. Turn left from CR 448 into park and follow road to ramp.
Lake	Lake Dalhousie	Lake Dalhousie	Heading north on SR 19 from Eustis, turn right onto CR 450A (Willis McCall Rd.) just south of Umatilla. Go 2.8 miles to intersection of CR 44A and CR 450A. Go right on CR 44A (CR 450A requires a 90-degree turn to left). Go 0.6 mile on CR 44A to Bill Collins Rd., turn left and follow 0.9 mile to Burhans Rd. Go left and follow 0.7 mile to ramp.
Lake	Lake Dora	Gilbert Park	Heading south on US 441 in Mt. Dora, turn right onto Donnelly St. Take Donnelly St. 1.8 miles to Charles Ave. Turn left on Charles and follow 0.2 mile to Gilbert Park. Turn right into boat ramp entrance.
Lake	Lake Dorr	Lake Dorr	From intersection of SR 40 and SR 19, go south on SR 19 for 11.7 miles. Turn left onto dirt road (0.3 mile south of U.S. Forest Service Campground entrance of SR 19). Follow road 0.2 mile to ramp. (Ramp is about 5 miles north of Umatilla.)
Lake	Lake Eustis	Tavares Park	From intersection of SR 19 and US 441 at Tavares, go west on US 441 approximately 1 mile to ramp on right.

## Northeast Region

### FWC Managed Boat Ramps For Freshwater Fishing Access

County	Water Body	Landing	Directions
Lake	Lake George	Blue Creek Lodge	Heading east on SR 40 from intersection of SR 19 (about 25 miles east of Ocala), go 3.3 miles. Turn left onto Blue Creek Lodge Rd. and follow for 2.5 miles. Go left onto Lake George Rd. and go 1.0 mile to ramp at dead end of road.
Lake	Little Lake Harris	Astatula Park	About 2 miles south of Tavares, turn east off SR 19 onto CR 561 and go 5.6 miles from intersection of SR 19 and CR 561 to Florida Ave. in Astatula. Turn right onto Florida Ave. and go 0.8 mile to ramp.
Lake	Lake Harris	Singletary Park	From split of US 441 and US 27 at Leesburg, go south on US 27 for 2.9 miles to entrance on left.
Lake	Lake Holly	Lake Holly	Heading north on SR 19 in Umatilla, turn left onto CR 450. Follow CR 450 3.2 miles. Boat ramp is on right side of road.
Lake and Orange	Johns Lake	Johns Lake	Heading east on SR 50 from Clermont, go 4.8 miles from intersection of SR 50 and US 27. Turn right and go 0.1 mile to ramp on left.
Lake	Palatlakaha River	Palatlakaha Park	Heading south on US 27 from Leesburg, go 0.3 mile south of SR 50 intersection; turn right onto Hook St. and go 0.3 mile to Lakeshore Dr. Go left and follow road 3.3 miles to Hull Rd. Turn left and follow road 1.1 miles to park on left side of Hull Rd.
Lake	St. Johns River	Astor- Butler Street	Heading east on SR 40 from intersection of SR 19 and SR 40 (about 25 miles east of Ocala), go 7.4 miles to Astor. Just before crossing the bridge, turn right onto Butler St. and follow 0.2 mile to ramp on right.
Lake	Lake Umatilla	Lake Umatilla	South of Umatilla, head north on SR 19. Go 0.5 mile from the intersection of SR 19 and CR 450A. Turn right onto Lakeview and follow 0.4 mile to ramp on left side of road.
Lake	Lake Yale	Lake Yale North	Heading north on SR 19 in Umatilla, turn left onto CR 450. Follow CR 450 for 1.8 miles to Lake Yale Rd. Turn left on Lake Yale Rd. and go 1.4 miles. Turn left at 'Y' in road and go 0.3 mile. Bear left at 'Y' onto Lake Yale Boat Ramp Rd. Follow road to boat ramp.
Lake	Lake Yale	Marsh Memorial Park	Heading north from Eustis on CR 452, go 0.5 mile north of intersection of SR 44 and CR 452. Turn right onto Yale Retreat Road and follow to ramp.
Marion	Lake Kerr	Moorehead Park	Heading east from Silver Springs on SR 40, go about 5 miles to CR 314. Turn left onto CR 314 for 15.4 miles to Forest Rd. No. 88. Turn left onto Forest Rd. 88 and go 3.8 miles to NE 140th St. Turn right and follow 0.4 mile to ramp.
Marion	Orange Lake	Heagy-Burry Park	Heading north on US 441/301 from Ocala, bear left onto US 441 when US 301 forks to the right. Go 7.6 miles from the fork to NW 191st Pl. Turn right and follow 0.7 mile to ramp at end of road.

## Northeast Region

### FWC Managed Boat Ramps For Freshwater Fishing Access

County	Water Body	Landing	Directions
Marion	Rodman Reservoir	Hog Valley	About 15 miles northeast of Ocala, heading east on CR 316, go 1.3 miles from the west end of the barge canal bridge (Eureka) to NE 160th Ave Rd. Turn left (north) and proceed 9.7 miles to NE 245 St. Rd. Turn left and follow to ramp. OR Heading west from Salt Springs, take CR 316 10.0 miles to NE 160th Ave. Rd. Turn right. Then use same directions as above.
Marion	Withlacoochee River	Dunnellon Ramp	Heading south on US 41 in Dunnellon, go 0.3 mile from the intersection of US 41 and CR 484. Ramp will be on the right before the bridge.
Orange	Lake Apopka	Magnolia Park	Heading south on US 441 south of Zellwood, turn right on CR 437 in Plymouth. Follow CR 437 for 5.2 miles to Magnolia Park. Turn right into park entrance and follow road to ramp.
Orange	Lake Beauclair	Trimble Park	Heading south on US 441 from Mt. Dora, turn right onto CR 448 heading toward Lake Lem. Go 1.6 miles from intersection of US 441 and CR 448 to Dora Drive. Turn right onto Dora Drive and go 1.1 miles to Earlwood Avenue, then 0.6 mile to "Y" in road. Bear right onto Trimble Park Road and follow to park entrance. Follow park road to ramp. OR, heading east on CR 448 from CR 561 south of Tavares, go 6.0 miles from intersection of CR 501 and CR 448. Turn left onto Dora Drive and follow above instructions.
Orange	Clear Lake	George Barker Jr. Park	In Orlando, go 1.5 miles south on US 441 from the intersection of US 441 (Orange Blossom Tr.) and SR 50 (Colonial Dr.) to Gore St. Turn right on Gore and go 0.5 mile and bear right to traffic light. Turn left and go one block to Gore. Turn right and immediately left into George Barker Park.
Orange	Lake Lawne	Gordon Barnett Park	In Orlando, heading west on SR 50 from intersection of US 441 and SR 50, go 2.8 miles to Gordon Barnett Park (look for park signs). Turn right on BMX lane just west of Central Florida Fairgrounds. Turn right at first stop sign. Turn right again at next stop sign and continue 0.5 mile past pier and pavilions to boat ramp on right.
Orange	Lakes Mary Jane and Hart	Moss Park	Heading east on US 192 in St. Cloud from intersection of CR 523 and US 192, go 2.9 miles to CR 15 (Narcoosee Rd.), turn left and go 12.4 miles to Moss Park Rd. (Note: Moss Park Road is north of Toll Rd. 417) Turn right onto Moss Park Rd. and follow the road 4.5 miles to park entrance. Ramp to Mary Jane is 0.1 mile on left; Hart ramp is 0.2 mile on right.
Osceola	Alligator Lake	C-33 Canal	Heading east on US 192 in St. Cloud from intersection of CR 523 and US 192, go 2.9 miles to CR 15 (Narcoosee Rd.)/CR 534 (Hickory Tree Rd). Turn right on Hickory Tree Road and travel south for approximately 6.0 miles. Turn left into county park. Follow park road to ramp.

## Northeast Region

### FWC Managed Boat Ramps For Freshwater Fishing Access

County	Water Body	Landing	Directions
Osceola	Lake Jackson (User fee or WMA stamp required)	Three Lakes WMA	From intersection of US 192 and CR 523 (Vermont Ave.) in St. Cloud, travel south on CR 523 for approximately 26 miles to main entrance of Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. (Note: This is second entrance). Turn right and follow unpaved road for 2.0 miles. Road forks - bear right and follow road 1.1 miles to ramp.
Osceola	West Lake Tohopekaliga	Lakefront Park	From intersection of US 192 and US 441/17-92 in Kissimmee, travel south on Main St. 0.6 mile to Monument Ave. Turn left onto Monument Ave. and follow to Lakeshore Blvd. Turn right on Lakeshore and follow 0.3 mile to ramp on left.
Osceola	Trout Lake	Trout Lake	From downtown St. Cloud, go east on US 192 for 4 miles. Turn left on Pine Grove Road and go 2.7 miles to Bass Street. Turn right onto Bass Street and go 3.5 miles to Trout Lake. Ramp is on left side of road.
Polk	Lake Kissimmee	Lake Kissimmee #77	On SR 60 about 25 miles east of Lake Wales and 20 miles west of the intersection of SR 60 and the Florida Turnpike. Ramp is located just southwest of the junction of SR 60 and the Kissimmee River. Headed east, before crossing bridge, turn right onto Levee Road. Follow road to ramp.
Polk	Kissimmee River	Kissimmee River #78	On SR 60 about 25 miles east of Lake Wales and 20 miles west of the intersection of SR 60 and the Florida Turnpike. Ramp is located just southwest of the junction of SR 60 and the Kissimmee River. Headed east before crossing bridge, turn right onto Levee Road. Follow road past first ramp.
Putnam	Crescent Lake	Crescent Lake	Heading north on US 17 in Crescent City, turn right onto Central Ave. and go about 3 blocks. Ramp is at end of road.
Putnam	Lake Stella	Lake Stella	Heading north on US 17 in Crescent City, turn left onto Central Ave. Go 2 blocks. Ramp is at end of road.
Putnam	St. Johns River	East Palatka	Heading south on US 17 in East Palatka from the eastern end of Memorial Bridge, go 1.9 miles, turn right on Pico Rd. and follow road 0.2 mile to ramp at end of road.
Putnam	St. Johns River	Elgin Grove	East of Palatka, heading north on SR 207, go 4.1 miles past SR 100 to SR 207A. Turn left on SR 207A and follow 4.3 miles to East River Rd. Turn left and go one block to Magnolia Ave. Turn right and follow Magnolia Ave. 0.4 mile to ramp at end of road.
Putnam	St. Johns River	Palmetto Bluff	From Palatka, head north on US 17 about 7 miles to Bostwick. Turn right onto Palmetto Bluff Rd. (CR 209). Go 4.5 miles to Cedar Creek Rd. Turn left and go one block, Turn left onto Boat Ramp Road (unpaved). Go one block and turn right. Follow road to ramp.

## Northeast Region

### FWC Managed Boat Ramps For Freshwater Fishing Access

County	Water Body	Landing	Directions
Putnam	St. Johns River	Shell Harbor	From the intersection of US 17 and SR 20 southeast of Palatka, head south on US 17 about 6 miles and turn right onto CR 309 near Satsuma. Follow CR 309 for 2.6 miles to Shell Harbor Rd. Turn right on Shell Harbor and follow 0.3 mile to ramp at end of road.
Putnam	St. Johns River	Welaka, Sunset Landing	From the intersection of US 17 and SR 20 southeast of Palatka, head south on US 17 about 6 miles to CR 309. Turn right and take CR 309 south to Welaka, then turn right at only traffic light in town onto Elm St. Follow road to ramp.
Seminole	St. Johns River	Mullet Lake Park	Heading east from Sanford on SR 46, go 4.2 miles to Mullet Lake Park Rd. Take a left and follow 2.2 miles to ramp on left side of road.
St. Johns	Guana Lake (No motors larger than 10 horsepower are allowed)	Six Mile	Ramp is on SR A1A 19 miles north of St. Augustine, or 6 miles north of entrance to Guana River State Park.
St. Johns	St. Johns River	Palmo Cove	Southeast of Jacksonville, heading south on SR 13 from Duval/St. John's county line, continue 1.2 miles from intersection of SR 16 and SR 13. Turn right onto Palmo Fish Camp Rd. Go 1.9 miles to ramp at end of road.
St. Johns	Trout Creek	Trout Creek Park	Heading east on SR 16 from Green Cove Springs, cross St. Johns River at Shands Bridge and continue to intersection of SR 16 and SR 13. Turn right on SR 13 and go 2.7 miles to Trout Creek Park. Turn left and follow paved park road to ramp.
Sumter	Lake Miona	Lake Miona	Heading south on US 301 from Oxford (about 9 miles south of Belleview and 4 miles north of Wildwood), continue south for 1.3 miles from the intersection of CR 466 and US 301 to CR 472. Turn left onto CR 472 and go 2.0 miles. Turn right into park and follow road to ramp.
Sumter	Outlet River	Marsh Bend Park	Heading west from the SR 44 exit on I-75 near Wildwood, continue 6 miles to CR 470, Turn left onto CR 470 and go 4.8 miles to Outlet Park entrance. Turn right and follow road to ramp.
Sumter	Withlacoochee River	Carlson's Landing	Heading west on SR 44 from Wildwood, continue about 6 miles to CR 470. Turn left on CR 470 and go 2.7 miles and turn right onto CR 307. Go 1 block and turn right onto CR 300. Go 0.3 mile and turn left onto NW 46th Road and follow road to ramp.
Volusia	Lake Ashby	Lake Ashby	From intersection of SR 415 and Enterprise-Osteen Rd. in town of Osteen (about 7 miles northeast of Sanford), go north on SR 415 for 8.0 miles to Lake Ashby Rd. Turn right and follow 0.5 mile. Turn right onto unpaved road and follow to ramp at dead-end of road.

**Northeast Region**  
**FWC Managed Boat Ramps For Freshwater Fishing Access**

County	Water Body	Landing	Directions
Volusia	Lake Dias	Lake Dias	Heading east of Barberville on SR 40, from the intersection of US 17 and SR 40, go 8 miles to SR 11. Turn right onto SR 11 and go 4.0 miles. Turn right onto paved road and follow to ramp.
Volusia	St. Johns River	Ed Stone Park	From Deland, heading west on SR 44 from the intersection of US 17-92 and SR 44 go through town and continue on SR 44 for 5.3 miles to Ed Stone Park. The entrance is on the right before you cross the bridge.
Volusia	St. Johns River	Enterprise	Heading north on US 17-92, from the intersection of I-4 and US 17-92 (north west of Sanford), go 3 miles to Dirkson Dr. (Enterprise Rd.). Turn right and go 3.2 miles to Main St. in town of Enterprise. Turn right onto Main St. and follow one block to Lakeshore Dr. Turn left onto Lakeshore Dr. and follow 1.1 miles to ramp on right.
Volusia	St. Johns River	High Banks Road	Heading north on US 17-92, from the intersection of I-4 and US 17-92 (north west of Sanford), go 4.5 miles through Debary to West High Banks Road. Turn left and follow 2.9 miles to ramp where High Banks Rd. dead-ends at ramp.
Volusia	St. Johns River	Lemon Bluff	Heading southwest from Osteen (about 7 miles northeast of Sanford) on CR 415 (intersection of CR 415 and Enterprise-Osteen Rd.), go 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Lemon Bluff Rd. Follow 3.7 miles and boat ramp will be on the left.

*Wildlife Alert!*

**Report Impaired Boaters and Fish and Wildlife Violators**

Impaired operators are putting themselves, you and other people on the water in danger. Those who violate Florida's fish and wildlife laws are actually stealing from those who are abiding by laws and trying to ensure that our fish and wildlife resources can be enjoyed for future generations. Do your part by calling the local FWC law enforcement office at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922) or #FWC on your cell phone. You may be eligible for a cash reward and can remain anonymous.

*Wildlife Alert!*

Report Fish & Wildlife Violations

REWARD

Call Toll-Free 24 Hr. 1-888-404-FWCC



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# FISH IDENTIFICATION

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Fish art by Duane Raver, Jr. (courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)



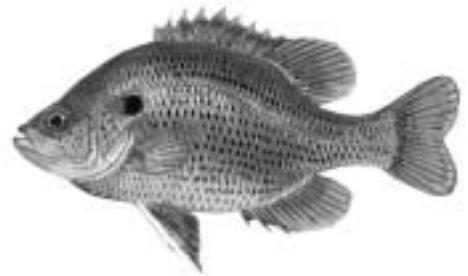
**Largemouth bass**



**Redbreast sunfish**



**Bluegill**



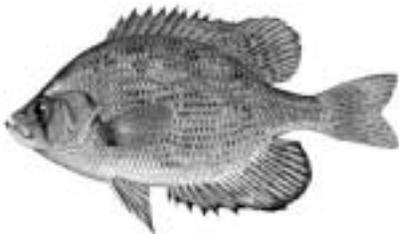
**Spotted Sunfish**



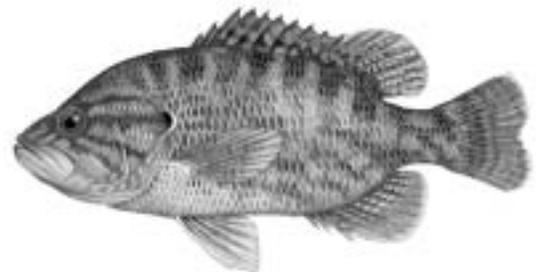
**Redear sunfish**



**Black crappie**



**Flier**



**Warmouth**



**Striped bass**



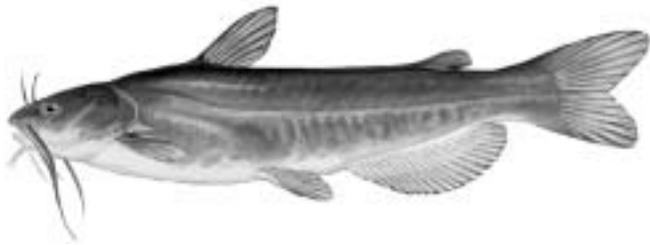
**Sunshine bass**

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# FISH IDENTIFICATION

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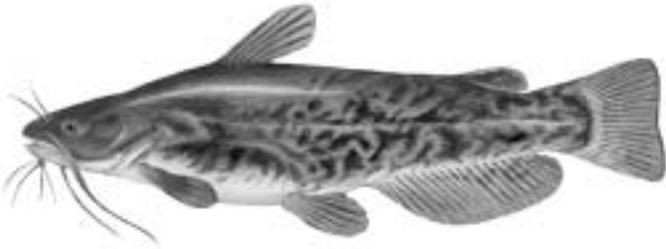
Fish art by Duane Raver, Jr. (courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)



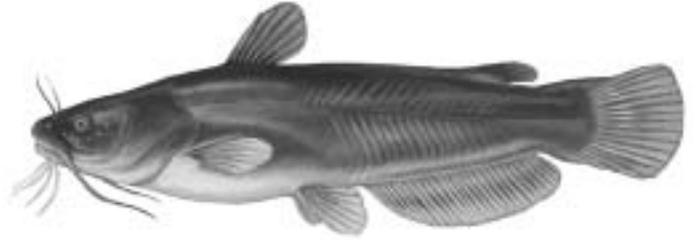
**White catfish**



**Channel catfish**



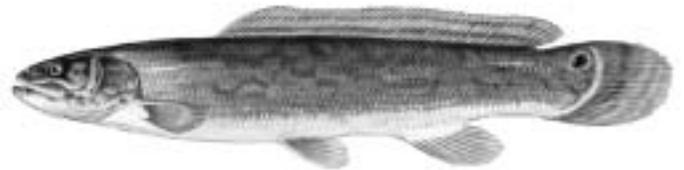
**Brown bullhead**



**Yellow bullhead**



**Florida gar**



**Bowfin (Mudfish)**



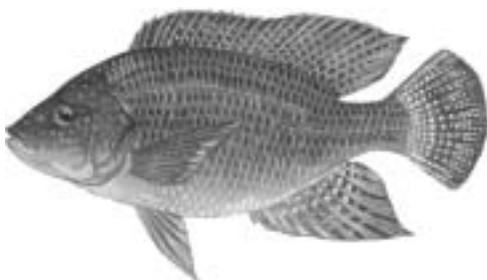
**Longnose gar**



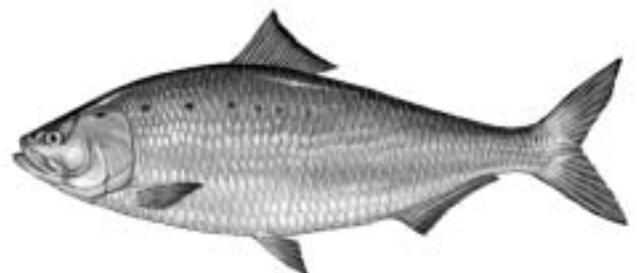
**Redfin pickerel**



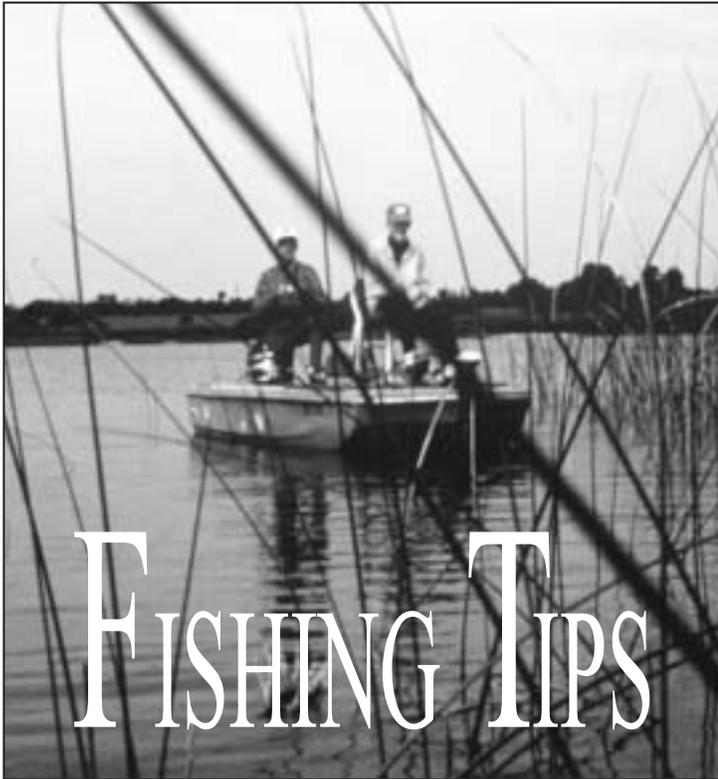
**Chain pickerel**



**Blue tilapia**



**American shad**




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## A Guide to Freshwater Fishing in Florida

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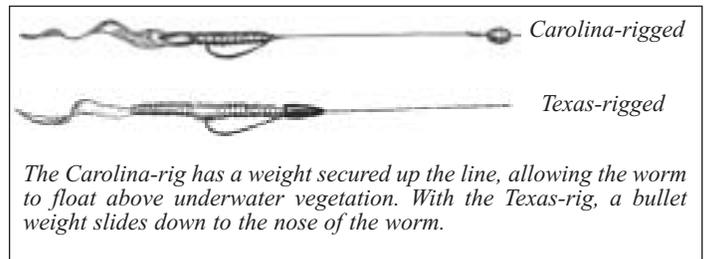
**Black bass:** The *largemouth bass* is the best known and most popular freshwater gamefish in Florida. Found statewide, largemouth bass have excellent growth rates, particularly in the productive waters of central Florida. Historically known for huge bass, Florida remains an outstanding destination to catch a trophy.

Spring is the best time of year to catch bass, when fish move into shallow water to spawn. Spawning may occur as early as January in south Florida and as late as May in the panhandle, but February, March and April are peak months. Most large bass are taken at this time; after spawning, many large females move to offshore areas.

The best live bait is a golden shiner, fished under a float or free-lined. Typically, the shiner is hooked through the lips or back with a large hook, 2/0 to 5/0. A medium to medium-heavy rod with 14- to 20-pound



*Golden shiners may be hooked through the lips, or through the back behind the dorsal fin. A split shot sinker 6-12" above the hook is recommended.*



test line is preferred, particularly when fishing in areas with thick vegetation or cover.

The plastic worm is the most dependable artificial bait for largemouth bass. A weedless "Texas-" or "Carolina-rigged" worm is effective for fishing Florida lakes with heavy plant cover. Worms come in a variety of colors and scents, and bass may favor certain types depending on water color and light conditions; be sure to have both light and dark colors available, as well as several sizes of tapered worm weights from 1/8 to 1/2 ounce. Purple "metalflake" or "red shad" worms with twirly-tails are popular, and plastic lizards or crayfish imitations can be effective as well.

Most plastic baits are worked slowly along the bottom or through cover by raising the rod tip a few feet, then allowing the bait to sink. The line should be kept fairly tight to feel the strike. Typically an angler will feel the bass "tap" the lure once or twice lightly. By lowering the rod tip and waiting only until the slack is



*hook with an offset shank runs up through the body of a jerkworm to make it weedless. No sinkers are used.*

out of the line before setting the hook, anglers greatly lessen the chance of injury to the fish due to deep hooking.

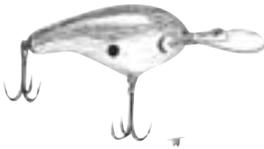
With active bass and dense underwater vegetation, “jerkworms” are an excellent bait. Rigged without sinkers, these worms are jigged rapidly over vegetation, with brief pauses to let the worm sink slowly. Bass hit these baits hard, and an instant hookset is recommended.



*This spinnerbait has willow-shaped blades, but round “Colorado” blades are common. Popular blade colors are silver and gold, but louder colors like chartreuse are also used.*

Spinnerbaits are very good in the spring, usually fished slowly around drop-offs and cover. If a slow retrieve fails, try “buzzing”, i.e., retrieving the spinnerbait rapidly so the blades ripple the surface.

Crankbaits typically imitate baitfish or crayfish, and a steady retrieve is usually effective. The design of the plastic lip determines how deep the lure dives, and anglers can select their choice of baits based on water depth. Popular colors are white, shad, firetiger (green-striped with orange underside) and crayfish.



*The longer the lip, the deeper a crankbait dives. This model would be effective on a deep river bank or sharp dropoff.*

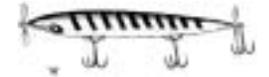
Topwater baits are exciting to fish because the angler can see the strike. Topwater plugs that imitate wounded baitfish may be twitched to entice bass. Others are designed to make noise, and a faster, erratic retrieve may antagonize a bass into striking. Topwater lures are most successful during early morning or late afternoon. Stay ready for a surprise strike and set the hook immediately.

Although the largemouth bass is by far our most common black bass, other species are found in Florida. The smaller *Suwannee bass* occurs in the Suwannee River and its tributaries, the Ochlockonee River and the Wacissa and Aucilla rivers. Favoring rock outcrops and moving water, Suwannee bass prefer crayfish to many prey items of largemouth. Crayfish-imitating crankbaits worked through deep-water bends will attract these hard fighting fish, as will plastic worms, plastic lizards or crayfish. The Santa Fe River is another good spot, and trophy-sized Suwannee bass up to three pounds can be found in the Ochlockonee River north of I-10.

*Two topwater choices.*

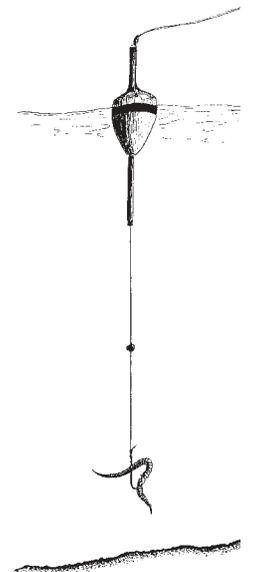


*A noisy retrieve with the Hula-skirted popper in a frog pattern is effective in vegetation and at night.*



*Slow twitches work well with the “twin-prop” wounded minnow.*

**Panfish:** A variety of panfish, or bream as they are popularly known, is available throughout Florida. *Bluegill*, the most common panfish, thrives in lakes and ponds, but good populations are found in rivers, particularly below dams. Bluegill eat mostly insects and their larvae, but live worms or crickets are the best bait, either fished on the bottom or suspended below a float. Bluegill spawn throughout the summer, congregating in large “beds”. Anglers may find numerous shallow nest-holes scooped out in shallow areas. Meal worms, grubs, sand maggots or grass shrimp will also catch bedding bluegill. Use a small hook, #6 or #8, with a split shot sinker about six inches up the line, and concentrate on water less than six feet deep. For artificial baits, a 1/8-oz. “beetle spin” with a white or chartreuse body on ultralight tackle is an excellent choice.

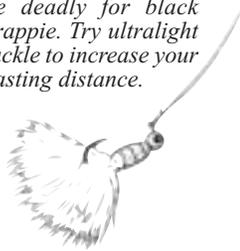


*Anglers may have to adjust the depth of their worms until they locate panfish.*

The *redecor sunfish*, or shell-cracker, is another popular panfish. Although they prefer snails and clams, redecor sunfish are

caught most often on earthworms around the full moons of March and April when their spawning activity peaks. Redear prefer hard bottom, congregating in deeper water than bluegill. Shellcracker grow larger than bluegill, with fish over 1 pound common. The Hillsborough River near Tampa is a favorite spot with local anglers.

*A small feather jig can be deadly for black crappie. Try ultralight tackle to increase your casting distance.*



*Redbreast sunfish*, also known as river bream and redbellies, are the flowing water cousins of bluegill. Redbellies are more common in rivers than bluegill, and often can be found in backwater areas with less flow. The same live baits that work for bluegill will also catch redbreast sunfish.

The *spotted sunfish*, or stumpknocker, is an often overlooked stream panfish. Aptly named, the stump-knocker can be found in the tangle of roots at the water's edge. Although spotted sunfish rarely exceed eight inches, this feisty species provides great sport on light tackle. Tiny ( $\frac{1}{16}$  oz.) "beetle spins" pitched close to the shoreline can be deadly, particularly tipped with freshwater clam meat. The Peace River is one of the best local spots for this sportfish.



*These small spinners will take virtually all panfish. They range from  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz. to as small as  $\frac{1}{50}$  oz., with different styles and colors of plastic bodies.*

*Black crappie*, known locally as speckled perch or specks, are a cool weather favorite in Florida. Crappie weighing up to two pounds are not uncommon. The premier fishing location is Lake Okeechobee, but good crappie fishing can be found throughout the state. Unlike most other panfish, crappie spend much of their time offshore, feeding on small fish. Successful anglers often drift through deeper water, fishing with small minnows or freshwater grass shrimp until they find a school. Try a light wire #4 hook and small split shot below a float. Speck anglers typically use several rods or poles, fishing at different depths until they pinpoint concentrations of fish. Specks move inshore to spawn during the early

spring, sometimes gathering in large numbers around heavy cover. Crappie also readily strike artificials;  $\frac{1}{16}$  oz. to  $\frac{1}{8}$  oz. feathered or curly-tail jigs in white, yellow, pink and chartreuse are popular. Tipping these jigs with a live minnow makes them even more effective. Night fishing for crappie is an effective technique. Any of the above baits fished near a lantern or floodlight can produce nice stringers. Most crappie fishing occurs in the cooler months, but anglers who fish into the summer do very well, especially at night.



*Black crappie like open water. Fish your minnows at several depths until you locate a school.*

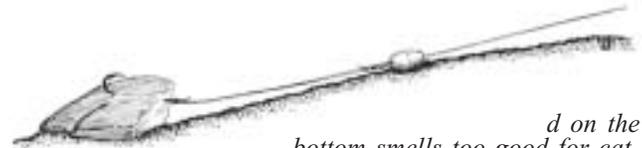
### **Striped bass, white bass and sunshine bass:**

*Striped bass* are found primarily in the Apalachicola and the St. Johns rivers and their tributaries, and to a lesser extent in Lake Talquin and the Ochlockonee, Blackwater, Nassau and St. Marys rivers. Striped bass need long stretches of flowing water to reproduce successfully, and these conditions are rarely found in Florida. Stripers do not tolerate water temperatures over 75°F for long; during Florida summers, striped bass become less active and must find cool water springs or canopied streams to survive. Because of this, striped bass populations are maintained only through annual stockings from Commission and federal hatcheries.

The best striper fishing occurs from fall through spring, when fish are actively feeding. Live shad are very effective, particularly below Jim Woodruff Dam on the Apalachicola River, and around bridge pilings on the St. Johns River near Jacksonville. Stripers may weigh up to 60 pounds; use heavy tackle with 3- to 4-oz. weights in high flow areas. In the St. Johns River, the Croaker Hole and the jetties at the south end of Lake George are good fall and spring striper areas, and the first few miles of the Wekiva River have several locations where stripers congregate. Live menhaden, golden shiners, croakers or eels are good choices as bait. Lures that resemble baitfish also produce impressive strikes. These include heavy jigs, as well as sinking and floating lures in white, chrome or chartreuse.

*White bass* are found in the Apalachicola River, Ochlockonee River and Lake Talquin. In the same family as stripers, white bass seldom exceed four pounds, with one- to two-pound fish more common. The best white bass fishing occurs in the spring, when fish move upriver to spawn. Small crayfish or grass shrimp on #4 hooks fished in deep river bends or at the edge of sand bars are effective baits. Put a 1/4 oz. egg sinker above your swivel, with an 8- to 12-inch leader tied to your hook; use lighter line for the leader, so if you get snagged you don't have to replace the complete rig. Small jigs in white or brown are often productive.

*Grass shrimp are an excellent bait for white bass. Use a leader 2 pounds lighter than your regular monofilament.*



*d on the bottom smells too good for catfish to pass up.*

*bullhead* usually range from one to two pounds, and readily spawn in lakes and ponds where they also provide good fishing. Most catfish prefer many of the same food items as bream, although they are opportunistic and will rarely pass up any meal. The "whiskers" are loaded with sensory cells that enable catfish to locate their food by smell. Take advantage of this by using baits with strong odors: chicken liver or gizzards, shrimp, cut mullet and commercial stinkbaits. Other baits work well too, especially earthworms, and occasionally freshwater clams. Many catfish become active just before dusk and at night, and fishing success is best during these times. Fish on the bottom with a sturdy #2 to #4 hook and a heavy split shot sinker. Catfish spines may cause a painful injury, and anglers should take care when handling these fish. The Commission's Richloam Hatchery produces 200,000 - 300,000 channel catfish annually for stocking in urban lakes.

The *sunshine bass*, a hybrid of striped bass and white bass, is artificially spawned at Commission hatcheries. Hybrids are stocked in lakes with an abundance of gizzard and threadfin shad. Sunshine bass are also stocked together with stripers in some river systems, and some of the best fishing is found in the Apalachicola and St. Johns rivers. The mouth of the Escambia River near Pensacola has good hybrid fishing, and sunshine bass feed around the fish attractors in Newnans Lake near Gainesville. Good sunshine bass fishing also occurs at Medard Park and Manatee Reservoir in the Southwest Region. Live bait, including shad, grass shrimp and crayfish are especially effective, but jigs, spoons and imitation-minnow plugs also produce. In urban lakes, shrimp, squid, chicken liver and even cut-up pieces of hot dogs will attract sunshine bass. Sunshine bass readily concentrate around mechanical feeders that periodically dispense food pellets.



*This shad imitation resembles the favorite food of stripers and sunshine bass.*

**Blue tilapia:** The exotic species, *blue tilapia*, is abundant throughout South and Central Florida's many urban lakes, where it tolerates poor water quality extremely well compared to native sportfishes. Often overlooked by recreational anglers because they rarely bite a hook under normal fishing conditions, tilapia can be trained to feed on floating fish food dispensed by hand or from automatic feeders. Concentrations of tilapia feeding on pelletized food can actually be caught routinely on hook-and-line using a #6 or smaller hook baited with a pellet, piece of hot dog or doughball. By regularly visiting your neighborhood pond and chumming them up with fish pellets, you can create your own outstanding fishery. Larger tilapia that reach up to five pounds fight well and their white meat is very tasty. FWC-managed sites at Webb Lake, Saddle Creek Park and Lopez Park in the Southwest Region provide good tilapia fishing near automatic fish feeders.

**Catfish:** Catfish are one of the staples for anglers who enjoy eating their catch. *Channel catfish* are abundant throughout Florida, spawning in holes and crevices in flowing water. Channel catfish may exceed 40 pounds, although the typical size is less than five pounds. *White catfish*, *yellow bullhead* and *brown*

# Basic Flipping

Flipping is a highly effective technique for catching largemouth bass that was developed during the mid-1970's. The technique involves dropping a lure vertically in specific spots around various types of cover. The preferred tackle is a 7- to 8-foot heavy-action rod and bait-casting reel spooled with 20- to 30-pound test line. This type of heavy tackle is often needed to pull bass out of, or away from, thick vegetation or cover. With proper equipment and plenty of practice, anglers can precisely and quietly flip a bait into the targeted area and avoid spooking fish. Flipping is often done in relatively shallow water and in close proximity to the boat. Largemouth bass can usually be found near some type of cover or underwater structure. Typical areas that can be flipped for bass include: trees, rocks, piers, docks, stumps and dense aquatic plants. Stained or colored water is preferred for flipping, because bass can be approached without being disturbed.

In Florida, the preferred artificial baits to flip for largemouth bass are weedless "Texas-rigged" plastic worms, lizards and crawfish. A 1/8- to 1/2-ounce tapered worm weight is also needed to sink the baits through heavy cover. Other baits such as jig & pigs, tube baits and jigs can also be used for flipping; be sure to rig them weedless when fishing around heavy cover. Dark-colored baits are preferred in stained water, while lighter ones should be used in clear water. Oily, commercially-available fish scents are often applied by anglers to help the lure slip through thick vegetation.

Follow the steps in the diagram to flip your bait into "holes" in cattails, bulrush, hydrilla or other structure. With some practice, this technique can be done smoothly, effortlessly and with deadly accuracy.

As the bait sinks, remain in contact with the line, feeling for a strike. Typically an angler will feel the bass "tap" the bait or maybe see the line jump suddenly. If no strike is felt, try vertically jigging the bait after it reaches the bottom. Normally a bass will strike the bait as it falls. Many times, an angler will not feel the strike, but will see the line moving away from where it entered the water. If this occurs, lower the rod tip and wait until the slack is out of the line before setting the hook. If a strike is felt, set the hook immediately and aggressively. Make sure the reel's drag is set high and keep plenty of tension on the line after the fish is hooked to help pull it away from heavy cover.

## Flippin' Basics



1. Extend 6 or 7 feet of line past the rod tip. Pull an arms length of line out with your free hand and begin raising the rod tip, allowing the lure to swing toward you, while pulling line through the guides with your free hand at the same time.



2. When the lure swings back even with your body, lower the rod tip.



3. Immediately sweep the rod back up, swing-ing the lure "pendulum style" forward toward your target.



4. Release line in your free hand as needed and the lure should swing out to your target and drop quietly down into the water.

L. West

# The Florida Bass Conservation Center

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**F**lorida freshwater hatchery production primarily has been limited to a single antiquated hatchery in Sumter County, within Withlacoochee State Forest. The Richloam Hatchery was constructed in 1965 and was in need of drastic renovations and upgrades to meet these challenges. All that is changing, the hatchery is undergoing total renovation and creation of the Florida Bass Conservation Center (FBCC) commencing in 2004 with completion scheduled for 2005.

The Sunshine State is recognized as the "Fishing Capital of the World" based on a number of factors. Among the most important is the information provided by the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation that shows Florida is the number one recreational fishing state in terms of number of anglers, number of angling days, direct economic impact, jobs supported and many other important factors. For instance, Florida attracted 3.1 million anglers, who fished 48.4 million days, spent \$4.1 billion, and supported 80,000 jobs in 2001.

The next highest state was California, which respectively generated the following numbers: 2.4 million anglers, 27.7 million days, \$2.4 billion and 43,000 jobs. The total economic impact from recreational fishing in Florida in 2001 was \$7.5 billion.

Nationally and in Florida's fresh waters, black bass are the most popular fish sought after by anglers. In Florida, bass anglers spent 12.2 million days pursuing their sport. Black bass include the endemic Florida largemouth bass (which exists in its pure genetic form only in the central and southern peninsula of Florida), shoal bass (unique to Florida), Suwannee bass (found only in Florida and southern Georgia) and the spotted bass. The shoal and Suwannee bass are both of special concern because of the limited fragile habitats in which they are found. The Florida largemouth bass has been imported by many other states and countries including California



photo courtesy of VISIT FLORIDA



and Texas because of its trophy producing potential and reputation as being a greater challenge for anglers than its northern cousin. Obviously, the investment in a FBCC to ensure Florida's continued leadership in bass conservation and as a recreational fishing Mecca is a wise one.

Greater research and customized management programs based on that research will ensure conservation of these species. Genetic contamination of the native Florida bass gene pool and biological contamination by the largemouth bass virus are special issues that will receive immediate attention in both state and private hatcheries. Increasing challenges to aquatic habitat conservation also threaten these species and occasionally require intervention using hatchery stocks.

The FBCC will include a new climate-controlled rearing facility that will give bass and other freshwater species an opportunity to be spawned at the most opportune time to provide effective stocking throughout the state of appropriately-sized fish. Without this ability, many stocking efforts prove fruitless, because young fish have to be stocked at times of year when the forage (prey) base may not be adequate for the young bass' survival and growth.

New sheltered raceways will contribute to rearing significantly more fish per unit area in a more cost effective manner than the hatchery's current dirt pond method. This technique also helps to conserve water, to minimize predation from birds, assure good water quality, and maximize feed conversion.

Incorporated in the plan will be a comprehensive

library and publicly accessible Internet-based data center, as well as facilities to host scientists from universities, various government agencies and the private sector to conduct state-of-the-art research. In addition to scientific information, this data base will include angler use, angler success and bass growth rate data for various lakes, so resident anglers, tourists and tournaments can all effectively plan their fishing trips.

Finally, a public education complex and visitors center will hopefully be created in a second development phase to provide citizens with the latest information about bass, freshwater fishing and aquatic habitats. Not only will there be educational displays, trails and observation facilities, but also fishing ponds and instructions may be provided. To become a reality this second phase will have to be privately funded. By attracting 60,000 visitors a year, it would generate up to \$2 million in local economic impact and help support 38 jobs in and around rural Sumter County. Private funds primarily would be utilized for a visitors' center and various sponsors such as eAngler.com, and North American Fishing Club are already online helping to contribute to its development. However, additional sponsors and contributors are needed to make the center a reality.

In 1999, fisheries biologists and technicians produced the 50-millionth fish for stocking Florida's lakes and rivers from Richloam Hatchery. Despite this huge accomplishment and many other firsts, the time has come for Florida to have a modern hatchery at Richloam and it is hopeful that conservation-minded corporations, fishing-related businesses, and bass anglers in particular will get behind this effort and lend their support.

Individuals wishing to contribute to the project can make direct contributions to the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. (FBCC Account, Post Office Box 11010, Tallahassee, FL 32302; 850-922-1066). Another free way to help is to accept a free sample magazine from the "North American Fisherman," and they will donate \$2 to the FBCC on your behalf. Visit [FWC.FishingClub.com](http://FWC.FishingClub.com).

**For more information, please contact Ed Moyer, Director, Division of Freshwater Fisheries, at 850-488-0331.**

# BOAT SMART

If you use a boat in Florida, it's important that you understand the state's boating laws and several other safety tips to ensure that your time on the water is as safe and enjoyable as possible. Florida offers year-round boating opportunities. These ideal conditions also mean that there is more opportunity to be involved in a boating mishap if certain safety precautions are not taken. Here's a few boating safety tips to keep you, your passengers and other boaters on our waterways safe.

## Don't Forget the Required Safety Equipment

FWC law enforcement officers will probably meet you sometime on the water and will want to make sure that your boat has all of the required safety equipment and that the items are in good condition and ready for use when needed. These items include life jackets, a fire extinguisher, a whistle or horn, working navigation lights and a set of flares if you plan on venturing out onto coastal waters.



Courtesy of Water Works Wonders

## Wear Your Engine Kill Switch Lanyard

Installed on nearly all boats and small outboard motors, engine kill switches only work when used properly. Hook your kill switch lanyard to a wrist strap and get into the habit of wearing it anytime the motor is running. A boat operator who hits a submerged object, has a steering malfunction, or just hits another boat's wake wrong is susceptible to being thrown overboard, and usually the boat will begin turning in a tight circle. Being run over by a boat with a spinning propeller is a serious problem that can be avoided by using a kill switch lanyard.

## Don't Let Alcohol Sink Your Day!

Alcohol consumption is a primary factor in boating accidents in Florida and across the nation. With the wind, wave action, heat, vibrations and other environmental conditions on the water affecting your reflexes, the last thing you need is to allow alcohol to further limit your ability to react in an emergency. Alcohol and boating don't mix!

Visit [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com) and follow the "boating" links for more boating safety information.



## Catch the "Life Jacket Habit"

Just carrying life jackets on board your boat may meet the legal requirements, but wearing one at all times will help you survive should you unexpectedly end up in the water. Modern life jackets are available in models that are inflatable and can be worn without any discomfort. There are even inflatable waist belt jackets that you don't even realize you are wearing. The little extra cost is definitely worth the security of knowing that you're fully prepared.



# Help Conserve Florida's Fish and Wildlife

Purchasing a bass tag for your vehicle or trailer costs just \$27 more than a conventional tag. Twenty-five dollars of that goes to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The money supports fish and wildlife conservation programs throughout Florida. Buy yours at your local tax collector's office.



## Buy a Bass Tag Today!



1-800-BASS-PRO 1-800-227-7776 www.basspro.com

Get a FREE t-shirt from Bass Pro Shop when you buy a bass tag (T-shirt image shown on the left). In addition, receive a \$10 off coupon for any purchase over \$100.

See details at:

[MyFWC.com/fishing/tag-promo.html](http://MyFWC.com/fishing/tag-promo.html)

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