DESCRIPTION – The Cutler Drain Canal (C-100 series) is made up of four sections (C-100, C-100A, C-100B, and C-100C), and includes 13.5 miles of navigable waters in southern Miami-Dade County between the cities of Kendall and Cutler Ridge. These canals were constructed in the mid-1900s by cutting into the coral rock substrate with large machines. The canals have near vertical edges, range in width from 30 to more than 80 feet, and average about 12 feet deep (except for C-100B which averages about five feet deep). The C-100A has two five-acre, sand-bottomed lakes that are 10 feet deep. This canal system has many forks, bends, and is lined with beautiful homes and parks making it an attractive and relaxing place to fish.

Cutler Drain Canal typically has clearer water than most south Florida canals which gives anglers the rare opportunity to do some freshwater sight-fishing (i.e., see and cast to a targeted fish in 6 to 10 feet of water). These canals are attractive and relaxing places to fish.

The Cutler Drain Canal is similar to area canals. They average 13.6 inches in this system. The bag limit for Largemouth Bass is five fish per day, only one of which may be more than 20 inches. The bag limit for Butterfly Peacock is two fish per day, only one of which can be greater than 17 inches.

Most Butterfly Peacock are caught on live bait or fast moving artificial lures and flies that imitate small fish. Butterfly Peacock are much more likely to be caught using live fish such as small Golden Shiners for bait than are Largemouth Bass which makes them an excellent fish for younger anglers, as well as those just learning to Bass fish. It is illegal to use Goldfish or any other non-native fish for bait.

The abundance of Largemouth Bass in Cutler Drain Canal is similar to area canals. They average 13.6 inches (1.4 pounds) and fish greater than 20 inches have been sampled in this canal. Fishing for Largemouth Bass tends to be best during the winter when the water temperatures cool and in the evening, night, and morning during the summer. Plastic worms work well for Largemouth Bass, but they rarely catch Butterfly Peacock. The bag limit for Largemouth Bass is five fish per day, only one of which can be greater than 16 inches.

The number and quality of panfish over six inches is similar to other area canals. Live worms and crickets are the choice baits for many panfish anglers, although fresh bread or bread dough works well, is readily available, and it costs less. Shoreline anglers can access these fisheries along roads paralleling and crossing the canal. Some exploring is necessary to find the best locations for shoreline fishing, and always be sure to park cars safely on public right of ways.

Cutler Drain Canal anglers can also catch several exotic species including Oscar from South America, Spotted Tilapia from Africa, and Midas Cichlid from Central America. These exotic fishes were illegally released and pose a threat to native species. Oscar, Spotted Tilapia, and Midas Cichlid are all bream-shaped fishes. Oscar have a red or orange circle at the base of its tail, and they have a thick layer of protective mucus on their bodies. Spotted Tilapia are golden with black vertical bars or spots, and some have red on them. Midas Cichlid vary greatly in color from a blue-gill-like pattern to solid orange or red, and everything in between. These exotic fishes are good to eat and you can keep every one you catch.

Cutler Drain Canal and other area canals receive a great deal of fishing pressure so we encourage anglers to release most, if not all of the Butterfly Peacock, Largemouth Bass, and Snook they catch. If anglers don’t release a majority of the sportfish they catch, these high quality fisheries will deteriorate rapidly.

Anglers, particularly those from outside the metropolitan Miami - West Palm Beach area, should be aware that vandalism occurs at some boat ramps. Therefore, care should be taken to secure your vehicle and keep valuables out of sight or take them with you when you leave the ramp.

For more Florida fishing information, please visit Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s web site at www.MyFWC.com/fishing.

This series of southeast Florida angler guides are available at www.bit.ly/AnglerGuide.