

FISH! SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CANALS

ANGLER'S GUIDE TO CYPRESS CREEK CANAL (C-14)

BROWARD COUNTY



Exotic Fisheries Office
10216 Lee Road
Boynton Beach, Florida 33473

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DESCRIPTION – Cypress Creek Canal (C-14) in Broward County is sometimes referred to as the Pompano Canal. It originates at the edge of Water Conservation Area II, and flows eastward to a flood control structure near the Florida Turnpike.

The main canal is 8.1 miles long, and ranges in width from 70 to 140 feet with an average depth of about 15 feet. Cypress Creek Canal runs through the cities of Coral Springs, Margate, North Lauderdale, Tamarac, and Coconut Creek. Lateral canals are generally narrower and shallower, some of which provide boat access to open areas (small lakes) ranging in size from 3 to 9 acres.

From the centrally located boat ramp at Rock Island Road heading east, it is 0.3 miles to the first lateral canal system north of the main canal, 2.7 miles to the Turnpike, and 3.6 miles to the water control structure. Heading west from this ramp, it is 1.9 and 3.7 miles to the ramps at University and Coral Ridge Drives, and 4.5 miles to the water control structure at the Sawgrass Expressway.

BOAT RAMP DIRECTIONS – Three boat ramps are located on the main canal and three on laterals; all can be reached from the Florida Turnpike, Sawgrass Expressway and I-95 by exiting at Atlantic Blvd, and using the map. These ramps are paved, well maintained, and located in city parks with plenty of parking, picnic tables, playgrounds, grills, and most have restrooms. Lloyd's Bait and Tackle (954) 722-9252 is conveniently located near the main canal and they will provide anglers with all the information and tackle they will need for an enjoyable day of fishing.
GPS COORDINATES (Ramp 1. 26.2299, -80.2812; 2. 26.2296, -80.2542; 3. 26.2305, -80.2212; 4. 26.2448, -80.2070; 5. 26.2582, -80.2107; 6. 26.2414, -80.1805).

GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION – Cypress Creek Canal provides excellent Largemouth Bass fishing. The boat ramps on this canal are some of the best in southeast Florida. This canal also provides freshwater anglers a chance to catch a Snook or Tarpon. Fallen trees, canal intersections, sharp bends, and dead ends are generally productive areas for catching most species of fish. Shoreline vegetation, rip-rap, residential seawalls (particularly in lateral canals), and shady areas associated with bridges and culverts all provide excellent places to fish. If there is a strong current in the main canal, spend more time fishing lateral canals and other areas that offer refuge from the current (e.g., cut-outs, bridge pilings, and the downstream side of spillways and culverts).

Cypress Creek Canal has more Largemouth Bass than most other canals in southeast Florida, and fish greater than 20 inches are regularly sampled although the average size is 12.3 inches (1.0 pounds). Largemouth Bass fishing tends to be best during the winter months when the water cools, and at night during the summer months. Plastic worms work well for Largemouth Bass and so do live golden shiners. It is illegal to use Goldfish or any other non-native fish for bait. The bag limit for Largemouth Bass is five fish per day, but only one of these can be greater than 16 inches.

The number and quality of panfish over six inches in Cypress Creek Canal 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 have plenty of access to these fisheries at the boat ramps, and 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.

The Butterfly Peacock is a world renowned gamefish that was successfully introduced by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in the mid-1980s to eat undesirable exotic fishes, and to provide more sportfishing opportunities for anglers in the metropolitan Miami-Ft. Lauderdale area. Cypress Creek Canal was the northernmost canal stocked with Butterfly Peacock by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Butterfly Peacock are sensitive to water temperatures below 60°F and periodic die-offs due to cool water temperatures occur in this canal system. Up until the freeze of 2010, the C-14 canal had a good number of Butterfly Peacock for anglers to catch. The freeze essentially eliminated Butterfly Peacock from this canal and to date have not rebounded back.

For the current Snook and Tarpon regulations please see www.MyFWC.com/fishing.

Cypress Creek Canal anglers can catch several exotic species including Bullseye Snakehead from Southeast Asia, Oscar from South America, Spotted Tilapia from Africa, and Mayan Cichlid from Central America. These exotic fishes were illegally released and

pose a threat to native species. Bullseye Snakehead are a long, cylindrical fish with sharp teeth and resemble native Bowfin except that the anal fin on the Snakehead is long (extends from vent to the tail) versus a short anal fin on Bowfin. Bullseye Snakehead also have a red ring around a black spot at the base of their tail. Bullseye snakehead can grow to a fairly large size (over 3 feet in length and 14 pounds). Oscar, Spotted Tilapia, and Mayan Cichlid are all bream-shaped fishes. Oscar have a red or orange circle at the base of the tail, and 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. Mayan Cichlid are colorful and appear similar to a mangrove snapper with a turquoise ring around a black spot at the base of their tail. These exotic fishes are good to eat and you can keep every one you catch. If you catch and plan on keeping Bullseye Snakehead to eat, you must kill them immediately because it is illegal to possess any of these fish alive. The best way to do this is to put the fish in a slurry of ice and water mixed in a cooler or bucket.

Cypress Creek 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, Snook, and Tarpon they catch. If anglers don't release a majority of the sportfish they catch, these high quality fisheries will deteriorate rapidly.

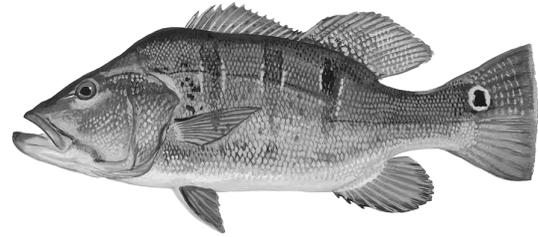
Anglers, particularly those from outside the metropolitan Miami - West Palm Beach area, should be aware that vandalism occurs at some boat ramps. Therefore, care should be taken to secure your vehicle and keep valuables out of sight or take them with you when you leave the ramp.

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

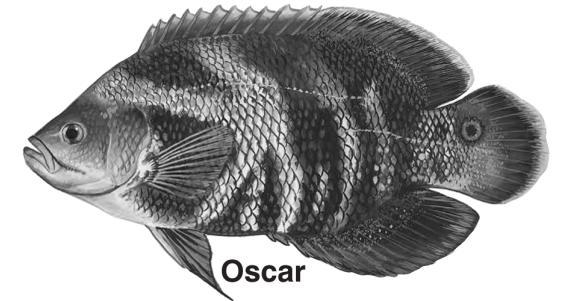
This series of southeast Florida angler guides are available at www.bit.ly/AnglerGuide.



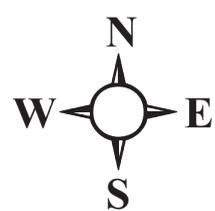
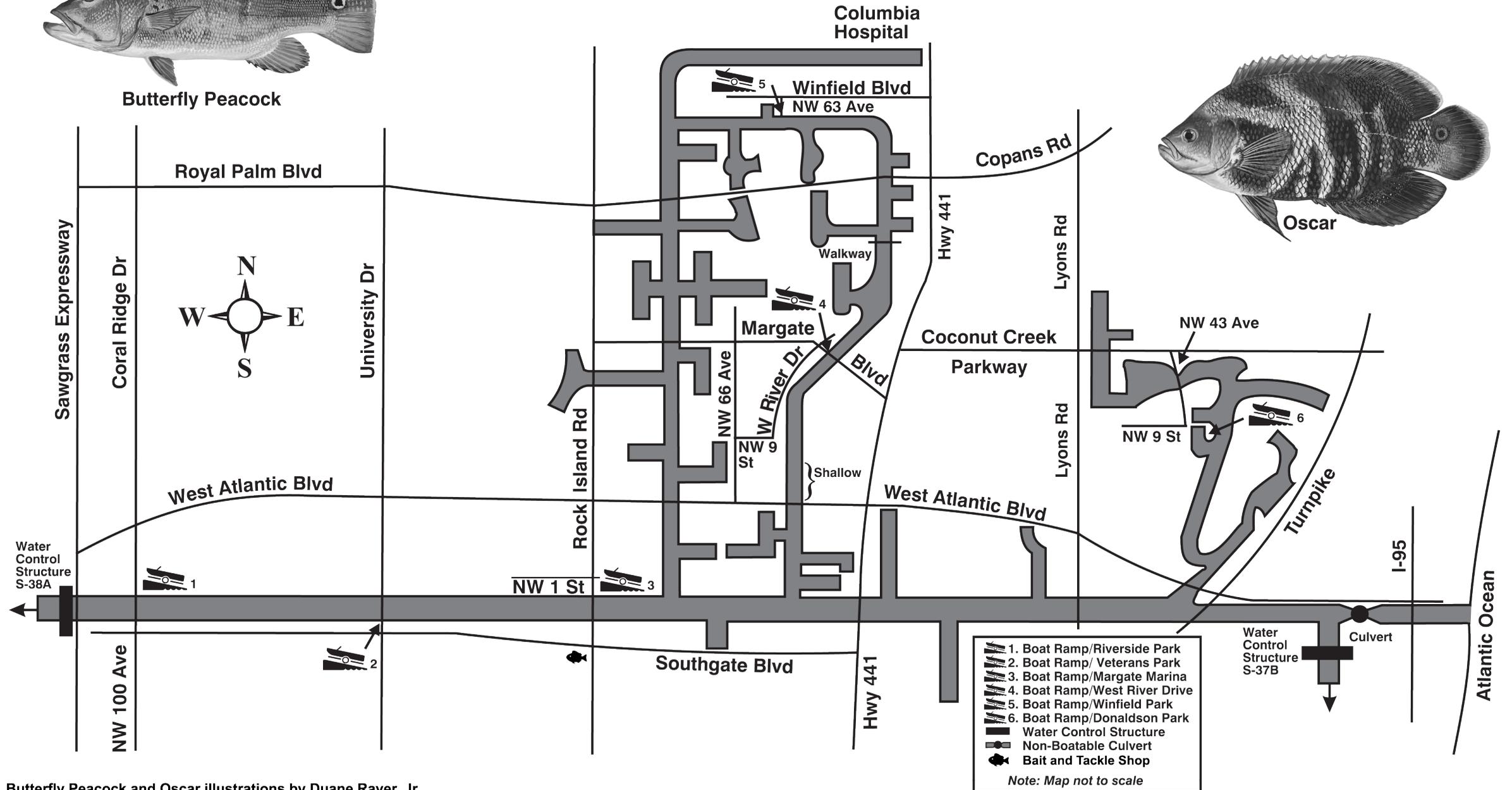
CYPRESS CREEK CANAL (C-14)



Butterfly Peacock



Oscar



- 1. Boat Ramp/Riverside Park
 - 2. Boat Ramp/Veterans Park
 - 3. Boat Ramp/Margate Marina
 - 4. Boat Ramp/West River Drive
 - 5. Boat Ramp/Winfield Park
 - 6. Boat Ramp/Donaldson Park
 - Water Control Structure
 - Non-Boatable Culvert
 - Bait and Tackle Shop
- Note: Map not to scale

Butterfly Peacock and Oscar illustrations by Duane Raver, Jr.