

FISH! SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CANALS

ANGLER'S GUIDE TO EARMAN RIVER CANAL (C-17)

PALM BEACH COUNTY



Exotic Fisheries Office
10216 Lee Road
Boynton Beach, Florida 33473

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DESCRIPTION – The Earman River Canal (C-17) in northeastern Palm Beach County flows northeast from Clear Lake in West Palm Beach to a flood control structure near US 1 in Palm Beach Gardens. The boatable section of this canal lies between the flood control structure and a spillway on the north side of the 45th Street Bridge. This section of main canal is 4.4 miles long, and ranges in width from 50 to 130 feet with an average depth of about eight feet. It runs through the cities of Riviera Beach and Palm Beach Gardens.

From the boat ramp heading west or north into the lateral canals, it is 0.8 miles or 1.2 miles, respectively to non-boatable culverts at I-95. Heading east from the ramp, it is 0.3 mile to the main canal. Turning south from this intersection, it is 0.7 miles to Northlake Boulevard, 2.4 miles to Blue Heron Boulevard, and 4.3 miles to the spillway at 45th Street.

BOAT RAMP DIRECTIONS – There is a single-lane, concrete boat ramp in good condition located on the small lake west of the main canal. To access this ramp, exit I-95 at Northlake Boulevard and go east 0.5 miles to McArthur Boulevard. Turn left (north) and go approximately 0.5 miles. The ramp is on the left (west) side of the road just before it crosses the canal. There is enough parking for several vehicles but no facilities. Only boats with 10 horsepower or smaller motors are allowed on this canal by order of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department. **GPS COORDINATES** (26.8165, -80.0874).

GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION – Earman River Canal provides excellent Largemouth Bass fishing. Shoreline vegetation 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 areas that offer refuge from the current (e.g., lateral canals, lake cut-outs, and bridge pilings). The downstream side of culverts and spillways with flowing water are sometimes especially good places to fish. Another good place to try is the fish attractor in the lake marked by a yellow Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission buoy.

Earman River Canal has more Largemouth Bass than most other canals in southeast Florida. Overall, the average size of Largemouth Bass ten inches or longer is 12.8 inches (1.1 pounds), and 27%

are longer than 14 inches. Fishing for Largemouth Bass tends to be best during the winter months when the water temperatures cool and early in the morning, late in the afternoon, and at night during the summer months. 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 in Earman River 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 can access these fisheries at the boat ramp, and along the east shore of the lake.

In addition to Largemouth Bass, Bluegill and Redear Sunfish, Earman River Canal anglers might also catch some of the exotic fishes present in these waters. Possible exotic catches include 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. Oscar, Spotted Tilapia, and Mayan 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. Mayan Cichlid are colorful and appear similar to Mangrove Snapper with a turquoise ring around a black spot at the base of its tail. These exotic fishes were illegally released, pose a threat to native species, taste good and you can keep every one you catch.

Earman River 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.

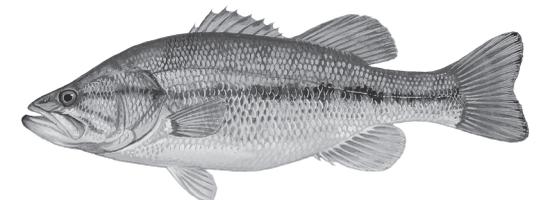
For more Florida fishing information, please visit Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's web site at www.MyFWC.com/fishing.

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

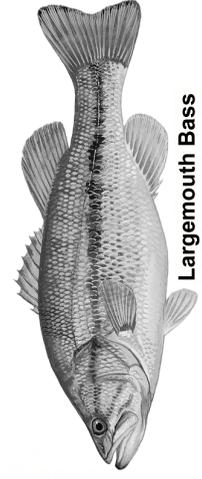
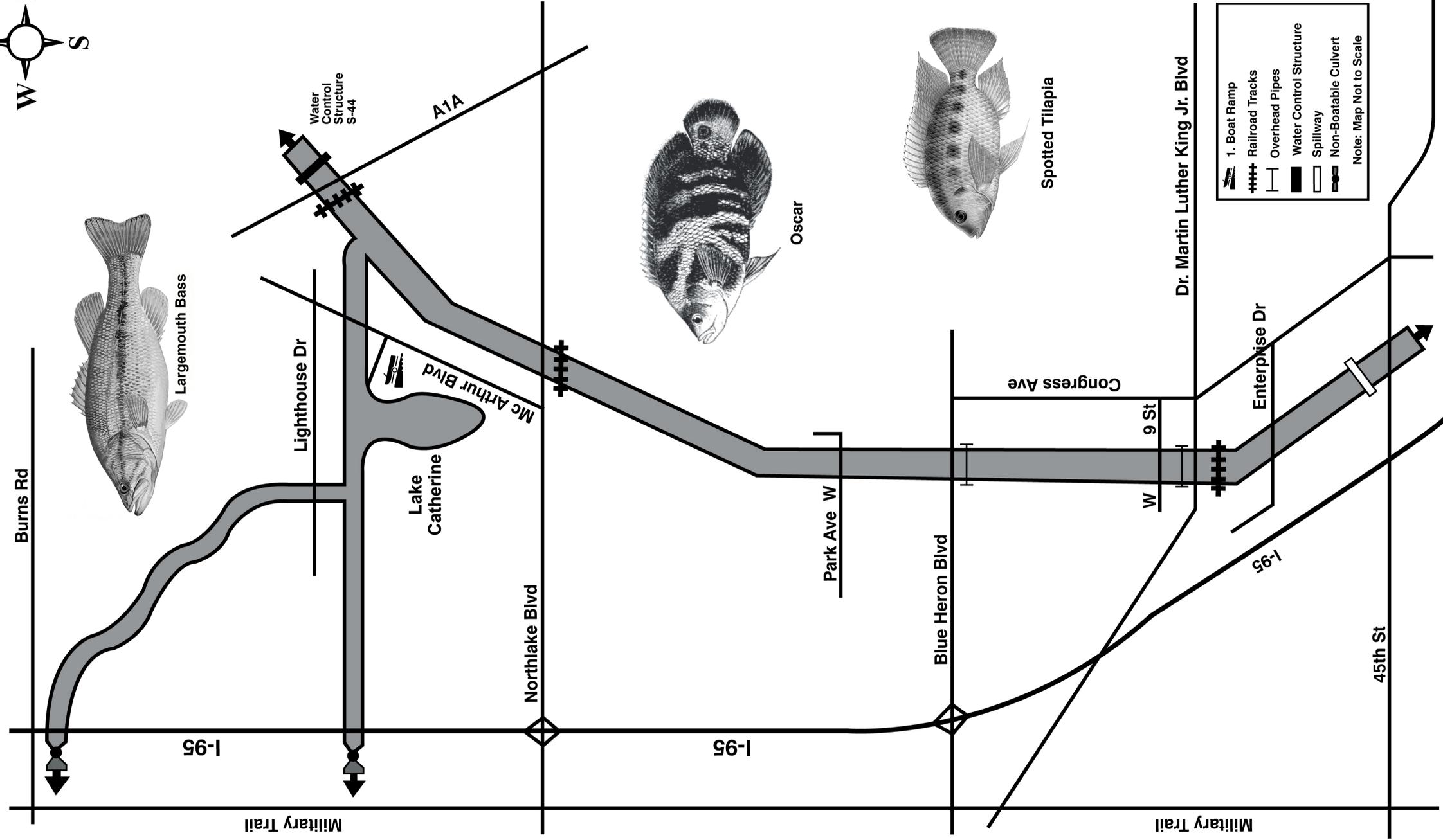
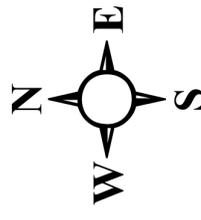


WEATHER CONDITIONS

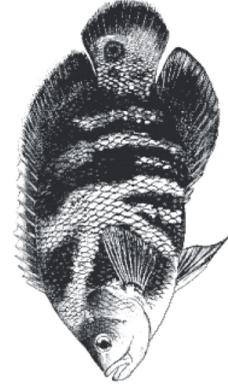
ANGLING NOTES/COMMENTS



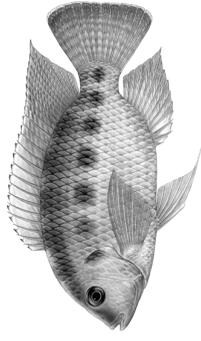
EARMAN RIVER CANAL (C-17)



Largemouth Bass



Oscar



Spotted Tilapia

Largemouth Bass and Oscar illustrations by Duane Raver, Jr.; Spotted Tilapia by Diane Peebles.