

FISH! SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CANALS

ANGLER'S GUIDE TO SNAPPER CREEK CANAL (C-2)

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



Exotic Fisheries Office
10216 Lee Road
Boynton Beach, Florida 33473

January 2015

DESCRIPTION – Snapper Creek Canal (C-2) is located in central Miami-Dade County in the cities of Sweetwater and Kendall. It begins near the intersection of Hwy 836 and the Turnpike Extension and runs southeast to the S-22 salinity control structure near Parrot Jungle on SW 57th Avenue. The main canal is 12.3 miles long, averages 12 feet in depth, and ranges from 50 to over 100 feet in width. The north end of the canal is narrower and shallower than the southeast end. There are five boat accessible lateral canals and a small seven acre lake that is up to 22 feet deep.

The boat ramp is centrally located: heading east from the ramp it is 2.6 miles to Dadeland Mall, 3.2 miles to Dante Fascell Park, and 5.5 miles to the water control structure; and, heading north from the ramp it is 2.3 miles to the Turnpike Extension, 5.8 miles to the Tamiami Canal intersection, and 6.8 miles to the non-boatable culvert at Hwy 836 (Dolphin Expressway).

BOAT RAMP DIRECTIONS – Exit the Turnpike Extension east at Bird Road (SW 40th Street) to SW 107th Avenue, turn south (right) to SW 72nd Street (Sunset Drive), turn east (left) to SW 97th Avenue, turn south (right) to Snapper Creek Drive North and turn west (right). The boat ramp is on the left side of road before you reach SW 99th Avenue. From I-95 take the Dolphin Expressway (Hwy 836) and go west past the Miami International Airport to the Turnpike Extension south, and follow the directions above. **GPS COORDINATES** (25.6944, -80.3515).

This is a paved, single-lane boat ramp in good condition, and it has adequate grass parking. There are no restrooms or other facilities at this ramp. Tamiami Canal (C-4) can also be accessed from this boat ramp. Together, Snapper Creek and Tamiami Canal provide more than 43 miles of exciting fishing opportunities in metropolitan Miami canals and lakes.

GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION – Snapper Creek is a popular destination for south Florida anglers. This canal consistently produced excellent catches of Largemouth Bass and Butterfly Peacock prior to 1995; however, since then changing water management practices appear to have caused considerable fluctuations in the populations of these species. The Butterfly Peacock is a world renown gamefish that was successfully introduced in the mid-1980s by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to eat undesirable exotic fishes, and to provide more

sportfishing opportunities for anglers in the metropolitan Miami-Ft. Lauderdale area.

Fallen trees, canal intersections, sharp bends, and dead ends are generally productive areas for catching most species of fish. Sportfishes also congregate in the shade of bridges, culverts, and other structures. Shoreline vegetation, rip-rap areas, and even some residential seawalls (particularly in lateral canals) also provide good fishing opportunities. If there is a strong current in the main canal, spend more time fishing lateral canals and other areas that provide refuge from the current (e.g., cut-outs, bridge pilings, and the downstream side of spillways).

Butterfly Peacock are a little more abundant but somewhat smaller in Snapper Creek than in other area canals, while the Largemouth Bass are somewhat fewer but larger. Both species average 13.5 inches and about 1.4 pounds in size, and about one-third of the harvestable fish are greater than 14 inches. Trophy Peacock (those greater than five pounds) have been caught from this and other area canals, and we expect the current 9.08 pound state record to ultimately exceed 10-11 pounds. The bag limit for Butterfly Peacock is two fish per day, only one of which can be greater than 17 inches; up to five Largemouth Bass can be kept, but only one of these can be greater than 16 inches.

Fishing for Butterfly Peacock is usually best from March through May, but they are caught consistently throughout the year. This fish feeds only during daylight and normally close to shore, although schooling Peacock sometimes feed aggressively in open water. Butterfly Peacock are 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. For those who enjoy fishing with artificial lures, just about any fast moving minnow imitating plug or fly can be used to entice a peacock. Note: Plastic worms work well for Largemouth Bass, but they rarely catch Butterfly Peacock.

The number and quality of panfish over six inches in Snapper Creek is about average for 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 along Snapper Creek Drive, SW 85th Street, at the canoe ramp on SW 117th Avenue, Dante Fascell Park, and elsewhere. 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.

Snapper Creek anglers may also encounter Snook moving inland from Biscayne Bay. This large predator is found throughout the canal, but they tend to concentrate under bridges. The presence of Snook gives anglers an opportunity to catch a canal 'trifecta' or 'grand slam' (Butterfly Peacock, Largemouth Bass, and Snook).

Snapper Creek anglers can also catch Jaguar Guapote, Oscar, or Spotted Tilapia. These non-native fishes were illegally released, pose a threat to native species, are good to eat, and you can keep every one you catch. Jaguar Guapote resemble a Black Crappie (Speckled Perch) with many small, sharp teeth. Oscar are bream-shaped fish with a red or orange circle at the base of the tail, and they have a thick coat of protective mucus on their bodies. Spotted Tilapia are also bream-shaped, golden in color with black spots or bars, and some adults have red on their bodies.

Snapper Creek and other area canals receive a great deal of fishing pressure so we encourage anglers to release most, if not all 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.

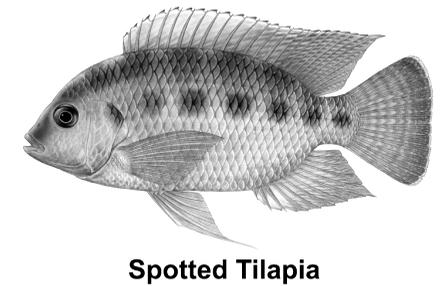
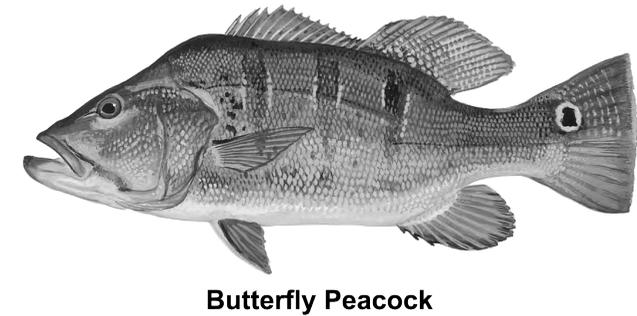
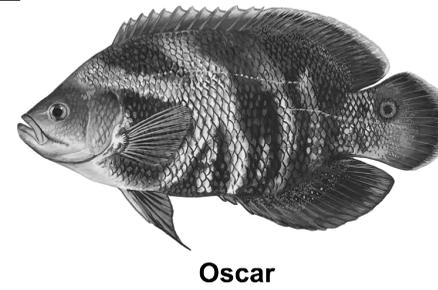
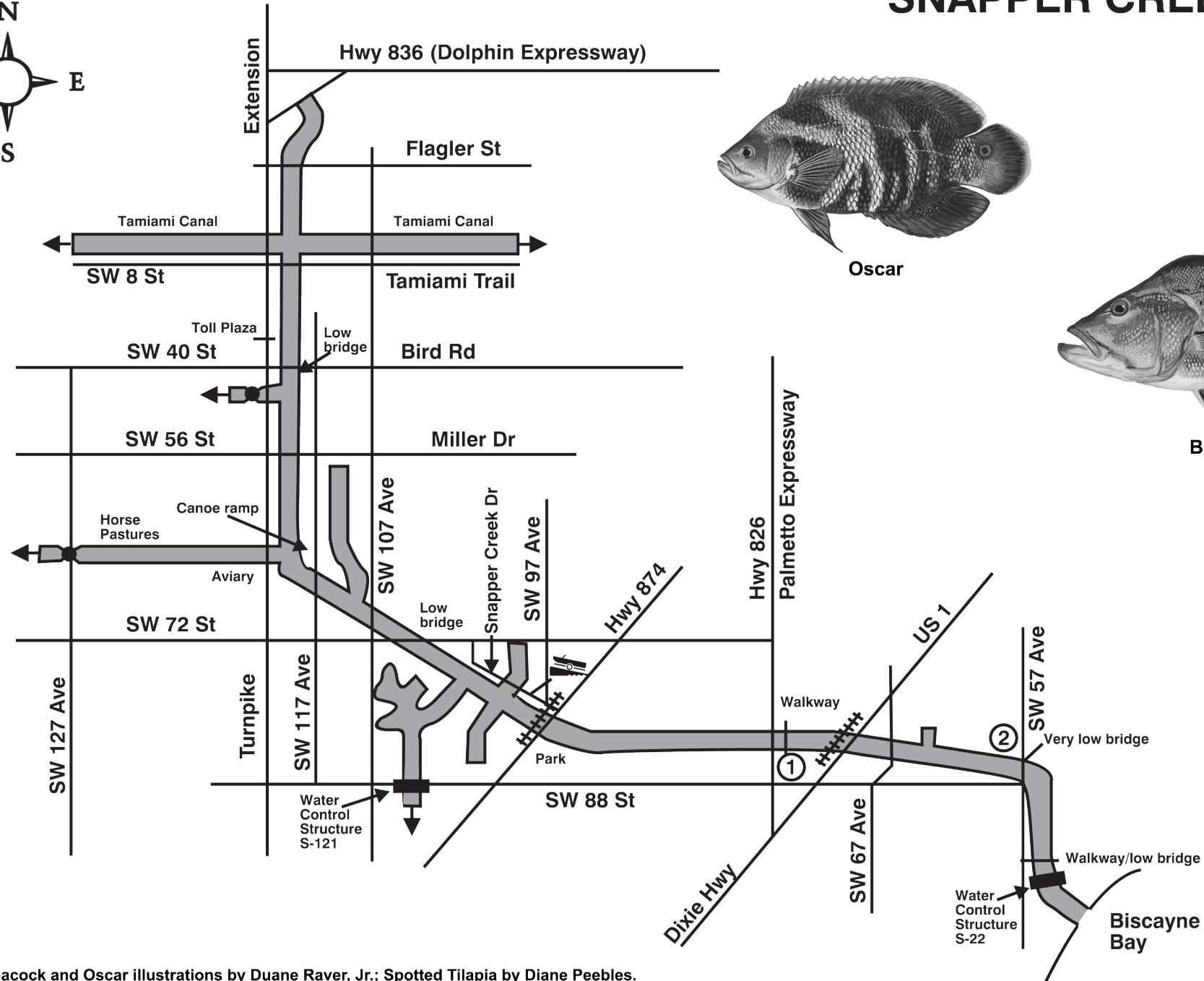
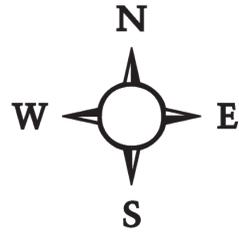
Anglers, particularly those from outside the metropolitan Miami - West Palm Beach area, should be aware that vandalism occurs at some boat ramps. Therefore, care should be taken to secure your vehicle and keep valuables out of sight or take them with you when you leave the ramp.

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.



SNAPPER CREEK CANAL (C-2)



- 1. Dadeland Mall
 - 2. Dante Fascell Park
 - Boat Ramp
 - Non-boatable Culvert
 - Water Control Structure
 - Railroad Tracks
- Note: Map not to scale.

Butterfly Peacock and Oscar illustrations by Duane Raver, Jr.; Spotted Tilapia by Diane Peebles.