

FISH! SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CANALS

ANGLER'S GUIDE TO PARKLINE CANAL (L-31W)

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



Exotic Fisheries Office
10216 Lee Road
Boynton Beach, Florida 33473

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DESCRIPTION – Parkline Canal (L-31W) is located west of Florida City (southeastern Miami-Dade County) on the eastern boundary of Everglades National Park. The canal flows south from flood control structure (S-175) located at the north end of the canal. The canal sheet-flows over its banks and into the Park near the south end of the canal.

The four miles of navigable Parkline canal was constructed in the mid-1900s as part of a large flood control project. The canal ranges from 55 to 75 feet in width, and averages about 13 feet deep.

From the boat ramp, one can travel 1.3 miles to the north end and 2.7 miles to the south. Much of the shoreline on the eastern bank is agricultural land and the western bank is the Everglades National Park boundary line. Parkline Canal has a high quality fishery and offers anglers a pleasant angling experience that is a change from the typical canals that run through urban areas in south Florida. In addition to fishing, there are excellent viewing opportunities for numerous species of birds including roseate spoonbills, wood storks, and swallow-tailed kites (featured on FWC's logo).

The Everglades National Park Visitor Center is located less than five miles from the boat ramp and could possibly make for a nice side-trip destination if time allows!

DIRECTIONS TO BOAT RAMP – The Florida Turnpike Homestead Extension terminates in Florida City and becomes U.S.1 southbound. Go south on U.S.1 and proceed to SW 344th Street (Palm Drive). Turn right (west) on SW 344th Street and go to SW 192nd Avenue (Tower Road). Turn left (south) on SW 192nd Avenue and go to SW 376th Street (Ingraham Highway). Turn right (west) on SW 376th Street and continue about five miles. Cross over the canal and immediately turn to the right (north) and into the gravel parking area and ramp. **BOAT RAMP GPS COORDINATES:** N25.39862 W80.57279.

The boat ramp is gravel and in fairly good condition. This isolated location doesn't have any bathrooms, but there are picnic tables on the south side of the main road (Ingraham Highway). NOTE: Vandalism is known to occur at this ramp and special care should be taken to secure your valuables and vehicle.

GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION – Parkline Canal provides an excellent opportunity to catch a

variety of both native and exotic sportfish. Although this canal was not stocked with Butterfly Peacock by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, they are present and offer anglers a chance to fish for them in an area much different than the urban canals that typically serve as home for them. Butterfly peacock were introduced in urban south Florida canals to eat the abundant and undesirable exotic fishes, and to provide more sportfishing opportunities for anglers in the metropolitan Miami-Ft. Lauderdale area. Although this canal currently has a population of Butterfly Peacock, it is possible that an extremely cold winter could change that. This canal is on the fringe of the Butterfly Peacocks potential range.

Fallen trees and brush, bends in the canal, 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 (both emergent and submersed) on the south end of the canal provides some of the best fishing opportunities.

Parkline Canal has a good number of Butterfly Peacock and Largemouth Bass. Overall, harvestable size Butterfly Peacock and Largemouth Bass average 12 inches in length and about 1 pound in weight. 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 peacocks 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 make 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 number and quality of panfish over six inches in Parkline Canal is about average for area canals. Live worms and crickets are the choice baits for many panfish species, although fresh bread or bread dough works well, is readily available, and it costs less. Shoreline anglers have plenty of access at the boat ramp, the picnic area and along the eastern shoreline.

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.

If Parkline Canal anglers use small jigs, grubs or other types of small lures, they have a good chance of catching a variety of exotic panfish such as the Mayan Cichlid or Oscar, both native to Central America. Or if using small live worms for bait, anglers might catch Spotted Tilapia native to Africa. These exotic fishes were illegally released, and pose a potential threat to native species. Mayan Cichlid are colorful and appear similar to Mangrove Snapper with a turquoise ring around a black spot at the base of its tail. Oscar are a 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. These exotic fishes are good to eat, and you can keep all you can catch.

Parkline 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 and Largemouth Bass 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.

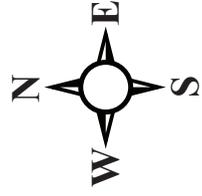
For more Florida fishing information, please visit Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's web site at www.MyFWC.com/fishing.

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



L-31W CANAL

SFWMD
Structure
S-175



**Everglades
National
Park**



Largemouth Bass

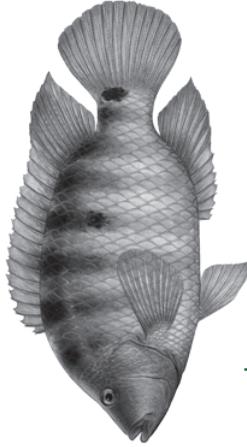
Ernest F. Coe
Visitor Center

Picnic
Area



Bluegill

Royal Palm
Visitor Center



Mayan Cichlid

**Everglades
National
Park**



Butterfly Peacock

1 Mile

(Shoreline fishing access)

(Shoreline fishing access)

To: Florida City,
Florida Turnpike,
and US 1

9336
Ingraham Hwy