



**Juniper Lake
665 Acres**

Private fish camp

Fishing pier

Boat ramp



Location

Juniper Lake is in Walton County approximately 3 miles north of DeFuniak Springs. The lake is situated east of U.S. 331 and west of State Road 83. Cat Island can be accessed on the north end of the lake by taking Cat Island Road. off S.R. 83. Boat ramps on the north and south shorelines can be accessed via Cat Island Rd. or Juniper Lake Rd.

A public fishing pier is located on Cat Island and picnic areas, restrooms, and shore access are maintained by Walton County near both boat ramps. Two private fish camps offer camping hookups, boat and motor rentals, boat launching, bait, and tackle.

**Juniper Lake
Fish Management Area
Walton County**



**Blackwater Fisheries Research
and Development Center**

8384 Fish Hatchery Road
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Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

MyFWC.com



In 1962, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission constructed a dam across Juniper Bay Creek to create Juniper Lake. The 665-acre lake was then opened to fishing in 1964 and currently maintains an average depth of 6 feet with spots reaching 16 feet deep. Juniper Lake maintains a plentiful amount of flooded timber, providing excellent fish habitat, but complicating navigation by boat. However, if you remain near the shoreline, most of the stumps can be avoided, allowing you to access some of this lake's excellent fishing spots.

The Florida FWC manages Lake Juniper's fishing resources with a variety of different methods:

- **Dewatering (drawdown)** - Exposes and dries the lake bottom, which aerates and consolidates organic muck deposits. This process improves sportfish habitat and increases natural production of flora and fauna. Additionally, it allows for routine maintenance and restructuring of the lake bottom.
- **Fish Stocking** – Various species (channel catfish, bream, crappie, and bass) are

stocked periodically to provide unique and exciting sportfishing opportunities.

- **Fish Attractors** – Brush and other materials are placed in the lake to concentrate fish and improve angler harvest.
- **Fertilization/Liming** – Fertilizer stimulates the growth of microscopic plants called phytoplankton. It also discourages the growth of nuisance aquatic plants by shading the bottom. Liming alters the pH, alkalinity, and total hardness, improving conditions for phytoplankton and, ultimately, fish production.

FISH SPECIES

Bluegill and Redear Sunfish – Often referred to as “bream,” Lake Juniper holds several species of sunfish. Congregating around structure, vegetation, or spawning over bare spots on the bottom, known as “bream beds,” these panfish can provide non-stop excitement for anglers. Crickets, worms, or even jigs fished underneath a cork are effective methods. A small rooster tail spinner or beetle spin can also provide a fun way to catch these feisty fish.

Largemouth Bass – This popular sportfish tends to hang around structure or vegetation. In the springtime, they can be targeted spawning in shallower areas of the lake while they generally seek deeper, cooler water during the summer. Plastic worms, spinner baits, crank baits, and even topwater lures can all be used to catch these aggressive fish.

Channel Catfish – These hard-pulling fish generally inhabit the deeper areas of the lake and tend to become more active after the sun goes down. Catfish use their “whiskers” to locate

food, so baits that emit an odor will be the most successful at enticing a bite. Chicken livers, beef livers, worms, and commercial “stink baits” fished on the bottom are the most effective methods.

Black Crappie – Often called “pond perch” or “white perch,” look for these fish to be around structure in deeper areas of the lake. Fish small jigs, spinners, crank baits, or live minnows in these areas to catch this fun, palatable species.

FMA Special Regulations

A fishing license is required for residents, 16-64 years of age, and non-residents, 16 years of age or older, to fish by any method (including cane poles).

Boating and Facilities

- Gasoline powered motors are prohibited, only electric motors are permitted for use.
- No motor vehicles are allowed on the dams, spillways, or fishing fingers.

Daily Bag Limits

- **Largemouth Bass:** Daily bag limit of 5 fish per angler. No minimum size, only one fish may be 16 inches in total length or longer.
- **Channel Catfish:** Daily bag limit of 6 per angler.
- **Panfish:** Daily bag limit of 50 per angler.
- **Crappie:** Daily bag limit of 25 per angler.