

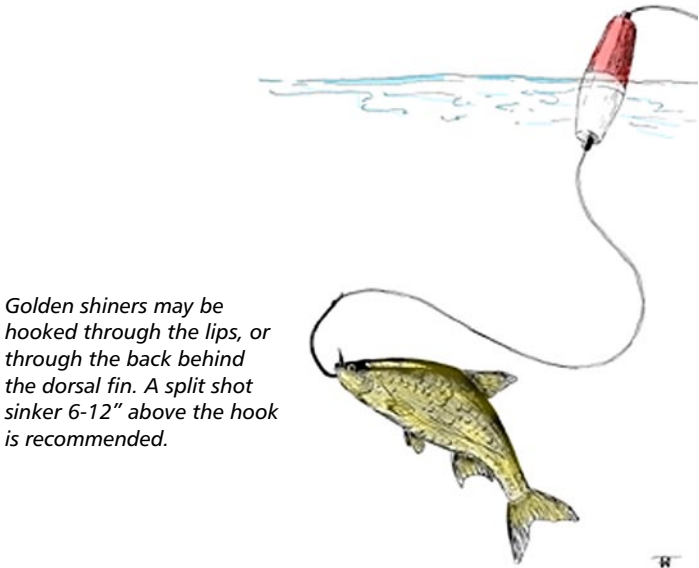
fishing tips...

Largemouth bass: The black bass commonly called the largemouth bass is the best known and most popular freshwater gamefish in Florida. Found statewide, largemouth bass have excellent growth rates, particularly in the productive waters of central Florida. Historically known for huge bass, Florida remains an outstanding destination to catch a trophy.



A largemouth's jaw extends back behind the eye.

Spring is the best time of year to catch bass, when fish move into shallow water to spawn. March and April are peak months for spawning. Most large bass are taken at this time; after spawning, many large females move to offshore areas.



Golden shiners may be hooked through the lips, or through the back behind the dorsal fin. A split shot sinker 6-12" above the hook is recommended.

The best live bait is a golden shiner, fished under a float or free-lined. Typically, the shiner is hooked through the lips or back with a large hook, 2/0 to 5/0. A medium to medium-heavy rod with 14- to 20-pound test line is preferred, particularly when fishing in areas with thick vegetation or cover.



Striped bass are found in north Florida rivers. Stripers need water less than 75°F, and are most active in winter.

Striped bass, white bass and sunshine bass: Striped bass are found primarily in the St. Johns river and its tributaries. Striped bass need long stretches of flowing water to reproduce successfully, and these conditions are rarely found in Florida. Stripers do not tolerate water temperatures over 75°F for long; during Florida summers, striped bass become less active and must find cool water springs or canopied streams to survive. Because of this, striped bass populations are maintained only through annual stockings from Commission and federal hatcheries. The best striper fishing occurs from fall through spring, when fish are actively feeding. Live shad are very effective. Stripers may weigh up to 60 pounds; use heavy tackle with 3- to 4-oz. weights in high flow areas. In the St. Johns River, the Croaker Hole and the jetties at the south end of Lake George are good fall and spring striper areas, and the first few miles of the Wekiva River have several locations where stripers congregate. Live menhaden, golden shiners, croakers or eels are good choices as bait. Lures that resemble baitfish also produce impressive strikes, including heavy jigs, as well as sinking and floating lures in white, chrome or chartreuse.

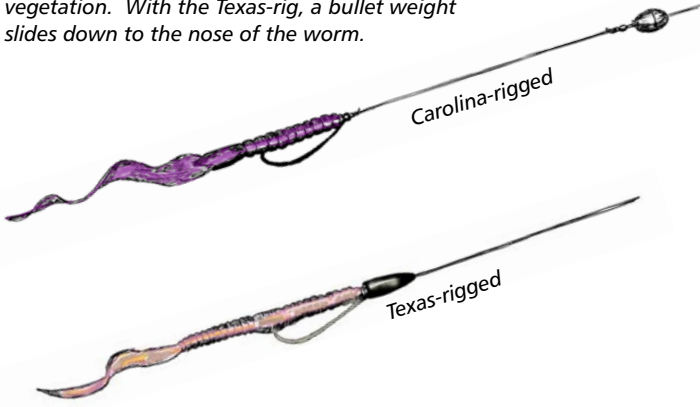
Fishing licenses are generally required by law if you are between 16 and 65. However, many anglers know buying a license funds fish and wildlife conservation and voluntarily buy one as a way of showing their stewardship ethic. **Instant** licenses are available by calling 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)

Where Can I **learn more?** Try: MyFWC.com, FishingCapital.com, VISITFLORIDA.com, or TakeMeFishing.org for great information on Florida fishing. Also visit local bait-and-tackle shops or marinas. MyFWC.com/Fishing/FMA has topo maps of many FMAs.

For **saltwater** boating and fishing information be sure to request the Boating & Fishing Guide to Duval County at: Research.MyFWC.com/Boating or call 727/896-8626.

The plastic worm is the most dependable artificial bait for largemouth bass. A weedless "Texas- or Carolina-rigged" worm is effective for fishing Florida lakes with heavy plant cover. Worms come in a variety of colors and scents, and bass may favor certain types depending on light conditions; be sure to have both light and dark colors available, as well as several sizes of tapered worm weights from 1/8 to 1/2 ounce. Purple "metalfake" or "red shad" worms with twirly-tails are popular, and plastic lizards can be effective as well.

The Carolina-rig has a weight secured up the line, allowing the worm to float above underwater vegetation. With the Texas-rig, a bullet weight slides down to the nose of the worm.



Most plastic worms are worked slowly along the bottom or through cover by raising the rod tip a few feet, then allowing the worm to sink. The line should be kept fairly tight to feel the strike. Typically an angler will feel the bass "tap" the worm once or twice lightly. By lowering the rod tip and waiting only until the slack is out of the line before setting the hook, anglers greatly lessen the chance of injury to the fish due to deep hooking.

"Jerk worms" are an excellent bait, with active bass and dense underwater vegetation. Rigged without sinkers, these worms are jigged rapidly over vegetation, with brief pauses to let the worm sink slowly. Bass hit these baits hard, and an instant hookset is recommended.



A hook with an offset shank runs up through the body of a jerkworm to make it weedless. No sinkers are used.

Catfish: Catfish may be one of the staples for anglers who enjoy eating their catch. Channel catfish are abundant throughout Florida, spawning in holes and crevices in flowing water. Channel catfish may exceed 40 pounds, although the typical size is less than five pounds. White catfish, yellow bullhead and brown bullhead usually range from one to two pounds. Their distinctive 'whiskers' are loaded with sensory cells that enable catfish to locate their food by smell. Take advantage of this by using baits with strong odors: chicken liver or gizzards,



Catfish and bullheads are easily identified by barbels that look like whiskers.

shrimp, cut mullet and commercial stinkbaits. Other baits work well too, especially earthworms, and occasionally freshwater clams. Many catfish become active just before dusk and at night, and fishing success is best during these times. Fish on the bottom with a sturdy #2 to #4 hook and a heavy split shot sinker. Catfish spines may cause a painful injury, and anglers should take care when handling these fish. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission produces 200,000 - 300,000 channel catfish annually for stocking in urban lakes.

FEEDBACK: Please let us know what you think of this map and your fishing experiences. Fill out the survey at MyFWC.com/Fishing/Duval.

Crankbaits typically imitate baitfish or crayfish, and a straight retrieve is usually effective. The design of the plastic lip determines how deep the lure dives, and anglers can adjust their choice of baits based on water depth. Popular colors are white, shad, firetiger (green striped with orange underside) and crayfish.



The longer the lip, the deeper a crankbait dives. This model would be effective on a deep river bank or sharp dropoff.

Topwater baits are exciting to fish because the angler can see the strike. Topwater plugs that imitate wounded baitfish may be twitched to entice bass. Others are designed to make noise, and a faster, erratic retrieve may antagonize a bass into striking.

Slow twitches work well with the "twin-prop" wounded minnow.



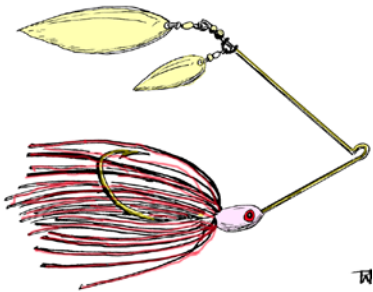
Panfish: A variety of panfish, or bream as they are popularly known, is available throughout Florida. Bluegill, the most common panfish, thrive in lakes and ponds, but good populations are found in rivers, particularly below dams.

Redbreast sunfish, also known as river bream and redbellies, are the flowing water cousins of bluegill. Redbellies are more common in rivers than bluegill, and often can be found in backwater areas with less flow. The same live baits that work for bluegill will also catch redbreast sunfish.



Anglers may have to adjust the depth of their worms until they locate panfish.

Spinnerbaits are very good in the spring, usually fished slowly around drop-offs and cover. If a slow retrieve fails, try "buzzing", i.e., retrieving the spinnerbait rapidly so the blades ripple the surface.



This spinnerbait has willow-shaped blades, but round "Colorado" blades are common. Popular blade colors are silver and gold, but louder colors like chartreuse are also used.

Bluegill eat mostly insects and their larvae, but worms are the best bait, either fished on the bottom or suspended below a float. Bluegill spawn throughout the summer, congregating in large "beds". Anglers may find 30 - 40 shallow nestholes scooped out in shallow areas. Crickets, grubs, sand maggots or grass shrimp will all catch bedding bluegill. Use a small hook, #6 or #8, with a split shot sinker about six inches up the line, and concentrate on water less than six feet deep. For artificial baits, a 1/8 oz. "beetle spin" with a white or chartreuse body on ultralight tackle is an excellent choice.



The small black smudge on the lower back edge of the dorsal fin identifies a bluegill

The **Redear sunfish**, or shellcracker, is another popular panfish. Although they prefer snails and clams, redear sunfish are caught most often on earthworms around the full moons of March and April when their spawning activity peaks. Redear prefer hard bottom, congregating in deeper water than bluegill. Shellcracker grow larger than bluegill, with fish over 1 1/2 pounds common.

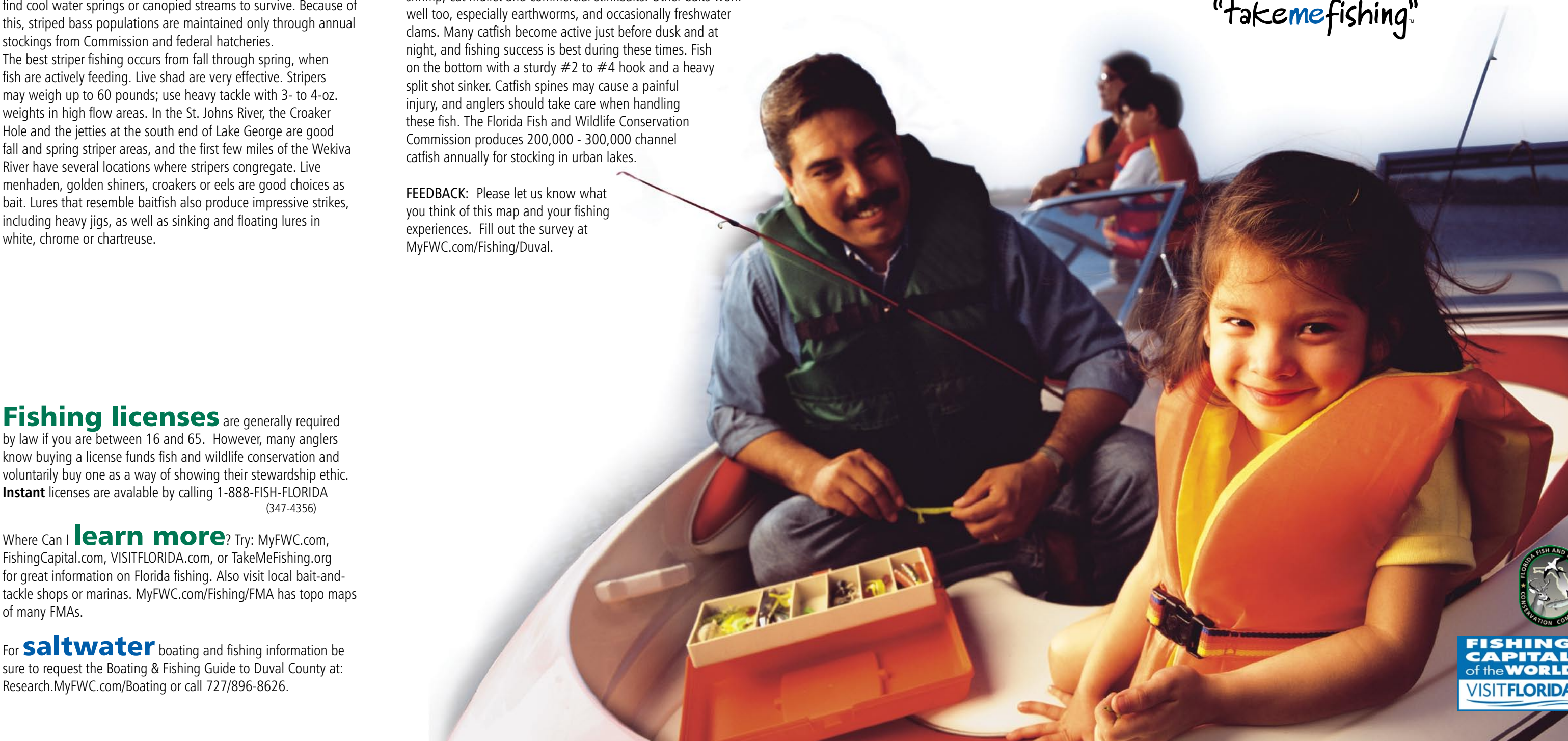


Redear are easily identified by the red edge on their ear flap.

Duval County freshwater fishing map & tips

Catch us on the web for up to the minute information MyFWC.com/Fishing

Compliments of the
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
"take me fishing"



1 Suwannee Lake/Suwannee:
Suwannee Lake west of Lake City on Highway 90 to Road 317 north at Houston, follow signs. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, boat ramp, picnic area)* City of Live Oak, big bass lake, handicapped pier.

2 Lake City Fish Management Area Lakes/Columbia:
West to Lake City, three lakes downtown.
Watertown - right at 90/100 traffic light to Moose Lodge Road, **Alligator** - continue downtown south of Veterans Hospital, **Montgomery** - south of Baya Avenue, west of 41 south. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, boat ramp, picnic area)*. Handicapped piers at these lakes.

3 Ocean Pond/Baker:
West on I-10 to 90, Olustee exit to Olustee Beach or Ocean Pond U.S. Forest Service campground, or Hog Pen Landing signs. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, boat ramp, picnic area, restrooms)*. Campgrounds.

4 St. Mary’s River/Baker:
St. Mary’s River, Macclenny-west to Macclenny on Rt. 90, north on 121 four miles to Steel Bridge Road (paved) on right, follow to river. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, public boat ramp, picnic area)*. Primitive camping, canoeing.

5 Rowell and Sampson lakes/Bradford:
West on I-10 to 301 at Baldwin, south on 301 to Starke, turn west (right) on Rt. 100 to Trestle Fork Road (dirt) on left, go straight to Rowell Canal or take first right to Cypress Creek Road to Sampson Park. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier)*. Great wade fishing and canoeing.

6 Van Zant Pond/Clay:
Rt. 17 south past Doctors Lake to 220 west to 209 intersection/light, go left on 209 1.5 miles to 739, Lake Asbury Road to 739 B.L. Asbury School, turn left for two miles to multipurpose county park. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, picnic area, restrooms)*. Managed for youth fishing.

7 Doctors Lake/Clay:
Rt. 17 south to Orange Park across bridge to 220 west, turn right on Fleming Island Road and continue to lake/pier. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, public boat ramp, private boat ramp, picnic area, restrooms)*. Wade fishing and boating.

8 Old Shands Bridge/Clay:
Rt. 17 south through Green Cove Springs to Rt. 16 east, county park/pier on left just before bridge. Fishing access on east and west approaches to new bridge, wade fishing in vicinity. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, public boat ramp, picnic area, rest rooms)*. Wade fishing in St. Johns River and good striped bass fishing.

9 Williams Landing Park/Clay:
Rt. 17 south past Green Cove Springs to junction with Road 209, go left six miles to end of pavement, go left on Williams Landing Road to end. Canoe launch on Clark’s Creek or wade fish sandy river shore. *(Bank fishing, hand-launch only-canoes, etc., picnic area)*. Wade fishing in St. Johns River and good striped bass fishing.

10 Camp Blanding/Clay:
I-295 south to Rt. 21 Blanding Blvd., through Middleburg towards Keystone Heights on Rt. 21. Two miles past Gold Head Branch State Park, turn right on paved wildlife management area road to Magnolia and Lowry lakes. *(Bank fishing, public boat ramp, picnic area)*. Beautiful site.

11 Rodman Reservoir Dam:
Rt. 17 south to Palatka. Rt. 19 south, cross barge canal, turn right on Corps of Engineers access road, follow signs. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, public boat ramp, picnic area, restrooms)*. Outstanding visitation area, fishing.

12 Hood Landing:
South on I-295, cross Buckman Bridge, second exit (Old St. Augustine Road), go south to Loretta/Hood Landing Road and turn right, continue to landing. *(Bank fishing, public boat ramp, restroom)*. Julington Creek.

13 Upper Ponte Vedra Lake:
To Jacksonville Beach on J. Turner Butler Blvd. or Beach Blvd., go south on A1A to St. Johns County, south past Ponte Vedra to state park beach. Second parking area on right is canoe launch to upper lake. *(Bank fishing, public boat ramp, picnic area, rest rooms)*. Great canoeing.

14A Mandarin Park:
I-295 south across Buckman Bridge to San Jose, south almost to Julington Creek Bridge, turn right on Mandarin Road. Park on left about 1/4 mile. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, picnic area, restrooms)*.

14B Mandarin Dock:
I-295 south across Buckman Bridge to San Jose exit, go south to first light (Mandarin Road), go right one mile, turn right to ramp/pier. *(Fishing pier, public boat ramp)*. Mullet fishing sometimes good.

14C Ortega River:
Blanding Blvd. south across Cedar River Bridge to Timquana to Seaboard Avenue, north (left) to Ortega Farms Road, ramp at Wayne B. Stevens Park. *(Public boat ramp, picnic area, restrooms)*. Good canoe launch site at Wayne B. Steven Park on Fishing Creek.

14D Stockton Park (St. Johns River):
Riverside Blvd. across Fishwier Creek to Ortega Blvd./Bridge, cross bridge, stay on Ortega, turn right. Park on left. *(Bank fishing, picnic area, restrooms)*. Mullet fishing sometimes good.

14E Stinson Park (Ortega River):
Riverside Blvd. across Fishwier Creek to Ortega Blvd. Park on right before bridge. *(Bank fishing, picnic area, restrooms)*. Mullet fishing sometimes good.

14F St. Johns River Downtown:
Base of Acosta Bridge (east side) in Museum of Science and Industry parking lot. *(Public boat ramp, picnic area, restrooms)*. Marina, downtown saltwater docks.

15 Goodby Lake/Creek:
Ramp at bridge over creek on San Jose Blvd., south of University, north of I-295 *(launch fee)*. Interesting location, good canoe fishing.

16 Huguenot Park FMA:
Beach Blvd. east to Jacksonville Beach, south on A1A to park/tennis court/lake complex on left. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, hand-launch only-canoes, etc., picnic area)*.

17 Pottsburg Creek:
Atlantic Blvd. east across University to boat ramp/parking lot. *(Bank fishing, public boat ramp)*.

18 Hanna Park FMA:
Atlantic Blvd. east, cross intracoastal, go north on A1A to Wonderwood signs, turn right to park. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, picnic area, restrooms)* campground. Good sunshine bass, crappie fishing.

19 Crystal Springs FMA:
I-10 to Chaffee Road, south one block to Crystal Springs, go left to park. From south take Normandy to Ramona Blvd., go left at Crystal Springs School to park on right. *(Bank fishing, picnic area, restrooms)*. Managed for youth fishing.

20 Pope Duval FMA:
West on 90 (Beaver Street) past Whitehouse about three miles, turn south to fish management area. From downtown, take I-10 to Chaffee exit, north to Beaver and turn left. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, public boat ramp, picnic area)*.

21 Trout River:
Dinsmore Park on New Kings Road north. Go two miles north of I-295 bridge crossing under Trout River Blvd. between Lem Turner and New Kings Road. *(Bank fishing, public boat ramp)*. Good canoeing above U.S. 1. Good bank area at Dinsmore Park.

Duval County Area Fishing Spots



Why is Florida the Fishing Capital of the World?
Florida has a huge variety of fishes, from largemouth bass in nearly all our fresh waters, to redfish along shorelines and sailfish offshore. We have scores of popular sport fishes to challenge the skill levels of all anglers, from beginners to experts. More International Game Fish Association records are set here than anywhere else, and more anglers fish here than anywhere else in the nation. Best of all, fishing is great year round in the Sunshine State.

How Do I Get Started?
Basic fishing tackle is reasonably priced, and enthusiasts can find the rod and reel of their dreams in specialty stores, bait-and-tackle shops or general retailers throughout Florida. Many guides or charter captains furnish them for free. Floridians from 16 to 65 generally need an inexpensive annual fishing license (certain exemptions apply), and tourists 16 or over need a license and can purchase a short-term or annual license to suit their needs. In fact, everyone is encouraged to purchase a license, whether they are exempt or not, to help ensure healthy habitats and fish and wildlife populations – because fishing and hunting license fees go to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to help conserve fish and wildlife. To purchase a license, go to MyFWC.com, call 1-888-FISH FLORIDA (347-4356), or buy one where you get your tackle.

What Do I Need to Be Safe?
Safety starts with awareness and common sense. When outdoors in Florida, use sunscreen to prevent sunburn and skin damage, be certain to drink plenty of water, be aware of your surroundings, and be careful of sharp fishing hooks. Don’t feed wildlife while enjoying viewing the great diversity of birds and animals you’ll see while fishing. When boating, wear your life jacket, and don’t drink alcohol while afloat.

What Should I Do To Help Sustain the Resource?
Learn the rules that apply in the area you are fishing and to any species you might catch. Regulation summaries are available where you buy your tackle, or at MyFWC.com. When handling fish you don’t want to keep, or can’t keep legally, be gentle and release them quickly, so they can fight another day. Don’t litter, and pick up trash wherever you see it. Fishing line, bottles, cans and plastics should be recycled. If boating, be careful to keep gasoline and oil out of the water, and keep your prop, anchor or wake from damaging aquatic plants, animals or the shoreline. Try to catch a variety of species, such as catfish and bream in fresh water or mackerel and seatrout in salt water, and try new areas to help spread fishing effort. Have fun, take a kid fishing, and show them how to be good resource stewards too.

22 Bethesda FMA:
Florida Community College of Jacksonville, North campus off Dunn Avenue near I-295. Turn to fish management area entrance on Key Haven Blvd. *(Bank fishing, pier fishing, public boat ramp, picnic area, rest rooms)*.

23 Broward River/Cedar Creek:
Harts Road north of Dunn Avenue at I-95 north, Biscayne Blvd. north of Dunn Avenue and Duval Road. Numerous isolated bridge crossings. *(Bank fishing, hand-launch only-canoe, etc.)*. Numerous access sites at bridges.

24 Oceanway FMA:
Oceanway Sports Complex. Highway 17 north to New Berlin Road, turn right and go one block, turn right on Palm. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, picnic area, rest rooms)*.

25 Dunns Creek:
Several freshwater creek bridge crossings off Alta Road, north and south of 9A Dunn Creek Road. *(Bank fishing, public boat ramp)*. Numerous access sites at bridges.

26 Boggy Creek/Nassau:
Rt. 17 north of Jacksonville to A1A in Yulee, go west three miles to Police Lodge Road and turn left, take right fork to ramp and bank fishing area. *(Bank fishing, public boat ramp)*. Great bass fishing via canoe.

27 Lofton Creek/Nassau:
Rt. 17 north of Jacksonville to SR 200 in Yulee, go east two miles to county park/ramp on right. *(Bank fishing, public boat ramp, rest rooms)*. Great bass fishing via canoe.

28 St. Augustine Road FMA:
I-95 south to Emerson or University, go west. Fish management area off Stetson Road off St. Augustine Road between Emerson and University. *(Bank fishing, pier fishing, hand-launch only-canoes, etc., picnic area)*.

29 Thomas Creek:
I-295 to Lem Turner, north toward Callahan, turn right on Lannie Road, two miles to County Farm, turn left on road to fish camp and ramp. *(Bank fishing, public boat ramp, rest rooms)*. Fish camp.

30 Lake Wonderwood-NAS Mayport:
Atlantic Blvd. east, cross intracoastal and go north on A1A, enter Mayport NAS (no pass needed), go right at first main traffic light, continue to lake. *(Bank fishing, fishing pier, picnic area, rest rooms)*. Managed lake on Mayport NAS.

31 St. Marys River/Boulougne/Nassau:
Jacksonville to Callahan to 301 and north to Hilliard, north on 115A to Kings Ferry Park on river. *(Bank fishing, public boat ramp, picnic area)*. Good bream and catfish angling from ramp site.

32 St. Marys River/Kings Ferry/Nassau:
Jacksonville to Callahan to 301 and north to Hilliard, north on 115 A to Kings Ferry Park on river. *(Bank fishing, public boat ramp, picnic area)*. Good bream and catfish angling from ramp site.



THIS ONE’S A KEEPER
Please, Catch a Florida bass tag for your Trailer or Vehicle and ensure there are fish for tomorrow!
Support Fish & Wildlife Conservation!



“take me fishing”