



2004-2005 FLORIDA FRESHWATER SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS



Florida Bass Conservation Center update (page 3)

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FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MyFWC.com

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

620 South Meridian Street • Farris Bryant Building • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600 • (850) 488-4676 • (850) 488-9542 (TDD)

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REGIONAL OFFICES

NORTHWEST REGION



Northwest Region
3911 Highway 2321
Panama City, FL 32409-1658
(850) 265-3676
Regional Director: Louie Roberson

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

North Central Region
Route 7, Box 440
Lake City, FL 32055-8713
(386) 758-0525
Regional Director: Rolando Garcia

NORTHEAST REGION

Northeast Region
1239 S.W. 10th Street
Ocala, FL 34474-2797
(352) 732-1225
Regional Director: Dennis David

SOUTHWEST REGION

Southwest Region
3900 Drane Field Road
Lakeland, FL 33811-1299
(863) 648-3203
Regional Director: Gregory L. Holder

SOUTH REGION

South Region
8535 Northlake Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33412-3303
(561) 625-5122
Regional Director: Charles E. Collins

NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2004-05

Smith Lake, Washington County is closed to fishing until May 1, 2006.

Crooked, Grasshopper, Lou, Echo, Quarry Fish Pond and Hopkins Prairie lakes (Ocala National Forest), Marion County, are no longer catch-and-release for black bass. Effective July 1, 2004, statewide black bass bag and length limits apply.

St. Johns River Water Management Areas of Lake County (formerly known as Long Farm, S.N. Knight Lisbon Farm north and south, S.N. Knight Leesburg Farm, Lowrie Brown Farm, Eustis Muck Farm, and Walker Ranch), Lake County, are no longer catch-and-release for black bass. Effective July 1, 2004, statewide black bass bag and length limits apply. The prohibition on using cast nets to take nongame fish in these areas has been lifted.

FISH MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATION CHANGES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Suwannee Lake, Suwannee County; Koon Lake, Lafayette County; Watertown Lake, Columbia County; and Lake Rachel, Madison County:

- Possession of firearms is now prohibited; previously, firearms could be possessed but not discharged.

Lang Lake, Hamilton County:

- Possession of firearms is prohibited, except by written permission of the landowner.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Lake Crago is no longer a Fish Management Area; it is now a part of **Tenoroc Fish Management Area**. Boats must be operated at idle speed (see page 10).

Tenoroc Fish Management Area, Polk County:

- The 8-inch minimum length limit for bluegill and redear sunfish on Derby Lake has been changed. Of the daily bag limit of 20 panfish, anglers may keep no more than 5 bluegill or redear sunfish 8 inches or longer.
- East and West Pasture Lakes now have a 20-fish daily bag limit for panfish, with anglers restricted to no more than 5 bluegill or redear sunfish 8 inches or longer.
- Cemetery Lake: Anglers may keep no more than 5 bluegill or redear sunfish 8 inches or longer as part of their 20 panfish daily bag limit.
- Hydrilla Lake is no longer a Special Opportunity fishing lake. General Tenoroc area regulations now apply to Hydrilla Lake.

Hardee County Park, Hardee County is open to fishing in designated lakes, with days and hours of operation and quotas posted at the park main entrance. Boat anglers must get an entry pass issued by Hardee County. Bank anglers do not need an entry pass unless otherwise posted at the park main entrance.

- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Sunshine bass daily bag limit: 6
- Black crappie daily bag limit: 10
- Black crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Firearms, swimming and use of float tubes are prohibited.
- All watercraft must be operated only at idle speed.

FISHING LICENSE FEES

Licensing requirements follow the species of fish you are fishing for, regardless of where you are fishing. For example, anglers fishing for and possessing largemouth bass in brackish water need a freshwater license; anglers fishing for saltwater species in fresh water (e.g., spotted seatrout, red drum, snook, American shad) need a saltwater license to possess these species if fishing from a boat.

Resident:

For the purpose of fishing in Florida, a person is a resident if he or she has lived in Florida for six continuous months prior to applying for licenses and claims Florida as his or her primary residence. Active military personnel stationed in Florida, including their spouses and dependent children residing in the household, are considered residents when purchasing fishing licenses.

Resident 12-Month Freshwater Fishing
(Valid for 12 months from specified beginning date)\$13.50

Resident Freshwater Fishing/Hunting Combination (Valid 12 months from specified beginning date).....\$23.50

Resident Freshwater/Saltwater Combination (Valid 12 months from specified beginning date).....\$25.50

Resident Freshwater/Saltwater/Hunting Combination (Valid 12 months from specified beginning date).....\$35.50

64 or Older Hunting and Fishing: includes Freshwater Fishing and Hunting licenses; and Type I Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzleloading Gun and Turkey permits...\$13.50

Sportsman's License: includes Hunting, Freshwater Fishing and permits for Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Turkey and Florida Waterfowl (Valid 12 months from specified beginning date).\$67.50

Gold Sportsman's License: Includes all licenses and permits in the Sportsman's License plus saltwater fishing, Crawfish and Snook permits.....\$83.50

Nonresident:

7-Day Freshwater Fishing
(Valid for seven consecutive days from specified beginning date).....\$16.50

12-Month Freshwater Fishing
(Valid for 12 months from specified beginning date)\$31.50

Licenses may be purchased from county tax collectors or their subagents, who are generally located at tackle shops, fish camps and sporting goods stores. In addition to license and stamp fees listed above, subagents are entitled to an additional 50 cents. **License fees are set by the Florida Legislature and are subject to change. Check our Web site for updates.**



Freshwater License Exemptions:

- Florida residents 65 years of age or older who possess either a Resident Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing Certificate or proof of age and residency. A Florida Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing Certificate is accepted in Georgia, but a trout stamp may be required.
- Georgia residents 65 years of age or older who have in their possession a Georgia Honorary Combination Hunting and Fishing License and proof of age.
- Florida residents certified as totally and permanently disabled, who possess a Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate. Applicants need to provide a certification of total and permanent disability from the United States Armed Forces, Railroad Retirement Board, Florida Worker's Compensation or the United States Veterans Administration. Alternatively, current documentation from the Social Security Administration for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI) benefits also will be accepted.
- Any person who has been accepted by the Florida Department of Health as a client for developmental services, with proof (e.g., retardation).
- Children under 16 years of age.
- Resident Freshwater Commercial Fishing License holders.
- Any resident who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and is not stationed in Florida, home on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders.
- Any resident fishing in the county of his or her residence with live or natural bait, using poles or hand lines that are not equipped with a reel or other line retrieval mechanism (cane pole), for noncommercial purposes.
- Anyone fishing in a private fishing pond less than 20 acres. A private pond is a man-made pond constructed for the primary purpose of fishing, entirely within the property lines of the owner and with no surface water connection to public waters.

- Anyone fishing in a private pond of 20 acres or more where the pond owner has purchased a fish pond license at a fee of \$3 per surface acre.
- Any person fishing in their county of residence on the homestead of their spouse or minor child, or any minor child fishing on the homestead of their parent.
- Anyone fishing in the St. Marys River or Lake Seminole (but not including tributary creeks in Florida), who has a valid Georgia fishing license.
- Anyone fishing during Free Fishing Weekend.

NOTE: A valid Fishing License is required to fish by any method in a Fish Management Area.

Although the above exemptions apply, individuals may always choose to purchase a license as a way to contribute to fish and wildlife conservation. Purchasing a license also helps the FWC receive more of the excise taxes spent on fishing tackle and motor boat fuels under Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (see page 5).

LIFETIME AND FIVE-YEAR LICENSES

Lifetime and Five-Year licenses are available to Florida residents for hunting, freshwater fishing and saltwater fishing. The Lifetime and Five-Year licenses will remain valid for use in Florida even if you move out of state. The cost of these licenses is less than what would be spent on annual licenses, permits and fees.

Lifetime Sportsman's License: includes: Hunting, Freshwater and Saltwater Fishing licenses; and Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Turkey, Florida Waterfowl, Snook and Crawfish permits:

4 years or younger\$401.50
5-12 years\$701.50
13 years or older\$1,001.50

Lifetime Freshwater Fishing License:

4 years or younger\$126.50
5-12 years\$226.50
13 years or older\$301.50

Lifetime Saltwater Fishing License: includes Snook and Crawfish permits.

4 years or younger\$126.50
5-12 years\$226.50
13 years or older\$301.50

Five-Year Freshwater Fishing License: no permits required.\$61.50

Five-Year Saltwater Fishing License: does not include Snook or Crawfish permits or Tarpon Tag\$61.50

Five-Year permits also may be purchased with Five-Year licenses.

STATEWIDE BAG AND LENGTH LIMITS

Special bag and length limits apply to some lakes, rivers (page 4) and Fish Management Areas (pages 7-11). Other fishes considered to be nongame fishes have no daily bag or possession limits, except as noted in individual Fish Management Area regulations.

- **5 Black bass** (largemouth, Suwannee, redeye, spotted, and shoal bass, individually or in total), only one of which may be 22 inches or longer in total length.

In south Florida (see map below): only one bass may be 14 inches in total length or longer.

South and east of the Suwannee River (see map below): black bass less than 14 inches in total length must be released immediately.

In the Suwannee River (see map below), **areas north and west of the Suwannee River, and in any tributary river, creek or stream of the Suwannee River:** black bass less than 12 inches in total length must be released immediately.

- **50 Panfish** including bluegill, redear sunfish (shellcracker), flier, longear sunfish, mud sunfish, shadow bass, spotted sunfish (stumpknockers), warmouth and redbreast sunfish, individually or in total.

- **25 Black Crappie** (speckled perch) and/or white crappie, individually or in total.

- **20 Striped bass, white bass, and sunshine bass** (individually or in total), of which only 6 may be 24 inches or longer in total length.

In the Suwannee River, areas north and west of the Suwannee River, and in any tributary, creek or stream of the Suwannee River: the daily bag limit for striped bass is 3, each of which must be at least 18 inches in total length (20 fish combined bag limit).

- **2 Butterfly peacock bass**, only one of which may be 17 inches or longer in total length.

Possession limit is two days' bag limit. It is illegal to transport or possess more than two days' bag limit of fish per licensed angler without a commercial license. Exceptions are fish legally acquired from aquaculturists (fish farmers) for use in aquaria, for brood stock, pond stocking or properly marked for the market.

(NOTE: It is illegal to possess grass carp without a permit; all grass carp must be released immediately.)

In northwest Florida, including the Suwannee River and its tributaries (light green), black bass less than 12 inches total length must be immediately released.

In central and northeast Florida (white area), black bass less than 14 inches total length must be immediately released.

In the St. Lucie canal and in areas east of U.S. Highway 441 and south of S.R. 80 (dark green area), only 1 bass of the five bass daily bag limit may be 14 inches or longer

FLORIDA BASS CONSERVATION CENTER

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has begun construction of the Florida Bass Conservation Center (FBCC) at the Richloam Fish Hatchery in Sumter County near Webster.

The new \$10 million facility will modernize the Richloam Fish Hatchery into a state-of-the-art freshwater fish hatchery and research facility dedicated to the propagation and conservation of the unique Florida subspecies of largemouth bass, "Micropterus salmoides floridanus."

Development of the FBCC will make a significant contribution to increasing fishing opportunities in the Sunshine State and will ensure the state remains one of the premier fishing areas in the world well into the 21st century.

The FBCC will enable the FWC to undertake large-scale stocking programs to restore Florida bass populations in lakes where significant habitat improvements are not feasible.

Highlights of the FBCC include a climate-controlled spawning facility, six 11,000-gallon raceways, a 2,000-square-foot research laboratory, a modern fish health laboratory and a comprehensive bass research library.

FWC officials expect construction of the new facility to be completed during the fall of 2005.

TAKING AND POSSESSION OF FRESHWATER MUSSELS

Certain families of freshwater mussels may be collected by properly licensed anglers for personal use. The daily bag limit for freshwater mussels from these families is 10 per person (or 20 half shells). The possession limit is two days bag limit. (see illustrations below)

Mussels shall be taken by hand-picking only. Use of brailles, crowfoot bars, or other mechanical methods for taking freshwater mussels is prohibited. Freshwater mussels, live or dead, may not be taken for later sale.



← 3 inches →
Florida Shiny Spike
(10 per person per day)



← 3 1/2 inches →
Paper Pondshell

OTHER CLAMS

Species of freshwater mussels from other families, such as the Asian clam, have no daily bag or possession limits.



← 1 1/2 inches →

SPECIAL BAG AND LENGTH LIMITS

See Fish Management Area regulations for bag and length limits for lakes in the Fish Management Area system (pages 7-11).

- **Jim Woodruff Reservoir, Lake Seminole:** 10 black bass, all of which must be at least 12 inches in total length; 15 striped bass, white bass and sunshine bass (individually or in total), of which no more than 2 may be 22 inches or longer in total length; 30 black or white crappie (speckled perch), in total; 50 panfish (does not include black crappie); 15 pickerel (chain, grass and redfin). Possession limit is 50 fish total, regardless of species.

- **St. Marys River:** 10 black bass, all of which must be at least 12 inches in total length; 2 striped bass, both of which must be at least 22 inches in total length; 15 sunshine bass or white bass (individually or in total); 30 black or white crappie (speckled perch), in total; 50 panfish (does not include black crappie); 15 pickerel (chain, grass and redfin). Possession limit is 50 fish total, regardless of species.

- **Lake Talquin, Leon and Gadsden counties:** Black bass caught that are less than 18 inches in total length and black crappie that are less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.

- **Lake Jackson, Leon County:** Black bass caught that are less than 18 inches in total length must be released immediately.

- **Wildcat Lake, Marion County (Ocala National Forest):** all black bass must be released immediately.

- **Lake Monroe, Volusia and Seminole counties:** Black crappie less than 12 inches in total length must be released immediately.

- **Edward Medard Reservoir, Hillsborough County:** Black bass caught from 15 to 24 inches in total length must be released immediately. Black bass daily bag limit is 3.

- **St. Johns River Water Management Area (Farm 13, including the Stick Marsh), Indian River County:** All black bass must be released immediately.

- **S.N. Knight Tract, Indian River County:** All black bass must be released immediately.

- **Lake Weohyakapka (Walk-in-Water), Polk County:** Black bass from 15 to 24 inches in total length must be released immediately. Black bass daily bag limit is 3, only one of which may be 24 inches in total length or longer.

- **Lake Okeechobee, including Harney Pond Canal (C-41) north of S.R. 78 to water control structure S-71; Indian Prairie Canal (C-40) north of S.R. 78 to water control structure S-72; all of Taylor Creek and Nubbin Slough; C-38 Canal/Kissimmee River south of water control structure S-65E to S.R 78, Okeechobee County:** Black bass from 13 inches to 18 inches in total length must be released immediately; bass less than 13 inches or bass 18 inches or longer may be kept.

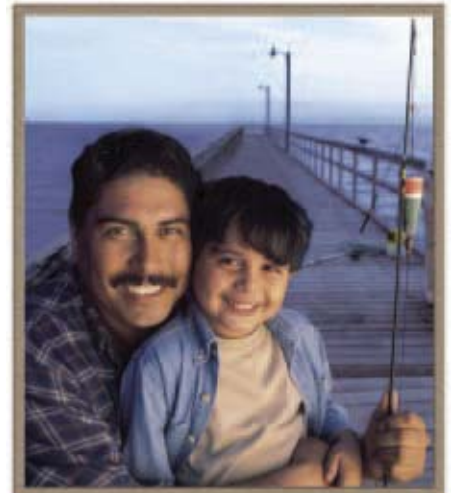
- **Smith Lake, Washington County:** closed to fishing until May 1, 2006.

Wildlife Alert!

Report Impaired Boaters and Fish and Wildlife Violators

Impaired operators are putting themselves, you and other people on the water in danger. Those who violate Florida's fish and wildlife laws are actually stealing from those who are abiding by laws and trying to ensure that our fish and wildlife resources can be enjoyed for future generations. Do your part by calling the local FWC law enforcement office at 1-888-404-3922, on your cell phones, dial *FWC or #FWC or report violations online at MyFWC.com/law/alert. You may be eligible for a cash reward and can remain anonymous.

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Call Toll-Free 24 Hr.
1-888-404-3922



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State of Florida
 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



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Please Contact:
 Fish and Wildlife Academy
 29 Academy Drive
 Havana, Florida 32333
 850/539-9656/1-866-FWC-HIRE
 Web site: MyFWC.com

METHODS OF TAKING FRESHWATER FISH

Game fish and nongame fish may be taken with pole and line or rod and reel. There is no limit on the number of rods an angler may use.

Freshwater fish may not be taken by use of any free-floating, unattached device, or by use of firearms, explosives, electricity, spear gun, poison or other chemicals. The taking of fish by underwater swimming or diving is prohibited. It is unlawful to sell, offer for sale or transport out of the state any freshwater game fish unless specifically permitted by the FWC, except that licensed anglers may transport two days' bag limit of legally harvested game fish.

It is illegal to possess any freshwater fish along with gear that cannot legally be used to take freshwater fish, including gear types listed above and below for taking nongame fish or bait. An exception is game fish may be possessed together with cast nets having a stretched mesh size not greater than 1 inch; minnow dip nets not more than 4 feet in diameter; minnow seines having a stretched mesh size not greater than 1 inch, a length not more than 20 feet and a depth not more than 4 feet; and minnow traps not more than 24 inches in length and 12 inches in diameter, with a funnel entrance not more than 1 inch in spread.

It is illegal to fillet or remove the head or tail fin of black bass, striped bass, white bass, Sunshine bass (striped bass x white bass hybrid), peacock bass, black crappie and panfish (where special black crappie or panfish size or bag limits are in effect) until after you have completed fishing for the day.

Nongame fish may be taken:

- By bush hook, setline or trotline baited with cut bait or other substance; but not including live game fish or any part of any game fish; bush hooks, setlines or trotlines (limited to 25 hooks total) are permitted for taking nongame fish for personal use, but only in those areas where trotlines may be lawfully used in accordance with the Wildlife Code of the State of Florida. Refer to the "Commercial Freshwater Fisheries Rules and Regulations Summary."
- By manually operated spears, gigs, snatch hooks, crossbows or bows during daylight hours **except** on the Jim Woodruff Dam spillway, in Dade County canals south of C-4 and east of L-31N or L-31W, and at the spillways of the Eureka and Rodman dams. Nongame fish may be taken at night using gigs or bow and arrow.

- By cast nets in the Southwest Region, except in certain waters adjoining Saddle Creek Fish Management Area and certain Fish Management Areas; in the Northeast Region except for Indian River County and certain Fish Management Areas; and in Citrus and Glades counties.

- Using a bow and light at night. Night bowfishing tournaments do not require a permit in the Northwest Region.

- By netting and impounding at night from Sept. 1 to May 1 in specified waters in north-west Florida. Nets used to take nongame fish in these specified waters must be less than 100 feet in length, have a minimum 3-inch stretched mesh and shall be continuously attended to ensure immediate release of any trapped game fish. Contact the Northwest Regional office for details.

GAME AND NONGAME FRESHWATER FISH

Game Fish—black bass, black crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish, warmouth, redbreast sunfish, spotted sunfish, flier, mud sunfish, longear sunfish, shadow bass, peacock bass, white bass, striped bass and sunshine bass.

Nongame Fish—bowfin, common carp, catfish, pickerel, eels, gar, threadfin shad, gizzard shad, shiners, tilapia (Nile perch), killifish, suckers, topminnows and fishes not listed as freshwater game fish and not taken for sport.

PROHIBITED GEAR FOR TAKING MARINE SPECIES IN FRESH WATER

Use of any hand or mechanically propelled, single or multi-pronged spear or lance, barbed or barbless, to harvest or attempt to harvest any marine species while diving in freshwater is prohibited.

Spearfishing for mullet in fresh water is prohibited.

METHODS OF TAKING BAIT

Freshwater shrimp and minnows of nongame fish (except catfish) may be taken by:

- Cast nets having a stretched mesh size not greater than 1 inch.
- Minnow dip nets not more than 4 feet in diameter.
- Minnow seines having a stretched mesh size not greater than 1 inch, a length not more than 20 feet, and a depth not more than 4 feet.
- Minnow traps not more than 24 inches in length and 12 inches in diameter, with a funnel entrance not more than 1 inch in spread.

- Any game fish taken by these methods must be released immediately.
- Taking of bait for the purpose of sale requires a commercial fishing license.

USE OF FISH FOR BAIT

- Black bass, peacock bass or any part thereof may not be used as bait.
- Live goldfish or carp may not be used as bait.
- Whole pickerel or bream (e.g., bluegill, redear sunfish, redbreast sunfish, spotted sunfish, flier, warmouth) or parts thereof may be used as bait for sportfishing by the angler who caught them. Whole pickerel or bream or parts thereof may not be used as bait for trotlines or bush hooks or any method other than by rod and reel or pole and line.

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program



The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program is a user-pays, user-benefits program seeking to improve sport fishing and boating opportunities. Federal funds are collected from taxes on fishing tackle, motor boat fuels and import duties on tackle and yachts. The money is returned to state agencies for sport-fishing research, management and development activities. For every \$3 of Federal funds received, the state adds \$1. The Division of Freshwater Fisheries depends on these funds to continually improve Florida's fisheries, and you will see the Sport Fish Restoration logo on boat ramp signs, brochures or other products produced with these funds for the benefit of freshwater and saltwater anglers.

Hunter Safety Course

To find hunter safety courses in your area, visit our Web site at MyFWC.com or contact your nearest regional office.

"Big Catch" Angler Recognition Program

QUALIFYING SIZES				
SPECIES	TOTAL LENGTH		TOTAL WEIGHT	
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth
Largemouth Bass	24"	18"	8.00	6.00
Suwannee, Shoal, or Spotted Bass	16"	12"	2.00	1.50
Striped Bass	30"	22"	12.00	9.00
Sunshine Bass	24"	18"	7.00	5.25
White Bass	15"	11"	2.50	1.75
Black Crappie	14"	10"	2.00	1.50
Bluegill	11"	8"	1.25	0.75
Redbreast Sunfish	10"	7"	0.75	0.50
Redear Sunfish	12"	9"	2.25	1.50
Warmouth	10"	7"	0.75	0.50
Spotted Sunfish	8"	6"	0.50	0.40
Flier	9"	6"	0.75	0.50
Channel Catfish	31"	23"	15.00	11.25
Flathead Catfish	36"	27"	25.00	18.75
White Catfish	22"	16"	5.00	3.75
Blue Catfish	34"	25"	20.00	15.00
Brown Bullhead	16"	12"	2.00	1.50
Yellow Bullhead	14"	10"	1.50	1.00
Longnose Gar	50"	37"	20.00	15.00
Florida/Spotted Gar	28"	21"	5.00	3.75
Alligator Gar	68"	51"	70.00	52.50
Chain Pickerel	27"	20"	4.00	3.00
Redfin Pickerel	12"	9"	0.63	0.50
Common Carp	30"	22"	20.00	15.00
Butterfly Peacock Bass	18"	13"	5.00	3.75
Oscar	11"	8"	1.25	0.75
Blue Tilapia	18"	13"	5.00	3.75
Bowfin	30"	22"	10.00	7.50

The "Big Catch" Angler Recognition Program rewards anglers who catch a memorable-sized fish. Qualifying anglers receive a colorful citation showing the type fish they caught and a window sticker to proudly display their prowess.

In addition, anglers who release their fish get special recognition. An angler catching five "Big" fish of the same species will be recognized as a "Specialist," fish of five different species qualifies as a "Master Angler," and 10 different species as an "Elite Angler." A special youth citation and pin is given to an angler under age 16 for catching a fish that is at least 75 percent of the qualifying size (see table to left for specific sizes. Total length is maximum length in inches; weights are in pounds).

Participants are encouraged to submit photographs. To qualify, the fish must be legally caught and exceed the minimum qualifying length **or** weight. The catch must be witnessed and a "Big Catch" form completed.

OFFICIAL APPLICATION - BIG CATCH PROGRAM

NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: __/__/____
 ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: (____) ____-____
 CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE: _____
 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: ____-____-____
 DATE FISH WAS CAUGHT: __/__/__ WHERE FISH WAS CAUGHT: _____
 COUNTY IN WHICH FISH WAS CAUGHT: _____
 TIME OF CATCH: __:__ [] AM [] PM
 FISH METHOD USED TO CATCH FISH:
 Rod and Reel with Artificial Lure Lure Used: _____
 Rod and Reel With Natural Bait Natural Bait Used: _____
 Cane Pole With Natural Bait Natural Bait Used: _____
 Fly Rod and Reel with Artificial Fly Fly Used: _____
 Other Fishing Method (Describe): _____

IDENTIFICATION AND WEIGHT/LENGTH OF FISH
 *SEE CHART ON THIS PAGE FOR ELIGIBLE FISH SPECIES AND MINIMUM QUALIFYING WEIGHTS AND LENGTHS.

SPECIES: _____ WEIGHT: _____ GIRTH: _____
 LENGTH: _____ WAS FISH RELEASED? Yes _____ No _____

TYPE OF AWARD:
 ANGLER RECOGNITION YOUTH AWARD
 SPECIALIST AWARD MASTER AWARD ELITE AWARD

The fish described in the application was legally caught in the state of Florida, by myself, and the above information is true and correct. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may use this information for research, informational and other public purposes.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Fishing License Number: _____

IF EXEMPT, CHECK ONE:
 Younger than 16, Older than 65, Permanently disabled,
 Used Cane Pole in County of Residence, Military Home on Leave,
 Other:

Witness Signature: _____

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Big Catch Program
 620 South Meridian Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

General Regulations for Fish Management Areas Effective July 1, 2004

1. A fishing license is required for residents from 16 to 64 years of age, and for nonresidents 16 or more years of age, to fish by any method, including cane poles, on a Fish Management Area. Refer to Fishing License Fees for exemptions (page 2).
2. The possession of fishing tackle is prohibited on any Fish Management Area that is closed to fishing.
3. Daily bag limits and methods of taking freshwater fish apply except as provided for a particular Fish Management Area.
4. The possession of nets (other than legal minnow seines, cast nets or dip nets), fish traps, trotlines or setlines is prohibited unless specifically authorized by rules established for a particular Fish Management Area.
5. Persons entering or leaving Fish Management Areas that have designated entry points shall enter or leave only at such designated points.
6. Any vehicle, boat or other transportation device may be searched while in, entering or leaving a Fish Management Area.
7. Fish Management Areas may be temporarily closed to accommodate management projects (e.g., drawdowns), or if unsafe conditions exist, or as otherwise specified in a specific Fish Management Area rule.
8. Intentional release of wildlife or freshwater fish on Fish Management Areas is prohibited.

Northwest Region

(see map on page 1 for regions)

Juniper Bay Lake, Walton County: open to fishing.

- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Lake Piney Z, Leon County: open to fishing.

- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Watercraft shall be allowed only as authorized by the City of Tallahassee.
- Access is prohibited from sunset until sunrise.

Lake Victor, Holmes County: open to fishing.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- No motor vehicles on dams, spillways and fishing fingers.

Merritt's Mill Pond, Jackson County: open to fishing.

- No rifles or gigs.
- Trotlines may be used.
- Redear sunfish (shellcracker) daily bag limit: 10
- Redear sunfish less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Hurricane Lake, Okaloosa County: open to fishing.

- Black bass less than 18 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- No motor vehicles on dams, spillways and fishing fingers.

Karick Lake, Okaloosa County: open to fishing.

- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- No motor vehicles on dams, spillways and fishing fingers.

Lake Stone, Escambia County: open to fishing.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- No motor vehicles on dams, spillways and fishing fingers.

Bear Lake, Santa Rosa County: open to fishing.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- No motor vehicles on dams, spillways and fishing fingers.

Joe Budd Pond, Gadsden County: *Closed to fishing:* The Tuesday following Labor Day until the first Saturday of July (unless authorized by permit issued by the FWC for agency-sanctioned events).

Open to fishing: On weekends from the first Saturday in July through the Labor Day weekend, including the Labor Day holiday. (The FWC may authorize by permit, agency-sanctioned events on weekdays from the Tuesday following Labor Day until the first Saturday in July for educational or outreach programs.)

- No motor vehicles on dams, spillways and fishing fingers.
- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Panfish daily limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Sunshine bass daily bag limit: 10
- Black bass less than 16 inches in total length must be released immediately.

North Central Region

St. Augustine Road ponds (North and South), Duval County: open to fishing from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Swimming, possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages, and use of cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Black bass less than 16 inches in total length must be released immediately.

Oceanway Pond, Duval County: open to

fishing from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Swimming, possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages, and use of cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Black bass less than 16 inches in total length must be released immediately.

Hanna Park ponds, Duval County: open to fishing from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages, and use of cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Black bass less than 16 inches in total length must be released immediately.

Pope Duval East and West ponds, Duval County: open to fishing from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Swimming, possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages, and use of cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Black bass less than 16 inches in total length must be released immediately.

Bethesda Pond, Duval County: open to fishing from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Swimming, possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages, and use of cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Black bass less than 16 inches in total length must be released immediately.

Huguenot Pond, Duval County: open to fishing from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Swimming, possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages, and use of cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Black bass less than 16 inches in total length must be released immediately.

Crystal Springs Park, Duval County: open to fishing from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

- No person between ages of 16 years and 64 years shall fish unless accompanied by an angler less than 16 years of age or by an angler 65 years of age or older, by a disabled angler or by an angler who is a client of the Florida Department of Health.
- Swimming, possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages, and use of cast nets are prohibited.

- Boats are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Black bass less than 16 inches in total length must be released immediately.

Camp Blanding area, Clay County:

Indefinitely closed by the Army National Guard for security reasons. If the area is reopened, the following rules are in effect.

Magnolia and Lowery lakes are open to fishing from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset, except during National Guard training encampments.

- No guns are allowed except during designated hunting seasons for Camp Blanding Wildlife Management Area.
- Picnicking and boat launching are permitted only at designated areas.
- Camping is prohibited.
- During periods closed to hunting, vehicles may be operated only on roads to designated access areas.
- During periods closed to hunting, the use of three-wheeled vehicles and motorcycles is prohibited.
- All watercraft shall be operated at idle speed only.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Alligator Lake, Columbia County: open to fishing.

- Fishing is prohibited in Ponderosa Pond except for authorized groups permitted by FWC.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Eagle Lake, Hamilton County: open to fishing from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Swimming and possession of firearms are prohibited.

Ronnie Vanzant Park, Clay County: open to fishing from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

- Boats or any floating vessel apparatus are prohibited.
- No swimming or camping.
- No person between ages of 16 years and 64 years shall fish unless accompanied by an angler less than 16 years of age.
- Fishing permitted only with hook and line or rod and reel.
- Nets are prohibited, except for dip nets.
- Black bass less than 16 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Lake Lochloosa, including Tadpole and Lochloosa creeks; Orange Lake, including Orange Lake proper, and waters south and east of CR 346, and west of U.S. Highway 301; and Cross Creek; Alachua and Marion counties: open to fishing.

- Black bass 15 inches or more total length and less than 24 inches must be released immediately.
- Black bass daily bag limit: 3
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

- Trotlines having a gallon-sized plastic float at each end may be used, provided that such lines are sunk to the bottom or to a minimum depth of 4 feet.

Newnans Lake, Alachua County: open to fishing.

- Trotlines having a gallon-sized plastic float at each end may be used, provided that such lines are sunk to the bottom or to a minimum depth of 4 feet.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Suwannee Lake, Suwannee County: open to fishing.

- No camping.
- No motor vehicles on dam and fishing fingers.
- Possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- Access to the area from 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise for any use other than fishing and launching and loading of boats is prohibited.
- Black bass less than 18 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Black crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- No daily bag limit on channel catfish.

Koon Lake, Lafayette County: open to fishing.

- Possession of firearms is prohibited.
- No daily bag limit on channel catfish.

Montgomery Lake, Columbia County: open to fishing.

- Black bass less than 16 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Black crappie daily bag limit: 10
- Black crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Boats are restricted to idle speed - no wake.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Watertown Lake, Columbia County: open to fishing.

- Possession of firearms is prohibited.
- Watercraft shall be operated only at idle speed before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. daily.
- Black bass less than 16 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Black crappie daily bag limit: 10
- Black crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Lang Lake, Hamilton County: open to fishing from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Black bass less than 18 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- All black crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Firearms are prohibited, except by written permission of the landowner.

Lake Rachel, Madison County: open to fishing.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Possession of firearms is prohibited.
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Northeast Region

East Lake Tohopekaliga, Osceola County: open to fishing.

- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.
- Minnow lift nets and trotlines may be used.

Lake Jackson, Osceola County: open to fishing.

- Cast nets, minnow lift nets and minnow seines are prohibited.
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Black crappie less than 12 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Lake Marian, Osceola County: open to fishing.

- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.
- Minnow lift nets, fish traps and trotlines may be used.

Lakes Tohopekaliga (West Lake Tohopekaliga), Cypress, Hatchineha, and Kissimmee, Osceola and Polk counties: open to fishing.

- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.
- Minnow lift nets, fish traps and trotlines may be used.

Lake Panasoffkee, Sumter County: open to fishing.

- Trotlines may be used.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Chain of Lakes, Lake County (Cook, Winona, Palatka, Crescent, Louisa, Minnehaha, Hiawatha, Minneola, Wilson, Susan and Cherry): open to fishing.

- Trotlines may be used from sunset until 9 a.m.
- No daily bag limit on channel catfish.

Lake Griffin, Lake County: open to fishing.

- Trotlines are prohibited from 9 a.m. Friday until one hour before sunset on Sunday.
- Trotlines are prohibited from 9 a.m. until one hour before sunset Monday through Thursday from May 1 through October 31.
- No trotline may be secured to or fished within 50 yards of a private pier or dock.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Pellicer Pond, Flagler County: open to fishing.

- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Lake Dias, Volusia County: open to fishing.

- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Fox Lake, Brevard County: open to fishing.

- No airboats for fishing or frogging.

- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

South Lake, Brevard County: open to fishing.

- No airboats for fishing or frogging.
- Trotlines may be used.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Lake Lorna Doone, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Boats are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Lake Richmond, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Boats are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Lake Ivanhoe, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Lake Santiago in Demetree Park, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Boats are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Hal-Scott Lake, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- All black bass must be released immediately.

Bear Creek Park, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Shadow Bay Park, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Cast nets are prohibited.
- Bluegill daily bag limit: 5
- Bluegill less than 12 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 1
- Channel catfish less than 30 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- All black bass must be released immediately.

Clear Lake, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Cast nets are prohibited.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Kirkman Pond, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 5
- Bluegill less than 12 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- All black bass must be released immediately.

Lake Lawne, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Cast nets are prohibited.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Starke Lake, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Cast nets cast nets and minnow seines are prohibited.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Turkey Lake, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Except for sanctioned events, gasoline motors may not be used on boats.

Lake Underhill, Orange County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- All black bass must be released immediately.

Secret Lake, Seminole County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Personal watercraft are prohibited.
- Cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- All black bass must be released immediately.

Lake Dot, Seminole County: open to fishing.

- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Cast nets are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- All black bass must be released immediately.

Lake Blue Cypress, Indian River County: open to fishing.

- Trotlines may be used.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Southwest Region

Lake Tarpon, Pinellas County: open to fishing.

- Trotlines may be used from sunset until 9 a.m. the following morning, Sunday through Thursday.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Lake Seminole, Pinellas County: open to fishing.

- Trotlines may be used from sunset until 9 a.m.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Bobby Hicks Park Pond, Hillsborough County: open to fishing.

- Cast nets or minnow seines are prohibited.
- Swimming and possession of firearms are prohibited.
- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Black crappie daily bag limit: 10
- Black crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Gadsden Park Pond, Hillsborough County: open to fishing.

- Cast nets and minnow seines are prohibited.
- Swimming and possession of firearms are prohibited.
- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Black crappie daily bag limit: 10
- Black crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Lake Thonotosassa, Hillsborough County: open to fishing.

- Trotlines may be used from sunset until 9 a.m. Sunday through Thursday.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Lake Parker, Polk County: open to fishing.

- Wire traps may be used for nongame fish.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Saddle Creek Park, Polk County: open to fishing.

- Cast nets are prohibited.
- Black bass 15 inches or more in total length and less than 24 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Black bass daily bag limit: 3
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Lakes Tohopekaliga (West Lake Tohopekaliga), Cypress, Hatchineha, and Kissimmee), Polk and Osceola counties: open to fishing.

- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.
- Minnow lift nets, fish traps and trotlines may be used.

Manatee Lake, Manatee County: open to fishing.

- Trotlines may be used from sunset until 9 a.m., Sunday through Thursday.
- Outboard motors more than 20 h.p. may not be used.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.

Webb Lake, Charlotte County: open to fishing during posted hours.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Bluegill and redear sunfish less than 8 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Vehicles may be used only on designated roads.

Marl Pits 1 and 3, Charlotte County: open to fishing.

- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Bluegill and redear sunfish less than 8 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- All black bass must be released immediately.

Marl Pit 2, Charlotte County: open to fishing.

- Bluegill and redear sunfish (shellcracker) less than 10 inches must be released immediately.
- Bluegill and redear sunfish combined daily bag limit: 10
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- All black bass must be released immediately.

Tenoroc Fish Management Area, Polk County

- Fishing, hunting or trapping is allowed only by FWC permit. All anglers and hunters must check in and out at the Tenoroc Fish Management Area headquarters and deposit their valid fishing or hunting license with the custodian unless otherwise instructed.
- Days and hours of operation and quotas shall be as designated by the FWC and posted at area headquarters. Quotas will be established for each lake, and fishing is permitted in designated lakes only. Lakes may be closed to public access for management purposes or if access to the lake exposes the public to danger, by posting notice at the Tenoroc check station office. Quotas for open lakes may be temporarily increased to accommodate anglers during times when other lakes are closed due to management construction projects, road repair, unsafe access or special recreational events.

Unless otherwise specified, harvest restrictions are as follows:

- Black crappie daily bag limit: 10

- Black crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Sunshine bass daily bag limit: 6
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Black bass must be released immediately.
- Fish may not be filleted, nor their head or tail fins removed, until the angler has completed fishing for the day.
- Cast nets and minnow seines are prohibited.
- Firearms are prohibited during closed hunting seasons except at the shooting range or on the access road to the shooting range. Guns transported to and from the shooting range shall be unloaded and cased.
- No person shall have any gun under his/her control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Dogs are prohibited unless leashed.
- Public access is prohibited in areas posted as "Restricted" for protection of threatened or endangered species, or environmentally sensitive areas.
- Motor vehicles may be operated only on named roads, designated parking areas, and fishing ramps as designated in the area use brochure.
- Vehicles may not obstruct designated roads, boat ramps and fire lanes.
- Swimming and float tubes are prohibited.

Regulations for Tenoroc water bodies are as follows:

Lakes A, C, D, Shop, Hydrilla, 2, 3 and 4:

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.

Lakes B and 5:

- Boats are restricted to idle speed-no wake.
- Black bass greater than 15 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Black bass daily bag limit: 2

Picnic Lake:

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Black bass daily bag limit: 2
- Black bass greater than 15 inches in total length must be released immediately.

Lakes East Pasture, West Pasture and Derby:

- Boats may not be used.
- Closed to fishing unless authorized by FWC permit for agency-sanctioned events except for anglers who have been certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration, U.S. Social Security Administration, by any branch of the U.S. Armed Services, or by a licensed physician in this state to be totally and permanently disabled and has obtained a permanent license issued pursuant to 373.561 (5)(b), F.S. or unless that person presents proof of acceptance as a client for retardation services by the Department of Health. One properly licensed person may fish if accompanying or assisting a permitted individual as described above.
- Other than the anglers described above, no person 16 years or older shall fish on Derby Lake unless accompanied by a child under 16 years of age.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20

- Anglers may keep no more than 5 bluegill and redear sunfish 8 inches or longer in total length per day.

Cemetery Lake:

- Boats may not be used.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Anglers may keep no more than 5 bluegill and redear sunfish 8 inches or longer in total length per day.

Lake Crago:

- Wire traps may be used for nongame fish.
- Trotlines may be used from sunset until 9 a.m.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.
- Boats are restricted to idle speed – no wake.

Freedom Lake Park, Pinellas County: open to fishing.

- Cast nets or minnow seines are prohibited.
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

Dover District Park Lake, Hillsborough County: open to fishing.

- Cast nets or minnow seines are prohibited.
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

Steven J. Wortham Park Lake, Hillsborough County: open to fishing.

- Cast nets or minnow seines are prohibited.
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

Al Lopez Park Lake, Hillsborough County: open to fishing.

- Cast nets or minnow seines are prohibited.
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Swimming, and possession of firearms are prohibited.

Walsingham Park Lake, Pinellas County: open to fishing.

- Cast nets or minnow seines are prohibited.
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Swimming, and possession of firearms or alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20

- Black crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Sunshine bass daily bag limit: 4
- Sunshine bass less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Black crappie daily bag limit: 10

Middle Lake, Pasco County: open to fishing.

- Watercraft shall be operated at idle speed only.
- Swimming, possession of firearms, camping or open fires at the boat launch site are prohibited.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Bluegill and redear sunfish less than 8 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Black crappie daily bag limit: 10
- Black crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Lake Istokpoga, Highlands County: open to fishing.

- No daily bag limit for channel catfish.
- Black bass 15 inches or more in total length and less than 24 inches must be released immediately.
- Black bass daily bag limit: 3
- Only 1 black bass may be 24 inches or greater in total length.
- Nongame fish may be taken by cast nets, dip nets, seines, trotlines, set lines, bush hooks and wire traps. Refer to the Florida Commercial Freshwater Fisheries brochure.

Cargill Fort Meade Mine, Polk and Hardee counties: open to fishing.

- All anglers must check in and out at the Cargill Fort Meade Mine creel station, the designated entry point, unless otherwise instructed. Fishing is allowed only by daily permit issued by the FWC.
- Days and hours of operation and quotas shall be as designated by the FWC and posted at the Cargill Fort Meade Mine creel station. Fishing is permitted in designated lakes only. All other lakes and restricted areas, so posted, are closed to public fishing. Any lake may be temporarily closed to public access for management purposes, or in the event that access to the lake exposes the public to danger, by posting notice at the creel station.

Unless otherwise specified, harvest restrictions are as follows:

- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Sunshine bass daily bag limit: 6
- Black crappie daily bag limit: 10
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Black crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Fish may not be filleted, nor their heads or tail fins removed, until the angler has checked out at the Cargill creel station. Disposal of fish remains is prohibited.
- Guns are prohibited.
- Motor vehicles may be operated only on designated roads, parking areas and boat ramps.

- Vehicles may not obstruct designated roads, boat ramps and fire lanes.
- Swimming and float tubes are prohibited.
- Rough fish may be removed from designated lakes by cast nets and minnow seines by permission of the landowner.
- Outboard motors more than 10 h.p. may not be used.

Regulations for individual water bodies are as follows.

Haul Road Pit:

- Black bass longer than 15 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Black bass daily bag limit: 2

Long Pond (LP2 West):

- No boats permitted.

Hardee County Park, Hardee County: open to fishing.

- All anglers shall enter at the Park main entrance, the designated entry point, unless otherwise instructed.
- Angling from a boat is allowed by entry pass issued by Hardee County. Angling from shore does not require an entry pass unless otherwise posted at the Park main entrance.
- Days and hours of operation and quotas for freshwater fishing are posted at the Park main entrance. Fishing is permitted in designated lakes only. Any lake may be closed to public access by Hardee County for management purposes, or in the event that access to the lake exposes the public to danger, by posting notice at the Park main entrance.
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Sunshine bass daily bag limit: 6
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Black crappie daily bag limit: 10
- Black crappie less than 10 inches in total length must be released immediately.
- Catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Fish may not be filleted, nor their head or tail fin removed, until the angler has left the Park. Disposal of fish remains within Hardee County Park is prohibited.
- Firearms are prohibited.
- Motor vehicles may be operated only on designated roads, parking areas, and boat ramps.
- Vehicles may not obstruct designated roads, boat ramps and fire lanes.
- Swimming and float tubes are prohibited.
- Watercraft are restricted to idle speed – no wake.

South Region

Palm Lake, St. Lucie County: open to fishing.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

Caloosa Park Lake, Palm Beach County: open to fishing.

- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6

- Bluegill and redear sunfish less than 8 inches in total length must be released immediately.

Lake Okechee, Palm Beach County: open to fishing.

- Gasoline motors may not be used on boats.
- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Bluegill and redear sunfish less than 8 inches in total length must be released immediately.

The northern most Tropical Park Lake, Miami-Dade County: open to fishing.

- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Bluegill and redear sunfish less than 8 inches in total length must be released immediately.

Plantation Heritage Park Lake, Broward County: open to fishing.

- All black bass must be released immediately.
- Panfish daily bag limit: 20
- Channel catfish daily bag limit: 6
- Bluegill and redear sunfish less than 8 inches in total length must be released.

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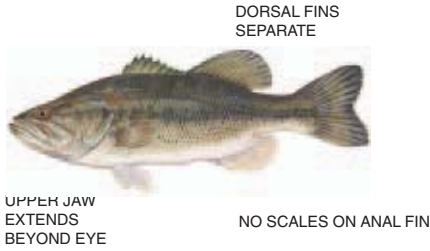


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- Fishing Event Schedule
- Kids Page and Games
- Publications and Documents
- Great Links to Much More

Fish Identification

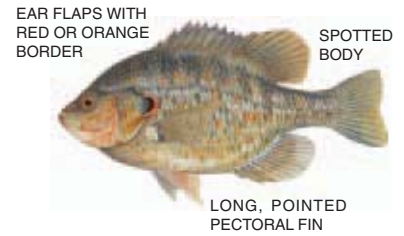
Largemouth Bass



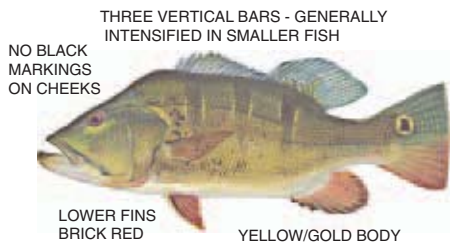
Bluegill



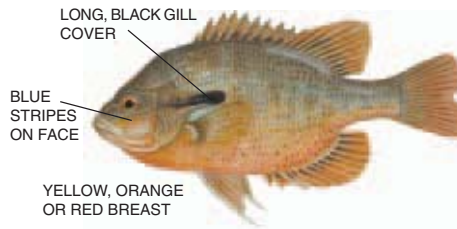
Redear Sunfish



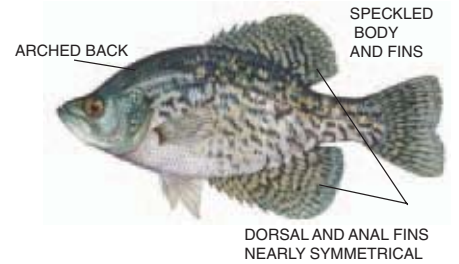
Butterfly Peacock Bass



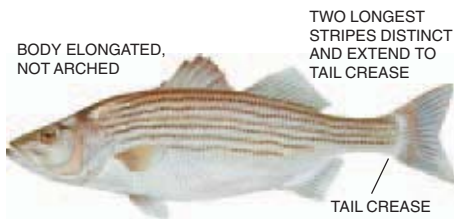
Redbreast Sunfish



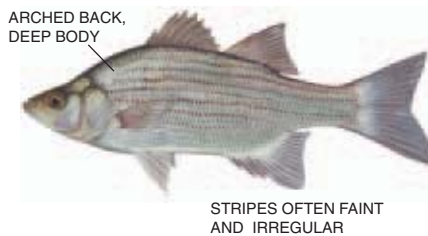
Black Crappie



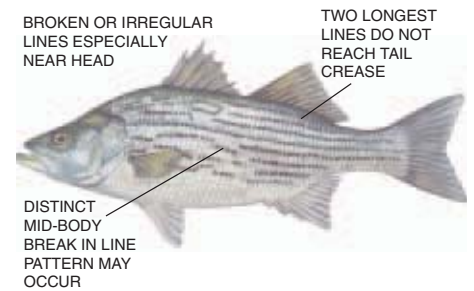
Striped Bass



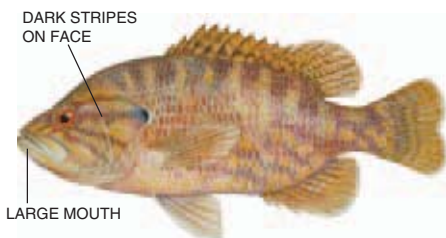
White Bass



Sunshine Bass



Warmouth



Spotted Sunfish



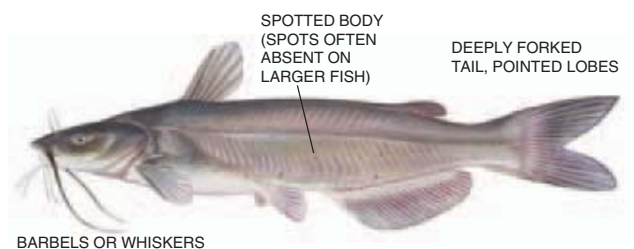
Blue Tilapia



Chain Pickerel



Channel Catfish



FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES FOR FRESHWATER ANGLERS

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) provides public information about mercury and pesticide contamination in fish through fish consumption advisories. These advisories are not intended to discourage anglers from eating fish but should be used as a guide for choosing water bodies with fish species low in mercury and pesticides. Certain species have high mercury levels and should be avoided, while others are recommended for limited consumption.

DOH recommends limited consumption of largemouth bass, bowfin and gar from Florida waters, unless noted below. Women of childbearing age and children under 10 should eat no more than 8 ounces of these types of fish over a four-week period. Others may eat up to 8 ounces per week. Fish eaten from different water bodies count toward the consumption guidelines. For example, a woman of childbearing age should not eat more than 8 ounces of bass, combined, from all water bodies during four consecutive weeks.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STATEWIDE FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY



BOWFIN



LARGEMOUTH BASS



GAR

BASS, BOWFIN AND GAR: ADULTS, EXCEPT WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE AND CHILDREN UNDER 10, SHOULD NOT EAT MORE THAN ONE 8-OUNCE MEAL A WEEK.

WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE AND CHILDREN UNDER 10 SHOULD NOT EAT MORE THAN ONE 8-OUNCE MEAL OVER A FOUR-WEEK PERIOD.

SPECIFIC WATER BODY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LARGEMOUTH BASS, BOWFIN AND GAR

The Florida Department of Health recommends that bass, bowfin and gar from these water bodies should not be eaten.

WATER BODY	COUNTY	WATER BODY	COUNTY	WATER BODY	COUNTY
Woodbine Springs Lake	Santa Rosa	Grasshopper Lake	Marion	Water Conservation Area 2A (includes L35B, L38 canals)	Broward/ Palm Beach
Ocean Pond	Baker	Everglades National Park		Water Conservation Area 3A (includes L67, Miami, Tamiami canals)	Miami-Dade/ Broward
Lake Disston	Flagler	north and west of SR9336 (Shark River Slough)	Miami-Dade, Monroe		
Lake Annie	Highlands				

SPECIFIC WATER BODY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTHER FRESHWATER FISH

In a few locations, bluegill, redear sunfish (shellcracker), black crappie (speckled perch), warmouth and spotted sunfish (stumpknockers) have higher mercury. DOH advises anglers to follow limited consumption recommendations for the locations and species listed below: for women of childbearing age, eat no more than 8 ounces over a 4-week period; for others, eat no more than 8 ounces per week.

WATER BODY	COUNTY	FISH SPECIES
Blue Cypress	Indian River	Black crappie
Brick	Osceola	Bluegill
Delancy	Marion	Black crappie
Disston	Flagler	Bluegill, redear sunfish, warmouth, black crappie
Faka Union Canal	Collier	Warmouth
Hart	Orange	Black crappie
Hunters	Hernando	Black crappie
Mary Jane	Orange	Black crappie, warmouth
Wildcat	Lake	Warmouth
Russell	Osceola	Bluegill, redear sunfish, warmouth, black crappie
Everglades National Park, Shark River Slough	Miami-Dade, Monroe	Yellow bullhead, spotted sunfish, warmouth, oscar
Everglades Water Conservation Area 2	Broward, Palm Beach	Yellow bullhead, oscar
Everglades Water Conservation Area 3	Broward, Miami-Dade	Yellow bullhead, oscar, Mayan cichlid

PESTICIDE ADVISORY

DOH advises that brown bullhead in Lake Apopka (Lake and Orange counties) should not be eaten due to pesticide contamination.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES FOR FRESHWATER ANGLERS

MERCURY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Where does mercury come from?

Mercury occurs naturally in rocks, volcanoes and soils. It is released into the environment when power plants burn coal, incinerators burn mercury-containing wastes and during the production of other chemicals. Airborne mercury attaches itself to dust and water particles and enters Florida waters through rain and runoff.

How does mercury get into fish?

Mercury is found in virtually all waters in the state, usually at extremely low concentrations. Naturally occurring bacteria, which decompose dead plant and animal material in lakes and wetlands, convert mercury into a form called methyl mercury. Methyl mercury accumulates in fish muscle tissue (the part you eat), primarily from organisms eaten by fish and, to a lesser extent, directly from the water.

What are the dangers of mercury?

Most Florida fish have low to moderate levels of mercury and can be consumed safely in reasonable amounts. However, higher levels of methyl mercury can damage the human brain and nervous system. Unborn babies, infants and young children are more sensitive to mercury; therefore, women of childbearing age should be careful about the fish they consume. After age 10, a child's risk is about the same as for adults.

Why not avoid eating fish?

Fish is an excellent source of protein and nutrients. By choosing a variety of fish low in mercury from different water bodies and avoiding eating only one type, anglers can enjoy health benefits without appreciable risks.

What types of fish have the most mercury?

Fish at the top of the aquatic food chain accumulate mercury from all the organisms they eat. Therefore, largemouth bass and other long-lived predatory fish generally have higher concentrations of mercury. Smaller species that eat lower on the food chain (e.g., bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie and catfish) generally have lower mercury concentrations.



BLUEGILL



**SPOTTED
SUNFISH**



**BLACK
CRAPPIE**



**REDBREAST
SUNFISH**



**REDEAR
SUNFISH**



WARMOUTH



**CHANNEL
CATFISH**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://myfwc.com/fishing/health.html>

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVICE FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have jointly issued advice on eating fish and shellfish, for women who might become pregnant, women who are pregnant, nursing mothers and young children. EPA and FDA recommend eating *up to 12 ounces (2 average meals) a week of a variety of fish and shellfish that are lower in mercury*. The EPA and FDA further recommend to check local advisories about the safety of fish caught by family and friends in local lakes, rivers and coastal areas. If no advice is available, eat up to 6 ounces (one average meal) per week of fish caught from local waters, but don't consume any other fish during that week.

The Florida Department of Health is reviewing information on mercury in Florida fish in light of the recent advice issued by EPA and FDA. Anglers should consult the DOH Web site for additional information on fish consumption: www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/hsee/fishconsumptionadvisories/index.html



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Accept a FREE trial membership and the North American Fishing Club will donate \$2.00 to the Florida Bass Conservation Center

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