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Welcome to the fishing capital of the world.

The Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, lakes, rivers, springs and estuaries provide endless boating and fishing opportunities in both fresh water and salt water. Florida offers unique experiences

over sail

for visitors from all around the world

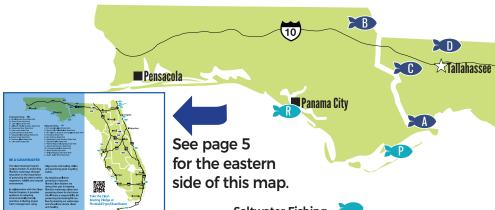
to explore some of the most beautiful lands in the country.

Florida's natural resources provide food and shelter for aquatic species, stabilize the coast, protect water quality and support this state's way of life.

As you enjoy your time on the water or on land, please take the time and care to help protect our treasured natural resources.







Freshwater Fishing



- A Ochlockonee River State Park
- B Three Rivers State Park
- C Lake Talquin State Park
- D Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park
- E Suwannee River State Park
- F Lake Louisa State Park
- **G- Lake Kissimmee State Park**
- H Lafayette Blue Springs State Park
- I Dunns Creek State Park
- J Hontoon Island State Park
- K Lake Griffin State Park

Saltwater Fishing



- L, M, N Amelia Island State Park
- O Big & Little Talbot Island State Park
- P Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park
- O Anastasia State Park
- R St. Andrews State Park
- S Washington Oaks Gardens State Park
- T Sebastian Inlet State Park
- U Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park
- V Estero Bay Preserve State Park
- W Honeymoon Island State Park
- X Bahia Honda State Park
- Y Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
- Z Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

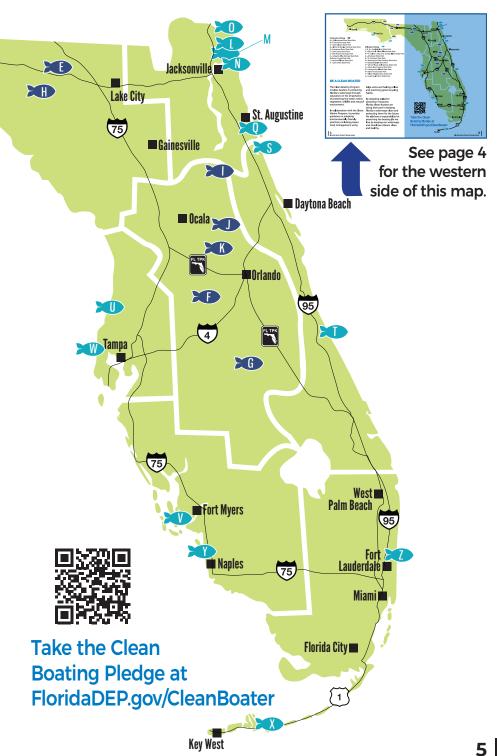
BE A CLEAN BOATER

The Clean Boating Program involves boaters in protecting Florida's waterways through education on the importance of protecting the state's native vegetation, wildlife and natural environment.

In collaboration with the Clean Marine Program, it provides guidance on adopting environmentally friendly practices, including proper trash management, using

bilge socks and fueling collars and practicing good recycling habits.

By adopting pollution prevention measures. Florida Clean Boaters are doing their part in keeping Florida's waterways clean and protecting them for the future. We all share a responsibility for preserving the boating life we love by keeping our waterways and shorelines vibrant, clean and healthy.

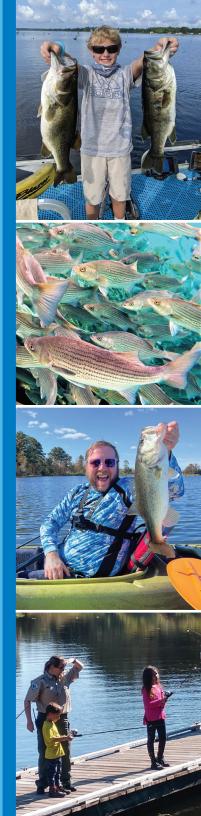


Freshwater Fishing in Florida State Parks

Each year, over 1.2 million anglers try their luck at Florida's freshwater fisheries. From the prized largemouth bass to the massive sturgeon, Florida State Parks provide some of the best freshwater fishing in the world.

Before your fishing trip, check out the Outdoor Florida App. With this app, you can find an experience that is perfect for you with searches based on desired activity and location.

Remember that all fishing in Florida State Parks must follow regulations concerning size, number, method of capture and season. Residents and visitors may need a recreational freshwater fishing license.





Largemouth Bass *Micropterus salmoides*

Averaging seven to nine inches, the black crappie is a relatively easy catch and good for beginners. As with bass, target vegetation and other structures in still water. Most bait and lures will work.

The largemouth bass is the Florida state freshwater fish and one of the most prized game fish. You can find them along aquatic vegetation, underwater structures or rocky shorelines. Spinnerbait, jigs, crankbaits, and live worms and minnows are all effective.



Black Crappie Pomoxis nigromaculatus



Flathead Catfish Pylodictis olivaris

Large and reclusive, the flathead catfish prefers deep holes with plenty of cover. These can grow to over 100 pounds and will require heavy tackle, and a chunk of cut live bait is most likely to lure them from their beds.

Redear sunfish feed along the bottom of calm water, and spotting bluegill is a good indicator of the presence of sunfish. Natural bait like worms, crickets and grasshoppers are most effective.



Redear Sunfish Lepomis microlophus



Striped Bass *Morone saxatilis*

While the "striper" is notoriously picky, getting a hit on a topwater lure is a memorable fishing experience. These bass migrate between fresh and saltwater and travel in schools. Boat trolling is a popular strategy.



OCHLOCKONEE RIVER STATE PARK | Sopchoppy, Florida



West of Tallahassee, the majestic Ochlockonee River is known for its redbreast sunfish haul during periods of low water and catfish during high water events.





LAKE TALQUIN STATE PARK | Tallahassee, Florida



Along the fishing piers at Lake Talquin, fish attractors draw quality redear sunfish, largemouth bass and black crappie — in fact, the state record black crappie was caught here. April and early May are ideal for largemouth bass fishing, while the best time to catch crappie is from January through April.



ALFRED B. MACLAY GARDENS STATE PARK



Tallahassee, Florida

The best largemouth bass fishing is in spring through early summer. Fishing for bream and sunfish picks up during the spring. Black crappie fishing is best December through March. There are several boat ramps that access Lake Jackson.







LAKE LOUISA STATE PARK | Clermont, Florida



This chain of 6 lakes and 2 streams range in size from 20 to 3,634 acres. The chain is composed of primarily cypress lakes, offering opportunities to catch bass, bluegill, redear, black crappie and channel catfish.



LAKE KISSIMMEE STATE PARK | Lake Wales, Florida



Lake Kissimmee offers plenty of successful largemouth bass fishing, along with great catch rates of bluegill and redear sunfish. The best time to fish for bass would be in the spring, and for the bluegill and redear during the specific months of March and April.





DUNNS CREEK STATE PARK HONTOON ISLAND STATE PARK





Pomona Park & DeLand, Florida
The south portion of the St. Johns
River offers most of Florida's
freshwater sport fish including
largemouth bass, bluegill, redear
sunfish, black crappie, striped bass
and channel catfish. Most of these
fish can be caught throughout the
year. The most successful times
of the year for this river and its
surrounding lakes are late winter
throughout spring and early
summer.





Saltwater Fishing in Florida State Parks

Florida's rich coastline habitats produce unrivaled saltwater fishing opportunities. Whether you're casting from the pier, boat or shoreline, you're always one cast away from a record catch. Florida's state parks offer over 100 miles of some of the best coastal fishing spots in the state. The vast variety of Florida's coastlines invite an equally vast variety of species, meaning the fishing is good year-round.

Please remember to be an ethical angler. Minimize the time fish are out of the water, use a de-hooking tool, and properly dispose of monofilament line. Download the Fish Rules app, which provides catch-specific identification and state regulations.





Red Drum (Redfish) Sciaenops ocellatus

As one of the signature saltwater sport fish, tarpon commonly grow to eight feet in length. Shortly after sunrise, throw ladyfish or mullet. In south Florida, tarpon can be caught year-round.

Redfish are bottom feeders, frequenting seagrass, sandbars and oyster bars. The state record weighed over 52 pounds. Throw live shrimp, crab, or mullet into the deeper troughs between sandbars, or retrieve a weedless spoon through seagrass.



Tarpon Megalops atlanticus



Gulf FlounderParalichthys albigutta

Flounder rest along the floors of coastal estuaries and like to ambush their prey. Bounce a minnow or mullet along the bottom of a sand ledge or dropoff. Flounder also congregate around underwater structures.

Another species that prefers structures, snook can be found around docks, bridges and mangroves. Live pinfish, mullet, shrimp and crab are effective, particularly at night — snook are nocturnal feeders.



SnookCentropomus undecimalis



Spotted Sea TroutCynoscion nebulosus

Spotted (or speckled) trout can be found near grass flats, oyster bars and mangroves scanning for minnows and shrimp. These trout move in schools, and these schools tend to move regularly; be prepared to move with them.



AMELIA ISLAND STATE PARK BIG & LITTLE TALBOT ISLAND STATE PARK







Fernandina Beach, Florida

Nassau Sound is one of the best fishing areas in northeast Florida and home to the state record flounder. Catch whiting, redfish, flounder, sea trout, pompano, grouper and tarpon from the shores of Amelia Island or from the adjacent George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier State Park.



DR. JULIAN G. BRUCE ST. GEORGE ISLAND STATE PARK



St. George Island, Florida

On the Gulf side of the island, enjoy perfect blue waters, sugary white sands and perhaps a glimpse of a pod of dolphins. On the bay side, marshes are home to wading birds and abundant fish – flounder, redfish, sea trout. pompano, whiting, marlin, tuna and Spanish mackerel.



ANASTASIA STATE PARK

St. Augustine, Florida
Anastasia State Park's Salt Run
is a popular fishing destination —
abundant vegetation and oyster
beds attract a variety of fish. Redfish,
flounder, black drum, sheepshead,
spotted sea trout and common
snook can be caught. Anglers will
find a monofilament disposal
bin, fish-cleaning station and fish
identification kiosk at the park.





ST. ANDREWS STATE PARK | Panama City, Florida

This park offers deep-sea jetty, pier and surf fishing, providing excellent vantage points year-round. Catches include Spanish mackerel, redfish, flounder, sea trout, bonito, cobia, dolphin and bluefish. A boat ramp and pier are located on the Grand Lagoon. The park's concession area provides bait, supplies and boat rentals.



WERNER-BOYCE SALT SPRINGS STATE PARK

Port Richey, Florida
The park protects four miles of coastline along the Gulf of Mexico in western Pasco County. The salt spring is an amazing 320 feet deep, and inshore fishing can yield catches of flounder, snook, trout, redfish, snapper, whiting, sheepshead, cobia, redfish and tarpon.





ESTERO BAY PRESERVE STATE PARK

Estero, Florida

Much of the undeveloped property along the Estero Bay is conservation land and provides great fishing and boating opportunities. A short hike to the end of the Blue Trail will lead to catches of snook, sheepshead, tarpon, redfish and grouper.

HONEYMOON ISLAND STATE PARK



Dunedin, Florida

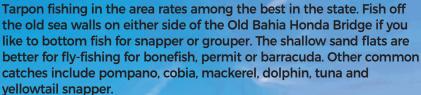
With four miles of shoreline, Honeymoon Island offers surf and pass fishing, yielding catches of flounder, snook, trout, redfish, snapper, whiting, sheepshead, pompano, Spanish mackerel, cobia, ladyfish and tarpon.





BAHIA HONDA STATE PARK

Big Pine Key, Florida



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DELNOR-WIGGINS PASS STATE PARK | Naples, Florida

In the northern areas of the park, anglers can catch snook, sheepshead, tarpon, sea trout, redfish and grouper. Boaters may use the launch area into Turkey Bay to access the rich natural estuaries of the Cocohatchee River water leading into the Gulf of Mexico.

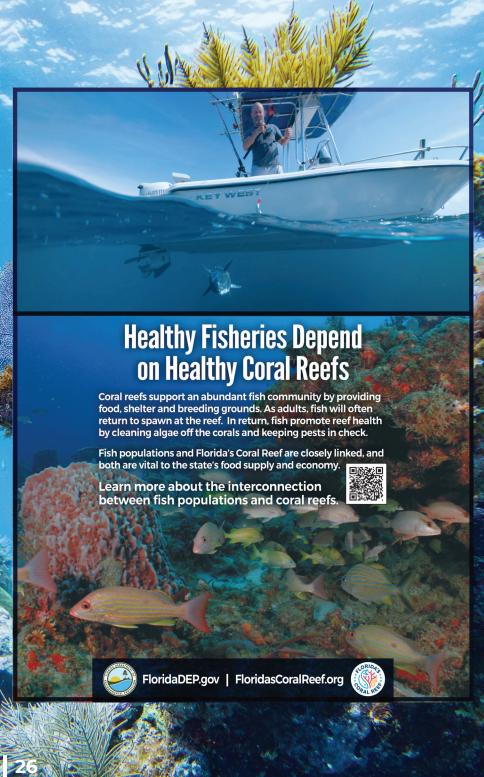


HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH STATE PARK



Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Hugh Taylor Birch has a boat access from the intracoastal waterway. Fishing is permitted from the waterway seawall or offshore. Find a wide array of sportfish, including snook, sheepshead, grunt, catfish, mangrove snapper, sea trout, redfish, bonefish, king mackerel, dolphin, snapper and sailfish.





Word Search: Find the fish species below

Н G R R SAS Н N C ARR Τ F P Α D 0 P U M P F N S

Bass Crappie Grouper Pompano Snook Tarpon Catfish Flounder Redfish Sailfish Sunfish Trout



BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

The Junior Ranger Program is a fun way to learn about state parks and the natural wonders of Florida. You can also earn rewards like patches, badges and pins. Visit FloridaStateParks.org/Junior-Ranger for your Junior Ranger Badge!







Catching a fish can be such a thrill! Learn this skill and more as a Florida State Park Junior Ranger.

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