



CATFISH STOCKINGS:



Returning in September!

September 27, 2025
National Hunting and Fishing Day



2025 FISHING REGULATIONS



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Geaux Fish

Get Out & Fish! Sites

July and August mark a transition period in the LDWF Get Out & Fish! ponds. Seasonal catfish stockings have concluded for the summer, so anglers will have to target the remaining spring-stocked catfish and the naturally occurring fish species in these water bodies. Like most other freshwater systems in Louisiana, fishing during the peak of summer can be challenging. Despite the abundance of life in and around the water, extreme heat plays a major role in fish behavior. Many species feed less during the hottest parts of the day and tend to move to deeper, cooler areas of the water column. Maximize chances for fishing success by focusing fishing efforts around dusk and dawn - when water temperatures are cooler and fish are more active.

FRESHWATER FISHING FORECAST

Bass

Bass fishing is notoriously difficult in the summer months, but you can have success targeting three key locations on any body of water: deeper, thicker, current. High water temperatures result in lower oxygen levels. Bass will move to deeper waters to seek out cooler temperature and therefore higher oxygen concentrations. Deep water jigs, such as football jigs, or drop shot rigs baited with small profile soft plastics, such as a soft-plastic finesse worm, are great options for fishing these depths. Bass will also congregate around thick cover. This can be thick aquatic vegetation, fallen trees/brush, or even shade from overhanging trees and docks. These shaded areas remain cooler despite being in shallow water. Additionally, thick aquatic vegetation will produce larger amounts of oxygen in the water, and much of the bass forage species will also gather near this type of cover. Focus on using top water baits like buzzbaits, plugs, and frogs, especially during dusk and dawn. Soft-plastics, either Texas rigged or used as a trailer on a punch jig, work well here. Bass will also seek current during the summer. This includes flowing water bodies like rivers, creeks, and bayous, and also the flow produced from dam releases or even wind on lakes and ponds. Bass will look to ambush prey in current by hiding along current breaks. Target these areas by casting upstream and allowing lures to move naturally with the current flow. Crankbaits and fluke style baits are excellent options in minimal cover, while spinnerbaits work well in areas with more snags.



Largemouth Bass

Catfish

Catfishing tactics change in July and August compared to other times of the year. Similar to other species, catfish will focus on woody cover and aquatic vegetation for shade, cooler water, and more oxygen. Catfish will also readily target smaller prey typically found here, including insects. While catfish will move deeper to find cooler water, they will not go below the thermocline created in non-flowing water bodies. This is the layer of water where warmer surface water mixes with cooler water from the bottom. Water below the thermocline layer will have little to no oxygen. Catfish will be suspended in or just above the thermocline in the coolest water that still contains oxygen. These catfish are very mobile. Focus on drift fishing rather than staying in one spot. This technique applies to bank fisherman as well. Utilize slip floats to target both catfish in cover and those suspended in deeper water. Fishing with smelly punchbait and using chumming techniques can also increase your success rate on the water.



Flathead Catfish



Blue Catfish



Channel Catfish

Crappie (Sac-a-lait & White Perch)

Crappie are another species that suspend in deeper water during hot summer days. Target schools suspended over submerged brush piles and other submerged structure through vertical jigging with live minnows or small soft plastics that imitate young shad. Target fish early in the morning to take advantage of the most active feeding. However, use midday fishing under bridges and docks to take advantage of concentrated fish searching for refuge in the shade. Keep lure retrieval slow and steady during the hotter season, as the fish may become more lethargic during the increased temperatures. Night fishing for crappie can also be an effective tactic in the summer. Target locations such as lighted docks and bridges. Placing a portable fishing light near the water surface can also be effective. Crappie will often congregate at these locations to take advantage of the insects and baitfish that are attracted to the light source.



Black Crappie



White Crappie

Lagniappe

Spotted Gar and Choupique (Bowfin) are other great fish to target during the summer heat. Both fish are plentiful in the summer and very aggressive feeders. Additionally, both species can be easily accessed from the bank and in smaller, more stagnant waters that typically don't hold other fish species. Be cautious as both fish have very sharp teeth. Utilize gloves, pliers, and even metal leaders when fishing. Cut bait on small treble hooks under adjustable floats are an excellent rig for these fish. However, both species will readily strike artificial lures as well. Focus on using stronger lures, such as spoons and inline spinners that can withstand their sharp teeth.



Spotted Gar

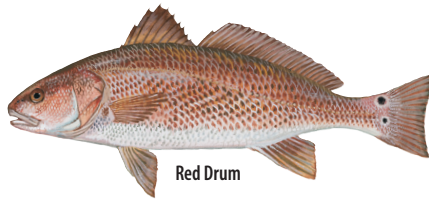


Bowfin

SALTWATER FISHING FORECAST

Red Drum (Redfish)

Red Drum are an excellent target in the heat of the summer. These fish feed in higher temperatures than speckled trout. Therefore, the window of fishing opportunity during the day is longer. Redfish anglers don't always need to start fishing quite as early, and can often catch fish until noon. This higher temperature tolerance and the fact that many juvenile slot reds are not in pre-spawn behavior means that this species can be targeted inside the marsh. Cuts and points where tidal water is moving and shallow flats near deeper water are ideal locations to fish. Marsh ponds loaded with aquatic grass will hold redfish even further towards the middle of the pond, as they provide oxygen, shade, and prey. These shallow target areas offer excellent opportunities to sight fish Red Drum under a popping cork with your favorite bait, soft plastic, or by casting and retrieving a gold spoon. While redfish have higher temperature tolerance, they are not without limits. Marsh ponds thick with mullet and gar should be avoided, as these areas are likely lower in oxygen and higher in temperature.



Red Drum

Spotted Seatrout (Speckled Trout, Speck)

Spotted Seatrout have a much lower temperature tolerance than Red Drum. Anglers targeting specks should focus more on very early morning fishing or late evening trips.

The biggest speckled trout are typically caught first, as they give way to smaller fish who continue to try and feed later in the morning. Spotted Seatrout are spawning during the summer and require higher salinity water to do so. Target these fish along the outside of the marsh, closer to open water. Boaters should target oil rigs, oyster reefs, and sand bars. Shore anglers can also target higher salinity areas by wade fishing on the beaches or fishing along jetties. Live croakers or jig heads with your favorite soft plastics under corks are excellent lure options. However, drop shot rigs fished near moving water are also very effective. Larger fish can be targeted with topwater lures during calm, low-light conditions.



Spotted Seatrout

UPCOMING FISHING COURSE SERIES

July
26

9AM - 11AM

Intermediate Catfishing
Turner's Pond (Minden)

July
26

2PM - 4PM

Intermediate Catfishing
Parc Natchitoches

Aug.
20

5:30PM - 7:30PM

Fishing Secrets Explained
Waddill Wildlife Refuge

For more information on the Fishing Course Series, contact **Joshua Porter** at jporter@wlf.la.gov or 225-763-3540



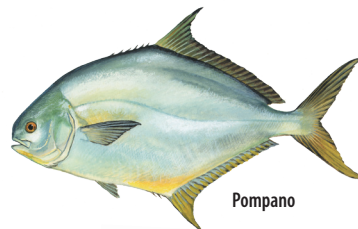
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View fish stocking schedules
and more!

Lagniappe

There are also many alternatives to speckled trout and redfish during the summer. Boaters have a unique opportunity to target Tripletail. They can also find reprieve from the heat by traveling to and from many of the floating objects these fish are found under. These include crab corks, pilings, floating grass mats, or any other floating debris or marker along the coastal area. Tripletail float under or near these objects making it possible to site fish them when you see the brown fish floating just under the surface next the structure. They can be targeted using jig heads, soft plastics, or even live shrimp. Shore anglers can also target alternative species by casting a jig head and soft plastic, bumping it along the bottom near rocks or along the beach. This can be productive for other species such as flounder, pompano, and Gulf Kingfish (better known locally as channel mullet). Similar to freshwater fishing, night fishing is a great option during summer months. White trout, as well as speckled trout, redfish, and several other species can be caught at night, especially under lights running alongside docks and piers.



Pompano



Tripletail



Gulf Kingfish

FISHING COURSE SERIES SPOTLIGHT

Intermediate Catfishing

Fishing Course Series typically winds down during the late summer due to the extreme heat conditions. However, there is one course that shines during these warmer months: Intermediate Catfishing. This course focuses specifically on how to target catfish during the “summer doldrums.” LDWF staff will discuss why fishing can seem so difficult during summer and how to work around it. You will also learn how to use punchbait. This stinky concoction makes for an excellent summer bait but can be very intimidating (and gross) if you don’t know how to properly use it. Participants will also utilize slip floats, a fishing rig not only important in summer catfishing but also applicable to almost all species of fish in certain situations.



Fishing Secrets Explained

Another unique, limited-run FCS class seen during the summer is Fishing Secrets Explained. The Explained run of FCS classes are stand-alone courses that often focus on unique lessons or techniques not typically found in other FCS courses. This particular class focuses on teaching participants lesser known tips, tricks, and resources to help improve their overall fishing experience. This includes online resources, scouting techniques, unique fishing gear, and even an easy way to remove backlash tangles from baitcasting rods. Fishing Secrets Explained is typically only offered 2 to 4 times per year. So be sure to sign up when you get the chance!

FISH STORIES 2025 Oil & Gas Park Get Out & Fish! Event



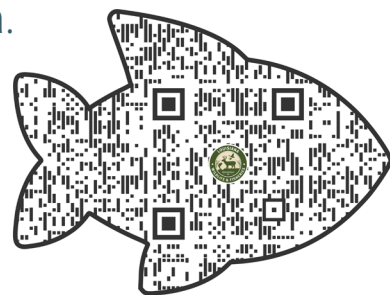
FISH STORIES 2025 Zemurray Park Get Out & Fish! Event



GET OUT & FISH!

Get Out & Fish! ponds are stocked with adult-size fish for fun, easy fishing. Stocked ponds are located at community parks throughout Louisiana.

SCAN TO FIND A
PARK NEAR YOU!



Check-in when you're fishing at a Get Out & Fish! pond and provide information to help us with our stocking efforts.

For more information on the Get Out & Fish! Program, contact **Danica Williams** at

dwilliams@wlf.la.gov
or 504-286-4043

SCAN HERE
to submit photos and data

