

Visiting Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana provides a great opportunity for families to unwind and relax along one of the area's Gulf Coast waterways and beaches to do a little crabbing, freshwater or saltwater fishing. So, get that crabbing line and your rod and reel, or cane pole if you'd prefer. Come relax, and let the only thing "online" be the fish or crab at the end of your line.

### Catch Your Limit

Southwest Louisiana is known for the size and quantity of redfish, speckled trout and flounder caught in inland saltwater or brackish areas. If you catch all three species in one day, it's known as a Cajun Grand Slam. Calcasieu Lake is heralded as a trophy speckled trout



paradise. Further north without the influence of the Gulf and where the water loses the salt, bass, crappie and catfish are what you'll find.

### Cast a Wide Net

Using a cast net can also put seafood on your table. With a few tips on tossing, you may produce a few pounds of white or brown shrimp. Take note that onshore

shrimpers need a basic and saltwater permit to catch these shrimp. To catch fresh blue crab, some string, a dip net and

meat [the locals prefer chicken necks] are all you're gonna need. Hot spots to partake in these outdoor activities include: Calcasieu Lake, Hackberry, Sabine and Rockefeller Wildlife Refuges. Individuals



## Seafood Availability Chart

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Crab</b> —Warmer months more plentiful. March they are the least plentiful.												
<b>Crawfish</b> —Live crawfish available from late December through June												
<b>Fish</b> —Limits and seasons on specific species*												
<b>Oyster</b> —available commercially												
<b>Shrimp</b> —Wild, white												
<b>Shrimp</b> —Wild, brown												

\*Visit [wlf.louisiana.gov](http://wlf.louisiana.gov) for current fishing seasons and limits.



crabbing for recreational purposes are not required to possess a basic recreational fishing license unless on state wildlife refuges, such as

Rockefeller, where a license or Wild Louisiana stamp is required.

### Best Times To Fish

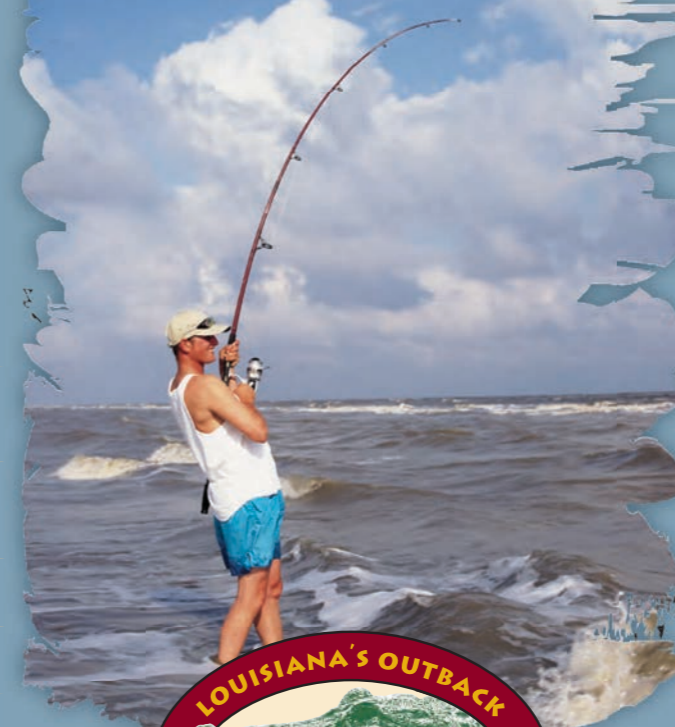
Southwest Louisiana's subtropical climate leads to great fishing year-round. Peak times for speckled trout and redfish are March through October. Calcasieu Lake usually comes to its peak in the fall season, as flounder run, schools of redfish are on the prowl, and specks feed to survive the winter. Whether it's freshwater, saltwater, or that Cajun Grand Slam, fishermen find a good catch, and catch a good time!



For information on local guides, log onto [VisitLakeCharles.org/hunt-fish](http://VisitLakeCharles.org/hunt-fish).

### BE SAFE, BE LEGAL

Permits are available at many sporting goods stores in the area, or by contacting the **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries** at 888-765-2602 or online at [wlf.louisiana.gov](http://wlf.louisiana.gov). This website notes all current limits and regulations.



For more information about the outdoor experiences to be had along the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road—such as birding, fishing, crabbing and wildlife viewing—visit [CreoleNatureTrail.org](http://CreoleNatureTrail.org).

Go to iTunes App Store or Android Market and search "Creole" to download the FREE Creole Nature Trail app for your smartphone or tablet.



337.436.9588 · 800.456.7952

For complete information on Southwest Louisiana, stop by the Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention & Visitors Bureau's tourist information center located at 1205 N. Lakeshore Drive in Lake Charles or visit [VisitLakeCharles.org](http://VisitLakeCharles.org).

# FISH

## OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

An identification guide to area fish.

MAHI MAHI



AMBERJACK



SPOTTED BASS



SPECKLED TROUT



FLOUNDER

REDFISH



[CreoleNatureTrail.org](http://CreoleNatureTrail.org)

Near Lake Charles, Louisiana

**FRESHWATER**

1. Largemouth Bass
2. White Crappie
3. Spotted Bass
4. Bluegill
5. Redear Sunfish
6. Spotted Sunfish
7. Warmouth
8. Yellow Bass
9. Channel Catfish
10. Blue Catfish
11. Flathead Catfish
12. Freshwater Drum [Gaspargou]
13. Alligator Gar
14. Bowfin [Choupique]

**INLAND SALTWATER**

1. Spotted Seatrout [Speckled Trout]
2. Red Drum [Redfish]
3. Southern Flounder
4. Black Drum
5. Atlantic Croaker

**OFFSHORE**

1. Red Snapper
2. Cobia
3. Tripлетail
4. Spanish Mackerel
5. Gray Snapper
6. Mahi Mahi
7. Amberjack
8. Pompano
9. King Mackerel
10. Vermilion Snapper
11. Bluefish
12. Gray Triggerfish
13. Crevalle Jack

6. Sheepshead
7. Sand Seatrout
8. Gafftopsail Catfish
9. Hardhead Catfish

**COMMON FISH SPECIES – SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA**  
 All manner of fish hail from Louisiana's Gulf Coast, from freshwater bass to saltwater mackerel, but the most prevalent fish found along the Southwest Louisiana coast are listed here.

**With 619 square miles of water, the locations for fishing are plentiful.**

**BOAT LAUNCHES IN SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA**  
 The list includes GPS coordinates, the bodies of water they access, and the type of water. While most launches are public, some are private and may have a fee to launch.

For a list of businesses that sell detailed fishing maps for local waters, please contact the Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention & Visitors Bureau at 337-436-9588.

- Boat launches
- Creole Nature Trail
- All-American Road



**FISHING IN CALCASIEU AND CAMERON PARISHES**  
 Bass, crappie and catfish are on the platter for Calcasieu River, Sabine River, and other freshwater waterways. Spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, trick worms, craw worms and crankbaits will help anglers lure in the big one.  
 Brackish waters, like Prien Lake and the southern portion of the Calcasieu River, offer a variety of catches such as croaker, redfish, specks, flounder and black drum. Lures used for saltwater fishing are usually the most attractive to fish in these waters.  
 Saltwater action is great at Saltwater Barrier, Calcasieu Lake and, of course, the Gulf of Mexico. Be sure and bait your line with plastic grubs, Johnson spoons and plastic shad-looking lures to catch snapper, mackerel or amberjack.

- ALLIGATOR PARISH BOAT LAUNCHES**
1. Alligator Park N 30.3631 W 93.7221 Old River Slough, tributary of Sabine River Freshwater
  2. Bass Lake Boat Launch N 30.294116 W 93.690874 Bass Lake Freshwater
  3. Holbrook Park N 30.348541 W 93.295521 West fork of the Calcasieu River Freshwater
  4. Anthony Ferry Road N 30.2914 W 93.3156 Houston River to Calcasieu River Freshwater
  5. Sam Houston Jones State Park N 30.294713 W 93.265594 West fork of the Calcasieu River Freshwater
  6. West Fork Boat Launch [North Westlake] N 30.299150 W 93.250242 Calcasieu River Freshwater
  7. Parkside Marina N 30.303525 W 93.249298 Calcasieu River Freshwater
  8. Moss Bluff Theriot Road English Bayou Boat Launch N 30.298955 W 93.188257 English Bayou, Calcasieu River Freshwater
  9. White Oak Park N 30.296454 W 93.117849 Calcasieu River Freshwater
  10. I-10 Bridge Boat Launch N 30.237463 W 93.238985 Calcasieu River & Lake Charles Saltwater
  11. West Fork Boat Launch [South Westlake] N 30.252616 W 93.246804 Calcasieu River Freshwater
  12. Riverside Park N 30.252890 W 93.245035 Calcasieu River Brackish
  13. Saltwater Barrier Boat Launch N 30.254314 W 93.218030 Calcasieu River Freshwater
  14. Mac Cobbs Boat Launch N 30.265590 W 93.197649 Calcasieu River Freshwater
- CALCASIEU PARISH BOAT LAUNCHES**
15. Old Highway 171 N 30.271475 W 93.177078 Moss Bluff Bay, Calcasieu River Freshwater
  16. Goodman Road Boat Launch N 30.262329 W 93.155072 English Bayou Freshwater
  17. Lafleur Park [I-210] N 30.196789 W 93.271986 Prien Lake Brackish
  18. Prien Lake Park N 30.190297 W 93.267383 Prien Lake Brackish
  19. Vinton Canal Boat Launch N 30.154298 W 93.566956 Vinton Canal Freshwater
  20. Hwy. 108 Boat Launch N 30.139036 W 93.422367 Choupique Bayou Saltwater
  21. Old Highway 90/ Burnout Bridge N 30.102061 W 93.693135 Sabine River tributary Brackish
  22. North Choupique Bayou Boat Launch N 30.097291 W 93.360387 Choupique Bayou Freshwater
  23. Parkside Marina N 30.303525 W 93.249298 Calcasieu River Freshwater
  24. Moss Bluff Theriot Road English Bayou Boat Launch N 30.298955 W 93.188257 English Bayou, Calcasieu River Freshwater
  25. White Oak Park N 30.296454 W 93.117849 Calcasieu River Freshwater
  26. I-10 Bridge Boat Launch N 30.237463 W 93.238985 Calcasieu River & Lake Charles Saltwater
  27. West Fork Boat Launch [South Westlake] N 30.252616 W 93.246804 Calcasieu River Freshwater
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  29. Saltwater Barrier Boat Launch N 30.254314 W 93.218030 Calcasieu River Freshwater
  30. Mac Cobbs Boat Launch N 30.265590 W 93.197649 Calcasieu River Freshwater
- CAMERON PARISH BOAT LAUNCHES**
31. Spicer Hughes Marina N 30.004464 W 93.341980 Kelso Bayou and Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
  32. South Fork Black Bayou N 30.026463 W 93.212775 Black Bayou, access to Intracoastal Waterway Saltwater
  33. Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge Pool N 29.982716 W 92.894428 16,000 acre impoundment Freshwater
  34. Sabine Wildlife Refuge/ Northline N 29.920914 W 93.381439 Western interior of Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Freshwater
  35. Hackberry Boat Launch N 29.987810 W 93.337843 Calcasieu Ship Channel/ Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
  36. Dugas Landing N 29.966919 W 93.342184 Calcasieu Ship Channel/ Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
  37. Hebert's Marina N 29.987665 W 93.269520 Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
  38. Sabine Wildlife Refuge/Hog Island Gully East N 29.909078 W 93.382586 Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
  39. Sabine Wildlife Refuge/Hog Island Gully West N 29.909533 W 93.383308 Eastern interior of Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Freshwater
  40. Cameron Prairie Refuge/ WestBank Fishing Road N 29.945667 W 93.084972 Canals of Cameron Prairie Gibbstown Unit Freshwater
- Other locations:**
41. Conway LeBlue/ Gibbstown Bridge N 29.934306 W 93.078972 Intracoastal Waterway, access to Outfall Canal Freshwater
  42. Sabine Wildlife Refuge/ Big Cross Marais N 29.866720 W 93.453130 Access to Gulf Saltwater
  43. Sabine Wildlife Refuge/ West Cove [North] N 29.866483 W 93.452686 Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
  44. Sabine Wildlife Refuge/ West Cove [South] N 29.866590 W 93.453929 Western interior of Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Freshwater
  45. Sabine Wildlife Refuge/ Blue Crab [Non-motorized hand-launch only] N 29.878922 W 93.425564 Units 1A and 1B of Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Freshwater
  46. Sabine Pass Boat Launch [LA] N 29.767894 W 93.892542 Sabine Lake Saltwater
  47. Deep Bayou Fork Kayak Launch N 29.774212 W 93.734665 Sabine River, Sabine Lake Freshwater
  48. Deep Bayou Landing N 29.790530 W 93.750140 Sabine River, Sabine Lake Freshwater
  49. West Ferry Landing N 29.80461 W 93.34913 Calcasieu Ship Channel, access to Gulf and Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
  50. Davis Road/ Jetty Boat Launch N 29.767917 W 93.342203 Calcasieu Ship Channel, access to Gulf Saltwater
  51. Grand Chenier Park N 29.769171 W 92.975478 Mermentau River Saltwater
  52. Joseph Harbor Launch N 29.717040 W 92.765570 Humbel Canal, access to Gulf Saltwater

MAP NOT TO SCALE

COASTAL MARSHES  
 SWAMP

Gulf of Mexico