

**Welcome to the Gulf Coast Capital**, where the waters are abundant, the fishing is great year-round, and anglers from around the world travel to drop a line.

With so many locations to fish, fishing is not only a great way for all ages to spend time outdoors, but it's also one of the most convenient ways to get out on the water and embrace our coastal gem.

Read on to learn more about places to fish, where to buy equipment, sustainable fishing practices, and more before you begin planning your fishing adventure in the Gulf Coast Capital.



## **CONTRIBUTORS**

Thank you to all the contributors who made this fishing field guide possible. Your collaboration has transformed this project into a valuable resource for all who share a passion for fishing.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- WHERE THE FISH BITE
  Explore prime spots for your fishing adventure.
- TOP FISH SPECIES
  Discover the top fish in the Gulf Coast Capital.
- DIVE INTO THE WORLD OF FISHING EQUIPMENT
  Gear up for fishing in the Gulf Coast Capital.
- REEL EXPERTISE
  Steer the waters with a guide by your side.
- FROM SEA TO PLATE
  Discover cook your catch restaurants.
- REEL IN THE FUN
  Drop a line in these prime fishing spots.
- LET'S TALK FISHING
  Gain insight on the best fishing practices.
- **ECO-FRIENDLY MARINE PRACTICES**Your guide to sustainable fishing practices.
- **HOOKED ON VICTORY**Experience the world of competitive fishing.
- VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER
  Visit your Corpus Christi information hub.

### WHERE THE FISH BITE

#### **GULF COAST CAPITAL'S BEST FISHING SPOTS**

Coast on over to Corpus Christi, a true fishing paradise for anglers, where you can find a wide variety of year-round opportunities to suit every fishing enthusiast's interests. Its abundance of diverse fish species and conveniently located fishing spots along the Gulf Coast Capital make it an ideal destination for anglers. Discover the **local hotspots** where you can cast your line and experience the thrill of reeling in your next great catch.



#### PIER FISHING

Known for their spacious decks, family-friendly environment, lighting for nighttime fishing, and proximity to supply stores, Red Dot Pier and Cos-Way Pier consistently draw enthusiastic anglers from all over the country.

## FISHING ESCAPES FOR ALL AGES

DOWNTOWN LOCATIONS

#### COLE PARK PIER

SWANTNER PARK

#### SWANTNER PARK

5102 Ocean Dr.

#### SEAWALL/MARINA

1590 N. Shoreline Blvd.

#### PADRE ISLAND LOCATIONS

## PACKERY CHANNEL PARK

#### PIER AT MARKER 37 MARINA

13317 S. Padre Island Dr.



#### **BOAT LAUNCHES**

Gain easy access to the city's stunning waterways through multiple convenient boat launch ramps. Choose from private ramps, like **Bluff's Landing** and **Marker 37** that may require a fee, or public ramps, like **Billings** and **Packery Channel**. Ramps are suitable for varying boat sizes.



#### FLY-FISHING

Anything that swims can be caught on a fly rod, so choosing inshore locations like shallow grass flats or wetlands are great options to maximize your experience. For a unique and exciting fly-fishing adventure, head to the Upper Laguna Madre and Nueces Bay.

#### SURF FISHING

Over 70 miles of beach, a thriving ecosystem, and excellent year-round weather make **Padre Island National Seashore** ideal for land-based fishing. Please note that beyond the first four miles of beach, four-wheel-drive traction is recommended

6 • Best Fishing Spots Best Fishing Spots

### **TOP FISH SPECIES**

IN THE GULF COAST CAPITAL

#### **TOP 4 IN-SHORE FISH**



#### **■ BLACK DRUM**

Robust, dark gray to black fish with a high-arched back and chin barbels, often featuring an elongated, squared-off tail fin.



#### **■ RED DRUM (REDFISH)**

Sleek, coppery-red skin with distinctive scales, a slightly arched back, and a dark spot on its tail, often resembling an eye.



Flattened body with a pale underside and a darker upper side that helps it blend into seabeds, and eyes positioned on one side of its body.





#### SPOTTED SEA TROUT (SPECKLED TROUT)▲

Slender and silvery fish with numerous black spots and an iridescent blue or greenish hue on its back, dorsal fins, and tail.



#### RED SNAPPER ▶

Vivid reddish-pink hue, pointed face, red eyes, streamlined body with a white underbelly, and sharp dorsal spines.



Tropical fish with a flat, slender body in vibrant blue, green, and yellow hues, and a sail-like dorsal fin.



Streamlined bodies varying in size, shape, and coloration, sharp teeth, and a triangular dorsal fin that extends from the upper part of their body.



#### **■ KING MACKEREL**

Streamlined body with silvery coloration, a distinct lateral line running along its sides, sharp teeth, and often reaches impressive sizes.







8 · Fishing on the Coast Fishing on the Coast



## DIVE INTO THE WORLD OF FISHING EQUIPMENT

Gear up for your fishing adventure in the Gulf Coast Capital, and explore hooks, lines, and sinkers at our local bait and tackle shops.

Find bait, tackle, various equipment, clothing, and rentals needed to reel in the big catch.

#### **DOWNTOWN & NORTH BEACH**

#### Jane's L-Head Seafood House 90 Coopers Alley 361–882–2248

Marinaville Bait Stand 5151 W. Causeway Blvd.

#### **SOUTHSIDE & FLOUR BLUFF**

## **Roy's Bait & Tackle Outfitters** 7613 S. Padre Island Dr.

7613 S. Padre Island Dr. 361–992–2960

#### **Bait Bucket**

10649 S. Padre Island Dr. 361-939-7311

#### PADRE ISLAND

#### **Marker 37 Marina** 133317 S. Padre Island Dr 361-949-4750

#### **Clem's Marina** 13304 S. Padre Island Dr. 361-949-8845

## **Cos-Way Bait & Tackle** 11645 S. Padre Island Dr. 361-939-7513

#### **Billings Bait Stand** 13428 S Padre Island Dr 361-949-8692



All residents and non-residents of Texas over the age of 17 will need a fishing license. These can be obtained at any Academy Sports and Outdoors or Wal-Mart locations, as well as online at tpwd.texas.gov.

10 • Fishing Equipment Fishing Equipment

### REEL EXPERTISE

#### STEER THE WATERS WITH A GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE

or a first-class fishing experience, navigate the waters of the Gulf Coast Capital with a guide by your side. Fishing guides have years of experience with extensive knowledge of the waters and fish patterns. To have a successful fishing experience, you'll also need to know the proper techniques and which equipment is ideal to use. Since the guides spend an extended amount of time fishing and have dedicated their time to teaching beginners how to fish, they can tailor your experience to ensure that you get the most out of your trip.



All you need is a valid fishing license, polarized sunglasses, sunscreen, and some snacks.

#### FISHING CHARTER/GUIDE

Whether you're new to fishing or have years of experience, a fishing guide can offer a fun experience. Reel in the opportunity to catch a diverse variety of fish while enjoying a day on the water with **Reel Addiction Fishing Guides**. The experienced captain proudly caters to anglers of all skill levels

while targeting a variety of fish in productive waters. Choose from a 25-foot Carolina Skiff or a 25-foot Majek boat and join other anglers on this fishing adventure, or up to four anglers can hop aboard a 23-foot Haynie at Corpus Christi Bay Charters, where the captain specializes in light tackle fishing for various saltwater species.



#### KAYAK FISHING

Discover the ultimate kayak fishing experience with guided tours that offer an up close and personal experience with nature and the fish. Join CC Kayak Fishing, where expert guides uncover the hidden gems of fishing spots, ensuring a fun and comfortable journey on the water. With expertise in using artificial lures, they know just how to tempt elusive fish and love fishing in the back bays where the fish are plentiful.

For a more hands-on adventure, follow the lead of Coastal Bend Kayaking's professional tour guides, casting your line right from your kayak as you weave through the enchanting Lighthouse Lakes and Mustang Island State Park's Paddling Trail. Get ready to hook unforgettable memories and reel in adventurous, unforgettable catches!

#### DEEP-SEA

Discover an absolutely exhilarating adventure that takes anglers far offshore into the wide open waters to catch fish that live in the deep parts of the sea. With over 35 professional fishing guides working out of the marina, **Sunset Island** is undeniably the ideal place to book your unforgettable deepsea adventure. The guides have extensive knowledge of the local waters and often bring in bag limits and prized trophy fish.

#### Goin' Deep Fishing Charters

offers tours ranging from 3-36 hour long adventures and provides everything you need to fish including top-notch rods and reels, live and frozen bait, and all tackle. With over 30 years of combined fishing experience, the captains are eagerly prepared to share their expertise with other anglers learning deep-sea fishing.

12 · Guided Trips • 13



## FROM SEA TO PLATE

EXPLORE THESE DINING HOTSPOTS FOR A COOK YOUR OWN CATCH EXPERIENCE

You've done the hard work, and now you can indulge in a delicious culinary adventure. Discover the best local restaurants where skilled chefs will clean and expertly prepare your catch, ensuring that you get the most out of your coastal vacation.



#### NOOPY'S PIER

#### 3313 S Padre Island Dr.

Sunset views, family friendly atmosphere on-site fish house, and shrimp breading facility make this seafood restaurant an ideal location to cook your catch.



#### DOC'S SEAFOOD AND STEAKS

#### 13309 S Padre Island Dr.

Watch the sunset on the waterfront deck overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway as the talented kitchen staff cooks your catch at this award-winning restaurant.



#### THE BLUE CLOVE

#### 5884 Everhart Rd

Take your freshly caught fish to these skilled chefs, and they'll prepare it in your choice of grilled, fried, or blackened style, along with their delicious rice and veggies. Please note that there is a maximum limit of 1.5 lbs per person.



#### **BOATHOUSE BAR AND GRILL**

#### 15241 Leeward Dr.

Whether you prefer your fish blackened, seared, or fried, talented chefs are ready to cook your catch with their "You Catch It, We Cook It" special while you enjoy waterfront views right on the water across from the Gulf of Mexico.



#### DIFPS

- Red Dot Pier
- Philip Dimitt Municipal Fishing Pier
- Cos-Way Pier
- Cole Park Pier

#### BEACHES & PARKS

- Swantner Park
- Packery Channel Park
- Packery Channel Jetties
- Padre Island National Seashore

#### BOAT RAMPS

- Bluff's Landing Boat Ramp
- Marker 37 Boat Ramp
- 🕦 Billings Boat Ramp
- Packery Channel Boat Ramp

#### MARINAS

- Corpus Christi Marina & Downtown Seawall
- Marker 37 Marina

#### **EQUIPMENT**

- Jane's L-Head Seafood House
- Marinaville Bait Stand
- Roy's Bait and Tackle Outfitters
- Bait Bucket
  - 😥 Clem's Marina
  - Oos-Way Bait & Tackle
- Billings Bait Stand

## **LET'S TALK FISHING**

**Q&A WITH LOCAL GUIDE, CAPT. JESSE TORRES** 



#### Q: WHAT IS THE IDEAL TIME OF YEAR TO FISH IN THE GULF COAST CAPITAL?

A: Fishing in Corpus Christi is great year-round, but determining the best time would depend on the weather, season, and type of fishing you want to do. Generally, spring and summer are when the most common species (Redfish, Speckled Trout, Black Drum, Flounder) are abundant, and the weather is incredible.

## Q: WHERE IS THE BEST SPOT TO

A: We have an abundance of

water here, so it's difficult to narrow it down to just one spot. The important thing is to find the spot that works best for you. You might start at the **T-Heads** and end up at the **Packery Channel** or **Marker 37**. Since there's no guarantee that the fish are biting in any specific location, you won't necessarily stay in just one spot.

## Q: WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT MIGHT SCARE FISH AWAY?

A: Excessive noise. Since water intensifies sound, the more vibration and noise there is, the more likely the fish will associate it with a threat and move away. You can talk and walk while fishing, but avoid stomping or slamming things shut, especially on a calm day, and if you're on a boat on shallow water.



## Q: AT WHAT POINT DO WEATHER CONDITIONS INTERFERE WITH FISHING?

A: Keep an eye out for winds over 30 mph. The windier it is, the harder it is to fish, especially on a boat. If you're in an area that blocks wind, then you can still fish, but it's a big bay out there with a lot of open area. It's a liability. On the other hand, having zero wind can also affect fishing conditions and make it difficult to have a safe and successful experience.



## Q: WHAT IS AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF ADVICE FOR ANGLERS?

A: Having patience and persistence is key. Remember that fishing is more than standing in one spot waiting for the fish to bite. You have to put in work, which could include moving around and changing spots. It's all about the fish and what they want, so having patience and being persistent in your methods can go a long way for an engaging trip.



Scan the QR Code to read the full interview.



## ECO-FRIENDLY MARINE PRACTICES

YOUR GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE FISHING PRACTICES





#### **IMPORTANCE OF CATCH & RELEASE**

Catch and release is important in promoting sustainable fishing practices. By releasing certain fish species back into their natural habitats, we maintain healthy fish populations, and allow them to reproduce and grow to maturity.



This leads to the overall health and balance of aquatic ecosystems, enabling future generations to enjoy the thrill of fishing, appreciating nature, and preserving biodiversity.

Visit the **Texas Parks and Wildlife** website for more information on fishing regulations regarding bag and length limits on fish.



#### MANDATORY VS. VOLUNTARY RELEASE

Texas Parks and Wildlife mandates that some fish species be released back into the water based on size, number caught, and seasons. However, in some cases, anglers will voluntarily release fish as a conservation strategy to protect fish populations and allow reproduction.

OTHER WAYS TO PRACTICE RESPONSIBLE SUSTAINABLE FISHING:



Follow all Texas Parks and Wildlife regulations.



Recycle fishing line where stations are available.



Use local bait to prevent contamination.

#### 7 STEPS FOR CATCH AND RELEASE:

Use gear suited to size and species you are trying to catch.

Wet hands prior to touching fish.

Prevent bodily harm to slippery fish by handling them with lipping tool.

Hold fish horizontally and support abdomen when lifting.

Remove hooks with pliers to minimize the chance of damaging the jaws.

Gently pull fish in a figure eight pattern prior to release.

Return the fish to water quickly.



## **HOOKED ON VICTORY**

**EXPERIENCE THE WORLD OF COMPETITIVE FISHING** 

Join the thrill of competitive angling at top conservation minded fishing tournaments here in the Gulf Coast Capital.

#### BARES ON THE BAY

#### Fulton Convention Center

Coast over to the largest women-only event in the country that educates women on saltwater fishing and conservation in a weekend of networking and fun.





#### SHARKATHON

#### **Padre Island National Seashore**

Join one of the largest conservation-based shark fishing tournaments and learn the value of sea life preservation, while competing for cash prizes over \$80,000.



#### REY DEL MAR Marker 37

With the **Rey Del Mar** title and a \$10,000 cash prize, this inshore/offshore kayak fishing tournament is highly anticipated and the only one of its kind in the nation.

#### **TEXAS STAR TOURNAMEN**

#### Roy's Bait and Tackle

Current CCA Texas members have the chance to win over \$1M in prizes and scholarships from May – September when they catch, tag, clip, and return tag to a designated





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The Corpus Christi Visitor Information Center is the information hub for locals and visitors in search of creating memorable experiences in the Gulf Coast Capital. If you have any questions about fishing, booking your fishing adventure, or just need more pro tips and local advice, the Visitor Information Center can help you get the most out of your stay. While you're there, meet our friendly Gulf Coasters, shop for locally made goods and souvenirs, and enjoy some vibrant and colorful instagrammable moments in the shop. Don't forget to pick up pamphlets with information, coupons, and discounts to enjoy everything Corpus Christi has to offer. Check back for more Corpus Christi souvenirs at our online Gulf Coast Capital store and bring a piece of the coast back home.

22 • Annual Events









