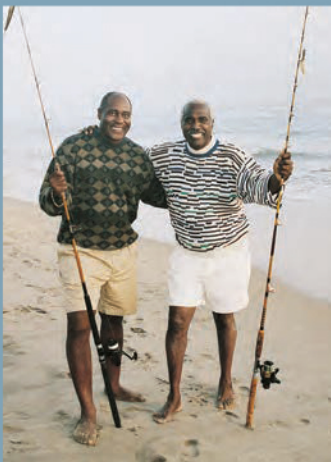


Visiting Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana provides a great opportunity for families to unwind and relax along one of the area's Gulf Coast waterways and beaches to do a little crabbing, freshwater or saltwater fishing. So, get that crabbing line and your rod and reel, or cane pole if you'd prefer. Come 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
Crab —Warmer months more plentiful. March they are the least plentiful.												
Crawfish —Live crawfish available from late December through June												
Fish —Limits and seasons on specific species*												
Oyster —available commercially												
Shrimp —Wild, white												
Shrimp —Wild, brown												
*Visit 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!

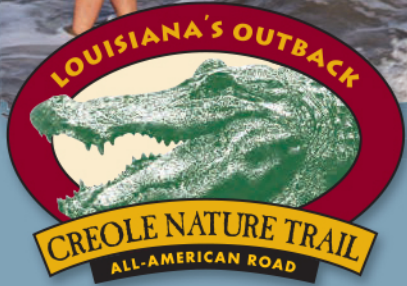


For information on local guides, log onto VisitLakeCharles.org/hunt-fish.



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. 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.

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.

FISH

OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

An identification guide to area fish.

MAHI MAHI



AMBERJACK



SPOTTED BASS



SPECKLED TROUT



FLOUNDER



REDFISH



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 [Gaspergou]

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

6. Sheepshead

7. Sand Seatrout

8. Gafftopsail Catfish

9. Hardhead Catfish

OFFSHORE

1. Red Snapper

2. Cobia

3. Tripletail

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

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



Gulf of Mexico

CALCASIEU PARISH BOAT LAUNCHES

- Alligator Park N 30.3631 W 93.7221 Old River Slough, tributary of Sabine River Freshwater
- Bass Lake Boat Launch N 30.294116 W 93.690874 Bass Lake Freshwater
- Holbrook Park N 30.348541 W 93.295521 West fork of the Calcasieu River Freshwater
- Anthony Ferry Road N 30.2914 W 93.3156 Houston River to Calcasieu River Freshwater
- Sam Houston Jones State Park N 30.294713 W 93.265594 West fork of the Calcasieu River Freshwater
- West Fork Boat Launch [North Westlake] N 30.299150 W 93.250242 Calcasieu River Freshwater
- Parkside Marina N 30.303525 W 93.249298 Calcasieu River Freshwater
- Moss Bluff Theriot Road English Bayou Boat Launch N 30.298955 W 93.188257 English Bayou, Calcasieu River Freshwater
- White Oak Park N 30.296454 W 93.117849 Calcasieu River Freshwater
- I-10 Bridge Boat Launch N 30.237463 W 93.238985 Calcasieu River & Lake Charles Saltwater
- West Fork Boat Launch [South Westlake] N 30.252616 W 93.246804 Calcasieu River Freshwater
- Riverside Park N 30.252890 W 93.245035 Calcasieu River Brackish
- Saltwater Barrier Boat Launch N 30.254314 W 93.218030 Calcasieu River Freshwater
- Mac Cobbs Boat Launch N 30.265590 W 93.197649 Calcasieu River Freshwater

CAMERON PARISH BOAT LAUNCHES

- Old Highway 171 N 30.271475 W 93.177078 Moss Bluff Bay, Calcasieu River Freshwater
- Goodman Road Boat Launch N 30.262329 W 93.155072 English Bayou Freshwater
- LaFleur Park [I-210] N 30.196789 W 93.271986 Prien Lake Brackish
- Prien Lake Park N 30.190297 W 93.267383 Prien Lake Brackish
- Vinton Canal Boat Launch N 30.154298 W 93.566956 Vinton Canal Freshwater
- Hwy. 108 Boat Launch N 30.139036 W 93.422367 Choupique Bayou Saltwater
- Old Highway 90/ Burnout Bridge N 30.102061 W 93.693135 Sabine River tributary Brackish
- North Choupique Bayou Boat Launch N 30.097291 W 93.360387 Choupique Bayou Freshwater
- Calcasieu Point Landing N 30.104217 W 93.306767 Industrial and Intracoastal canals adjacent to Turner's Bay and Calcasieu Lake Saltwater
- Nelson Road Boat Launch N 30.097693 W 93.248854 Black Bayou Brackish
- Rossignol Boat Launch N 30.114471 W 92.989238 Bell City Drain Ditch Freshwater
- Lorrain Park N 30.129731 W 92.907625 Lacassine Bayou Freshwater
- Ellis Moss Road Kayak Launch N 30.053007 W 93.240575 Choupique Bayou Freshwater
- Intracoastal Park/ Ellender Bridge N 30.065869 W 93.346347 Intracoastal Waterway/ Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
- North Fork Black Bayou N 30.078230 W 93.286547 Black Bayou Saltwater
- Davis Seafood Launch N 30.005813 W 93.334383 Calcasieu Ship Channel/ Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
- Spicer Hughes Marina N 30.004464 W 93.341980 Kelso Bayou and Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
- South Fork Black Bayou N 30.026463 W 93.212775 Black Bayou, access to Intracoastal Waterway Saltwater
- Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge Pool N 29.982716 W 92.894428 16,000 acre impoundment Freshwater
- Sabine Wildlife Refuge/ Northline N 29.920914 W 93.381439 Western interior of Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Freshwater
- Hackberry Boat Launch N 29.987810 W 93.337843 Calcasieu Ship Channel/ Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
- Dugas Landing N 29.966919 W 93.342184 Calcasieu Ship Channel/ Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
- Hebert's Marina N 29.987665 W 93.269520 Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
- Sabine Wildlife Refuge/Hog Island Gully East N 29.99078 W 93.382586 Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
- Sabine Wildlife Refuge/ Hog Island Gully West N 29.995933 W 93.383308 Eastern interior of Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Freshwater
- Cameron Prairie Refuge/ WestBank Fishing Road N 29.945667 W 93.084972 Canals of Cameron Prairie Gibbstown Unit Freshwater
- Conway LeBlue/ Gibbstown Bridge N 29.934306 W 93.078972 Intracoastal Waterway, access to Outfall Canal Freshwater
- Sabine Wildlife Refuge/ Big Cross Marais N 29.866720 W 93.453130 Access to Gulf Saltwater
- Sabine Wildlife Refuge/ West Cove [North] N 29.866483 W 93.452686 Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
- Sabine Wildlife Refuge/ West Cove [South] N 29.866590 W 93.453929 Western interior of Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Freshwater
- 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
- Sabine Pass Boat Launch [LA] N 29.767894 W 93.892542 Sabine Lake Saltwater
- Deep Bayou Fork Kayak Launch N 29.774212 W 93.734665 Sabine River, Sabine Lake Freshwater
- Deep Bayou Landing N 29.790530 W 93.750140 Sabine River, Sabine Lake Freshwater
- West Ferry Landing N 29.80461 W 93.34913 Calcasieu Ship Channel, access to Gulf and Lake Calcasieu Saltwater
- Davis Road/ Jetty Boat Launch N 29.767917 W 93.342203 Calcasieu Ship Channel, access to Gulf Saltwater
- Grand Chenier Park N 29.769171 W 92.975478 Mermentau River Saltwater
- Joseph Harbor Launch N 29.717040 W 92.765570 Humbel Canal, access to Gulf Saltwater