

GETTING YOUR SEA LEGS

BE SAFE ON OUR WATERS

It's exciting to venture out to a remote location with only a map and a compass, and great fun to fish a busy pier with fellow fishing fanatics, but remember a few things to keep safe:

- ➔ Fish with a friend or friends. Some locations may have difficult terrain or flash flooding.
- ➔ Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- ➔ Protect your skin and eyes — bring sunscreen and glasses with UV protection.
- ➔ When fishing in a crowded location, wear glasses to protect eyes from flying hooks.
- ➔ Bring drinking water, flashlight, bug spray, compass, map, waterproof matches and a basic first aid kit.
- ➔ Bring a cell or satellite phone or radio.
- ➔ Check local advisories for any alerts about water quality or fish contamination.
- ➔ If fishing in a boat, a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket is required when your vessel is underway. Children 16 and under are required to wear a life jacket at all times.
- ➔ Read Fish & Game Regulations for the area you intend to fish.
- ➔ Keep your fishing license in your possession at all times.
- ➔ For information on boating safety, fitting the right life jacket, free boating classes and more visit www.wlf.la.gov.
- ➔ To report a boat crash incident or report violations, call (800) 442-2511.
- ➔ The regional office of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries can be reached at (504) 284-2023.



WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE CASTING YOUR LINE



DON'T FORGET A LICENSE!

Residents and nonresidents alike, age 16 or older, must have a Basic Fishing License to fish Louisiana waters, and certain types of gear and activities require permits, too. Go to <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/recreational-fishing-licenses> for a listing of rates and fees.

You can buy a license at most sporting goods stores and bait shops, or online from the Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries. Go to <https://la-web.s3licensing.com/Home/Info> or scan the code below to jump to the registration page.

You must carry your licenses and permits on your person when fishing. Licenses are valid from the date of purchase, expiring on June 30 each year. You can get one online with a Visa, MasterCard or Discover (for a small service fee) and you'll get an authorization number for immediate use.

So, pick your pole and bait; from light tackle to fly fishing to wade or surf fishing in the flats, cuts and coast, from river banks to the Rigolets, you'll find a great fishing experience.

Scan this QR Code

**BUY A LOUISIANA
FISHING LICENSE:**



COME FOR A VISIT & REEL IN THE FUN!

Visit our website for details on attractions, lodging, restaurants, events and more and plan your getaway to Louisiana's Northshore.

Download our visitor guide, Explore the Northshore, or request the magazine to be mailed to you.

FishTheNorthshore.com

Scan this QR Code



**LOUISIANA
Northshore**
St. Tammany Parish

ST. TAMMANY PARISH TOURIST AND CONVENTION COMMISSION

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LouisianaNorthshore.com
#LANORTHSHORE

FISH ON!



THE COMPLETE GUIDE FOR FISHING LOUISIANA'S NORTHSHORE



NO FISH TALES NEEDED HERE JUST WEIGH-INS

From tournaments with huge purses to day-long outings that teach kids how to fish, angling events are a mainstay in Sportsman's Paradise.

St. Tammany is located on an estuary, Lake Pontchartrain, with our many marinas having access to the Gulf Coast's hottest fishing spots, making it the perfect destination for major fishing tournaments like IFA, America's Redfish Cup, HT Redfish Series Finale, Kayak Fishing Boondoggle, regional bass tournaments and others. Fishing as a way of life means that locals introduce kids at an early age, so you'll also find tournaments and events for kids 12 and under that teach and encourage fishing and paddling. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stocks ponds for its annual Youth Fishing Event in Lacombe, and as a result, great fishing can be found there year-round.

Some St. Tammany Parish anglers have fished local waters for so long they've invented their own tried-and-true lures, traps, handmade nets and other products to attract record redfish and tempt trophy trout. Got a GPS "fish finder"? You'll want the Standard Mapping e-card to go with it—software that displays aerial imagery and local names of waterways, invented by a St. Tammany Parish fisherman. You'll find a list of local product makers on our website, www.FishTheNorthshore.com. Fill your tackle box with what the locals use and you'll be sure to catch your limit and a good time.



FIND YOUR NEW FAVORITE FISHING HOLE



Fishing the Northshore means having an abundance of choices for whatever fish you want or habitat you want to explore. Join the locals along Lacombe's Lake Road for crabbing and fishing as easy as it comes amidst coastal prairie and marshy inlets. Or, fish from the banks of Bayou Lacombe in the central part of the parish.

On the east, try the east and west branches of Pearl River, Salt Bayou, Bayou Liberty, the Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge in Pearl River, or the St. Tammany Fishing Pier in Slidell, which juts out 650-ft. alongside man-made reefs in Lake Pontchartrain. There's the legendary Rigolets with its deepwater tidal pass connecting lakes St. Catherine and Borgne, and further out, the Mississippi Sound, Biloxi Marsh and Chandeleur Islands.

On the west, there's Madisonville's Fairview-Riverside State Park, the many sloughs and inlets of the Tchefuncte River, and the Mandeville Pier at Sunset Point in between, a 400-ft. pier running just to the east and parallel to the Causeway Bridge, with shady pillars great for casting lines. Further west in Covington is Bogue Falaya Park's new paddler's launch for fishing by kayak or canoe.

Find more information about all these places and more at www.FishTheNorthshore.com.



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DEFINITION: The activity of fishing by oneself rather than employing a professional.



PULL UP YOUR LAWN CHAIR (OR IGLOO)

Are you all about DIY? If few experiences sound as enticing as discovering a great place on your own to fish with your family and friends, this is the place for you.

In St. Tammany Parish, fishing takes place year-round, and inland and coastal fishing abounds for both beginners and seasoned anglers. You don't need a lot of high-tech gear to start fishing. Grab your cane pole or rod and reel, some bait and an ice chest, and pick a spot.

On our website you'll find directories of outfitters and shops that provide rod-and-reel combos, ice chests, kayaks, canoes, crabbing supplies and camping gear for purchase or rent, as well as bait & tackle. St. Tammany's outfitters have everything you need to make the most of your trip.

We've also rounded up all the marinas, fishing piers and boat launches to get you on the water and links to websites that local anglers rely on for weather, tide and water quality reports.

GOT YOUR OWN BOAT?

Some anglers like motoring out to fish off the Causeway Bridge, a 24-mile-long span over Lake Pontchartrain, casting their lines into the shadows of the structure's pillars. Others prefer heading out into open water. Slidell, in particular, offers great access to well-known fishing hot spots like the Rigolets, the Biloxi Marsh, lakes Pontchartrain and Borgne, the Chandeleur Islands and the

Mississippi Sound. The Rigolets Marina is a launch popular with anglers, and stocks live bait, fuel, groceries and fresh seafood. Lakeshore Marina is conveniently located near several restaurants. Other Northshore marinas have groceries, bait and fuel. Visit our website for a directory of local marinas and launch sites across the parish.

The Rigolets is legendary in the area. It's a deepwater tidal pass connecting Lake Pontchartrain and Lake St. Catherine to Lake Borgne. Salt water from the Gulf of Mexico flows through the channel and with it comes some amazing fishing. The word "rigole" is French for trench, and the deep water makes it a perfect habitat for fish. Shrimp and other food for the fish must first pass through the Rigolets to get from their nurseries in the brackish estuaries of Lake Pontchartrain and in the saltwater bay of Lake Borgne to the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to redfish and monster trout, expect to catch flounder, sheepshead, amberjack, largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie and even tarpon.



For more information on outfitters, launch sites and local marinas, visit www.FishTheNorthshore.com

An Anglers Guide To COMMON CATCHES & METHODS

While freshwater fish is generally inland, and saltwater fish in deep blue water, Louisiana has many areas where you can catch fresh and saltwater species in the same habitats, depending on season. Check with our local experts and charter captains for more specific information.



REDFISH/RED DRUM SALTWATER

Float a shrimp under a cork or use topwater plugs, spoons or soft-bodied jigs.

State Record: 61 pounds



SPOTTED SEATROUT SALTWATER

Larger trout aren't as abundant as smaller trout, but they are a more common catch in the spring.

State Record: 12.38 pounds



BLACK DRUM SALTWATER & BRACKISH

Try live bait such as clams or crabs. Or flyfishing in the summer with gold or copper coloring.

State Record: 79.50 pounds



SOUTHERN FLOUNDER FRESHWATER & SALTWATER

For bait use pogies, crab or shrimp. They are also a popular target for spearfishing.

State Record: 13.06 pounds



LARGEMOUTH BASS FRESHWATER & BRACKISH

Live bait such as earthworms, minnows and leeches or plastic lizards, jigs and wacky worms.

State Record: 15.97 pounds



BLUEGILL (BREAM) FRESHWATER

Best live baits for nesting bluegill include crickets, grasshoppers or worms set 1-3 ft. below a bobber.

State Record: 1.83 pounds



WHITE CRAPPIE (SAC-A-LAIT) FRESHWATER

Small jigs, spinners or live minnows on a light line work well.

State Record: 3.8 pounds



TARPON

SALTWATER & BRACKISH

Baits such as shrimp, crab, mullet and pinfish all work well as do soft plastic baits and big flies.

State Record: 246.63 pounds



SHEEPSHEAD SALTWATER

Try shrimp, minnows or crab and keep it about a foot or two off the bottom near docks or pilings.

State Record: 21.25 pounds

This information is only a suggestion and can change due to many factors.

For the most up-to-date recommendations, visit NorthshoreFishingReport.com.

Original illustrations by Duane Raver for North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. State Records courtesy of Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association as of 2019.



FISH FINDERS CHARTER FISHING IN ST. TAMMANY PARISH

WANT TO BE THE HERO OF YOUR BLOCK PARTY COOK-OUT?

Show up with a mountain of freshly caught fish, ready to grill. A great way to ensure you come back with a haul is to hire a fishing charter. As in most of coastal Louisiana, you'll find great charter captains to take you out on the water for the ultimate fishing experience. Each captain has their secret spots, favorite baits and tricks, and they'll show you how and where to cast your line, and help you reel it in. Some clean your catch, too. Most charters include all the equipment you need for your excursion so you can relax and get ready for a great day catching fish.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM A CHARTER TRIP:

Guides create unforgettable outdoor adventures. Typically it's as simple as stepping onto the boat and leaving the rest to your captain. Most charters accommodate 4-6 people, leave at dawn and stay out for 6 hours. Costs vary but you can expect to pay about \$450 for one or two people and \$650 for four. Live bait may be an extra expense but can

sometimes make the difference between hooking a few fish and catching your limit.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CHARTER FOR YOU:

The Northshore is home to more than a dozen experienced guide captains. Some fish both fresh and salt water species in bayous, marshes, lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. Some specialize in taking families out for a day on the water on inland trips or on Lake Pontchartrain for trout, redfish and black drum. You'll find information about Northshore charter businesses on our website, www.FishTheNorthshore.com, along with links to resources to help you get ready for your trip including outfitters, fishing reporters, regional fishing magazines and more.

A great resource for charter businesses across the state is the Louisiana Charter Boat Association. Check out www.LaSaltwater.com for profiles of dozens of world-class charter captains, as well as fishing reports, information about types of fish and where to find them, and tips on how to land them.