

CENTRAL FLORIDA

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

Boasting one of the highest largemouth bass catch rates in the state, *Lake Istokpoga* is regularly selected as one of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's top fishing sites. Black crappie catches also are a lake highlight. Winter is ideal for black crappie fishing, which is most rewarding in the lake's northeast and southwest corners. Bank fishing for largemouth bass is productive near the canals, although the species can be found near island areas and among aquatic vegetation year-round.

POLK COUNTY

Home to more than 550 lakes, Polk County offers several places for bank fishing. Bluegill, black crappie, sunshine bass and catfish are popular catches year-round, along with largemouth bass.

The nationally-acclaimed *Tenoroc Fish Management Area* is managed for quality sportfishing opportunities. This lake is a popular spot to fish for largemouth bass, redear sunfish,

bluegill and sunshine bass. The site features facilities for disabled anglers, modern boat ramps and landscaped bank fishing sites.

Lake Weohyakapka, also known as *Lake Walk-in-Water*, is a 7,528-acre lake 10 miles east of Lake Wales, located four miles south of State Road 60 between Yeehaw Junction and Lake Wales. *Lake Walk-in-Water* is nationally known for largemouth bass fishing and provides anglers with the chance to catch a variety of trophy-sized fish.

Lake Walk-in-Water is routinely selected as a top bass fishing destination by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Anglers frequently catch up to 25 bass a day in *Lake Walk-in-Water*, with several ranging from four to eight pounds.

Lake Parker is a 2,272-acre fish management area located in Lakeland. With three ramps available, boat fishing is made simple.

Polk County is home to many fish camps, offering guides, bait and necessities on the county's superior fishing holes, including *Lake Walk-in-Water*, *Lake Kissimmee*, *Lake Hatchineha*, *Lake Rosalie* and the *Winter Haven Chain of Lakes*.

For information on Polk County's fishing locations, the Polk County Outdoor Recreation Guide is available by calling (800) 828-7655 or online by visiting www.sunsational.org.

OSCEOLA COUNTY

West Lake Tohopekaliga, known as *Lake Toho*, is located near downtown Kissimmee and stretches across 17,810 acres. Largemouth bass and bluegill are specialties.

Largemouth bass are found in deeper waters during the summer and near offshore vegetation in the Kissimmee lakefront area. Live and artificial baits such as golden shiners, spinnerbaits and plastic worms are useful in these situations. Participants in national bass fishing tournaments have recently set several tournament records at this popular location.

LAKE COUNTY

Northwest of Eustis, *Lake Yale* offers bluegill, redear sunfish and smaller-sized largemouth bass. These fish are found during the summer in vegetated areas of the 4,042-acre lake. Bass fishing in *Lake Eustis* is at its best December through April. Black crappie also are caught during this season. Weedless rigs hook bass along the shore, while top water bait works well in canals. Anglers seeking crappie can drift with minnows or jigs in deeper waters early in the season, then move to more shallow waters as the fish begin spawning.

MARION COUNTY

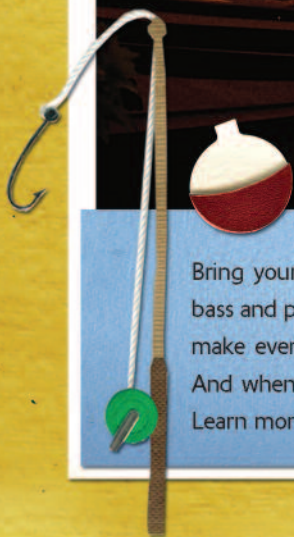
Inside the Ocala National Forest, fishing enthusiasts will find *Lake Bryant*, a tea-colored, 767-acre lake bordered



Courtesy of Central Florida Visitors & Conventions Bureau



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with grasses and lily pads. Both live bait and artificial lures fished near vegetated areas will draw largemouth bass, bluegill and redear sunfish. Live grass shrimp also attract bluegill and small bass.

Largemouth bass stay in sawgrass pockets and in small stands of lily pads

early in the year. Anglers using shiners and plastic worms will catch bass here. Schooling bass are taken during spring and summer at dawn and dusk with shad-imitating crankbaits in open water. Black crappie season extends from December through March.

ORANGE COUNTY

Four interconnected lakes totaling almost 1,800 acres of water with a hard sand bottom, beds of peppergrass, eelgrass and hydrilla make up the *Conway Chain of Lakes*. Collectively called *Lake Conway*, these water

Boating & Fishing in National Parks & Refuges

Park	Phone	Camping	Fishing	Boating/ Canoeing	Boat Ramp
Ocala National Forest	352-236-0288	✓	✓	✓	✓

Boating & Fishing in State Parks

Park	Phone	Camping	Freshwater Fishing	Saltwater Fishing	Boating/ Canoeing	Boat Ramp
Lake Griffin State Park	352-360-6760	✓	✓		✓	✓
Lake Kissimmee State Park	863-696-1112	✓	✓		✓	✓
Lake Louisa State Park	352-394-3969		✓			
Paynes Creek Historic State Park	863-375-4717				✓	
Rock Springs Run State Reserve	407-884-2008				✓	
Tosohatchee State Reserve	407-568-5893		✓			
Wekiwa Springs State Park	407-884-2008	✓			✓	

Freshwater Fishing Piers

County	Water Body	Location	Barrier Free	Rest Rooms	Fish Attractor
Highlands	Lake Istokpoga	Lorida, Istokpoga Park	✓	✓	
Highlands	Lake Jackson	Sebring		✓	
Highlands	Lake June in Winter	Lake Placid, H.L. Bishop Park	✓	✓	
Lake	Bear Pond	Seminole Forest Wildlife Management Area	✓	✓	✓
Lake	Big Lake Harris	Hickory Point Marina	✓	✓	✓
Lake	Dora Canal	Lake Eustis		✓	
Lake	Grasshopper Lake	Ocala National Forest			
Lake	Lake Griffin	Fruitland Park	✓	✓	
Lake	Lake Griffin	Herlong Park at Leesburg	✓		✓
Lake	Lake Harris	Singletary Park	✓	✓	
Lake	Lake Minneola	Clermont			✓
Marion	Lake Eaton	Ocala National Forest			
Marion	Ocklawaha River	Moss Bluff	✓	✓	
Marion	Orange Lake	East of city of Orange Lake	✓	✓	✓
Marion	Quarry Pond	Ocala National Forest			
Orange	Clear Lake	Orlando	✓	✓	✓
Orange	Lake Lawne	Barnett Park		✓	
Orange	Lake Santiago	Demetree Park	✓	✓	
Osceola	Lake Tohopekaliga	Neptune Road	✓		✓
Polk	Crystal Lake	Lakeland			
Polk	Derby Lake	Lakeland, Tenoroc Fish Management Area	✓	✓	✓
Polk	Lake Ariana	Auburndale	✓	✓	
Polk	Lake Cannon	Winter Haven			
Polk	Lake Hollingsworth	Lakeland			
Polk	Lake Howard	Winter Haven			
Polk	Lake Kissimmee	Lake Wales, Lake Kissimmee State Park		✓	
Polk	Lake John Peterson	Lakeland	✓	✓	
Polk	Lake Mcleod	Eagle Lake			
Polk	Lake Parker	Lakeland			
Polk	Lake Shipp	Winter Haven		✓	
Polk	Lake Summit	Winter Haven			
Polk	Patterson Park	Fort Meade	✓	✓	✓
Polk	Peace River	Homeland	✓	✓	
Polk	Saddle Creek Park	Lakeland	✓	✓	✓
Seminole	Secret Lake	Altamonte Springs	✓	✓	✓

bodies are known for their schooling bass prevalent during late fall and early winter, when temperatures are lower. Anglers locate bass schools by watching for the surface activity of birds feeding offshore. Many use jigging spoons, top water lures, soft jerk baits and white spinnerbaits. Crappie also make their home here and are usually taken with beetle spins and jigs.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

Experts consider *Lake Jessup* one of the best fisheries in the lower *St. Johns River* area for bluegill, redear sunfish and black crappie. Anglers use minnows and spinnerbaits to draw black crappie, while worms or crickets attract bream.

SUMTER COUNTY

A spring-fed lake with water depths rarely exceeding four feet, *Lake Panasoffkee* is a 4,460-acre fish management area with dense stands over much of the bottom. The lake is most noted as a home for redear sunfish, but largemouth bass and bluegill fishing also is popular.

While *Lake Panasoffkee* has plenty of bass throughout the year, February through April is its peak season. Earthworms, crickets and grass shrimp are effective baits for panfish in Lake Panasoffkee. Fishing enthusiasts use plastic worms and floating top water baits near grass beds to hook largemouth bass.



Courtesy of Peggy Marshall



Courtesy of Peggy Marshall

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Central Florida Marinas

County	Marina	Phone	Water Body	Restaurant	Lodging	Accepts Transients	Fuel	Mechanical Repairs	Store	Fishing Guides	Boat Charters	Overnight Dockage
Highlands	Cypress Isle RV Park & Marina	863-465-5241	Lake Istokpoga		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Lake	Astor Bridge Marina	386-749-4407	St. Johns River	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Lake	Front Street Bait & Tackle	352-759-2795	St. Johns River	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
Lake	Midway Marine	352-759-3838	St. Johns River				✓	✓	✓			
Lake	Eustis Marina, Inc.	352-357-2411	Lake Eustis			✓		✓	✓			
Lake	Black Bass Resort	352-314-2123	Haines Creek		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Lake	Florida Angler's Resort	352-343-4141	Lake Harris		✓	✓						✓
Lake	Gator Bay Marina	352-365-2177	Haines Creek			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Lake	Haines Creek RV Village	352-728-5939	Haines Creek			✓						✓
Lake	Venetian Cove Marina	352-728-0901	Lake Harris				✓					
Lake	Banana Cove Marina	352-343-7951	Lake Harris		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
Lake	Fisherman's Cove	352-343-1233	Lake Harris		✓	✓						✓
Lake	Lake Harris Lodge	352-343-4111	Lake Harris		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Lake	Palm Gardens	352-343-2024	Dead River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lake	Triangle Marine Center	352-343-6146	Lake Eustis					✓				
Marion	Angler's Family Resort	352-489-2397	Withlacoochee & Rainbow Rivers		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marion	Lake Bryant Mobile Home & RV Park	352-625-2376	Lake Bryant		✓				✓			✓
Marion	Blue Heron Cove	352-821-3701	Oklawaha River	✓	✓							
Osceola	Big Toho Enterprises, Inc.	407-846-2124	West Lake Toho	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓
Osceola	Cypress Lake Fish Camp & RV	407-957-3135	Cypress Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
Osceola	Alligator Lakeside Inn	407-892-3195	Alligator Chain	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Polk	Drift Inn Resort	863-439-7712	Lake Pierce		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Polk	Bud's RV Park & Marina	863-696-2274	Tiger Lake			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Polk	Cherry Pocket Fish Camp	863-439-2031	Lake Pierce	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Polk	Harbor RV Resort & Marina	863-696-1194	Lake Rosalie		✓	✓	✓					✓
Seminole	Hidden Harbour Marina	407-322-1610	St. Johns River	✓			✓	✓				
Seminole	Monroe Harbor Marina	407-322-2910	Lake Monroe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Seminole	Wekiva River Haven	407-322-1909	Wekiva River						✓			✓

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