

# NORTHEAST FLORIDA

## PUTNAM COUNTY

The heavily vegetated and stump-filled *Rodman Reservoir* is a largemouth bass fishing hot spot. Located southwest of Palatka, Rodman is always near the top of the list for Florida's best bass fishing destinations. January yields the largest fish. Bass swim to deeper water during that time of year. In the spring, they spawn in shallow areas. By summer, they may wander into the *Ocklawaha River channel* and the *Cross Florida Barge Canal*. There, water can reach depths of 30 feet. Anglers use golden shiners floated under a cork, free-lined in pockets or along walls of hydrilla mats. Other weedless lures such as soft plastic worms, jerkbaits and spinnerbaits also attract bass.

Black crappie also are caught along the *Cross Florida Barge Canal* and *Ocklawaha River channel* on minnows, tiny jigs and spinners. They frequent the area primarily in the winter. Catfish, bluegill, redear sunfish, spotted sunfish, redbreast

sunfish and stumpknocker are other popular species found in *Rodman Reservoir*.

*Lake George*, on the *St. Johns River*, also has attracted attention as one of Florida's premier bass fishing lakes. Anglers prefer to use live shiners and artificial bait near the eelgrass beds and deeper pilings of this 46,000-acre lake to attract bass. Recent hurricanes eliminated some of the grass beds, but they are making a return.

## DUVAL & NASSAU COUNTIES

The *St. Johns River* flows north for more than 300 miles through Northeast Florida and is well known as a largemouth bass fishing location. Fishing the banks near and among submerged vegetation with weedless, soft plastic baits, jerkbaits and top water lures produce the best results when bass fishing. Moving water also attracts these fish, which can be fooled with shad-imitating lures.

The *Nassau River* winds eastward north of Jacksonville, where it meets the *Atlantic Ocean*. It is best known for a striped bass population that is fished December through May. Some prize catches in the river top 20 pounds. While fishing for stripers, many anglers land saltwater trout, drum and redfish found in the same areas. Favorite striper baits include live eels fished near bridge pilings and deep-diving lures resembling shad, which are fished during falling tides.

## CLAY COUNTY

Part of the *St. Johns River*, *Doctor's Inlet* is a good location for largemouth bass and redear sunfish. Bass schools swim through the lush beds of eelgrass year-round. The best fishing will occur upstream of Palatka and in the holes at this waterway's bottom.

## FLAGLER COUNTY

*Lake Crescent* is considered a prime spot for anglers targeting bass and black crappie. Bass catches occur near docks and structures that reach depths of more than three feet during the fall months. Live shiners, weedless spoons, plastic worms and jerkbaits are recommended in these areas. Biologists note this lake has had some of the highest fish counts in the *St. Johns River* area.

Anglers fishing for crappie can do well drifting in open water with minnows or jigs in winter and early spring. The south end of *Lake Crescent*, near the mouths of *Dead Lake* and *Haw Creek*, also is a popular area.



Courtesy of St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra and the Beaches Visitor and Convention Bureau

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### Boating & Fishing in National Parks & Refuges

Park	Phone	Camping	Fishing	Boating/ Canoeing	Boat Ramp
Apalachicola National Forest	850-643-2282	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gulf Islands National Seashore	850-934-2600	✓	✓	✓	✓
Osceola National Forest	386-752-0147	✓	✓		
St. George Island State Park	850-927-2111	✓	✓	✓	✓
St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge	850-653-8808		✓	✓	

### Boating & Fishing in State Parks

Park	Phone	Camping	Freshwater Fishing	Saltwater Fishing	Boating/ Canoeing	Boat Ramp
Amelia Island State Park	904-251-2320			✓		
Anastasia Island State Park	904-461-2033	✓		✓	✓	
Big Talbot Island State Park	904-251-2320			✓	✓	✓
Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park	386-517-2084		✓		✓	✓
Faver-Dykes State Park	904-794-0997	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fort Clinch State Park	904-277-7274	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area	386-517-2086	✓		✓	✓	✓
Little Talbot Island State Park	904-251-2320	✓		✓	✓	✓
Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park	352-473-4701	✓	✓		✓	

### Freshwater Fishing Piers

County	Water Body	Location	Barrier Free	Rest Rooms	Fish Attractor
Baker	Ocean Pond	Osceola National Forest	✓	✓	✓
Clay	Black Creek	Middleburg	✓	✓	
Clay	Lake Asbury	Ronnie Van Zant Park Pond	✓	✓	✓
Clay	St. Johns River	Green Cove Springs	✓	✓	
Duval	Bethesda Fish Management Area	Jacksonville	✓	✓	✓
Duval	Crystal Springs	West Jacksonville	✓	✓	✓
Duval	Hanna Park Pond	Mayport, Hanna Park		✓	✓
Duval	Huguenot Pond	South Jacksonville Beach	✓	✓	✓
Duval	Oceanway Pond	Oceanway Sports Complex	✓	✓	✓
Duval	Pope Duval East & West	West Beaver Street	✓		✓
Duval	St. Augustine Road Fish Management Area	East Central Jacksonville		✓	✓
Putnam	Rodman Reservoir	Below the dam at Raceway	✓	✓	
Putnam	Rodman Reservoir	Rodman Recreation Area		✓	
Putnam	St. Johns River	East Palatka	✓		
St. Johns	Lake Ponte Vedra	North of St. Augustine			



Image Courtesy of Amelia Island Tourist Development Council

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

The coastal waters of *St. Augustine* provide a great fishing expedition for any angler. One place to drop a line is *Crescent Beach*, located 25 minutes from downtown *St. Augustine*, on *Anastasia Island*. Another site is *Vilano Beach*, a short three-minute drive from the city. Anglers can fish off the pier or charter a deep-sea fishing boat in *Vilano Beach*. Home of the annual Kingfish Challenge and billfish tournaments, *St. Augustine's* waters also offer marlin, dolphin, flounder, seatrout and redfish.

### ATLANTIC WATERS

The Atlantic waters off *Fernandina Beach* provide a range of fishing opportunities for species, including grouper, king mackerel, cobia, black sea bass, sheepshead, black drum, Florida pompano, bluefish, flounder, and sand (white) and speckled trout. Anglers can watch for the greater amberjack, a fish that has been known to reach more than 150 pounds and five feet in length.

### FLAGLER BEACH

*Flagler Beach* is a narrow island located between Highway A1A along the Atlantic Ocean and the *Intracoastal Waterway*, a deep-water channel through wetlands and marshes. In *Flagler Beach* waters, fishing enthusiasts are sure to find blue crabs and tarpon. At the *Flagler Beach Pier*, anglers can cast off into the Atlantic or launch a boat from the county dock or the state park. Anglers will find bluefish, whiting, flounder, redfish, king mackerel, snapper, sheepshead and tarpon.

### JACKSONVILLE

A myriad of fish surround the *Jacksonville* area, including grouper, sailfish, yellowfin tuna, wahoo, black sea bass, red snapper, amberjack, cobia, jack crevalle, king mackerel and Spanish mackerel.



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## Northeast Florida Marinas

County	Marina	Phone	Water Body	Restaurant	Lodging	Accepts Transients	Fuel	Mechanical Repairs	Store	Fishing Guides	Boat Charters	Overnight Dockage
Clay	Green Cove Springs Marina	904-284-1811	St. Johns River			✓		✓	✓			✓
Clay	Whitney's Marine	904-269-0027	St. Johns River			✓		✓	✓			✓
Duval	Jacksonville Marine	904-246-8929	St. Johns River			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Duval	Arlington Marina	904-743-2628	St. Johns River				✓	✓				✓
Duval	Clapboard Creek Marina, Inc.	904-757-1135	Clapboard Creek			✓			✓			✓
Duval	Julington Creek Pier 3 Marina	904-268-9724	Julington Creek			✓			✓			✓
Duval	Lamb's Yacht Center, Inc.	904-384-5577	Ortega River			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Duval	Mandarin Holiday Marina	904-268-1036	Julington Creek			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Duval	Ortega River Boat Yard	904-387-5538	Ortega River			✓		✓				✓
Duval	Ortega Yacht Club Marina	904-389-1199	Ortega River			✓	✓					✓
Duval	Pacetti's Marina Campground & Fishing Resort	904-264-1102	Trout Creek, mouth of St. Johns	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Duval	Palm Cove Marina	904-223-4757	Intracoastal		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Duval	Sadler Point Marina	904-384-1383	Ortega River			✓		✓	✓			✓
Duval	Beach Marine	904-249-8200	Intracoastal Waterway	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flagler	Palm Coast Marina	386-446-6370	Intracoastal Waterway			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nassau	Amelia Island Yacht Basin	904-277-4615	Intracoastal Waterway			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nassau	Egan's Creek Marina, Inc.	904-261-3158	Egans Creek			✓					✓	✓
Nassau	Fernandina Harbour Marina	904-491-2090	Intracoastal Waterway & Amelia River			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Nassau	Tiger Point Marina & Boat Works, Inc.	904-277-2720	Egans Creek			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Putnam	Andersen Lodge & Marina	386-467-3344	St. Johns River	✓		✓						✓
Putnam	Bass World Lodge & Marina	386-467-2267	St. Johns River		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Putnam	Leonard's Landing Lake Crescent Resort	386-698-2485	Lake Crescent		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Putnam	Porky's Landing & Marina	386-467-2310	Lake George	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Putnam	Bass Capital Marina	386-467-2628	St. Johns River			✓		✓	✓	✓		
Putnam	Trail Boss Campground Marina	386-467-2319	St. Johns River		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
St. Johns	Conch House Marina Resort	904-829-8646	St. Johns River	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
St. Johns	High Tide Boat Yard	904-826-3591	Intracoastal Waterway									✓
St. Johns	Oyster Creek Marina	904-827-0520	Intracoastal Waterway	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St. Johns	River Bend Marina	904-825-4666	Intracoastal Waterway				✓	✓	✓			
St. Johns	Sea Lovers' at Vilano Beach	904-824-3328	Intracoastal Waterway	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
St. Johns	St. Augustine Municipal Marina	904-825-1026	Intracoastal Waterway			✓	✓		✓			✓



Bill Sumner