





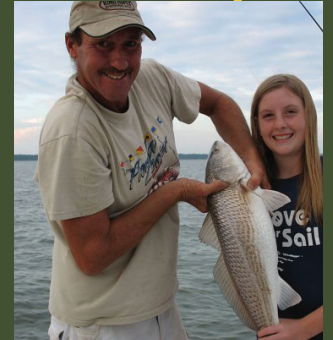
CONTENTS

- 4** Map of Featured Locations
Clean Boating
- 6** Freshwater Fishing and
Featured State Parks
- 16** Saltwater Fishing and
Featured State Parks
- 26** Healthy Fisheries Make
Healthy Coral Reefs
- 27** Kid Zone

Welcome to the fishing capital of the world.

The Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, lakes, rivers, springs and estuaries provide endless boating and fishing opportunities in both fresh water and salt water. Florida offers unique experiences

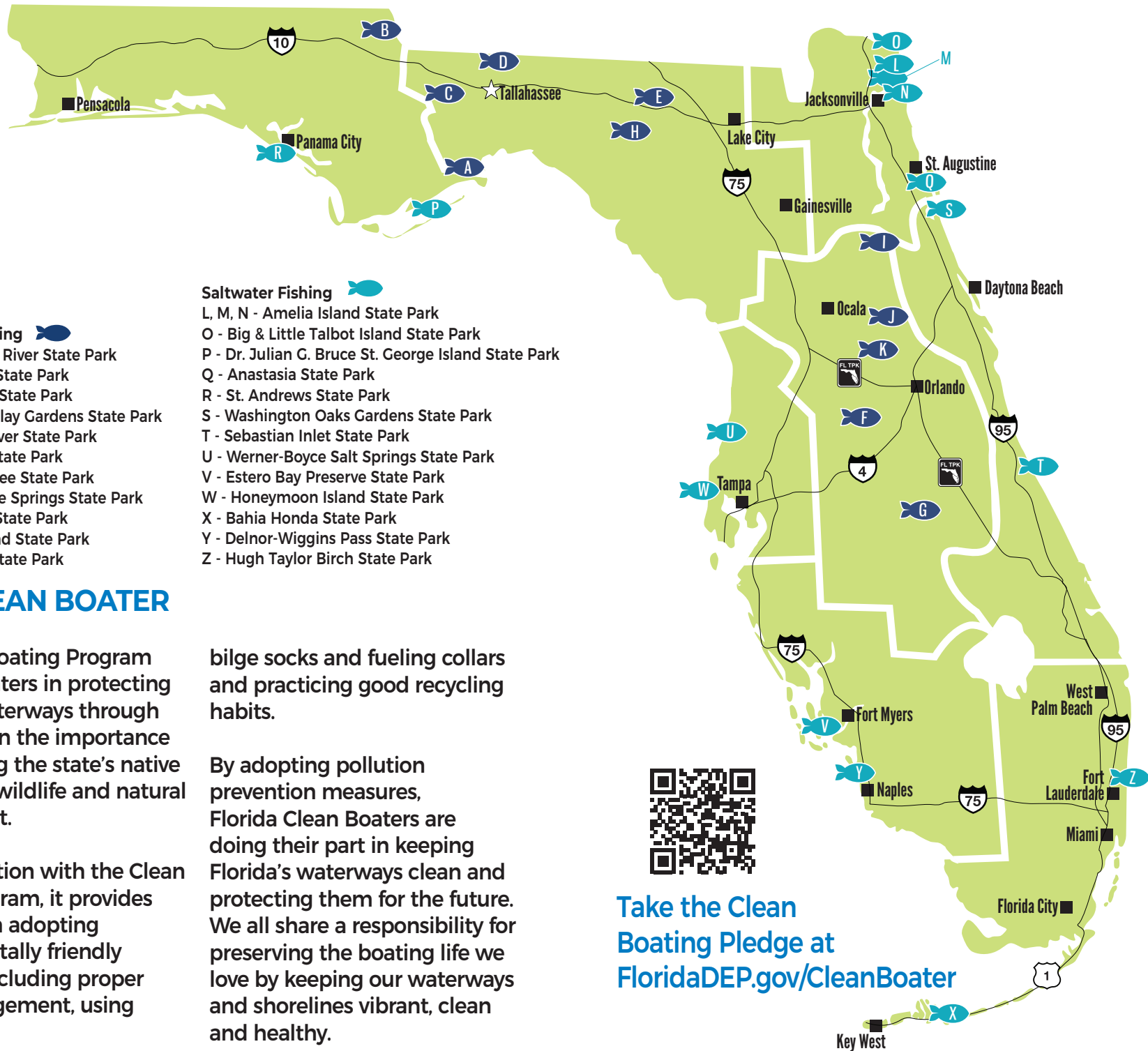
for visitors from all around the world to explore some of the most beautiful lands in the country.



Florida's natural resources provide food and shelter for aquatic species, stabilize the coast, protect water quality and support this state's way of life.

As you enjoy your time on the water or on land, please take the time and care to help protect our treasured natural resources.





Freshwater Fishing 

- A - Ochlockonee River State Park
- B - Three Rivers State Park
- C - Lake Talquin State Park
- D - Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park
- E - Suwannee River State Park
- F - Lake Louisa State Park
- G - Lake Kissimmee State Park
- H - Lafayette Blue Springs State Park
- I - Dunns Creek State Park
- J - Hontoon Island State Park
- K - Lake Griffin State Park

Saltwater Fishing 

- L, M, N - Amelia Island State Park
- O - Big & Little Talbot Island State Park
- P - Dr. Julian C. Bruce St. George Island State Park
- Q - Anastasia State Park
- R - St. Andrews State Park
- S - Washington Oaks Gardens State Park
- T - Sebastian Inlet State Park
- U - Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park
- V - Estero Bay Preserve State Park
- W - Honeymoon Island State Park
- X - Bahia Honda State Park
- Y - Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
- Z - Hugh Taylor Birch State Park

BE A CLEAN BOATER

The Clean Boating Program involves boaters in protecting Florida’s waterways through education on the importance of protecting the state’s native vegetation, wildlife and natural environment.

In collaboration with the Clean Marine Program, it provides guidance on adopting environmentally friendly practices, including proper trash management, using

bilge socks and fueling collars and practicing good recycling habits.

By adopting pollution prevention measures, Florida Clean Boaters are doing their part in keeping Florida’s waterways clean and protecting them for the future. We all share a responsibility for preserving the boating life we love by keeping our waterways and shorelines vibrant, clean and healthy.

Take the Clean Boating Pledge at FloridaDEP.gov/CleanBoater

Freshwater Fishing in Florida State Parks

Each year, over 1.2 million anglers try their luck at Florida's freshwater fisheries. From the prized largemouth bass to the massive sturgeon, Florida State Parks provide some of the best freshwater fishing in the world.

Before your fishing trip, check out the Outdoor Florida App. With this app, you can find an experience that is perfect for you with searches based on desired activity and location.

Remember that all fishing in Florida State Parks must follow regulations concerning size, number, method of capture and season. Residents and visitors may need a recreational freshwater fishing license.



Largemouth Bass
Micropterus salmoides

The largemouth bass is the Florida state freshwater fish and one of the most prized game fish. You can find them along aquatic vegetation, underwater structures or rocky shorelines. Spinnerbait, jigs, crankbaits, and live worms and minnows are all effective.

Averaging seven to nine inches, the black crappie is a relatively easy catch and good for beginners. As with bass, target vegetation and other structures in still water. Most bait and lures will work.



Black Crappie
Pomoxis nigromaculatus



Flathead Catfish
Pylodictis olivaris

Large and reclusive, the flathead catfish prefers deep holes with plenty of cover. These can grow to over 100 pounds and will require heavy tackle, and a chunk of cut live bait is most likely to lure them from their beds.

Redear sunfish feed along the bottom of calm water, and spotting bluegill is a good indicator of the presence of sunfish. Natural bait like worms, crickets and grasshoppers are most effective.



Redear Sunfish
Lepomis microlophus



Striped Bass
Morone saxatilis

While the "striper" is notoriously picky, getting a hit on a topwater lure is a memorable fishing experience. These bass migrate between fresh and saltwater and travel in schools. Boat trolling is a popular strategy.



OCHLOCKONEE RIVER STATE PARK | *Sopchoppy, Florida* **A**
 West of Tallahassee, the majestic Ochlockonee River is known for its redbreast sunfish haul during periods of low water and catfish during high water events.

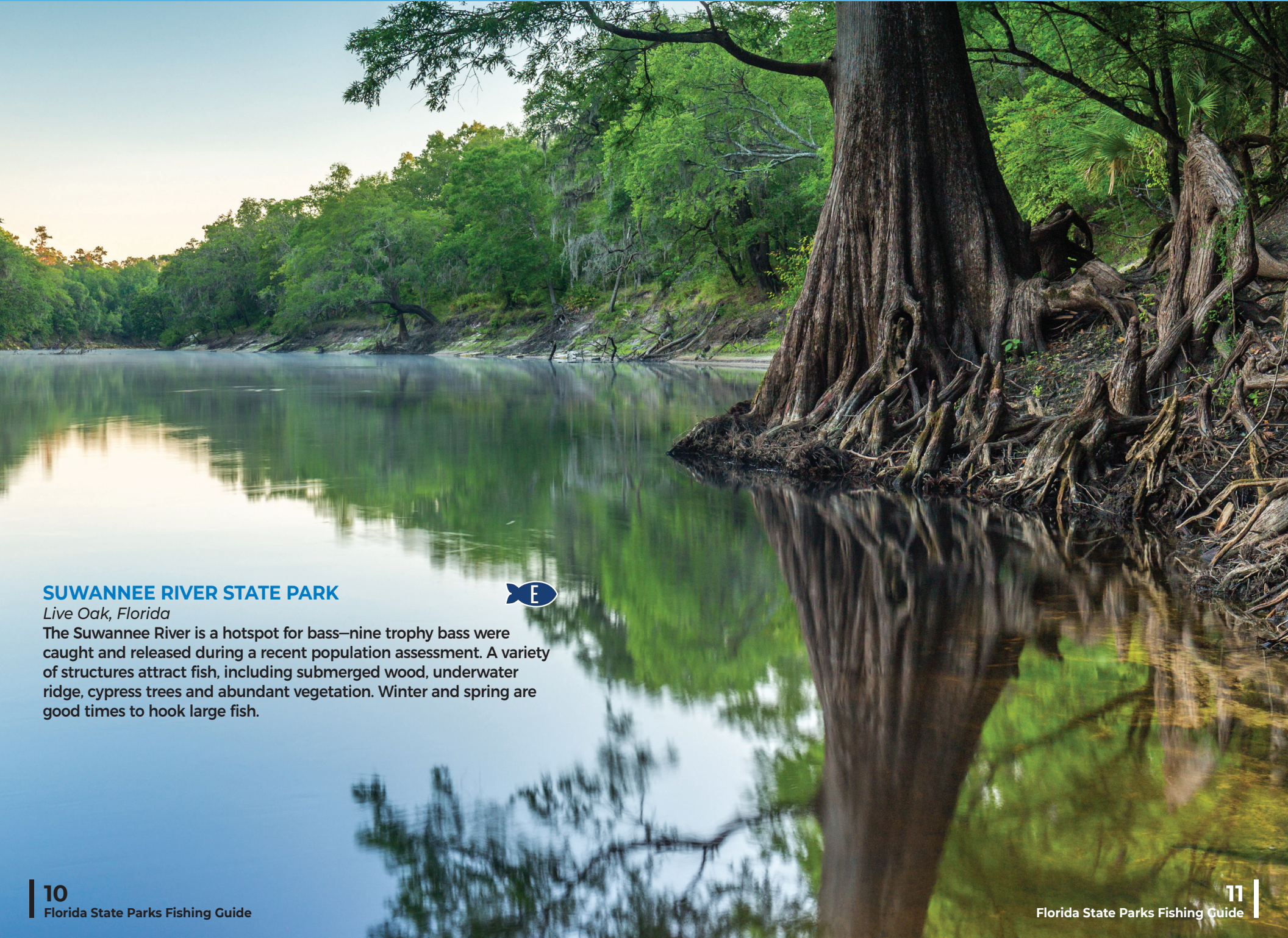
LAKE TALQUIN STATE PARK | *Tallahassee, Florida* **C**
 Along the fishing piers at Lake Talquin, fish attractors draw quality redear sunfish, largemouth bass and black crappie – in fact, the state record black crappie was caught here. April and early May are ideal for largemouth bass fishing, while the best time to catch crappie is from January through April.



THREE RIVERS STATE PARK **B**
Sneads, Florida
 Where Florida meets the southwest corner of Georgia, the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers converge to form Lake Seminole. The site of regular fishing tournaments, the lake is known for its largemouth and smallmouth bass, catfish, bluegill, speckled perch and bream.



ALFRED B. MACLAY GARDENS STATE PARK **D**
Tallahassee, Florida
 The best largemouth bass fishing is in spring through early summer. Fishing for bream and sunfish picks up during the spring. Black crappie fishing is best December through March. There are several boat ramps that access Lake Jackson.




SUWANNEE RIVER STATE PARK



Live Oak, Florida


The Suwannee River is a hotspot for bass—nine trophy bass were caught and released during a recent population assessment. A variety of structures attract fish, including submerged wood, underwater ridge, cypress trees and abundant vegetation. Winter and spring are good times to hook large fish.



LAKE LOUISA STATE PARK | *Clermont, Florida* 

This chain of 6 lakes and 2 streams range in size from 20 to 3,634 acres. The chain is composed of primarily cypress lakes, offering opportunities to catch bass, bluegill, redear, black crappie and channel catfish.



LAKE KISSIMMEE STATE PARK | *Lake Wales, Florida* 

Lake Kissimmee offers plenty of successful largemouth bass fishing, along with great catch rates of bluegill and redear sunfish. The best time to fish for bass would be in the spring, and for the bluegill and redear during the specific months of March and April.



LAFAYETTE BLUE SPRINGS STATE PARK 

Mayo, Florida
 Fishing is permitted along the Suwannee River bank at the south entrance or along the Alan Mill Pond Spring Run at the north entrance. In the warmer months, look for the large splashes of jumping gulf sturgeon.



Dunns Creek State Park

DUNNS CREEK STATE PARK 
HONTOON ISLAND STATE PARK 

Pomona Park & DeLand, Florida
 The south portion of the St. Johns River offers most of Florida's freshwater sport fish including largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, black crappie, striped bass and channel catfish. Most of these fish can be caught throughout the year. The most successful times of the year for this river and its surrounding lakes are late winter throughout spring and early summer.

Hontoon Island State Park



LAKE GRIFFIN STATE PARK 

Fruitland Park, Florida
 The northern part of the lake is known for year-round bass fishing. The abundance of submerged vegetation such as eel grass, make this a great spot in the winter months to drift in open water for schools of black crappie. Some of the best fishing is between the boat ramp and Lake Griffin, especially for catfish.

Saltwater Fishing in Florida State Parks

Florida's rich coastline habitats produce unrivaled saltwater fishing opportunities. Whether you're casting from the pier, boat or shoreline, you're always one cast away from a record catch. Florida's state parks offer over 100 miles of some of the best coastal fishing spots in the state. The vast variety of Florida's coastlines invite an equally vast variety of species, meaning the fishing is good year-round.

Please remember to be an ethical angler. Minimize the time fish are out of the water, use a de-hooking tool, and properly dispose of monofilament line. Download the Fish Rules app, which provides catch-specific identification and state regulations.



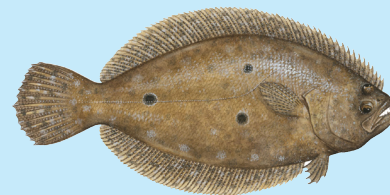
Red Drum (Redfish)
Sciaenops ocellatus

Redfish are bottom feeders, frequenting seagrass, sandbars and oyster bars. The state record weighed over 52 pounds. Throw live shrimp, crab, or mullet into the deeper troughs between sandbars, or retrieve a weedless spoon through seagrass.

As one of the signature saltwater sport fish, tarpon commonly grow to eight feet in length. Shortly after sunrise, throw ladyfish or mullet. In south Florida, tarpon can be caught year-round.



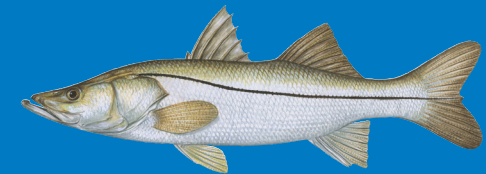
Tarpon
Megalops atlanticus



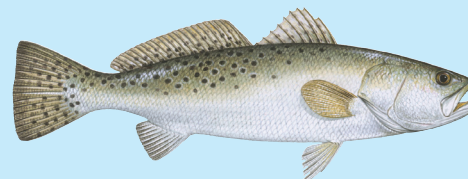
Gulf Flounder
Paralichthys albigutta

Flounder rest along the floors of coastal estuaries and like to ambush their prey. Bounce a minnow or mullet along the bottom of a sand ledge or dropoff. Flounder also congregate around underwater structures.

Another species that prefers structures, snook can be found around docks, bridges and mangroves. Live pinfish, mullet, shrimp and crab are effective, particularly at night – snook are nocturnal feeders.



Snook
Centropomus undecimalis



Spotted Sea Trout
Cynoscion nebulosus

Spotted (or speckled) trout can be found near grass flats, oyster bars and mangroves scanning for minnows and shrimp. These trout move in schools, and these schools tend to move regularly; be prepared to move with them.



**AMELIA ISLAND STATE PARK
BIG & LITTLE TALBOT ISLAND STATE PARK**



Fernandina Beach, Florida

Nassau Sound is one of the best fishing areas in northeast Florida and home to the state record flounder. Catch whiting, redfish, flounder, sea trout, pompano, grouper and tarpon from the shores of Amelia Island or from the adjacent George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier State Park.



DR. JULIAN G. BRUCE ST. GEORGE ISLAND STATE PARK



St. George Island, Florida

On the Gulf side of the island, enjoy perfect blue waters, sugary white sands and perhaps a glimpse of a pod of dolphins. On the bay side, marshes are home to wading birds and abundant fish – flounder, redfish, sea trout, pompano, whiting, marlin, tuna and Spanish mackerel.



ANASTASIA STATE PARK



St. Augustine, Florida

Anastasia State Park's Salt Run is a popular fishing destination – abundant vegetation and oyster beds attract a variety of fish. Redfish, flounder, black drum, sheepshead, spotted sea trout and common snook can be caught. Anglers will find a monofilament disposal bin, fish-cleaning station and fish identification kiosk at the park.



ST. ANDREWS STATE PARK | *Panama City, Florida*



This park offers deep-sea jetty, pier and surf fishing, providing excellent vantage points year-round. Catches include Spanish mackerel, redfish, flounder, sea trout, bonito, cobia, dolphin and bluefish. A boat ramp and pier are located on the Grand Lagoon. The park's concession area provides bait, supplies and boat rentals.

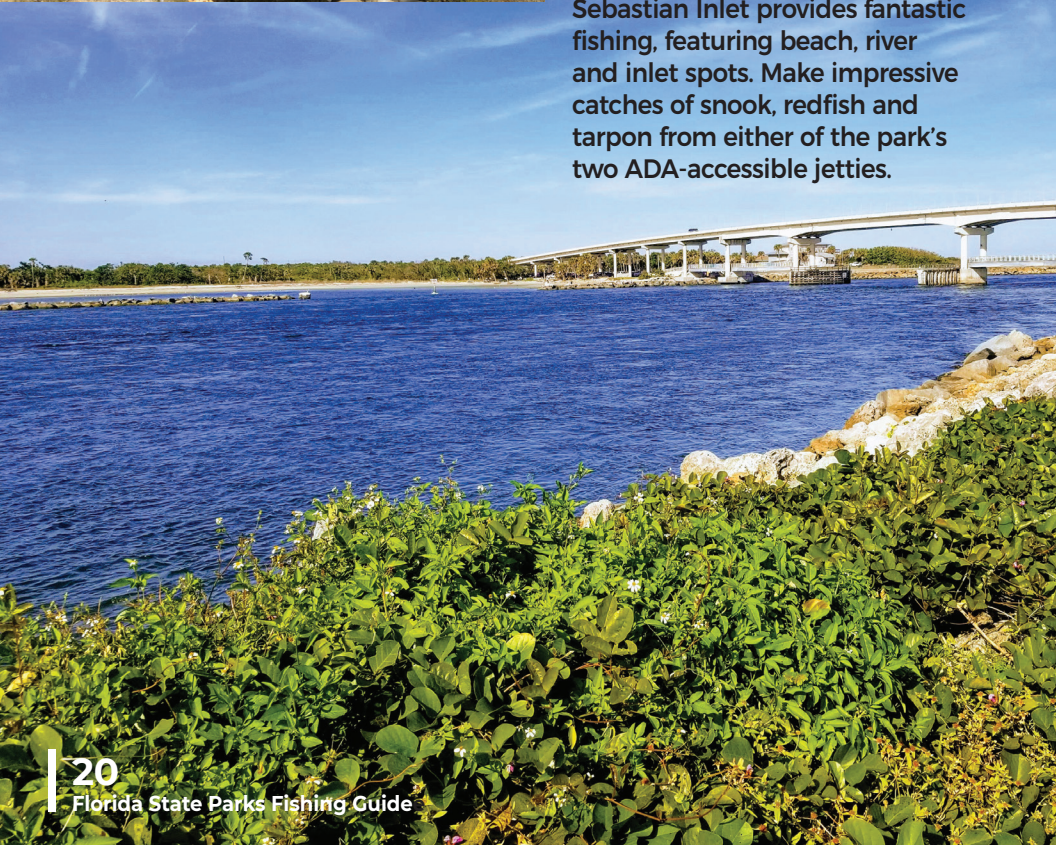


WASHINGTON OAKS GARDENS STATE PARK 

Palm Coast, Florida
 Cast a line from the park's iconic seawall overlooking the Matanzas River where trout, redfish, black drum and flounder feed along the bottom. From the surf, look for whiting and bluefish. And take a break by enjoying a picnic on the park's famous beach lined with coquina rock formations.

SEBASTIAN INLET STATE PARK 

Melbourne Beach, Florida
 Sebastian Inlet provides fantastic fishing, featuring beach, river and inlet spots. Make impressive catches of snook, redfish and tarpon from either of the park's two ADA-accessible jetties.



WERNER-BOYCE SALT SPRINGS STATE PARK 

Port Richey, Florida
 The park protects four miles of coastline along the Gulf of Mexico in western Pasco County. The salt spring is an amazing 320 feet deep, and inshore fishing can yield catches of flounder, snook, trout, redfish, snapper, whiting, sheepshead, cobia, redfish and tarpon.



ESTERO BAY PRESERVE STATE PARK 

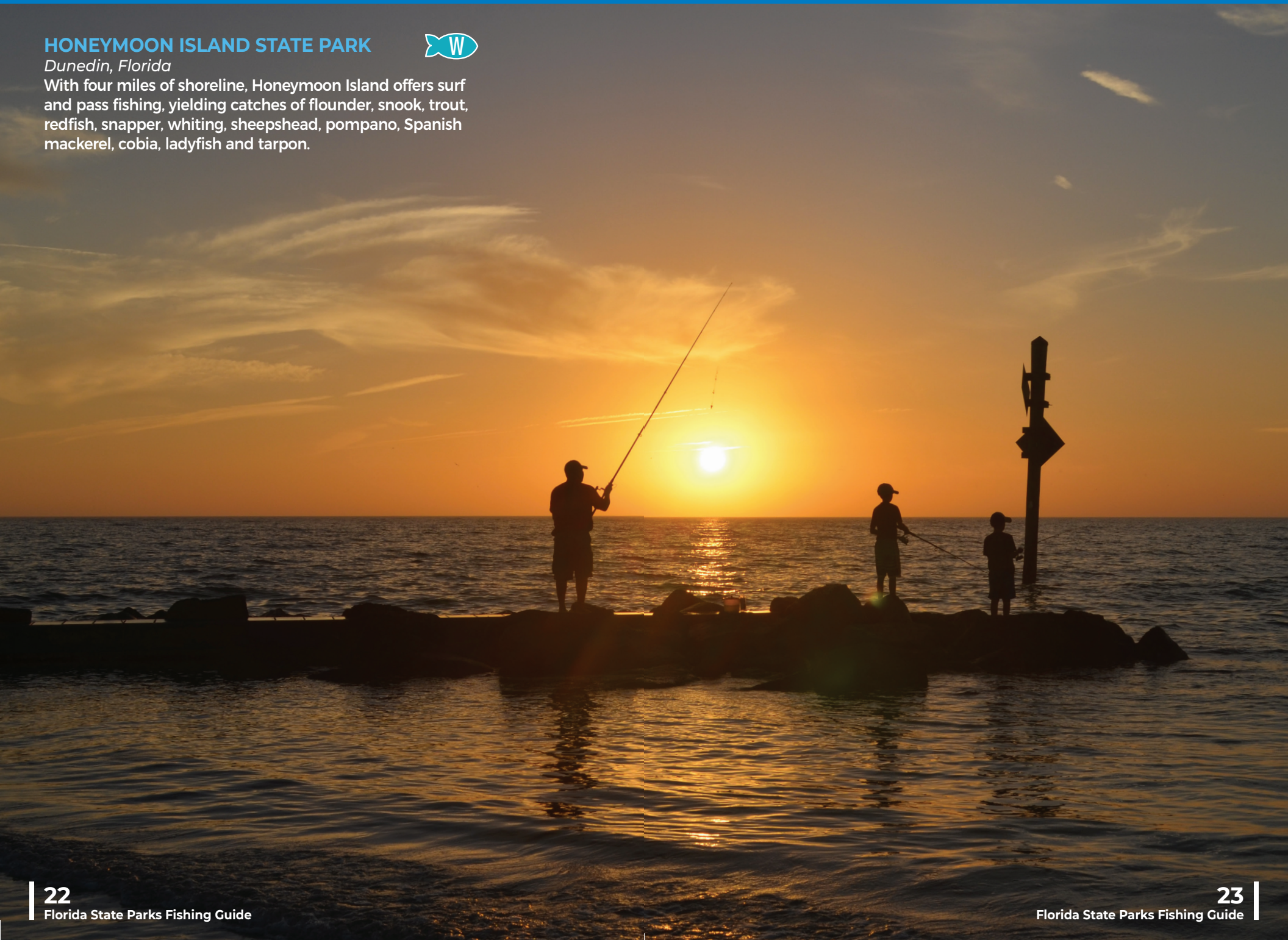
Estero, Florida
 Much of the undeveloped property along the Estero Bay is conservation land and provides great fishing and boating opportunities. A short hike to the end of the Blue Trail will lead to catches of snook, sheepshead, tarpon, redfish and grouper.

HONEYMOON ISLAND STATE PARK



Dunedin, Florida

With four miles of shoreline, Honeymoon Island offers surf and pass fishing, yielding catches of flounder, snook, trout, redfish, snapper, whiting, sheepshead, pompano, Spanish mackerel, cobia, ladyfish and tarpon.



BAHIA HONDA STATE PARK*Big Pine Key, Florida*

Tarpon fishing in the area rates among the best in the state. Fish off the old sea walls on either side of the Old Bahia Honda Bridge if you like to bottom fish for snapper or grouper. The shallow sand flats are better for fly-fishing for bonefish, permit or barracuda. Other common catches include pompano, cobia, mackerel, dolphin, tuna and yellowtail snapper.

**DELNOR-WIGGINS PASS STATE PARK | Naples, Florida**

In the northern areas of the park, anglers can catch snook, sheepshead, tarpon, sea trout, redfish and grouper. Boaters may use the launch area into Turkey Bay to access the rich natural estuaries of the Cocohatchee River water leading into the Gulf of Mexico.

**HUGH TAYLOR BIRCH STATE PARK***Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

Hugh Taylor Birch has a boat access from the intracoastal waterway. Fishing is permitted from the waterway seawall or offshore. Find a wide array of sportfish, including snook, sheepshead, grunt, catfish, mangrove snapper, sea trout, redfish, bonefish, king mackerel, dolphin, snapper and sailfish.



KID ZONE



Healthy Fisheries Depend on Healthy Coral Reefs

Coral reefs support an abundant fish community by providing food, shelter and breeding grounds. As adults, fish will often return to spawn at the reef. In return, fish promote reef health by cleaning algae off the corals and keeping pests in check.

Fish populations and Florida's Coral Reef are closely linked, and both are vital to the state's food supply and economy.

Learn more about the interconnection between fish populations and coral reefs.



FloridaDEP.gov | FloridasCoralReef.org



Word Search: Find the fish species below

H T C G R O U P E R
 S A S C A T F I S H
 A R N C F R Y V B O
 I P O R L E P S A B
 L O O A O D O U S T
 F N K P U F M N S R
 I Y W P N I P F T O
 S G C I D S A I W U
 H E I E E H N S F T
 B S Q U R S O H Q P

- Bass
- Crappie
- Grouper
- Pompano
- Snook
- Tarpon
- Catfish
- Flounder
- Redfish
- Sailfish
- Sunfish
- Trout



BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

The Junior Ranger Program is a fun way to learn about state parks and the natural wonders of Florida. You can also earn rewards like patches, badges and pins. Visit FloridaStateParks.org/Junior-Ranger for your Junior Ranger Badge!



Catching a fish can be such a thrill! Learn this skill and more as a Florida State Park Junior Ranger.

