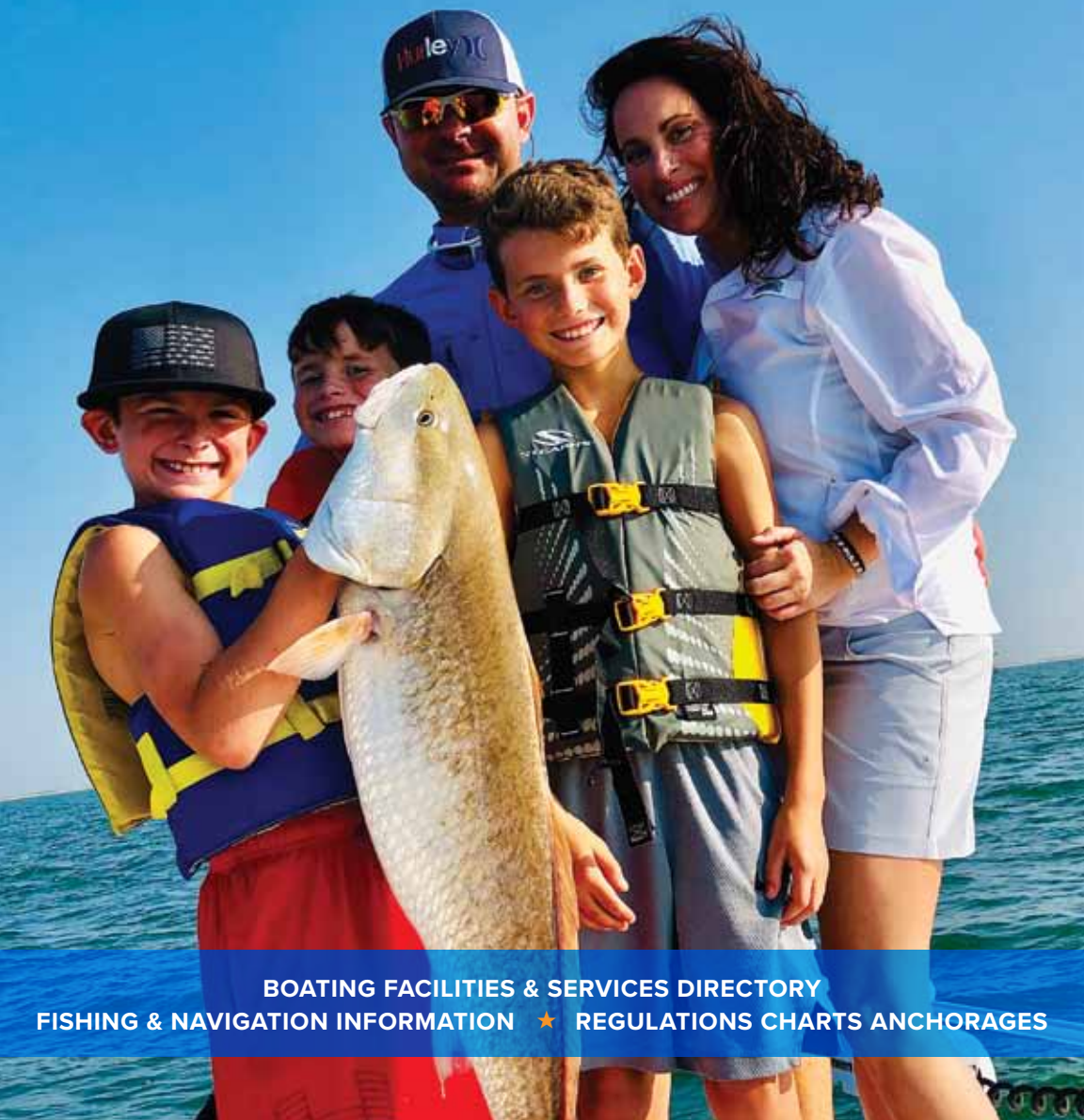


SABINE LAKE AREA WATERWAYS GUIDE



BOATING FACILITIES & SERVICES DIRECTORY

FISHING & NAVIGATION INFORMATION ★ REGULATIONS CHARTS ANCHORAGES



BOAT SAFELY AND ENSURE YOUR WATERCRAFT IS UP TO REQUIRED STANDARDS

For information Read The Texas Water Safety Act
or contact Texas Parks and Wildlife

4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

1.800.792.1112
FOR BOATER EDUCATION

1.800.262.8755
FOR BOAT REGISTRATION AND BOAT INFORMATION
or visit
www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/safety

Sabine Lake Area **WATERWAYS GUIDE**

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information presented in this guide. However, the Port Arthur Convention & Visitors Bureau claims no liability for any changes or omissions that may occur. The charts reproduced in this guide and included as inserts are not intended for use in navigation. U.S. Coast Guard Notice to Mariners, Light Lists and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration charts should be referenced for safe navigation in any U.S. coastal waters.



Convention & Visitors Bureau

3401 Cultural Center Dr // Port Arthur, TX 77642

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Welcome to Fishing in **PORT ARTHUR**

Rivers, bayous, marshes, the Gulf of Mexico, salt-and freshwater lakes- Port Arthur is surrounded by water. Our fishing community is strong, and anglers travel from around the US for access to some of the best saltwater fishing anywhere along the Gulf Coast.

Port Arthur's 70,000 acre **Sabine Lake** is an impressive 14 miles long, 7 miles wide and is formed where the Sabine and Neches Rivers meet. The lake is best known for flounder, redfish and speckled trout. Bring your own boat or book an inshore guided fishing trip. You can also kayak the region's multiple paddling trails or venture into the **Gulf of Mexico**, where off-shore charter fishing trips reign.

Pleasure Island is an 18-mile long island created from deposits dredged to form the Intracoastal Waterway in 1908. There, you can fish from several piers, state and public parks, jetties, various levees, launch your boat and even stow your boat in the Island's state of the art, 300-slip Marina.

Sabine Pass is perhaps the heart of where fishing began in all of Southeast Texas. Sabine offers access to Keith Lake, the marsh, Sabine Lake and the Gulf of Mexico and is home to the Sabine Pass Port Authority's 87-slip Marina, chock full of charter opportunities and first-class amenities.

Whether you're looking to road trip for a weekend stay or day trip for a fishing excursion, Port Arthur is the perfect place to plan your next big fishing getaway. Learn more at visitportarthurtx.com





Southeast Texas Offers **‘INCREDIBLE’ FISHING**

Introduction by **Chester Moore**

From Sabine Lake to the Gulf of Mexico and the Sabine and Neches Rivers, which feed into both, the region is rich with popular sport fish and the kind of habitat that allows them to grow big.

I have been blessed to fish at every conceivable location along the Texas Coast and can honestly say ours is the best overall in the Lone Star State. Other

regions might have us beat in one category but in terms of the whole picture for saltwater fishing, we are tops in Texas. No question.

While I do enjoy fishing at various Texas locations, there really is no place like home. I remember attending a media fishing event in another coastal community and everyone there boasting about the fish we were catching.

My thoughts were, “Gee, I could’ve caught more and bigger fish by launching 10 minutes from my house instead of driving all day.”

It was fun and the opportunity was appreciated but it was not Southeast Texas level fishing by any stretch of the imagination.

The reason for this is the productivity and uniqueness of our local ecosystem. Benefitting from the vast amount of marsh found along the Louisiana shoreline of Sabine Lake and areas conserved in Bessie Heights Marsh and Keith Lake, we have rich estuary habitat for everything from brown shrimp to southern flounder. This allows our area to produce huge numbers of fish and not only sustain them but lets them reach their maximum potential.

To top things off, we have one of the largest jetty systems in the state, giving anglers supreme opportunity to catch quality inland and Gulf-dwelling species. From bull sharks to bull reds, our jetties are hard to beat.

In 2011 Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) officials reported the highest levels of speckled trout, redfish and flounder ever found throughout our ecosystem. While other regions are experiencing declines, we are seeing an

upgrade. On top of that, we are getting large stockings of speckled trout and redfish to boost our already high numbers via TPWD's hatchery at Sea Center Texas and we were the first area to ever get a flounder stocking.

That historic event occurred in 2009 and symbolizes how valuable and well-known Sabine Lake's flounder fishery is throughout Texas. After all, it has held the state record since 1976 when Herbert Endicott caught a mind-boggling 13-pounder.

If you have never fished Sabine Lake and its surrounding waters, come give it a try. You will not be disappointed and you just might hook the catch of a lifetime.

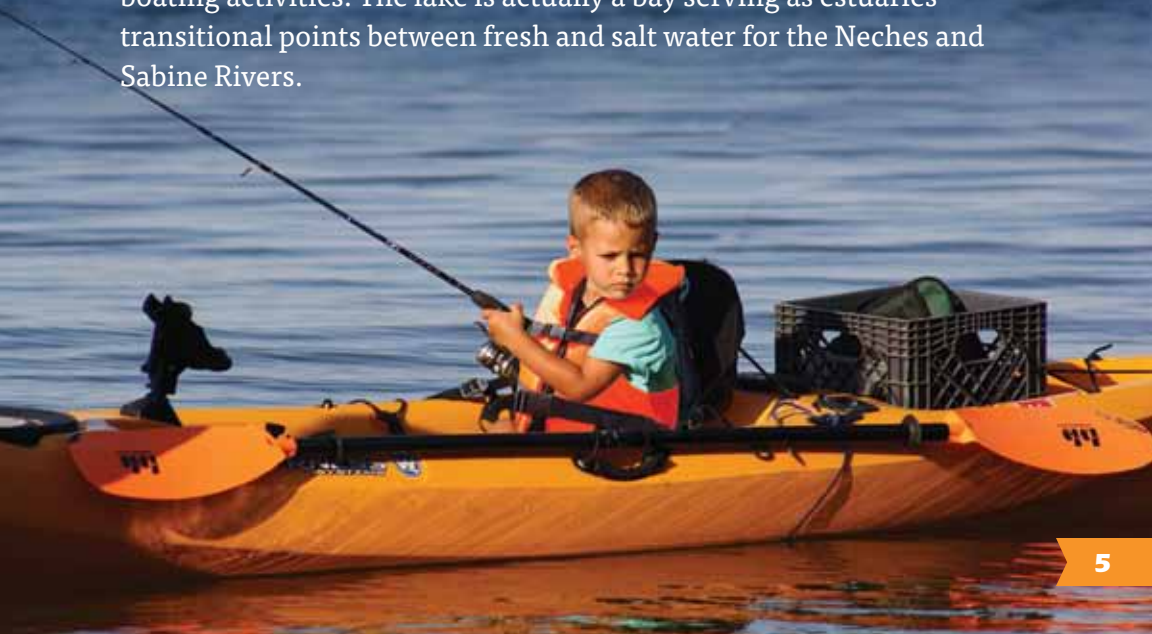


Chester Moore, Jr. is host of "Moore Outdoors" Newstalk AM 560 KLVI and founder of Kingdom Zoo Wildlife Center® // Chestermoore.com

SABINE LAKE

Port Arthur's coup de grace is its stone's-throw access to year-round boating, fishing and sailing activities on Sabine Lake.

Sabine Lake, and the ship channel connecting this body of water with the Gulf of Mexico, are bustling hubs for area angling and boating activities. The lake is actually a bay serving as estuaries – transitional points between fresh and salt water for the Neches and Sabine Rivers.



Waterway Access To Sabine Lake From The Gulf If you're entering Sabine Lake from the gulf, you will pass through the Sabine Pass Jetties and Sabine Pass. It is about 8 nautical miles from the jetty to the Causeway Bridge at Mesquite Point at the south entrance of Sabine Lake. The channel is wide, well-marked and should be easy to traverse in daylight hours.

Intracoastal Waterway Access to the Sabine Lake area from the southwest is via the Intracoastal Waterway, commonly known as "The Ditch." This stretch of the ICW connects the Sabine Lake area waterways with the Galveston-Houston area. It is, for the most part, uninhabited except for an occasional alligator or a few cattle here and there. However, the waterway is quite busy with barge traffic and these fellows are big. It's best to give them plenty of room and a daylight passage is highly recommended. If you're approaching the Sabine Lake area via the ICW from the Lake Charles area, you'll encounter pretty much the same situation.

Neches River The Neches River to the northwest provides waterway access between the lake and Beaumont. A noteworthy item to see on Neches River is the Veterans Memorial Bridge. It is next to, on the east, the Rainbow Bridge and is about 1 nautical mile up the river from its confluence with the ICW.

As you proceed up the river there are many oxbow lakes that make great overnight anchorages. For trailerable boats there are boat ramps at Port Neches Park and Ancelet's Marina.



Sabine Lake Area

FISHING SPOTS

The lake offers a variety of fishing possibilities with potential for successful fishing throughout the calendar year. During the winter months, December through February, fishing success depends on weather patterns. During the periods of warmer weather, speckled trout, redfish, black drum and other species become active. This is when drifting the oyster shell reef at the lake's south end is the recommended method. The reef extends from the deep water area near the causeway bridge to Blue Buck Point on the Louisiana shoreline. The reef is patchy, but if you drift through this general area you will be over reef a large portion of the time.

Oyster Shell Reef Best access to this reef is from the public ramp at the causeway located at the southern tip of Pleasure Island. After launching, you're within a one-minute run to this sprawling reef. Drifting with the wind and tide after cutting the motor, you'll bounce artificial baits, such as lead-head jigs tipped with plastic shrimp imitation tails, grubs or worms, along the lake's bottom. Speckled trout and redfish are the prime targets but black drum, gafftop catfish, sand trout and even an occasional alligator gar are not unusual.

Tidal Movement Tidal movement is essential for successful reef drifting. The tide moves the bait, and fish hover over the oyster shell, stalking vulnerable shrimp, finger mullet, crabs and minnows. Some fishermen secure a float on a weighted line ready to mark the spot so they can return and hook another. Fish feeding over reefs often hang in select spots according to current activities and sometimes remain until the tide changes.

But don't let a slack tide discourage your angling. Revving the trolling motor will allow productive activities through the same area. Anchoring your vessel, casting and maneuvering artificial lures slowly across the bottom is also a proven successful method for catching reef species.

Many fishermen prefer offering natural baits such as fresh or frozen shrimp, cut mullet, squid and mud minnows. Speckled trout, redfish and other inshore game fish prefer natural baits. The most productive way to work them over the reef is to fish them on bottom with a weight or freelining them in the current.

The reef's depth ranges from five to thirty feet with deepest water running through the channel between Mesquite Point and the Louisiana shoreline. In general, the closer you are to the causeway bridge, the deeper the water.

Fish typically move to deeper areas during cold weather. As the water temperatures rise in the spring, the fish usually venture into shallow areas.



Reef fishing becomes less productive as spring temperatures warm the water and the fish scatter into the flats, where they are not as concentrated in one area. But the knowledgeable angler perseveres and continues to locate speckled trout and redfish.



Working The Birds Balmy spring temperatures warm the lake and gamefish scatter off the reef. Anglers can now use other time-honored traditions such as working the birds, fishing slicks and working shorelines. When schools of shrimp or bait fish are attacked by schools of speckled trout and redfish, they are forced to the surface, becoming visible to seagulls. Boaters cruise the lake, scanning the horizon for diving birds which signal the presence of feeding fish. Some fishermen bring binoculars along.

After spotting a flock, position your boat upwind from the activity, drift or use an electric trolling motor to position your boat near the feeding frenzy. When speckled trout and redfish are feeding under diving birds, they will often strike any bait offered. Most anglers use a heavier bait such as shrimp tail jigs or spoons for better casting distance and accuracy. The number of hooks the bait has is another consideration. Single-hooked spoons or jigs are preferable to those with treble hooks. Time lost extracting multiple hooks takes away from productive casting opportunities.

It's not uncommon to catch fish on each cast when working birds. But remember a cardinal rule of working birds: avoid motoring directly into the diving birds. This will spook the fish and scatter the school.

Consideration for fellow anglers in other boats is essential if you want to fish through the day! Several vessels can work the same flocks of birds if everybody observes proper etiquette. Fortunately, most Sabine Lake anglers are known for respecting the right-of-way of others.

Fishing Slicks Another commonly practiced technique is fishing slicks. Only a gentle breeze is needed to sight these slicks, which rise when shrimp and bait fish are attacked by game fish. Noticeable amounts of oils are released into the waters. You can literally see a smooth, glassy area above feeding fish. An aroma reminiscent of ripe watermelons may be noticed downwind from feeding activity.

Position the boat upwind of the slick as if you were fishing a school of working birds. Drift or troll within casting distance for best results.

Live shrimp dangled under a popping cork is a safe bet when fishing slicks. Matching an artificial lure to the bait being attacked is also recommended. If you determine that the fish are feeding on shrimp, a shrimp imitation



lure is best. If the fish are feeding on minnows, a minnow imitation lure is your best bet.

Sabine Lake Shorelines Warmer weather is also conducive to working the shorelines. The marshes rimming the lake's eastern shoreline are breeding grounds teeming with incredible varieties of aquatic life. During high and falling tides redfish and other species skulk the shoreline waiting for an easy meal. Using the trolling motor or drifting these grassy shorelines and bayou mouths can also provide the angler with a successful trip. Gold spoons, minnow or mullet imitations, topwaters and plastic tails are the preferred baits. Shrimp or mud minnows under a popping cork or worked slowly across the bottom can do the trick.

Moving to the lake's north end provides equally productive fishing opportunities. The primary differences between the lake's upper and lower ends are the islands and fresher water found near the mouths of the Neches and Sabine Rivers. The confluence of these rivers provides a constant source of food and nutrients attractive to hungry fish.

Sabine Lake's North End Working the birds, fishing slicks and working shorelines are successful angling activities in the lake's north end. Particularly optimum times are spring and fall. The waters surrounding Stewts and Sydney



Islands offer outstanding angling opportunities as well as Coffee Ground Cove, East Pass and Old River Cove. These areas are locally renowned producers of speckled trout, redfish and other game fish, especially flounder.

The tasty flatfish fillets entice diligent anglers to patiently stalk these phenomenal floppers. Though many areas of the Sabine system steadily produce flounder, the lake's north end offers miles of prime flounder



habitat. Flounder prefer a hard mud or sand bottom where they wait to intercept passing bait fish. Positioning their boats in these areas, fishermen cast mud minnows and live or dead shrimp, dragging them slowly across the bottom.

Most types of inshore fishing requires tidal movement, and

flounder fishing is no exception. Perhaps the best area for finding flounder is the ship channel between the lake's mouth and the jetties. The ship channel also provides boatless anglers access to many prime fishing areas.

Most access for the north end of Sabine Lake comes from the river systems. Ancelet's Marina under the Rainbow Bridge is a popular one as is Port Neches Park which is a few miles up the Neches River. On the Sabine River side there is a public ramp under the Cow Bayou Bridge at Highway 87 in Bridge City and Muddy Water Marina on Adams Bayou in the Cove area of Orange.

Keith Lake Keith Lake, on Highway 87 between Port Arthur and Sabine Pass, is a chain of lakes boasting some of the best redfishing opportunities on the Gulf Coast. Keith Lake is one of the few locations on the upper coast where fishermen can sight and cast to tailing redfish. Working the birds during spring and fall months is often exceptional. The fish pass, a cut from the ship channel through the marsh into Keith Lake, channels bait and fish into the lake where they are intercepted by anxious anglers.

Because Keith Lake chain is shallow and dotted with scattered oyster beds, a shallow draft V-haul or a flat bottom boat are necessary for safe exploration of this exquisite body of water hidden in marsh.

Keith Lake is also a great location for a quick crabbing expedition. Peruse the levees at Pleasure Island, both sides of the ship channel, and Texas Bayou for large blue crabs. Crabbing is inexpensive and a sure-fire kid pleaser. The best



bait is a chicken neck on a line. Cast along the levee and wait for the tug of a claw before carefully dragging in your catch.

The Sabine Jetties Perhaps the greatest variety of inshore or near shore fishing potential will be along the Sabine Jetties, two 3-mile granite structures protecting the terminus of the Sabine Neches ship channel in the gulf. These jetties serve as artificial reefs creating productive habitat for an astounding variety of marine life.

Speckled trout, redfish, Spanish mackerel, jack crevalle, black drum, sheepshead, gafftop, sharks, rays, flounder, gulf trout, croakers and other pan fish and, on occasion, ling and even kingfish, are vulnerable to the fisherman. Though the jetties can be a promising fishing spot year round, optimum times for jetty angling are from early March through late November.

The three basic techniques of productive jetty fishing are walking the rocks, anchoring by the jetties and drifting along the granite structures.

Walking the rocks offers the advantage of fishing in either the ship channel or the gulf. The fisherman positions his boat on the leeward side of the rocks, throwing his anchor on the jetty. The fisherman needs to practice constant vigilance to insure that changes in winds, wind direction or currents do not move his boat into the rocks.

A secure boat means you are ready to find fish. Now it's time to get out of the boat and start walking. Fish often hang close to the rocks, so first casting parallel to the jetty is a wise move; if this isn't productive, cast elsewhere. It's not unusual to catch several fish in succession because they tend to meander along the rocks while feeding.

The best area for walking is the last half of the east jetty. The flat surface is safer for the ambling angler. It is more dangerous – though possible – to walk the remainder of the east jetty and entire west jetty because these rockier locations are creviced and slippery when wet. Use great care!

More cautious fishermen may opt to fish from their boats. Cruise the jetties searching for clear water, bait fish, surface feeding, slicks or a fellow fisherman's bent rod. Once a sign of activity is spotted, anchor along one of these premium locations. Shrimp fished on bottom, freelined or under a popping cork will attract fish but many anglers will prefer artificial lure such as spoons, plastic shrimp tails or mullet imitation plugs. Cut or live bait fished on the bottom or freelined next to the rocks is also a proven producer.

The last common technique jetty anglers practice is drifting or trolling their boats along the rocks when wind conditions permit. This allows the fisherman to cover extensive ground, increasing their chances of finding fish. Artificial

lures or live baits are the preferred offerings for this type of fishing.

Easiest access to the jetties is the county ramp at Sabine Pass and the causeway ramp on Pleasure Island.

Bank Fishing One of the best kept secrets on Pleasure Island is the 12 miles of levee fishing. On the South, end six miles of paved levee road starts just past the RV Park and winds around back to Hwy. 87. On the North end just past the unoccupied golf course and to the left, is six more miles of paved levee road.

Both levees afford the bank fisherman a great place to catch fish. Many speckled trout, flounder, redfish and other species of fish can be caught along each levee. Crabbing also can be enjoyed along the roads. This is a wonderful place to take the entire family for a day of fishing.

The Island also has two fishing piers as well. One of them is next to the boat marina and the other is at the South end of the Island at Walter Umphrey Park.

Offshore Gulf Waters Beyond the jetties lie the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico offering some of the best offshore fishing anywhere. Offshore traditions such as rig hopping, shrimp fleet chasing, fishing weed lines and underwater structures are successful, time-honored methods of working the gulf.

Anglers can reel in impressive catches from a short trek to a 100-mile odyssey into the expansive gulf. Within a 10-mile radius of the end of the jetties are numerous gas and oil production platforms. These structures act as artificial reefs providing habitat for the entire range of offshore species. The platforms draw game fish and because these structures visibly protrude from the water, fishermen don't need sophisticated electronics such as depth finders and Loran navigation systems.

Fishing The Rigs Position your boat upwind from the rig and drift by it, constantly casting in an attempt to locate fish. Most fishermen carry rig hooks allowing them convenient means of tying on to the structure. Hook on the leeward side and the ambush begins!

Experiment with different techniques such as jigging baits next to the rigs legs, casting away from the rig, working a bait along the bottom and varying your retrieve to determine what's attractive to fish that day. Speckled trout, redfish, black drum, tripletail, sharks, ling, kingfish or other game fish may lurk amidst the structure. If you don't feel a tug on your line, don't despair. Pull in your rig hook and head to another hence the term "rig hopping."

Like most game fish, snapper love the rig environment. Red, gray, mangrove, vermillion and other varieties of snapper gather around these offshore structures. Anchoring near or tying on to a rig in 50 or more feet of water enables the angler to fill his fish box with some of the most succulent meat in the gulf!

Speckled trout are one of the most sought after species in Southeast Texas and are the most commonly caught fish around underwater cover and structure.





Dropping a multiple-hooked leader tipped with a heavy weight is the most common method of snagging snapper. Anglers can simultaneously harvest as many snapper as they have hooks on their lines. Squid is the favored bait for snapper fishermen but cut bait such as mullet, ribbon fish or icefish will do the job as well.

Shrimp Boats Locating shrimp boats culling their catch is another proven method for landing trophy offshore species. The by-catch discarded by shrimpers offers a smorgasbord of delights for gamefish. Anchoring in the area of a culling shrimpers virtually ensures a variety of feeding fish.

Fishing Weed Lines Weed lines are another visible sign for the alert angler. Trolling or drifting along offshore weedlines can result in non-stop fishing fun. Dolphin, pompano, tripletail, kingfish, ling and even the elusive billfish love the weedlines.

18-Mile Light A favorite fishing spot is the 18-mile light, lying 10 miles south of the Sabine jetties. It marks the Sabine Ridge where the water depth changes from 45 to 18 feet. This cigar-shaped light alerts passing ships to the shallow waters and attracts a variety of game fish. Anchoring near the light and fishing the area can be as exciting as fishing gets.

Underwater Structures Fishing underwater structures requires minimal but incredibly sophisticated electronic gear such as depth finder and Loran C. If you have these items, find an “old salt” who knows the Loran numbers and will give them to you. Good luck finding a willing “old salt” and good luck fishing.

The sport of fishing is often simultaneously relaxing and exciting. Like any worthwhile endeavor, this enervating pursuit yields results directly proportional to perseverance and attention to details which the angler contributes. This general guide to fishing the Sabine System won't insure successful angling, but incorporating these ideas with your own savvy might provide the fishing opportunity of a lifetime. There's no substitute for experience or a well-stocked tackle box!




A man in a blue shirt and dark shorts is fishing from a wooden pier. He is holding a fishing rod and reel, and a line extends from him into the water. The pier is made of wooden posts and is situated in a body of water. The sky is overcast.

SEA RIM STATE PARK

409.971.2559

www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/sea-rim

A colorful fishing lure with a blue, green, and yellow body, a red eye, and two silver hooks.

Shore Fishing The nutrient rich surf of Sea Rim State Park attracts a plethora of game fish and prey. To the angler, this can be a fishing dream. There are two general ways to fish the surf.

You can fish with a light tackle consisting of a medium action 6.5 to 7 foot spinning or bait casting rod and reel. Fish with a weighted line on the bottom and hooks baited with fresh shrimp will catch plenty of whiting, black drum and red drum (redfish), which are all delicious table fare. When the water in the surf is clear during the summer, casting spoons, jigs and “mirrolures” will catch the tasty speckled trout. Limiting out on “specs” can be easy when the water “greens up”!

Another method to try fishing the surf at Sea Rim State Park is to cast a piece of cut mullet or whiting baits with a 10-12 foot surf rod within the troughs, or between the sandbars. Due to the strong currents, baits should be anchored down with a surf weight, a weight with tines protruding out to dig into the sandy bottom. Casting bait in the second trough or beyond commonly yields “bull reds”, redfish over 28”. These fish average between 20 to 25 pounds, but “bull reds” up to 50 pounds are not uncommon and can be caught year round. The fall season can be the best time to catch “bull reds”. Big black drum are caught during the winter and early spring when using blue crab for bait. These are brutes that are akin to the redfish, but can grow up to 80 pounds on the Texas Gulf Coast.

A fishing license is not required to fish from the shore of any Texas State Park upon receipt of a park entry permit. Be aware that in order to retain a “bull red” over 28” in length you will need to use a properly completed Red Drum Tag furnished on a Texas Saltwater Fishing License. A bonus Red Drum Tag is also available to licensed anglers. Sea Rim State Park does participate in the Free Loaner Tackle Program, park users will just need to provide their own bait.

Kayak Fishing in and around Port Arthur

By David Roberts



Here in the great state of Texas, we are fortunate to have 367 miles of coastline that borders the Gulf of Mexico, creating one of the most diverse places in the country. Port Arthur is located on the upper coast near the Louisiana border, alongside Sabine Lake. This lake is formed to the north where the Neches and Sabine Rivers converge. This area forms a unique ecosystem and makes it an ideal place for anglers and anyone who enjoys the outdoors.

One of the major draws to the area is the different kinds of fishing throughout the year. I have found that kayaking is a great way to access and fish the estuaries surrounding Port Arthur. A number of bayous and channels feed off the main lake back into shallower flats, and these are ideal for kayaking.

When it comes to fishing in Southeast Texas, several species can be targeted, but Trout, Redfish, Flounder and Bass are the most popular. Often and in the right places, all of these species can be caught in the same area.

THE NORTH END On the north end of the lake, you will find one of my favorite places to fish. There are few grassy flats off the Neches River filled with Cypress tree stumps. Because the area is hazardous for boats, you will typically only see kayakers. It is a perfect mixture between a swamp and a marsh (which holds and abundance of life besides fish.) There are plenty of birds to spot; I have even seen a family of otters swimming through the stumps! There is something about scouring the flats for redfish and seeing Herons and Osprey perched on the tops of the stumps. It is a unique place that offers sights unlike anywhere else on the Texas coast.

THE SOUTH END As you head to the south side of Sabine Lake you will notice similar bayous and ponds that are engraved in the Texas marsh. These areas hold an abundance of fish. While there are plenty of places to launch your kayak, I encourage you to either find a safe place on the side of the road or head

down to Sea Rim State Park and launch at their facility. They also have a floating dock in the marsh that can be accessed via kayak and camped on overnight. You will see birds, fish and other wildlife. Did I mentionigators? You can also launch at nearby McFadden Wildlife Refuge. Both places provide a safe place to launch and a great area to land a few fish.



Here on the Upper Coast, there are several options of where one can go kayak fishing. Whether on the north or south end, you are sure to catch a few fish and see plenty of other animals as you make your way through the marsh. Come visit Port Arthur and Sabine Lake and see one of the most unique places on the Texas Coast.

Wildlife Refuges and Management Areas

Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge extends along the Gulf of Mexico Shoreline with tidal flats, shallow freshwater lakes and marsh influenced by daily tides. The 8,972 acres of coastal marsh is open to the public at no charge. Fishing, crabbing and other wildlife-related activities are available. For more info on your visit, rules and regulations, go to: www.fws.gov/refuge/Texas_Point



McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge's more than 58,000 acres include the largest remaining freshwater marsh on the Texas Coast, along with brackish marsh. Red drum, flounder, alligator gar, blue catfish and blue crab are a few of the species that can be found in the refuge. For more info on your visit, rules and regulations, go to: www.fws.gov/refuge/mcfaddin.

McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge and Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge share headquarters at Hwy 87 south of Sabine Pass, TX approximately 2.25 miles west of the 4-way stop in Sabine Pass.

J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is made up of 24,498 acres including fresh, intermediate and brackish water and coastal marshes. Fishing and wildlife viewing are popular public uses of the WMA. Public access for fishing is mostly restricted to boats. Seasonal access and times available for freshwater and coastal fishing in the various parts of the WMA do change so check for updates and rules/regulations at www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/hunt/wma.

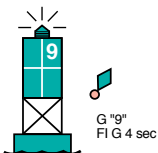
Headquarters for J. D. Murphree WMA are located on the south side of Hwy 73 near the intersection of Jade Avenue in Port Arthur. Address is 10 Parks & Wildlife Dr. Port Arthur, Texas.

U.S. AIDS TO NAVIGATION

LATERAL AIDS AS SEEN ENTERING FROM SEAWARD

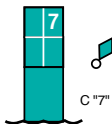
Port Side
Odd Numbers

Light
Rhythms



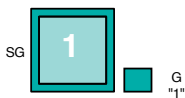
Lighted Buoy\ (Green Light Only)

or



Can Buoy (Unlighted)

or



Daymark

Safe Water Aids Marking Mid-Channels and Fairways (No Numbers - May Be Lettered)

Light
Rhythm

Morse Code



Spherical Buoy (Unlighted)



Daymark

Mo(A)

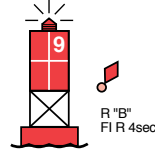
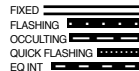


Lighted (White Light)

RW "A"

Starboard Side
Even Numbers

Light
Rhythms



Lighted Buoy\ (Red Light Only)

or



Nun Buoy (Unlighted)

or



Daymark

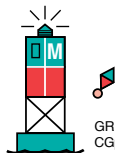
Preferred Channel Aids (Mark Bifurcations)

(No Numbers - May Be Lettered)

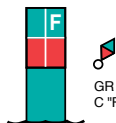
Light
Rhythm

Composite Group Flashing (2-1)

Preferred Channel
to Starboard



Lighted Buoy (Green Light Only)

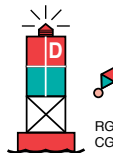


Can Buoy (Unlighted)

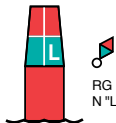


Daymark

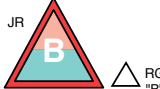
Preferred Channel
to Port



Lighted Buoy (Red Light Only)



Nun Buoy (Unlighted)



Daymark

NOTE: WHEN USED ON THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, THESE AIDS ARE ALSO EQUIPPED WITH SPECIAL YELLOW STRIPS, TRIANGLES, OR SQUARES. WHEN USED ON THE WESTERN RIVERS (MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM). THESE AIDS ARE NOT NUMBERED. (MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM ABOVE BATON ROUGE AND ALABAMA RIVERS)

UNIFIED RULES OF THE ROAD

Rule of Good Seamanship | Don't fail to comply with the Rules, or precautions governed by good seamanship of special circumstances.

General Prudential Rule | If all else fails, the Rules may be broken in order to avoid immediate danger.

Caution | Stay well clear of lights you don't understand.

Steering and Sailing Rules

1. Risk of collision exists if another vessel's compass bearing doesn't change or changes very little relative to you.

2. To avoid collision: Avoid crossing ahead.

- take early and positive action
- make obvious course and speed changes
- slow, stop or reverse if necessary

3. If in doubt: Between crossing and overtaking, assume overtaking and act accordingly.

In Restricted Visibility (fog, rain or snow)

1. Proceed at a safe speed

2. If you hear a fog signal ahead, slow to minimum speed or stop. Then proceed with caution; unless you've determined that risk of collision does not exist.

3. If you take avoiding action based on radar:

- take early action -avoid course changes to:
- port for a vessel ahead except when overtaking, or
- toward vessels abeam of abaft your abeam

RIGHT OF WAY

stand on vessel
give way vessel

maintain course & speed*
keep well clear

*may take action if give way vessel does not take timely action

If you are: vessel below line, give way

1. Meeting head on: pass port to port

2. Crossing: starboard vessel has right of way over port vessel

3. Overtaken from more than 22.5° abaft the beam
overtaking (includes sail overtaking power)

4. Sailing: stb tack on same tack leeward
port tack tack windward

- 5. • not under command
- restricted in maneuverability
- constrained by draft (Int'l. only)
- fishing
- sailing
- power driven

give way to vessels above you on this list

6. In narrow channels vessels restricted to channel
vessels under 20 meters,
or fishing or sailing

SOUND SIGNALS

Short blast • = 1 second:

Prolonged blast — = 4 to 6 seconds

In Sight Visually

WHEN:	INTERNATIONAL	ISLAND
HEAD ON, CROSSING	"I am changing course" to STB • to PORT •• (also when overtaking with course change) "I am going astern"***	"I intend to leave you" to PORT • to STB •• Answering vessel: same if in agreement "I am going astern"***
OVER TAKING	(narrow channels only) to STB — • to PORT — •• If OK, overtaken answers — • — •	to STB • to PORT •• If OK, overtaken answers same
OBSCURED BEND	— approaching vessel answers —	same as International (also used when leaving berth)

IF IN DOUBT OR DANGER ***** or more

In Restricted Visibility

1. Power, making way: —/ 2 minutes
2. Power, not making way: — —/ 2 minutes
3. Anchored: 5 sec. bell/ minute. May add •••
Over 100m, add 5 sec. gong aft.
4. Aground: same as anchored, and add 3 bell strokes before & after 5 sec. bell
5. Pilot: as above, may add •••
6. If you are not under command, restricted in maneuverability constrained by draft (Int'l only), fishing, sailing, towing, or pushing: — ••/ 2 minutes
7. Towed: — •••/ 2 minutes

Adapted from International and Inland Navigation Rules." Electronic copies are available at www.navcen.uscg.gov. Verify for particular situations and check for updates and changes at www.navcen.uscg.gov.

WEATHER RULES FOR SAFE BOATING

BEFORE SETTING OUT | Obtain the latest available weather forecast for the boating area. Where they can be received, the NOAA Weather Radio continuous broadcasts (VHF-FM) are the best way to keep informed of expected weather and sea conditions. If you hear on the radio that warnings are in effect, or see flags or lights at warning display stations, don't venture out on the water unless you are confident your boat can be navigated safely under forecast conditions of wind and sea.

WHILE AFLOAT

KEEP A WEATHER EYE OUT FOR | the approach of dark, threatening clouds, which may foretell a squall or thunderstorm; any steady increase in wind or sea; any increase in wind velocity opposite in direction to a strong tidal current. A dangerous rip tide condition may form steep waves capable of broaching a boat.

Check radio weather broadcasts for latest forecasts and warnings.

Heavy static on your AM radio may be an indication of nearby thunderstorm activity.

If a thunderstorm catches you while afloat, you should remember that not only gusty winds but also lightning poses a threat to safety.

- Stay below deck if possible.
- Keep away from metal objects that are not grounded to the boat's protection system.
- Don't touch more than one grounded object at the same time (or you may become a shortcut for electrical surges passing through the protection system).
- Put on a life jacket and prepare for rough sea conditions.

NOAA WEATHER RADIO BROADCASTS

Port Arthur, Texas | **WXK-28** | **162.475 MHz** | **Continuously, 24 hours a day**

VHF-FM radio stations are managed by National Weather Service. Broadcast tapes are updated frequently and amended as required. The contents vary, but in general contain the following information:

- Special bulletins and statements concerning hurricanes or other severe weather.
- Forecasts and warnings for nearby coastal waters.
- Forecasts for local areas.
- Radar summaries.
- Description of weather patterns affecting the Gulf Coast.
- Selected weather observations, including those from Coast Guard stations, and oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Tides and sunrise-sunset data.

EXPLANATION OF WARNING



SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY

One red pennant displayed by day and a red light above a white light at night, to indicate that fairly strong winds up to 33 knots (38 mph) and/or sea conditions dangerous to small-craft operations are forecast for the area.



GALE WARNING

Two red pennants displayed by day and a white light above a red light at night, to indicate that winds ranging from 34 to 47 knots (39 to 54 mph) are forecast.



STORM WARNING

A single square red flag with black center displayed by day and two red lights at night, to indicate that winds 48 knots (55 mph) and above (no matter how high the velocity) are forecast. Note: if winds are associated with a tropical cyclone (hurricane) the storm warning display indicates forecast winds of 48 to 63 knots (55 to 73 mph).



HURRICANE WARNING

Two square red flags with black center displayed by day and a white light between two red lights at night, to indicate that winds 64 knots (74 mph) and above are forecast. Hurricane warnings are displayed only for tropical cyclones. Hurricane warnings are not issued for the Great Lakes.

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY | To alert mariners to sustained (more than two hours) weather or sea conditions, either present or forecast, that might be hazardous to small boats. If a mariner notices a Small Craft Advisory pennant displayed, he should determine immediately the reason by tuning his radio to the latest marine broadcast. Decision as to the degree of hazard will be left up to the boatman, based on his experience and size and type of boat. The threshold conditions for the Small Craft Advisory are usually 33 knots of wind (less than 33 knots in some dangerous waters) or hazardous wave conditions.

GALE WARNING | To indicate winds within the range 34 to 47 knots are forecast for the area; in tropical cyclones, 34 to 63 knots.

STORM WARNINGS | To indicate winds 48 to 63 knots are forecast for the area.

HURRICANE WARNING | One-minute sustained surface winds of 64 KT (74 mph) or higher associated with a hurricane are expected in a specified coastal area within 24 Hrs. or less. A hurricane warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and exceptionally high waves continue even though winds may be less than hurricane force.

HURRICANE WATCH | An announcement for specific areas that a hurricane or an incipient hurricane condition poses a possible threat to coastal areas generally within 36 hrs.

SPECIAL MARINE WARNING | Issued when local storm-producing sustained winds or frequent gusts of 34 KT or more are confined to water areas or have moved over water and/or if a waterspout is likely to remain over water.

Lures of Port Arthur

This time we're not just talking about the scenic views and coastal winds of Sabine Lake and Pleasure Island. Award-Winning wildlife journalist Chester Moore, Jr. shares a seasonal lure rundown of Port Arthur's favorite fish.

Best Baits & Lures



Speckled Trout



Redfish



Flounder

WINTER

Slow-sinking hard and soft plastics, topwaters (on warm afternoons)

Dead shrimp, live or cut mullet, soft plastic shad imitations

Live finger mullet, small soft plastic shad imitations, small curl-tailed grubs

SPRING

Slow-sinking hard and soft plastics (early spring), topwaters, eel imitation soft plastics (fished over oyster reefs), shad imitation soft plastics, live shrimp

Live or cut mullet, crab, soft plastic shad imitations, soft plastic shrimp imitations, spoons, spinnerbaits, crankbaits

Live finger mullet, live mud minnows, soft plastic shad imitations, curl-tailed grubs

SUMMER

Topwaters, spoons (especially at the jetties), shad imitation soft plastics, shrimp imitation soft plastics, live shrimp, live shad, live finger mullet

Live or cut mullet, live croaker, crab, spoons, soft plastic shad imitations, soft plastic shrimp imitations, spinnerbaits, crankbaits

Live finger mullet, live mud minnows, live shrimp, soft plastic shad imitations, curl-tailed grubs

FALL

Topwaters, spoons, live shrimp, shrimp imitation soft plastics

Live or cut mullet, live croaker, crab, spoons, soft plastic shad imitations, soft plastic shrimp imitations, spinnerbaits, crankbaits

Live finger mullet, live mud minnows, live shrimp, soft plastic shad imitations, curl-tailed grubs, soft plastic shrimp imitations

SABINE LAKE BOAT ACCESS SITES

- 1 Port Neches Park
- 2 Ancelet's Marina
- 3 Cow Bayou @ Hwy 87
- 4 Lottie's
- 5 Pleasure Island Marina
- 6 Logan Park
- 7 ICWW @ Hwy 87
- 8 Keith Lake Fish Pass off Hwy 87
- 9 Keith Lake @ Hwy 87
- 10 Texas Causeway (North Side) and Mesquite Point (South Side)
- 11 Louisiana Causeway
- 12 Broadway (Sabine Pass)
- 13 Dick Dowling State Historical Park (Sabine Pass)
- 14 Texas Bayou (Sabine Pass)
- 15 Sea Rim State Park Marsh Unit
- 16 Clam Lake - McFaddin Refuge
- 17 Johnson Bayou (Louisiana)
- 18 Star Lake at McFaddin Refuge



PLEASURE ISLAND SERVICES

portarthurtx.gov | visitportarthurtx.com/things-to-do/pleasure-island

Pleasure Island Commission

520 Pleasure Pier Blvd | 409.982.4675

Office that provides general information on the Island, Marina, fishing piers and Pleasure Island businesses

Pleasure Island Marina

520 Pleasure Pier Blvd | 409.982.4675

300 state-of-the-art floating docks

Port Arthur Yacht Club

560 Pleasure Pier Blvd | www.payc.us

Island Grocery

1900 Martin Luther King Dr

409.983.3822

Causeway Bait & Tackle with Grill

3897 Martin Luther King Dr

409.985.4811

Pleasure Island RV Park

540 South Spoil Levee Rd

409.651.4171

Walter Umphrey State Park and RV

3900 Martin Luther King Dr

337.802.4320 | 409.736.2851

Cajun Cabins & Cajun Cabins RV Park

1900 TB Ellison Pkwy | 409-982-6050

Waterview RV Resort

150 Pleasure Pier Blvd | 409-543-7161

Saltwater Anglers League of Texas

900 TB Ellison Pkwy | www.saltclub.net

Pleasure Island Boardwalk

409.982.4675

Entry points located at end of Pleasure Pier Blvd and off of South Spoil Levee Road

Pleasure Island Boat Yard

914 TB Ellison Pkwy | 651.636.5778

Engine repair; plumbing repair; sail, rigging & mast service; hull maintenance & repair; boat lift services; fiberglass repair; boat transportation; storage unit leasing and welding service



ACCOMMODATIONS

PORT ARTHUR

Home 2 Suites
www.home2suites3.hilton.com
2750 Home Two Plaza
409.999.3464

Park Central Inn
2929 Jimmy Johnson Blvd.
409.724.5000

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
www.hiexpress.com
3115 Central Mall
409.853.4114

Hampton Inn & Suites
www.portarthursuites.hamptoninn.com
7660 Memorial Blvd.
409.722.6999

Comfort Inn & Suites
www.choicehotels.com
7800 Memorial Blvd.
409.729.0500

La Quinta
www.laquinta.com
7540 Memorial Blvd.
409.722.8383 | 409.722.8385

TownePlace Suites by Marriott
www.marriott.com
2700 Port Plaza Drive
409.722.2700

Days Inn & Suites
www.wyhdhamhotels.com
7340 Memorial Blvd
409.999.3430

Baymont Inn and Suites
www.baymontinns.com
3801 Hwy. 73 | 409.962.9858

Cajun Cabins
www.pleasureislandtx.com
1900 T.B. Ellison Parkway
Pleasure Island
409.982.6050

Super 8 Motel & Suites
www.super8.com
7700 Memorial Blvd.
409.722.1012

Studio 6 Suites
www.staystudio6.com
3000 Jimmy Johnson Blvd.
409.729.6611

Best Western Inn and Suites
COMING WINTER 2020

Rodeway
www.choicehotels.com
3838 Hwy 73 | 409.983.7255

Econolodge
www.choicehotels.com
4500 Hwy 73 | 409.962.4500

Mainstay Inn & Suites
www.choicehotels.com
7648 Memorial Blvd.
409.729.8880

Three Rivers Inn & Suites
hotelthreerivers.com/
2015 Hwy 73 | 409.983.8000

Sabine Pass Motel
5623 Greenwich St.
Sabine Pass | 409.213.5020

Sea Rim State Park Cabin
tpwd.texas.gov/state.parks/
sea.rim/fees.facilities/cabin
19335 S Gulfway Drive
Sabine Pass | 409.971.2559

Aurora B & B
141 Woodworth Blvd.
409.983.4205

America's Best Value Inn
7440 Memorial Blvd.
409.722.1034

Suburban Extended Stay Hotel
www.suburbanhotels.com
6900 Memorial Blvd./Hwy. 69
409.722.9120

Seagull Motel
6828 Gulfway Drive
409.962.4437

Royal Inn
3015 Highway 73
409.736.1554

Relax Inn
2811 Memorial Blvd.
409.985.9316

Driftwood Inn
3700 Memorial Blvd.
409.985.8411

Quality Inn & Suites
www.qualityinn.com
8040 Memorial Hwy./Hwy.69
409.729.3434

Residence In by Marriott
OPENING WINTER 2020
Jimmy Johnson Blvd.

RV PARKS

A.O.K. RV Park
2135 61st St/Spur 93
W. Port Arthur Road
409.781.3591 | 409.988.9274

Access RV Park/Cozy Cabins
2565 95th St. | Port Arthur
409.729.8000

Cajun Cabins RV Park
1900 MLK Blvd. | Port Arthur
409.983.3822

Pleasure Island RV Park
540 South Spoil Levee Rd.
Port Arthur | 409.651.4171
409.982.4675

Port Arthur RV Resort
2950 W. Hwy 365
409.736.3010

Driftwood RV Park
3700 Memorial Blvd/Hwy 69
Port Arthur | 409.985.8411

Drop On In RV Park
5241 Greenwich St. (off 87 S)
Port Arthur | 409.728.0227
409.728.1262

Sea Rim State Park
19335 State Hwy 87
Sabine Pass | 409.971.2559

Walter Umphrey State Park
3900 Martin Luther King Dr.,
Pleasure Island | Port Arthur
409.802.4320 | 409.736.2851

Waterview RV Resort on Pleasure Island
150 Pleasure Pier Blvd
Port Arthur | 409.543.7161

New Lloyd's RV Park
350 Twin City Hwy/Hwy 347
Port Neches | 409.727.1666

In the Middle RV Park
9017 Hildebrandt Rd.
Beaumont | 409.730.9198

LaBelle RV
8351 FM 365 | LaBelle
409.796.2910 | 409.626.1586

AREA FISHING GUIDES

SABINE LAKE AND OFFSHORE CHARTERS



Captain Randy's Guide Service
Randy Foreman | 409.719.6067
www.fishsabine.com

Sabine Lake Guide Service
Jerry Norris | 409.718.8782
www.sabinelakefishing.com

Golden Hook Guide Service
Eddie Hernandez | 409-673-3100
www.goldenhookguide.com

Sabine Outdoors
Chris Phillips | 409-719-7166

Coastal Outfitters
Steve Davis | 409-460-1220
www.coastaloutfittersguideservice.com

Have Boat Will Travel
Bill Watkins | 409-786-2018
409-673-9211
www.fishsabinelake.com

Wakes-n-Drakes
Chuck Uzzle | 409-697-6111
www.wakesndrakes.com

Colburn's Sabine Connection
Dickie Colburn | 409-883-0723
www.sabineconnection.com

Happy Hooker Charters
Joshua Davis | 409.454.1794
www.facebook.com/HappyHookerCharters

Lucky Lindy Charters
Lindy Hebert | 409.720.8148
www.luckylindycharter.com

Sabine Lake Lodge
Colby Denbow | 409.673.4487
www.sabinelakelodge.com

Muddy Bug Outfitters (Kayak)
281-881-8776 | Facebook: Muddy Bug Outfitters

Smok'n Reelz Guide Service
409.454.1794
www.smoknreelz.com

For updated information or changes to fishing guide listings please visit:
www.visitportarthurtx.com

Saltwater Anglers' League
of Texas Sabine Area
**SALT SUMMER
CLASSIC (JULY)
FISHING
TOURNAMENT**
PLEASURE ISLAND

Contact Steve Simmons
409.201.7418

*Elite Redfish Series, as seen on
Discovery Channel*





OTHER SERVICES

BAIT ★ TACKLE ★ SERVICES

Please call to verify availability of live bait.

Pleasure Island Marina

- Accommodations for power and sailing vessels
- 300 state-of-the-art floating docks
- 50 and 30 amp electrical
- Permanent availability as well as seasonal and overnight
- Spacious bath house and rest rooms
- Fresh water available at each slip
- Free on-site self-serve pump out station
- Fueling Station
- Boat Launch
- Boat Repair Yard
- Water depth in basin 7'
- Additional amenities available with membership in Yacht Club

Sabine Pass Port Authority

Centrally located on the Sabine/ Neches waterway

- Accommodates 60' - 18' boats
- 24-hour staff
- 87 slips for power or sailing vessels
- 30 and 50 amp electrical
- Liveaboard availability
- Bath house and rest rooms
- Water available at each slip
- Free self-serve pump out station
- Fuel available – Non-ethanol & diesel
- Water depth 8'
- Live bait and concession area
- Covered stalls with boat lifts available
- Food/Drink on site
- Ice on site
- Marine/fishing supplies

Academy Sports & Outdoor

8453 Memorial Blvd. | Port Arthur
409.723.6800

Ancelet's Marina

Hwy. 73 | Port Arthur | (under Rainbow Bridge) | Launch available with self pay box

Causeway Bait and Tackle

3897 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Port Arthur | (On Pleasure Island)
409.985.4811 | Live bait, fishing supplies and deli/grill

Island Grocery

1900 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Port Arthur | 409.983.3822

Sportsman's Supply

5310 S. Gulfway Drive | Port Arthur
Located in Sabine Pass | 409.971.2535
Fishing tackle and supplies

Fish or Hunt

3001 Hwy 73 | Port Arthur
409.736.1900 | Live bait

Luck in a Bucket Bait Camp

344 Hwy 365 | Port Arthur | 409.736.3486

Sabine Pass Port Authority & Marina

5960 So. First Avenue | Sabine Pass
409.971.2411 | Live bait
409.971.2153 Marina Attendant
www.sabinepassportauthority.com

County Home & Outdoors

2862 Hwy 69 North | Nederland
409.722.7100 | Fishing gear, tackle and marine service center

Outcast Tackle

5603 E. Parkway St. | Groves
409.960.6866 | Rod & reel repairs and tackle

Sarge Custom Rods

1708 FM 365 | Nederland | 512.913.1334

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chapman's Piloting, Seamanship & Small Boat Handling, Charles F. Chapman, The Hearst Corporation, 1979, 1994.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service

United States Coast Guard

United States Department of Commerce

United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/artificialreef

For other current information on navigation and piloting in the Sabine Lake area, please refer to the U.S. coastal Pilot #5 and the U.S. Coast Guard's Notice to Mariners, available at www.navcen.uscg.gov.

Contributing Authors

Chester Moore

Ronnie Moon

Glenn Flood

David Roberts

J. Brooke Shipley, Ph.D.

Chief Scientist/GIS Ana-

lyst Texas Parks & Wildlife

Department Artificial Reefs

Program

Roy Neves, Publisher Texas

Fish & Game

Joe Trombley, Hook-N-Line

Contributing Photographers

Chester Moore

Pat Malone, *The Elite*

Redfish Series

Michelle Summerlin

Curt Edgerton

Lene' McCoy

Mary Lewis

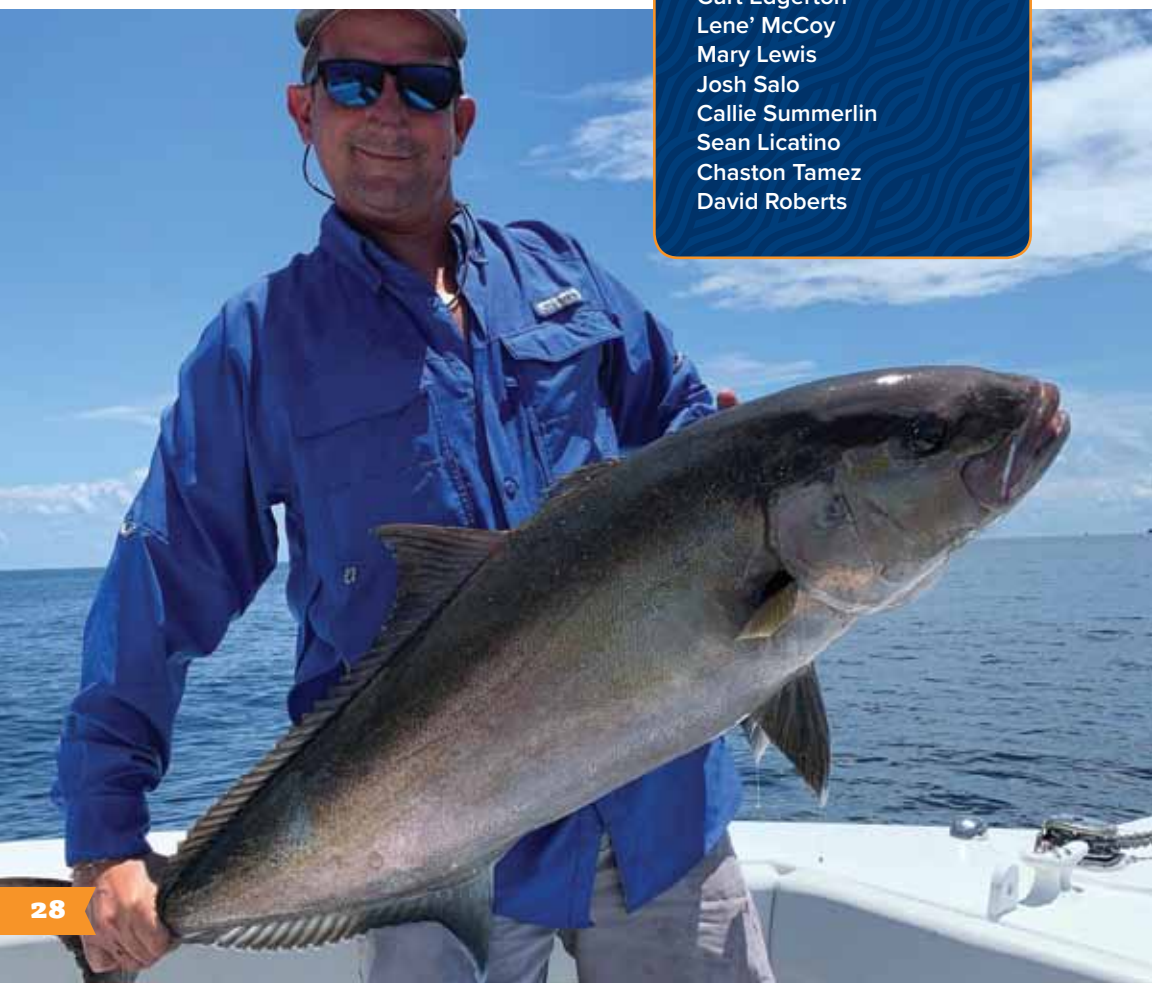
Josh Salo

Callie Summerlin

Sean Licatino

Chaston Tamez

David Roberts





If you have an emergency call 911.

Other important numbers are:

Ambulance // 409.729.9300

Fire Department // 409.983.8700

Jefferson County Sheriff // 409.835.8411

Police // 409.983.8600

U.S. Coast Guard-

Air & Sea Rescue // 409.971.2205

(or contact Coast Guard at Channel 16 VHF)



Selfie alert! Tag your next big catch
with **#loveportarthurtx** and share
on your social media.

Visit **Port Arthur**
TEXAS

Convention & Visitors Bureau

3401 Cultural Center Dr // Port Arthur, TX 77642



01/01/20

409.985.7822 // visitportarthurtx.com