

FISHING

PORT ARTHUR'S SABINE LAKE AREA WATERWAYS GUIDE



BOATING & SERVICES DIRECTORY
FISHING & NAVIGATION INFORMATION ★ REGULATIONS CHARTS ANCHORAGES

409.985.7822 // visitportarthurtx.com

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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

BOATER EDUCATION
1.800.792.1112

BOAT REGISTRATION AND BOAT INFORMATION
1.800.262.8755

or visit

tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/safety

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.

SABINE LAKE BOAT ACCESS SITES

- 1 Port Neches Park
- 2 Seapony Marina (formerly Ancelet's)
- 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





AREA FISHING GUIDES

SABINE LAKE AND OFFSHORE CHARTERS



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

Sabine Lake Guide Service
Jerry Norris | 409.718.8782
sabinelakefishing.com

Golden Hook Guide Service
Eddie Hernandez | 409.673.3100
goldenhookguide.com

Have Boat Will Travel
Bill Watkins | 409.786.2018
409.673.9211
fishsabinelake.com

Wakes-n-Drakes
409.697.6111
wakesndrakes.com

Sabine Lake Lodge
Colby Denbow | 409.673.4487
sabinelakelodge.com

Right Tide Fishing Co.
409.718.8782
sabinefishing.com

Sabine Outdoors
Chris Phillips | 409.719.7166
sabinelakeguide.com

Sabine Trails Guide Service
Klate Gohlke | 409.718.6600
fb: sabinetrailsguideservice

Right Tide Fishing Co.
Dustin Seeton | 469.531.1512
fb: righttidefishingco

DEEP SEA & CRUISES

HappyHooker Charters
Joshua Davis | 409.454.1794
fb: happyhookercharters

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

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 Port of Sabine Pass' 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



PORT ARTHUR FISHING CALENDAR

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



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'

Port of Sabine Pass

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
- Bath house and rest rooms
- Water available at each slip
- Free self-serve pump out station
- Fuel available – Non-ethanol & diesel
- Water depth 8'
- Covered stalls with boat lifts available
- Ice on site
- Fishermen's Cottage: overnight cabin for rent on [vrbo.com/4052493](https://www.vrbo.com/4052493)
- 465 ft. concrete pier for large vessels

Academy Sports & Outdoor

8453 Memorial Blvd. | Port Arthur
409.723.6800

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

Savannah Live Bait Shop

1948 Savannah Ave | Port Arthur
409.982.0800

Port of Sabine Pass

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

County Home & Outdoors

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

Sarge Custom Rods

1708 FM 365 | Nederland | 512.913.1334
sargecustoms.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 red-

fish 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.



Sabine Lake Area Access & FISHING SPOTS

Sabine Lake area keeps you casting all year long. Trout, flounder and redfish are some favorites keeping anglers casting in Sabine Lake. Catch some big fun in Port Arthur, the Cajun Capital of Texas. On the upper Texas Gulf Coast, warmer weather gets speckled trout, redfish and black drum active. Weather patterns from December through February make the rules. Read up on some area fishing spots and what you're likely to find there:

Oyster Shell Reef In warmer months, drift the oyster shell reef from deep water near the causeway bridge to Blue Buck Point on the Louisiana shoreline. It's patchy, but drifting will generally keep you over the reef. The public ramp at the causeway on Pleasure Island's southern tip is the best access. After launching, you're within a one-minute run to this sprawling reef. Speckled trout and redfish are the prime targets but black drum, gafftop catfish, sand trout and an occasional alligator gar are not unusual.

PRO TIP: Cut the motor, drift with the tide. Bounce artificial baits such as lead-head jigs tipped with plastic shrimp imitation tails, grubs or worms, along the lake bottom.

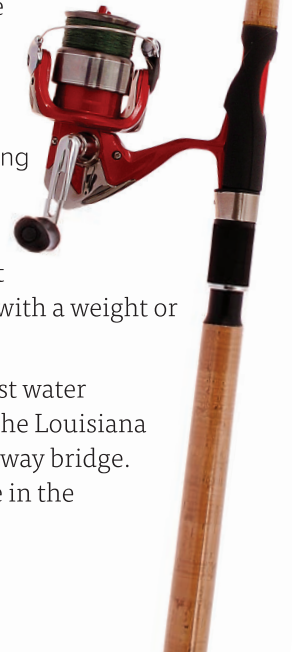
Tidal Movement Tide moves the bait and fish over the oyster shell, stalking vulnerable shrimp, finger mullet, crabs and minnows. Anglers sometimes secure a float on a weighted line to mark a spot and return to hook another. Fish feeding over reefs often hang in select spots according to current activities and may remain until the tide changes.

Don't let a slack tide discourage your quest. Revving the trolling motor will allow productive activities through the same area.

PRO TIP: Anchor your vessel, cast and maneuver artificial lures slowly across the bottom for proven success at catching reef species.

Prefer natural baits? Speckled trout, redfish and other inshore game fish do, too. Go for fresh or frozen shrimp, cut mullet, squid and mud minnows. Fish them on the bottom with a weight or freeline them in the current.

Into the Deep The reef is 5 to 30 feet deep with the deepest water running through the channel between Mesquite Point and the Louisiana shoreline. The water is generally deeper closest to the causeway bridge. Fish tend to go deeper in cold weather. As temperatures rise in the spring, fish venture into shallow areas.



Reef fishing becomes less productive as spring temperatures warm the water and fish scatter into the flats and become less concentrated. Those who persevere can still find speckled trout and redfish. 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.

Work the Birds for Feeding Frenzy Balmy springs warm Sabine Lake and gamefish scatter off the reef. It's time to work birds, fishing slicks and shorelines. Speckled trout feeding on shrimp and bait fish attract hungry gulls. Boaters scan the horizon for diving birds. Spot a flock, position your boat upwind then drift or use an electric trolling motor to approach the feeding frenzy. When speckled trout and redfish are feeding under diving birds, they'll often strike any bait. For best distance and accuracy, cast with shrimp tail jigs or spoons. How many hooks? Go for Single-hooked spoons or jigs over trebles to prevent time lost to extracting multiple hooks.



PRO TIP: DON'T motor directly into diving birds. It scares the birds and scatters the school. Several vessels can work the same flocks. Keep it calm and safe in Sabine Lake!

Fishing Slicks Do you smell watermelon? When game fish attack shrimp and bait fish, you can spot smooth and glassy oils above the feeding. A gentle breeze makes the slick more visible. You may even catch an aroma reminiscent of ripe watermelon downwind.

PRO TIP: Position yourself downwind of the slick and drift or troll within casting distance. Live shrimp dangled under a popping cork is a safe bet. Or match artificial lure to bait being attacked. If fish are eating shrimp, use a shrimp imitation.

Sabine Lake Shorelines Work When It's Warmer – Marshes rimming the lake's eastern shorelines are breeding grounds teeming with incredible varieties of aquatic life. Redfish and more wait for easy meals during high and falling tides. Use a trolling motor or drift grassy shorelines and bayou mouths.

Preferred baits: Gold spoons, minnow or mullet imitations, topwaters and plastic tails. Or try shrimp or mud minnows under a popping cork or worked slowly across the bottom.

Upper or Lower Ends? Fresher water is near the mouths of the Neches and Sabine Rivers. The confluence provides a constant source of food and nutrients for hungry fish.



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. Look for the noteworthy Veteran's Memorial and Rainbow Bridges 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 Seapony Marina (formerly Ancelet's.)

Sabine Lake's North End Are flounder, trout and redfish your goal? Head to Bailey's Road and fish Old River Cove, Stewts and Sydney Island, Coffee Ground Cove, and East Pass. Optimum tides are in spring and fall and related to new and full moon.

Access Bessie Heights Marsh by launching at Port Neches Park Boat Ramp or the Lower Neches WMA, sticking to the canals and avoid the flats until you're familiar with the area.

PRO TIP: The lake's North End offers miles of prime flounder habitat. Flounder favor hard mud or sandy bottoms where they wait for bait fish. Try dragging mud minnows and live/dead shrimp along the bottom for success.

ELITE FISHING SERIES IS AMERICA'S PREMIER PROFESSIONAL REDFISH TOURNAMENT SERIES



Watch past Port Arthur episodes featured on the Discovery Channel.





Keith Lake Keith Lake, on Highway 87 between Port Arthur and Sabine Pass, is a chain of lakes boasting some of the best redfishing on the Gulf Coast. It's one of the few sites on the upper coast where fishermen can sight and cast to tailing redfish. Work the birds in spring and fall. The fish pass, cut from the ship channel through the marsh into Keith Lake, channels bait and fish toward anglers.

Caution: This chain is shallow and dotted with scattered oyster beds. A shallow draft V-haul or flat bottom boat are necessary for safe exploration of this exquisite body of water hidden in marsh.

Consider crabbing. Peruse the levees at **Pleasure Island**, both sides of the ship channel and Texas Bayou for large blue crabs. Crabbing is a sure-fire kid pleaser. A chicken neck on a line, cast along the levee, should get claw tug. Carefully drag in your catch. Cajuns in these parts love a good crab gumbo.

Crabbing at Keith Lake





The Sabine Jetties These two 3-mile granite structures provide some of the best variety of in-shore or near-shore fishing potential. The jetties serve as artificial reefs creating productive habitat for an astounding variety of marine life. They protect the terminus of the Sabine Neches ship channel in the gulf. Easiest access the county ramp at Sabine Pass and the causeway ramp on Pleasure Island.

What's Out There Speckled trout, redfish, Spanish mackerel, jack crevalle, black drum, sheepshead, gafftop, sharks, rays, flounder, gulf trout, croakers and other pan fish gather here.

Maybe kingfish and ling will appear.

Best Time Fishing is promising all year. Optimum time is early March through late November.

BEST TECHNIQUES

Walk the Rocks Position your boat on the on the leeward side of the rocks and anchor on the jetty. Pay attention to changes in the winds and currents to keep your boat out of the rocks. Start walking. Fish often hang close to rocks, so cast parallel to the jetty on your first try. The best area for flatter walking surface is the last half of the east jetty. Be cautious at all times, especially on the remainder of the east jetty and entire west jetty because these areas are more rocky, creviced and slippery when wet.

Anchoring by the Jetties Cruise jetties searching for clear water, bait fish, surface feeding, slicks or a fellow angler's bent rod, then anchor. Shrimp fished on bottom, freelined or under a popping cork will attract fish. Artificial lure options: Spoons, plastic shrimp tails or mullet imitation plugs.

Drifting Along the Granite Structures – Check the wind. Drifting or trolling boats lets you cover lots of ground to find those fish. Go with artificial or live baits.

Bank Fishing Pleasure Island offers 12 miles of levee fishing. The south end has 6 miles of paved road starting just past the RV park and winding back to Highway 87. On the north end, past the unoccupied golf course and to the left, is 6 more miles of paved levee road.

Bring the family for a day of fishing, or crabbing, on either bank. Look for speckled trout, flounder, redfish and other species.

Offshore Gulf Waters The Gulf of Mexico offers some of the best shore fishing anywhere. It's not bragging if it's true! Offshore traditions such as rig hopping, shrimp fleet chasing, fishing weed lines and underwater structures are all ways to work the gulf.

Reel in impressive catches from a short trek out to a 100-mile odyssey into the famous gulf. Several gas and oil production platforms are within a 10-mile radius of the jetties end. They become artificial reefs and habitat for the entire range of offshore species. Platforms are highly visible so there's less need for sophisticated depth finder gear.

Fishing the Rigs Attach rig hooks and let the ambush begin! Get your boat upwind from the rig and drift by, constantly casting to find fish.

Try jiggling baits next to rig legs and cast away, working a bat along the bottom and varying your retrieve to determine what the fish want that day. No tugs? No worries. Head to another spot. Hence the term, "rig hopping."

Cast For Speckled trout, redfish, black drum, tripletail, sharks, ling, kingfish and other lurking gamefish.

Snapper love the rig life. Red, gray, mangrove and other snapper varieties gather around offshore structures. Anchoring near or tying on to a rig in 50 or more feet of water lets the angler fill a fish box with some of the most succulent meat in the gulf.

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

Contact Steve Simmons
409.201.7418
sabinesaltclub.net



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 harvest as many as they have hooks on their lines.

• Squid is the favored bait, but cut bait such as mullet, ribbon fish or icefish will get the job done.

Shrimp Boats Port Arthur's professional shrimp boats can attract trophy fish to you. As shrimpers cull their catch, gamefish go for the smorgasbord. Anchor in the area.

Fishing Weed Lines Dolphin, pompano, tripletail, kingfish, ling and the elusive billfish love weedlines. Troll or drive along offshore weedlines for non-stop fishing fun.

18-Mile Light This favorite fishing spot is 10 miles south of the Sabine jetties. It marks the Sabine Ridge where the water depth changes from 45 to 18 feet. The cigar-shaped light alerts passing ships to the shallow waters and attracts a variety of game fish. Anchor here and add this adventure to your fish tales.

Artificial Reefs Underwater structures benefit marine life thriving in reefs and enhance recreational fishing opportunities. The Sabine Pass area currently hosts four artificial reefs, with additional reefs under construction this year and more planned for the future. The Sabine, SALT and Basco Reefs are between 17 - 22 miles from the Sabine Pass Jetties in depths of water ranging from 40' to 50.' These 3 reefs are well-known for a variety of fish, including red snapper, cobia, sharks, mackerel and red drum.

The 2018 HI-20 reef is approximately .8 miles from the Sabine Pass jetty. Expect red drum, speckled trout and mackerel.

The HI-54 development, planned for 2024, will be located at Shallow Reef, approximately 9 miles from the Sabine Pass jetty and 1.9 miles off the coast near Sea Rim State Park. This reef will be a haven for speckled trout, red drum, mackerel, jack-fish and sharks.

For more information on the artificial reefs of Texas you can go to TPWD Artificial Reef Inactive Map web site. Check the pocket in the back of this book for a printed copy.





SEA RIM STATE PARK

409.971.2559

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

State Park Fishing: A fishing license is not required to fish from shore of any Texas State Park upon receipt of park entry permit.



Shore Fishing Ever caught a shark? Sea Rim State Park's 5.2 miles of open beaches attract a plethora of game fish and prey. Fish the surf or with light tackle.

From the Surf: Cast cut mullet or whiting baits with a 10- to 12-foot surf rod within the troughs, or between sandbars. Watch for strong currents: Bait should be anchored down with a surf weight, with tines protruding out to dig into sandy bottoms. Casting bait in the second trough or beyond commonly yields bull reds, redfish over 28 inches. Redfish average 20-25 pounds but bullreds can be up to 50. They're not uncommon and are around all year, but fall is considered the best time for these big ones. Big black drum are caught during the winter and early spring when using blue crab for bait. These brutes are akin to the big redfish, but in Texas, we grow them big, like up to 80 pounds big.

Light tackle: Go for 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 for whiting, black drum and red drum (redfish). These are considered "good eating." In summer when surf water is clear, casting spoons, jigs and "mirrolures" will attract speckled trout. Limiting out on "specs" can be easy when the water "greens up."

Bullreds more than 28 inches require a completed RedDrum Tag furnished on a Texas Saltwater Fishing License. A bonus Red Drum Tag is also available to licensed anglers. Sea Rim State park participates in the Free Loaner Tackle Program. Park users must furnish 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 an 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 mention gators? 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.





PLEASURE ISLAND SERVICES

portarthurtx.gov | visitpleasureislandtx.com

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

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

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

Pleasure Island RV Park

540 South Spoil Levee Rd

409.651.4171

Pleasure Island RV Park 2

150 Pleasure Pier Blvd | 409.651.4171

Saltwater Anglers League of Texas

900 TB Ellison Pkwy

sabinesaltclub.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

Residence Inn by Marriott Port Arthur

marriott.com
2740 Jimmy Johnson Blvd
409.293.4021

Clarion Pointe

choicehotels.com
2600 Port Plaza Drive
409.344.9786

Home 2 Suites

home2suites3.hilton.com
2750 Home Two Plaza
409.999.3464

Holiday Home Park Central

ihg.com
2929 Jimmy Johnson Blvd.
409.724.5000

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

hiexpress.com
3115 Central Mall | 409.853.4114

Hampton Inn & Suites

portarthursuites.hamptoninn.com
7660 Memorial Blvd.
409.722.6999

Comfort Inn & Suites

choicehotels.com
7800 Memorial Blvd.
409.729.0500

La Quinta Inn & Suites

laquinta.com
7540 Memorial Blvd.
409.722.8383 | 409.722.8385

TownePlace Suites by Marriott

marriott.com
2700 Port Plaza Drive
409.722.2700

Days Inn & Suites

wyndhamhotels.com
7340 Memorial Blvd.
409.999.3430

Baymont Inn and Suites

wyndhamhotels.com/baymont
3801 Hwy. 73 | 409.962.9858

Cajun Cabins

pleasureislandtx.com
1900 T.B. Ellison Parkway
Pleasure Island | 409.982.6050

Super 8 Motel & Suites

super8.com
7700 Memorial Blvd. | 409.722.1012

Studio 6 Suites

staystudio6.com
3000 Jimmy Johnson Blvd.
409.729.6611

stayAPTSuites

stayapt.com
7800 Medical Center Blvd
409.207.1004

Rodeway

choicehotels.com
3838 Hwy 73 | 409.983.7255

Econolodge

choicehotels.com
4500 Hwy 73 | 409.962.4500

Mainstay Inn & Suites

choicehotels.com
7648 Memorial Blvd.
409.729.8880

Crystal Inn

2015 Hwy 73 | 409.983.8000

Staybridge Suites

8580 Medical Center Blvd
409.290.9000

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

Hawthorne Suites by Wyndham

wyndhamhotels.com
7440 Memorial Blvd.
409.722.1034

Hallmarc Studios

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

qualityinn.com
8040 Memorial Hwy., Hwy.69
409.729.3434

Best Western Plus Mid County

bestwestern.com
7550 Anchor Drive
409.237.5749

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

Pleasure Island RV Park 2

150 Pleasure Pier Blvd
Port Arthur | 409.651.4171

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

Golden Triangle RV Resort

5760 West Port Arthur Road
Port Arthur | 409.299.8208

Hidden Palms RV Park

412 FM 365 | Port Arthur
409.999.6066

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

Diamond M RV Park

2918 Hwy 69 | Nederland
409.344.4392

LaBelle RV

8351 FM 365 | LaBelle
409.796.2910 | 409.626.1586

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: 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: 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 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.



*Fishing the piers at
McFaddin National
Wildlife Refuge*



FISHERMAN'S COTTAGE AT THE PORT OF SABINE PASS

Escape to Fisherman's Cottage, the perfect retreat for anglers! Park your boat right in front of this cozy waterfront cabin and take advantage of the fish cleaning table and designated fishing spots to prepare your big catch. Relax on the screened-in porch, enjoy a well-equipped kitchen, and unwind with a big-screen TV, comfy recliners, and all the amenities needed for a memorable stay.

[vrbo.com/4052493](https://www.vrbo.com/4052493)



Cajun cuisine



Nightlife

PORT ARTHUR

Top Three Cuisines

We're known for our fresh Gulf caught Cajun seafood, authentic neighborhood Vietnamese and Southern Tex-Mex menus. Scan the QR code to browse all that Southeast Texas dining has to offer.

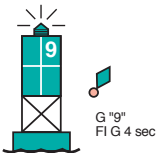


U.S. AIDS TO NAVIGATION

LATERAL AIDS AS SEEN ENTERING FROM SEAWARD

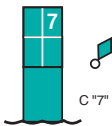
Port Side
Odd Numbers

Light
Rhythms



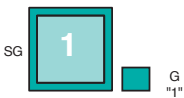
Lighted Buoy\
(Green Light Only)

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)

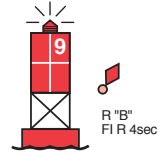


Lighted (White Light)

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

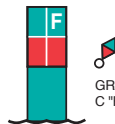
Light
Rhythm

Composite Group Flashing (2-1)

Preferred Channel
to Starboard



Lighted Buoy
(Green Light Only)



Can Buoy
(Unlighted)



Daymark

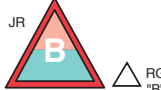
Preferred Channel
to Port



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:

<u>stb tack</u>	<u>on same tack</u>	<u>leeward</u>
<u>port tack</u>	<u>tack</u>	<u>windward</u>
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.

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

tpwd.state.tx.us/artificial_reef

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 navcen.uscg.gov.

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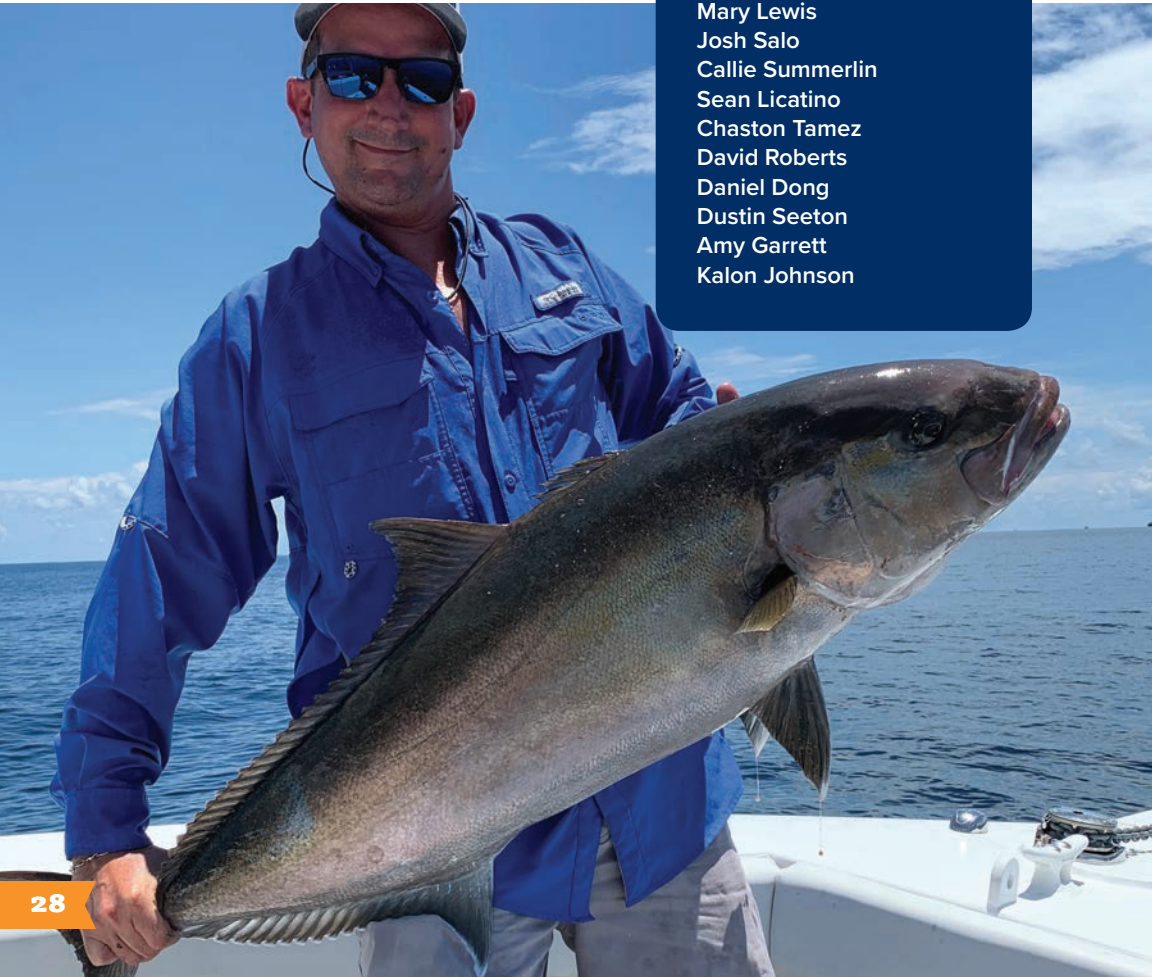
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Dustin Seeton

Amy Garrett

Kalon Johnson





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)



Dave Roberts

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

Visit **Port Arthur** TEXAS

Convention & Visitors Bureau
3401 Cultural Center Dr // Port Arthur, TX 77642



409.985.7822 // visitportarthurtx.com