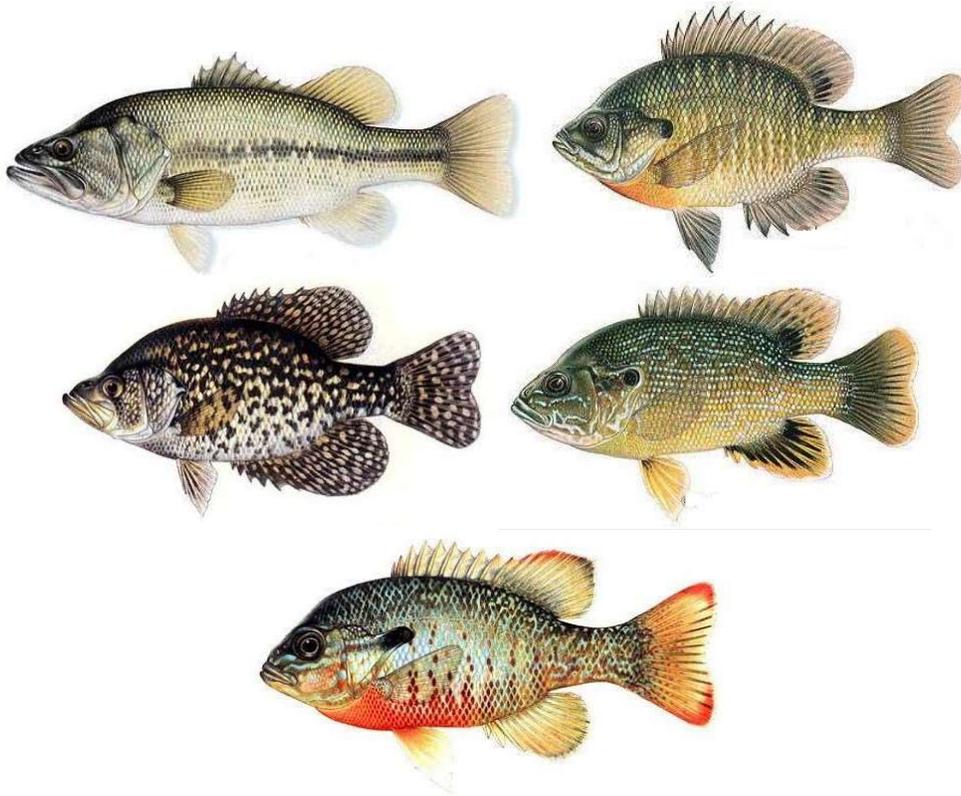


# Woodruff Scout Camp

## Fishing Guidebook

A Guide to Fish Identification & Fishing Regulations





## Woodruff Scout Camp Fishing Regulations

Except as noted below, fishing is permitted from the shoreline, the Stembler Bridge and the nature docks, unless otherwise indicated by “No Fishing” signs.

Fishing is **never permitted** in the area beginning at the wooden fence at the small boat area continuing 25 yards past the Boat Ramp. This includes all docks in the small boat area, the aquatics swim area and the motorboating dock.

A fishing license is not required to fish at Woodruff Scout Camp.

Fish may be taken by hook and line only.

Fish may not be taken by the use of nets, traps or by any means other than hook and line.

There are no restrictions on artificial lures or baits.

The use of shiners, minnows or other fish, live or dead, is strictly prohibited.

Catch and release is appropriate if the fish are not to be consumed, but it is not a mandatory camp policy.

Fish not being kept for consumption should be carefully returned to the water as soon as possible after being landed.

The taking of large strings of fish is not permitted.

An angler may keep a reasonable number of fish for immediate consumption.

While there are no specific size limits, the following guidelines should be observed:

Panfish under 4” in length should be released

Bass under 10” or over 14” should be released

All anglers are expected to properly dispose of all trash, unused bait, line and other litter.

The Ranger and/or Camp Management can clarify or interpret these regulations as needed.

# No Fishing Area



Revised 5/1/22



## **Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)**

Largemouth bass have a dark green upper body fading into a whitish belly, with a series of dark marks forming a dark horizontal band along the sides. As water clarity decreases, colors fade and fish tend to be more silver in appearance. They can be distinguished from other bass species by their large mouth. When the mouth is closed, the upper jaw extends well beyond the eye. In addition, there is a deep notch between their dorsal fins, making the two fins appear separate.

The largemouth bass is probably the most sought after game fish in the country. They are known for their aggressiveness and their willingness to eat most anything. These fish are ambush predators and will generally relate to some sort of structure (stumps, logs, vegetation, docks, and other debris) where it will lie in wait for an easy meal to pass nearby. There are exceptions to this, as sometimes they will hold in open water, especially in impoundments, where there is abundant shad or other open water baitfish populations.

To find largemouth bass, look for fallen trees and stumps as well as rocky drop-offs and overhanging banks. You should fish these areas with a variety of lures until you find what the fish are wanting. Good choices for largemouth are spinners, crankbaits and rat-1-traps, jig and pigs, stickbaits, topwaters, and most any soft plastic lures. Bass will also take live worms.

Georgia State Record: 22 lbs. 4 oz., Montgomery Lake, June 2, 1932



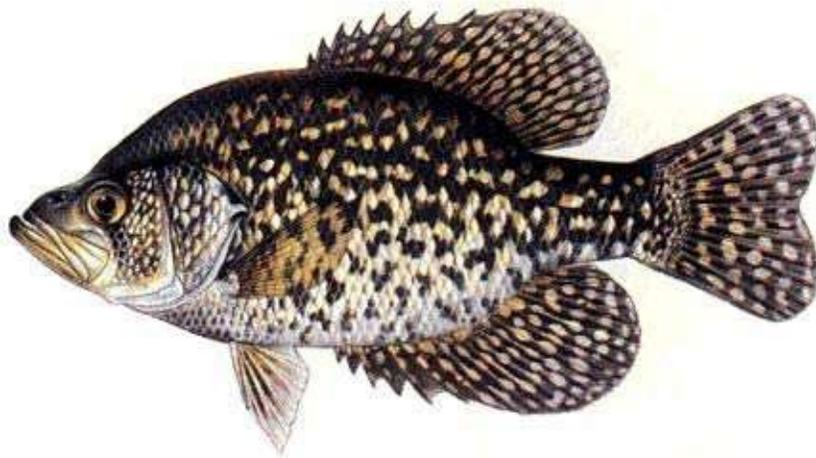
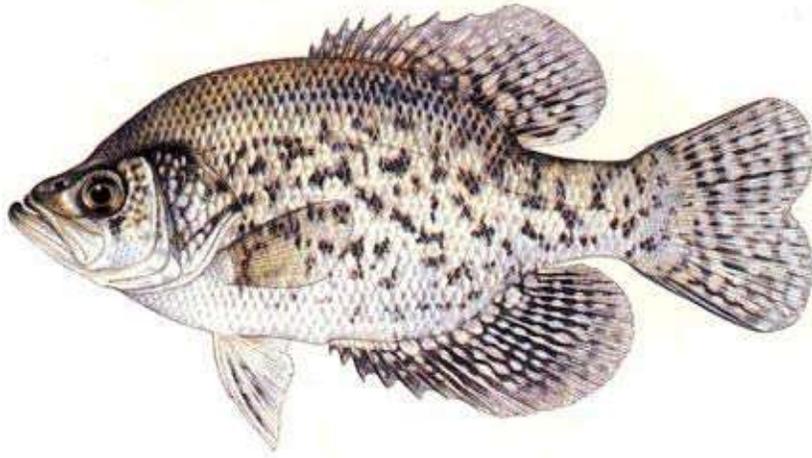
### **Sunfish, Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*)**

The bluegill is a very common fish in many bodies of water across the country. They are a favorite for many panfish anglers because of its willingness to eat most offerings, its taste, and its fighting ability. They can be found in a variety of environments from streams and rivers to small ponds and large impoundments.

Bluegills are a smaller member of the sunfish family that rarely reaches over 1lb and 16 inches in length. Occasionally they will reach a couple of pounds. Bluegills have a compressed body with a rounded profile. Their back and upper sides are dark olive-green, often with dark vertical bars on the sides, and the belly is pale yellow to light orange. Spawning males have blue on the lower parts of the head and a red breast. They have an entirely dark ear flap and a dark spot in the rear of the dorsal fin, which distinguishes them from all other sunfish. The breeding male of the species is considerably brighter than the female.

This fish can be found in most areas around the lake. They can be found on open banks, but usually will be in areas that have some sort of structure. The best lure choice is small live bait such as worms, crickets, maggots, mealworms, and other small invertebrates. They can also be caught on small artificial lures. Inline spinners, jigs, and small crankbaits are a good choice. Remember these fish have a small mouth so choose your lures accordingly.

Georgia State Record: 3 lbs. 5 oz., Shamrock Lake, July 3, 1977



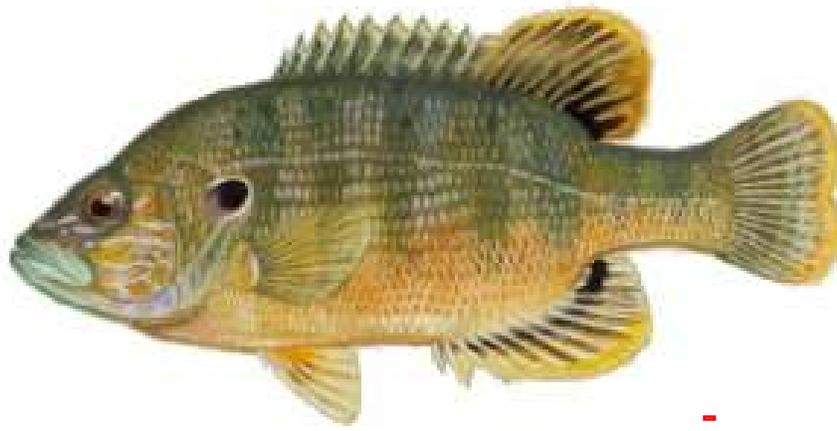
### **Black Crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)**

This fish is a favorite to many because of the quality of the meat, and the larger size that they can reach. They are commonly called papermouths because of the thinness of the skin surrounding the mouth, and its easiness to tear. The species has been so widely introduced into reservoirs and ponds across the country that it is hard to determine where the native range originally was.

Crappies grow larger than a lot of other sunfish species, attaining a length near 20 inches. This fish has a distinctive shape unlike most other sunfish. They have a high back with 7 to 8 spines on the dorsal fin with the soft rays of the dorsal fin rounded and extending above the spines. They have a large mouth that has very thin skin surrounding it. The coloration of the species can vary considerably. Some of the fish will be black on the back with mottled irregular black spots going down the sides over gold to silver belly. Others will be mostly silver with irregular black spots. Because of the light coloration that this fish can have it is often confused with white crappie, which are similar in appearance but have their spots arranged in vertical bars.

Crappies like clear water usually around timber, brush piles, or vegetation. Look for brush piles that have been placed around docks or in coves. Treetops from fallen trees are also make good cover for crappies. Small jigs are the best choice for this species.

Georgia State Record: 4 lbs. 4 oz., Acree's Lake, June 1, 1971



### **Sunfish, Green (*Lepomis cyanellus*)**

The green sunfish is one of the most frequently encountered fish in North America. They have been stocked into many farm ponds and lakes. In streams and rivers they prefer quiet pools and backwaters usually around vegetation.

The green sunfish has a shape that closer resembles the bass species. The body is thicker and more elongated than a bluegill and the mouth is considerably larger. They are generally smaller having a maximum length of about 12 inches. The body is olive green on the back and sides with a yellow lower half. The body has a speckled appearance of metallic green and yellow specks. There are also bluish-green wavy lines from the snout to the back of the gill cover. There is a white to yellow edge around a black ear flap. Adults have a large black spot at the rear of the second dorsal and the anal fin. They have a yellow to white margin around the anal, caudal, and second dorsal fin. These fish have small, rounded pectoral fins and thoracic pelvic fins.

Green sunfish can be caught on the same lures that you would use for bluegill. Due to the larger size of the mouth don't be surprised if you catch one of these fish with your bass lures.

Georgia State Record: 1 lbs. 7 oz., Private Pond, February 25, 2006



### **Sunfish, Redbreast (*Lepomis auritus*)**

This fish is one of the most colorful fish in the sunfish family. They are found in small to medium rivers and streams over rocky and sandy pools. In lakes they are most commonly found around rocky and vegetated margins.

This fish is one of the smaller members of the sunfish family. This fish has a dark olive back and sides with yellow specks and rows of red-brown to orange spots on the upper sides. The lower side has scattered orange spots going down to a white to orange abdomen. They have rounded pectoral fins and thoracic pelvic fins. The shape is more bass-like being slender and thicker with a larger mouth. There are wavy blue lines going from the snout to the opercle and a long black ear flap usually bordered by blue lines. The breeding male is considerably brighter in coloration than the female.

This fish can be caught on the small live bait or small artificial lures. All of the smaller sunfish species will generally eat the same types of food. This allows an angler to catch several species with one bait type.

Georgia State Record: 1 lbs. 11 oz., Private Coweta County Pond, April 16, 1998