

Fishing Lake Lewisville

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Bold Italics denote a glossary word

Introduction



Fishing is one of the oldest human activities. If you are reading this manual, you are about to join a pastime that is one of the greatest and widely practiced in history. People have been fishing for longer than language has been written. In that time, the methods of fishing have evolved. This guide will serve to direct people in Northeast Texas on how to fish one of the larger lakes in the area, Lake Lewisville.

About Fishing

The goal of fishing is to catch fish. A successful fishing campaign can be divided into three major components:

Before fishing

At the Lake

After fishing

Thinking of a trip in these terms will greatly increase your likelihood of catching fish.

Before Fishing

In order to catch fish, there is no part more important than preparing for the trip. You will first need to decide where you are going to fish. Since this manual is about Lake Lewisville, this is where you will be prepared to fish.

After deciding where to fish, it is necessary to know the laws about fishing in the area where you are fishing. Most states require a *fishing license* before you can fish, and Texas is no exception. There are also laws limiting the number and size of each fish you catch, so this guide will help you to avoid breaking the law. Keep in mind that laws can change at any time, and these rules are only correct at the time this manual is being written. You can check these rules at:

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/regulations/fish_hunt/

White, striped and yellow bass

For striped and hybrid striped bass, minimum *length limit* is 18 inches and the *daily bag limit* is 5 in any combination. For white bass, minimum length = 10 inches and daily bag is 25. There are no bag or size limits for yellow bass.

Carp

There is no minimum length limit or daily bag limit for common carp.

Catfish

For blue catfish, length limit is a 30 to 45 inch slot. Blue catfish 30 inches and less or 45 inches or greater in length may be retained. Only one blue catfish 45 inches or greater may be retained each day. For channel catfish, minimum length is 12 inches. The daily bag limit is 25 blue and channel catfish in any

combination. For flathead catfish, minimum length is 18 inches and the daily bag limit is 5.

Crappie

For white and black crappie, their hybrids and subspecies, minimum length limit is 10 inches. The daily bag limit is 25 in any combination.

Gar

For alligator gar, the daily bag limit is 1 fish of any size. No bag limits on other species of gar.

Sunfish

There is no minimum length or daily bag limit on bluegill, redear, warmouth or other species of sunfish.

Trout

For rainbow and brown trout, their hybrids and subspecies, there is no minimum length and the daily bag limit is 5 trout in any combination.

After you know what is and what is not allowed at the lake, it is absolutely essential that you decide what fish you intend on fishing for before you go out there. Because there is such a wide variety of fish, there is no one fishing method that will catch all fish. Here are brief descriptions of the fish species that inhabit Lake Lewisville:

Primary Fish Species in Lake Lewisville

Largemouth Bass- This fish is also known as the black bass, green trout, bigmouth bass or the lineside bass. There is a moderate amount of largemouth bass in Lake Lewisville. These fish generally grow up to 16 inches in length throughout their lifetime. They tend to live in quieter, more vegetative areas and often seek protective cover such as rock ledges and logs.



Spotted Bass- Also known as the Spotted Black Bass, these fish are moderate in population in Lake Lewisville. The bait you can use to catch them is fish and crayfish. You can fish for them in areas that have more current. These fish tend to fight more than other Fish in Lake Lewisville when caught and they can be up to 5.5 pounds.



White Bass - The white bass is also known as the sand bass or the silver bass. These bass are commonly found in Lake Lewisville. You can fish for them in areas with running water where gravel is present. Adults typically feed on the surface of the water, where many insects are present. You can fish for them with ***gizzard and threadfin shad***.



White Crappie - The white crappie is also known as the white perch. These fish are nest builders that nest in the spring. They are very common to Lake Lewisville. You can fish for them minnows or artificial bait. These fish can grow up to 4.5 pounds.



Channel and Blue Catfish: The blue catfish or channel catfish is one of the most populous fish in Lake Lewisville. They can be fished for in dark, secluded areas such as cavities in drift piles, logs, undercut banks, rocks, cans, etc. Young channel catfish feed primarily on small insects. Adults can be fished for with worms. They generally live in streams with low or moderate current. They can be found as large as 36 pounds.



Seasonal Fishing

It is not only important to decide which fish you are going to fish for, it is important to note the season that you are going to go fishing, because different species are more active at different times of the year.

Spring Fishing in Lake Lewisville

The best time to catch 1-10lb Blue Catfish. Fishing a White bass can also be excellent. It also marks the beginning of White bass spawn.

Schedule fills fast as such book early for anticipated fishing trip.

Summer Fishing Trip in Lake Lewisville

Best time of the year to catch White bass.

Fall Fishing in Lake Lewisville

In the early Fall, the catch of Blue Catfish and Channel Catfish increases. During this time bigger Trophy Catfish are produced. This time of the year produces limits of Blue Catfish and the occasional Trophy Catfish on the Lake. The White Bass and Hybrid Striped Bass population remains the same as other time of the year.

Winter Fishing in Lake Lewisville

This is an excellent time for the Big Blue Catfish. This is also the best time to catch the trophy Blue Catfish. This time of the year produces the biggest fish of the year and best number of fish caught on the lake year round. Fishing for a Blue Catfish of 1-10 pounds is also excellent at this time of the year.

After you have decided on what fish to catch, you will need to gather equipment that you will need to catch the fish. Here is the basic equipment you will need to fish for the fish that live in Lake Lewisville:

Fishing Equipment

Tackle Box

A *tackle box* is the most useful device for storing all of your small fishing tools. It is essential for keeping things organized.



Rod

Fishing rods are poles used to cast you line into the water. Rods are classified by how far they bend, but any basic rod will work for fishing at Lake Lewisville.



Reel

The *reel* is attached to the rod near the handle and allows you to retrieve the end of the line. You use this to pull in a fish or simply reel the line in for another cast.



It is not uncommon for reels and rods to be sold together if you are uncertain about attaching the reel to the rod.

Line

Fishing line is stored on the reel and connected to the rod. It allows you to cast your hook and bait far out into the water. Most fishing line is graded by strength and castability. Most fishing line is categorized by the pound of test which indicates how much tension it can endure. Since most fish in Lake Lewisville are ten pounds or less, a ten pound test line is fine for someone new to fishing.



Hooks

The *hook* is a curved piece of metal with a point on the end used to hold bait and catch fish. As the fish bites the bait or the lure, the hook is designed to impale the mouth of the fish and hook it onto the end of your line. Once the fish is hooked you are able to reel the fish in.



Floaters and Weights

Floats and *weights* allow you to adjust the depth at which you are fishing. Weights are tied to the fishing line to allow the hook to set deeper in the water. Where the floater is placed determines the depth that the weight will take your hook. The higher up on the line you place the floater, the deeper you will be fishing. The floater also will notify you if you are receiving a bite from fish as it will dip under water when being pulled by a fish.



Bait and Lures

Many different types of *bait* are used including worms, fish eggs, live fish, frogs, etc. Artificial lures are designed to mimic the behavior of prey. *Lures* spin and reflect colors to grab the attention of the fish.



Worms are great for catching catfish. Lures are better for crappie and bass fishing. Trying a variety of baits and lures is a great way to find out what the fish in Lake Lewisville want.

Putting It All Together

In order to put your whole fishing apparatus together, you must put it together in a very specific order:

- 1. Attach the reel to the rod (if you did not purchase a reel-rod combination)**
- 2. Put the fishing line on the reel**
- 3. Put the bobber on the line**
- 4. Attach the weights**
- 5. Attach the hook to the end of the line**

Once you have the supplies together for the fish and your fishing line ready to go, it is a good idea to gather snacks and other edible goodies since you will probably be fishing for a few hours.

Now that you have everything you need to go on the trip, it is time to head out to Lake Lewisville.

At the Lake

Now that you have fully prepared, it is time to catch fish. This is more of an art than a science, and the main ingredient to a successful fishing trip at Lake Lewisville is patience.

Casting

Casting is the process that you use to get the hook and line in the water. Once the rod is prepared, you will have to cast. Casting is a relatively easy process if done properly. If done improperly, you risk losing your bait, everything attached to your line, and possibly injury.



In order to cast you will need to:

1. Press the line against the rod with your index finger
2. Lift the bail (#1 in the image below)
3. Extend the rod to the side of your body
4. Flick the rod forward while simultaneously lifting your finger



It may be a good idea to practice casting a few times before putting bait on the end of the line. Having to continuously re-bait the hook can take the enjoyment out of fishing.

Now you wait.

Catching the Fish

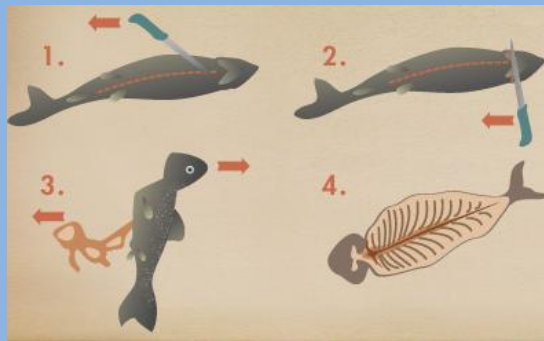
If you used a floater, keep an eye on it. If you did not use a floater, watch the tip of your fishing pole for a significant amount of bending. The fish may just be nibbling at the bait, so you want to wait for the bobber to go underwater or the end of the line to stay noticeably bent for a full three to five seconds before trying to catch the fish. In order to catch the fish, you must “set” the hook in the fish’s mouth. In order to do this, you must give the rod an initial tug. If you tug too hard, you can tear it right through the fish’s mouth. If you do not tug hard enough, the fish will not be on the hook. This is a delicate process, and possibly the most difficult process of fishing for people new to fishing. After setting the hook, it is important to keep tension in the line or the hook may slide back out of the fish’s mouth.

While keeping tension in the line, try to continuously reel in. When the fish is visible and the hook and fish are almost out of the water, grab the line just past the end of the pole and pull the line and fish out of the water at the same time. Do not try to take the fish off the line until you are sure that it will not fall back in the water if you dropped it. Fish are very slippery when they first come out of the water, and it is not unusual to drop a fish as it tries to squirm away.

Now that you have caught the fish, check to make sure that it is of legal length. If it is, there are a few ways to store it. The simplest way is to wait for the fish to stop moving and then put it in the ice cooler.

After Fishing

Once you have caught all the fish you want, you get to reap the benefits of your hard fought



battle with the fish. Here is a basic guide to preparing the fish to be cooked

Once you have your bucket of fish caught and your equipment put away, head home to enjoy your freshly caught meal. Fish die within the first ten minutes of being out of the water, so to avoid eating spoiled fish, place the caught fish in a cooler with ice as soon as possible. When you arrive home, prepare your fish by cleaning, scaling, and gutting, as described below.

Cleaning

1. Thoroughly rinse the fish using fresh tap water.
2. Remove scales by placing the fish on a flat surface. Hold the head with one hand. With your other hand, rake the scales from the tail towards the head using a fish scaler, large spoon, or knife. Try to keep strokes short and quick to avoid puncturing the skin.
3. Rinse the fish again to clean off scales.
4. Lay the fish on its back and insert a knife tip into the fish's belly near the



head. Move the blade down along the belly, cutting to the anus.

5. To sever the head, slice downward right behind the gills. (It is not necessary to completely cut off the head)
6. Spread the body open to remove all the internal organs. Locate the fish's anus and cut this out in a "V" shape.
7. Rinse the cavity out with water.

Now that you have cleaned your fish you have the option of skinning it. Removing the skin improves the taste when cooked and removes a layer of fat. If you plan on filleting your fish it is typically best to remove the skin. (Some people like keeping the skin when grilling their fish to give it a crispy texture)

Skinning

1. Hold the fish by the end of the body towards the head.
2. Cut through the skin behind the head and pectoral fins.
3. Pull the skin from the head to the tail to remove the skin from the body.



It is common for people to remove the fish bones from the body before cooking. The process is called filleting. Use a knife with a very sharp blade and remove any slime to avoid slipping with the knife while cutting.

Filleting

1. Lay the fish on its side.
2. Cut the fish behind its gills and pectoral fin down to, not through, the backbone.
3. Without removing the knife, turn the blade and cut through the ribs towards the tail using the fish's backbone to guide you.
4. Now turn the fish over and repeat steps 1-3. (When finished you should have two *fillets* and the fish's backbone)
5. Insert the knife close to the rib bones and take away the entire rib section of each fillet.
6. Grab one fillet and place skin side down. Gripping firmly, insert the knife about 1

inch down from the tail between the skin and meat.

7. Now begin cutting against the skin in a sawing motion until you separate the fillet from the skin.
8. Wash the fillet in cold water.
9. Pat fillet dry for cooking or freezing.

Now that you have cleaned and prepared your fish, it is ready for cooking. There are many techniques for cooking your fresh fish. You can grill, fry, or bake your fish to perfection with simple recipes that include a lot of seasoning and herbs for a delicious taste and smell. Try to avoid losing oils the fish secretes when cooking. They add a great flavor! After eating your meal, you need to prepare your fishing gear for another successful trip.

Cleaning Up

Do not forget about your gear and equipment! They require cleaning because of contaminants found in the lake. All equipment should be sprayed and washed off with hot, clean water. Use a scrub brush to remove dirt and debris from your pole. Then lay the equipment outside to dry completely. Do the same with your other used fishing gear, but instead of setting it out to dry, throw it all in a bucket of hot water for 15 minutes for extra disinfection. Then lay it out to dry.

In order to make sure that you will continue to have successful fishing trips, it is essential to make sure you take care of your fishing equipment.

Troubleshooting

P: Hook will not stay attached to line

S: Tie multiple loops after putting line through hook

P: Weights will not attach to the line

S: It may be necessary to pinch them on with pliers

P: Can't grip fish after getting it out of water

S: Wear gloves

P: Line is caught/indefinitely stuck

S: Cut the line

P: Fish are not biting

S: Check to make sure bait is on the line, but be patient!

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Bait – Any substance that can be used to attract prey.
(P. 20)

Casting – The process of getting the fishing line into the water to be able to fish. (P. 24)

Daily Bag Limit – The maximum number of fish one person is legally allowed to catch in a day. (P. 3)

Gizzard and threadfin shad – Fishing bait made of animal parts. (P. 8)

Floats – Also known as bobbers, these devices latch onto the line and keep it buoyant. (P. 19)

Fillet – One edible half of a fish (P.33)

Fishing – The practice of trying to obtain fish. (P. i)

Fishing license – A legal document necessary to legally fish in a state (P. 2)

Fishing line – Thread wound on the reel and threaded through the rod for attaching all fishing components (P. 17)

Fishing rod – Used for holding the reel in place and guiding the line (P. 15)

Hook – Barbed piece of metal used for impaling and latching onto fish. (P. 18)

Length limit – The law sets limits on how short/long a fish obtained through fishing can be. (P.5)

Lure – Synthetic device engineered to imitate lifelike fish behavior. (P. 20)

Reel – A device attached to rod that retrieves the line when spun. (P.16)

Tackle box – A fishing essential containing compartments for keeping fishing essentials separate. (P. 14)

Weights – Small pieces of metal that attached to a line used to for fishing at deeper depths. (P. 19)

Sources

Information and Illustrations

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