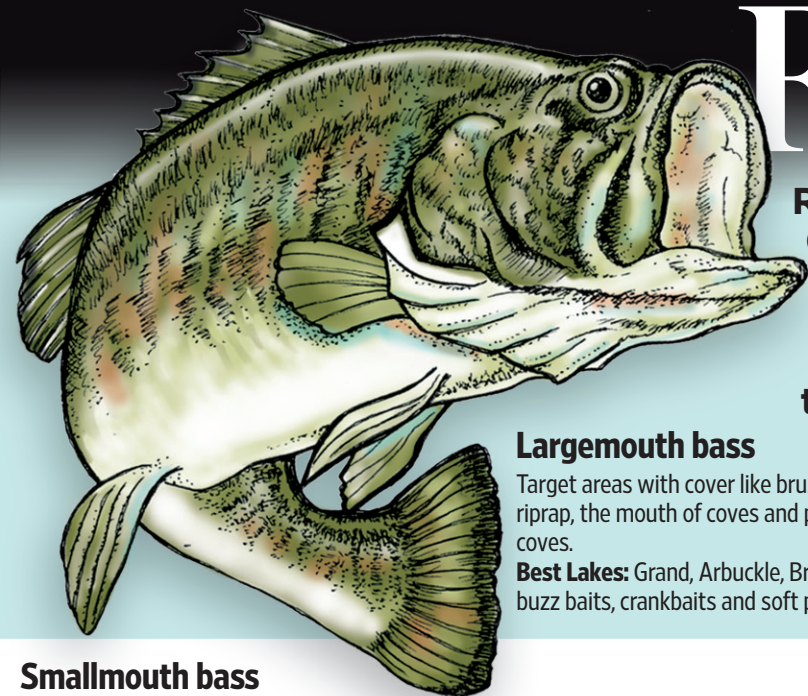


FISH ON!

Right now is prime time for fishing in Oklahoma. Bass and crappie are biting. Sand bass and spoonbills are running. Here is a list of the most sought after species of fish by Oklahoma sportsmen with tips on the best places to find and catch 'em.



Largemouth bass

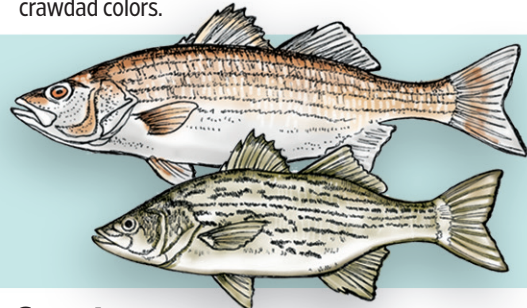
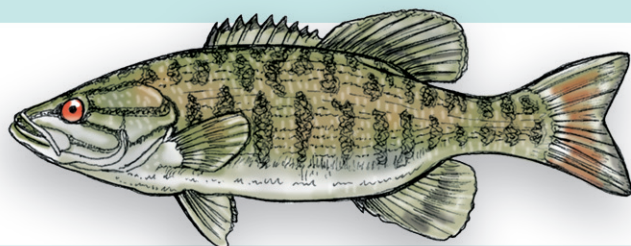
Target areas with cover like brush, standing timber and weeds, old road beds, humps with water willow grass, riprap, the mouth of coves and points. Found in shallow water in spring, concentrate on flats adjacent to protected coves.

Best Lakes: Grand, Arbuckle, Broken Bow, McGee Creek, Sardis, Konawa, just to name a few. **Best Baits:** spinners, buzz baits, crankbaits and soft plastics.

Smallmouth bass

Thrive in lakes with clear water and rocky or gravel shorelines. Target rocky points and shallow shelves that drop off to deep water. Wind-blown banks are often the best. **Best Lakes:** Texoma, Eufaula, Skiatook, Lawtonka and Murray.

Best Baits: Crawfish, minnows, crankbaits in crawdad or shad colors, curly-tail grubs and jigs in crawdad colors.



Stripers, hybrids and sand bass

Watch for circling birds over schooling shad to find schools of these ferocious feeders. In late March and early April, sand bass make spawning runs from lakes up the streams.

Best Lakes: Texoma for stripers and May is the hottest top-water action. White bass are prevalent almost everywhere. For hybrids (a cross between white bass and striped bass), check out Waurika.

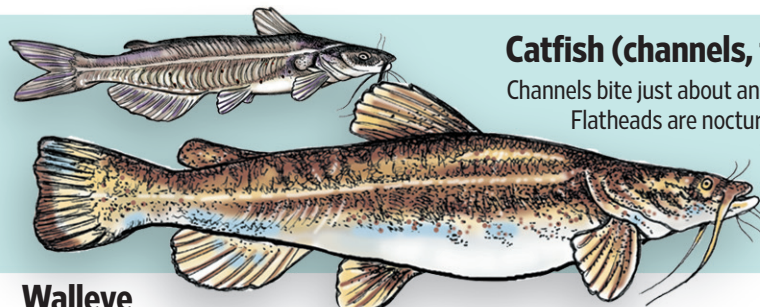
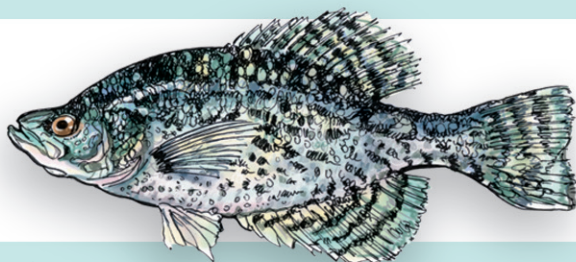
Best baits: Spoons, slabs, Sassy Shads, jigs, minnows, topwater plugs.

Crappie

Oklahoma's most popular fish for the supper table. Target standing timber and brushy cover. In late March and early April, crappie move into shallow water to spawn on Oklahoma lakes and can be caught along the shorelines. Concentrate your search in coves and protected bays.

Best Lakes: Eufaula, Hugo, Kaw, Kerr, Thunderbird, Tenkiller, Oologah and Canton.

Best Baits: Minnows, worms and small jigs. Pink and chartreuse are the most productive colors of jigs.



Catfish (channels, flatheads and blues)

Channels bite just about anything at anytime. Concentrate fishing around riprap, bridges, dams and rocky places.

Flatheads are nocturnal feeders that move into shallow water in late May and June to build spawning nests in the cavities of rocks and clay banks. Blues are harder to pattern in summer and bite best in winter.

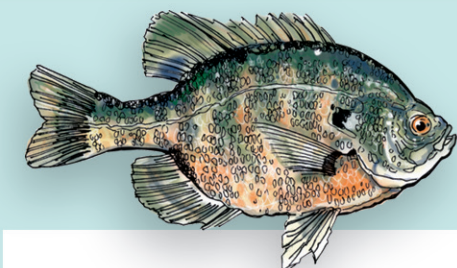
Best lakes: Texoma, Eufaula, Grand, Keystone. **Best Baits:** For channels, worms, stink bait, chicken livers, cut shad. For flatheads, live sunfish or shad. For blues, live or cut shad.

Walleye

March and April are good months to catch these excellent tasting fish. Target rip-rap, rocky shorelines, dams and bridges.

Best Lakes: Canton, Hefner, Broken Bow, Kaw, Altus-Lugert.

Best baits: Minnows, white and chartreuse jigs or Sassy Shads, Rat-L-Traps.



Bluegills

These panfish prefer weedy areas and backwaters with slightly stained water. In May and June, bluegills and other species of sunfish often spawn in large colonies and are especially aggressive.

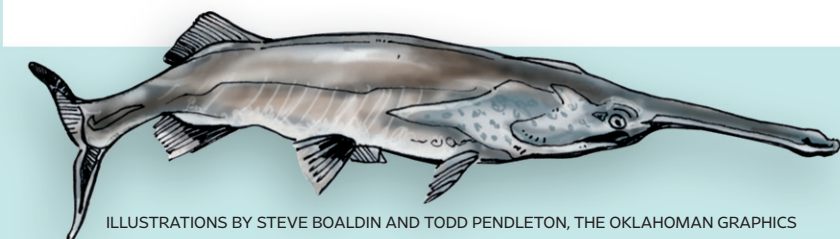
Best Lakes: Sunfish are almost everywhere, Elmore City Lake, Kids Lake in OKC, but American Horse may be the best in the state.

Best Baits: Minnows, crickets, worms, grasshoppers and small jigs.

Trout

Rainbow and brown trout are stocked in the Lower Illinois River and the Lower Mountain Fork River year-round.

Best Baits: (Fly fishing excluded) Small spinners or jigs, salmon eggs, corn, Power Bait, worms, minnows.



Paddlefish

At this time of year, the paddlefish (also called spoonbills) make their spawning runs up the rivers.

Best baits: A large barbless treble hook. They can only be caught by snagging.

Best Lakes: Grand Lake and the Neosho River systems, Kaw Lake tailwater.