

Fishing at Lake Sonoma



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The many coves, submerged trees and abundant creeks create an angler's paradise at Lake Sonoma. The lake is renowned for black bass, black crappie, channel catfish, rainbow trout and redear sunfish.

Boat fishing is more successful than shore fishing due to limited walk-in access to the shoreline. Fishing peaks during the early spring months, but is consistently excellent through out the year.

FISH SPECIES



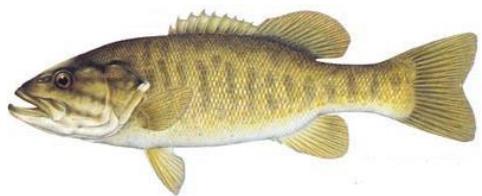
Black Crappie

The black crappie is an excellent game fish when taken on light tackle. Anglers specializing in catching black crappie know that to be successful, the bait must be constantly moving. The best baits are small minnows, small maribou-covered jigs, plastic minnows, or small streamer flies cast along the outer edges of weed beds. The crappie lies in weed beds in deep water during the day and bite best in early morning or toward evening.



Largemouth Bass

Lake Sonoma is one of the premier largemouth bass fishing lakes in the State of California. Fishing for this magnificent sport fish is good to excellent year-round. Our substantial population of forage fish, cover, diversity of water conditions, and microclimates all help produce big fish. Crank baits, spinner baits, soft plastic baits and large flies work well. The largemouth travels throughout the lake.



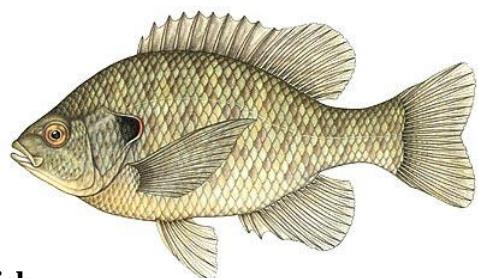
Smallmouth Bass

This is a favorite of the experienced black bass aficionados. The Lake Sonoma Smallmouth population is growing fast. Our rocky shoreline and deep cool waters make for ideal conditions. The best locations for Smallmouth are within sight of the bridge.



Channel Catfish

One of the free-swimming catfish, it can be distinguished by its forked tail and body spots. Channel catfish weighing over 20 pounds are common in Lake Sonoma. Favorite baits are cut mackerel, anchovies, chicken livers and live minnows.



Redear Sunfish

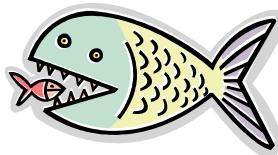
Redear is a favorite of young anglers and experienced anglers alike. Redear Sunfish will strike either live or artificial bait. Red worms and mini night crawlers are great baits.



Rainbow Trout

Lake Sonoma has a large population of resident rainbow trout and produces some very large species. Downrigger fishing in the summer months works very well. Rainbows will move to the surface in late fall and can be taken on light tackle and fly rods.

Lake Sonoma has threadfin shad, which act as the primary forage species for all our sport fish. The lake also has Squawfish, Sacramento Perch and Bluegill.



FISHING LIMITS

Black Bass	5 fish over 12 inches long
Trout	2 fish – no size limit
Black Crappie/ Blue Gill (Pan Fish)	25 fish TOTAL – no size limit

Lake Sonoma is subject to all California Department of Fish and Game fishing regulations. You are responsible for knowing and following the current CDFG regulations. Local bait and tackle shops offer fishing licenses and they also have copies of these regulations

For more Lake Sonoma information, please visit
<http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lake-Sonoma/>

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FISHING ACCESS

BY BOAT

There are three launch ramps for boat-in anglers. The public boat ramp is located across the bridge on Rockpile Road. There is a \$5.00 day-use / launch fee which is payable by self-deposit envelopes located on the ramp. The park also offers a \$40.00 annual pass for unlimited use / launch at any US Army Corps of Engineers boat ramp.

The Yorty Creek Recreation Area is located off Hot Springs Road, west of Cloverdale. No trailers allowed on this road. There is a small boat ramp for car-top launching only.

The Lake Sonoma Marina is located off Stewarts Point Road. The privately-operated marina charges a launch and parking fee for use of their facilities. The marina also has a store with basic fishing equipment, baits and fuel.

BY TRAIL

Access for shore fishing is limited and usually requires a difficult hike. There are trailheads at Little Flat and Gray Pine parking lots leading to the lake. Some access is also available under the bridge on Rockpile Road. The Yorty Creek Recreation area offers easier access for bank fishing.

The Marina offers excellent bank fishing opportunities.

*US Army Corps of Engineers
Lake Sonoma
3288 Skaggs Springs Rd
Geyserville, CA 95441
(707) 431-4533
Fax: (707) 431-1031*