

YOUR GUIDE TO FISHING OUR PONDS

GUIDELINES AND DIRECTIONS FOR FISHING THE 16 COMMUNITY PONDS IN ST. JAMES



www.StJamesPonds.com



WELCOME



St. James offers residents and their guests excellent fishing opportunities in 16 community ponds. The Property Owners Association (POA) Ponds Committee monitors, stocks and maintains these 16 ponds to ensure a habitat to support a well-balanced population of healthy fish.

Our goal is to provide guidelines and information to enhance your fishing experience while protecting the interests of the community and promoting the health and productivity of our ponds.

Within this brochure you will find:

- Rules for fishing POA ponds
- Information on how to fish POA ponds
- The fish species stocked in POA ponds
- Angling ethics and tips for handling a live fish
- Maps and information for recommended fishing ponds

ST. JAMES POND FISHING RULES

These rules are for the protection of our ponds, fish, plants and the well being of our residents and guests.

- All residents and guests 16 and older must have a N.C. fishing license with them while fishing in St. James.
- Only St. James residents and guests can fish in the community ponds, and residents must accompany their guests while fishing the community ponds. Property owners and their guests may fish on their own property.
- Fishing is NOT permitted:
 - On golf course property, or other residents' lots (developed or not).
 - In construction zones or areas restricted by the POA, Town, Developer or their representatives.
 - In wetlands and areas with sensitive or protected plants.
- Fish only from dawn until dusk.
- Fishing is *catch-and-release*; fish must be returned to the same pond immediately.
- Do not use minnows of any kind as bait.
- Do not disturb neighboring residents or the natural habitat, and do not litter (including bait and discarded line).
- Do not park where you will impede traffic, damage private or community property, including irrigation, landscaping or terrain.

FISH SPECIES

The POA has stocked Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, and Channel Catfish over the years. Grass Carp are also present when they have been recommended for weed control.



Bluegill spawn throughout the summer, congregating in large 'beds'. Live worms or crickets are the best bait, either fished on the bottom or suspended below a float.



Redear Sunfish prefer hard bottoms, congregating in deeper water than Bluegills. Earthworms are a good bait.



They are commonly found along vegetation or underwater structure, but schooling bass are also found in the middle of ponds. Plastic worms are the most dependable artificial bait.



Primarily bottom feeders; they also feed higher up. Use baits with strong odors - chicken liver, gizzards, shrimp, cut mullet and commercial stink baits.

FISHING & HANDLING TIPS

Most of the POA ponds are less than 5 feet deep and likely have a lot of underwater plants and algae, especially in hot weather. Light to medium action tackle (4-8 pound test line) with smaller lures will be sufficient for most of the POA Ponds.

Fish handling tips:

- Have your dehooking tool, camera, and measuring devices ready to minimize the time fish are out of the water. Don't keep fish out of the water longer than you can hold your breath.
- Use barbless hooks or mash down the barbs. Don't use stainless steel hooks.
- Land the fish as quickly as possible to avoid stressing it.
- Use a dehooking tool if the hook doesn't come out easily.
- Cut the line for swallowed hooks.
- For photos, hold the fish firmly by the lower jaw and gently support the belly if necessary.
- Gently return the fish to the pond headfirst; don't throw it back.

Protect the Environment:

Be aware of alligators! It is illegal in North Carolina to feed alligators as it causes them to



lose their natural fear of humans. Call POA Security at 910-253-7177 if you see any abuse or feeding of alligators.



Be An Ethical Angler:

- Dispose of all trash, including lines, leaders, hooks, unused bait, food and drink, and help to keep fishing sites litter-free.
- Learn and obey angling regulations; treating other anglers and property owners with courtesy and respect.
- Carefully handle and release all fish as well as other animals that are accidentally hooked.
- Make sure all anglers (especially children) wash thoroughly after handling fish or bait and at the end of the angling adventure.

In accordance with the POA Rules and Policies Handbook, anyone conducting any activity on common property including ponds or lakes does so at his or her own risk and is responsible for any accident, injury or damages that may result.

Join the St. James Fishing Club. This club promotes fishing in all of our local waters - saltwater, freshwater and ponds. For further information go to www.stjamesfishingclub.com

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