

# Florida LAKEWATCH



## Freshwater Angler Diary

**Dear Angler,**

On Behalf of the Florida LAKEWATCH program, I would like to thank you for participating in this Fishing Diary Project. While this project is experimental, we hope it will eventually yield data that will help manage fish populations and angling activities for Florida lakes. Long-term fish data collected on individual lakes (through the use of fishing diaries) can be used in a similar way to LAKEWATCH water chemistry data; it gives us hard numbers to use in identifying patterns or trends that may be occurring in your lake's fish populations. For example, these data can yield trend analyses of catch per unit of effort (number of fish caught per unit of time). If catch per unit of effort decreases significantly over time, this could suggest a problem with the fish population that needs to be looked at more intensely. Additionally if catch per unit of effort remains constant through time then the lake and fish populations are probably fine. If diaries are kept on many lakes, data will be available for LAKEWATCH personnel to examine relationships among other environmental data and fishing data.

This diary supplies you with enough daily fishing logs to record information from 10 trips or fishing "events." Feel free to use the Diary every time that you go out fishing, just make sure you record the name of the lake and location of the lake on the top of the individual data sheets. Once you fill all of the pages, don't hesitate to ask for another diary or you may download more fishing logs from our website at "<http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu>."

Please take time to complete the diaries as soon as possible after your day of fishing. We want the information as accurate as possible to make the results meaningful. If you forget to measure a fish, forgot your diary, forgot your ruler, etc., **do not guess**. Missing data from one day is better than having misleading data. Also, please record the bad fishing days as well as the good days because this information is important.

If you have any questions about the diaries, or know someone else who would like to participate in this project, please call the Florida LAKEWATCH office. **Again, thank you for your assistance and we wish you many good fishing days.**

Sincerely,

Mark Hoyer  
Florida LAKEWATCH Director

## Instructions

Knowing that all anglers stray from the truth at times, we ask that you please fill these diaries out as truthfully as possible. These diaries will be confidential! No one will know where you are fishing, if you are tearing the fish up, or if you're not doing so well.

Each fishing log of this diary constitutes your fishing efforts for one individual lake for a given period of time- otherwise known as a fishing "event." If you fish more than one lake per day please be sure to fill out an entirely new page of the diary for each lake. (See below for detailed instructions on how to fill out Lines 1 – 11 of each page, as well as instructions on how to fill out the individual Fish Data Charts.)

**Line 1**-Provide the name of the lake or waterbody you are fishing.

**Line 2**-Provide the name of the county you are fishing in.

**Line 3**-Record the date you are fishing.

**Line 4**-Record the time on the clock that you begin fishing and the time you stop fishing.

**Line 5**-What are the target species you intend to fish for?

**Line 6**-Circle the type of bait you intend to use (Live or Artificial or Both). Using the space provided, identify the actual bait used (e.g., shiner, crickets, plastic worms, spinner bait).

**Line 7**-Record the number of hours you fished, the number of fish you caught, and the number you kept for each species. (Use a separate data page if you are going to record your partner's catch).

**Line 8**-Check the word that best describes the site that you were fishing from: Shore or Boat or Pier.

**Line 9**- Estimate the number of boats fishing in the lake when you arrived at the lake **or** estimate the number of boat trailers at the boat ramp. Write the number(s) in the space(s) provided.

**Line 10**- Circle the words that describe the weather during your fishing trip: Windy/Calm or Warm/Cold or Cloudy/Sunny.

**Line 11**-Circle the word that best describes the quality of your fishing trip: Poor or Fair or Good.

## Instructions for filling out the individual fish data chart

### Measuring the fish

Measure the fish with the ruler provided. If more than 20 fish are caught during one trip, please use additional note paper (provided in the back on this notebook) and tape the information to that day's data page, with the date and lake also recorded.

### Filling out the diary pages

Use a separate page of the logbook for each individual fishing "event." For instance, if you fish more than two lakes in one day, fill out one page per lake. Or if you fish in the morning and then quit fishing for several hours (for lunch, etc.), please complete separate pages for the morning fishing event and the evening event. Feel free to write additional comments that you feel are important to your day of fishing in the note section at the bottom of each page.


### Attention to all anglers

Participating in this program does not give you any additional rights or privileges; you must still adhere to City, State and Federal rules and regulations.

**Species....** Identify fish species.

**Total Length....** Measure fish in inches to the nearest  $\frac{1}{4}$  in from snout to tail, with tail fork pinched closed.

**Kept or Released....** Did you keep the fish or release it unharmed.



Species	Total Length (inches)*	Kept or Released (K or R)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
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10		

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Species	Hours Fished <sup>1</sup>	Number Caught	Number Kept
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Sunshine bass			
Black crappie			
Bluegill			
Redear sunfish			
Warmouth			
Channel catfish			
Bullhead			
Other (list _____)			

- 8) Are you fishing from: Shore \_\_\_\_\_ Boat \_\_\_\_\_ Dock \_\_\_\_\_  
 9) Estimate the number of boats at the lake fishing when you arrived \_\_\_\_\_  
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 11) Describe your fishing day (circle most appropriate) Poor    Fair    Good.

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**Individual fish data chart**

Please fill out the following chart for this fishing event. If you fish more than one lake in a day or if you fish in the morning and then quit fishing for several hours please complete separate pages for each day or for each separate event in one day Write any additional comments in the note section below.

	Species	Total Length (inches) <sup>2</sup>	Kept (K) or released (R)		Species	Total Length (inches) <sup>2</sup>	Kept (K) or released (R)
1				11			
2				12			
3				13			
4				14			
5				15			
6				16			
7				17			
8				18			
9				19			
10				20			

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Round hours to the nearest quarter (Example: 15 min = 0.25, 30 min = 0.50, 45 min = 0.75)

<sup>2</sup> Round inches to the nearest quarter (Example: ¼ " = 0.25, ½ " = 0.50, ¾ " = 0.75)