

Thanks to Mike Fry for providing me with the idea for this blog. He mentioned people might like to see a blog where I specify some of the best places to fish throughout the year in Texas. Below, I've created a kind of "bucket list" for some people, I guess. If you are looking for adventure, wanting to expand yourself as a fisherman, and just want to see some of the rightfully famous fishing holes in the Lone Star State when they offer prime potential, make it a point to visit the places on this list! And, if the list whets your appetite for such information, you might want to purchase my book *Productive Places and Patterns* if you haven't already. It's a much more detailed and thorough version of the same kind of ideas.

Winter

1. The North Shoreline of Baffin Bay and the West Shoreline of the Upper and Lower Laguna Madres. Areas around the Tide Gauge Bar and Cathead in Baffin produce a lot of giant trout after cold fronts pass through, as do stretches of the King Ranch Shoreline around the Pure Oil Channel in the ULM and the shoreline north of Port Mansfield in the LLM. Be careful and mindful of the rocks if you have no experience in Baffin and the ULM. Did I mention I'm a fishing guide?
2. The area of West Galveston Bay off Green's Cut. Look for muddy streaks in the water.
3. Port Bay in Rockport. Wading the muddy, grassy coves produces big trout.
4. The Colorado River in Matagorda. Works best when it's been really cold.

Spring

1. The Land Cut. Particularly in the month of April, this long ditch produces plenty of big trout and other fish too. Most people focus on the west-side drop-off, using soft plastics. Topwaters work great on lots of days too. Bring an extra drift sock and charge up the trolling motor batteries.
2. The flats around Port Mansfield. Especially in May and June, the topwater action on solid trout is fantastic down there.
3. Yarbrough Flats and Rocky Slough. The flats in Yarbrough are easy to wade. The shoreline from Rocky Slough north is probably best fished out of the boat, keeping off the rocks and slinging topwaters and other lures toward them.
4. East Flats and Shamrock. Strong southeast winds make this area better, so it's a great place to head when other areas are mucked up in the spring.
5. Traylor Island. It does get crowded in this area in the spring. Try fishing it late at night and through the break of day. I caught my first 8-pound trout there in June of 1997 doing just that.
6. San Luis Pass Flats. Be sure to time your trip in association with relatively light winds and a four-tide day. Don't be afraid to target the fish really shallow.

Summer

1. Spoil banks in various places. Among them, the spoils both south and north of Baffin, those in Ingleside, those in West Matagorda Bay near the old town of Indianola, and those in Galveston Bay. All can be fished by wading, except those in Galveston Bay.

2. The Bolivar Pocket. Lying on the north side of the north jetty, this offers great summer action early in the morning in the first gut if the tide is incoming, further out on the flat in the middle of the day when it first turns to go out. Live by a rule which says "No East" in the wind before heading here.
3. Sabine Lake open water. Look for terns and gulls hovering and diving to locate schooling trout mixed with herds of reds.
4. San Antonio Bay reefs north of the ICW. I know lots of people who do well in this maze of shell humps in summer. Mostly in the morning when winds are somewhat calm.

Fall

1. Nueces Bay behind the power lines. Like San Antonio Bay, this is a maze of shell. It's hazardous boating, but not quite as bad as Baffin, if you're cautious. The fishing can be outstanding along the shoreline and on the reefs in here from October through December.
2. San Antonio Bay back lakes. I love fishing these secluded pockets when tides are high and water temperatures moderate. Try not to get too much redhead poop on your hat. These areas are loaded with waterfowl too!
3. East Matagorda south shoreline coves. Try Kain Cove, Oyster Farm Drain, Boiler Bayou. Be persistent and fish shallow areas with lots of bait. Floating and sinking Corkies work well in these clear waters.
4. Live Oak Bay/Chinquapin. This part of East Matagorda Bay usually holds somewhat murky water. Fish it with soft plastics if it's cold, topwaters if it's warmer. The key to catching is to locate subtle ledges and drop-offs within the maze of shell.
5. Anahuac Wildlife Refuge. Stay close to the bank if you want to catch the big trout along this famous shoreline.
6. Sabine Lake north end. If the rivers are running low, fish around the ends of the islands in this relatively uncrowded fishery. Finding some shell is a big key here.
7. The Louisiana Shoreline. If the rivers flowing into Sabine Lake are running high, the fish often stack up in this end. Onshore winds make the fishing best. Wading is possible in some places, treacherous in others. Check the bottom with a pole before getting out, and proceed with caution.