Lake Elsinore is the largest natural freshwater lake in Southern California. Ancient lakes, like Lake Elsinore, are typically shallow and nutrient enriched. Given ample sunshine, these factors provide an optimal growing condition for fish by extending the growing season and stimulating the food web. These types of lakes produce more pounds of fish per acre than any other type of lake on earth.

Lake Elsinore is classified as a warmwater fishery, which includes the black bass and various panfish. Representative members found in this lake are Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Bluegill and Channel Catfish.

Maintaining Lake Elsinore’s natural beauty and providing recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of the general public is a long term commitment by the community. In 2000, voters approved State grant funding to improve Lake Elsinore. The Lake Elsinore/San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) is a local joint powers authority that was formed to oversee the improvements. LESJWA and the City have implemented projects to stabilize the lake-level, improve water quality and enhance the fishery.

Watershed Protection:

All natural lakes are a product of their watershed. A watershed is all the land that drains into the nearest stream, river or lake when it rains. Rainwater is relatively pure before it falls on the ground. Stormwater runoff collects impurities as it travels over the surface of the land, therefore land use drives water quality. Eventually we drink, swim and fish from these waters.

There are 760-square miles of land that drains into Lake Elsinore. Every person who lives, works or plays in this watershed has a part in protecting this valuable resource. So, help keep the watershed clean for the Lakes’ sake!
Catch and Release

The Lake Elsinore Bass Club recommends the Catch and Release of small to moderately-sized sport fish to enhance the restructuring of Lake Elsinore's Fishery. Maintaining a high sport fish population can improve water quality and reproductive success of sport fish. By releasing the smaller sport fish today, you will increase the chance of catching more and larger fish tomorrow. Refer to the California Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations for current bag and minimum size limits.

Bait & Tackle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fishing Licenses available for purchase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big 5 Sporting Goods 18298 Collier Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J &amp; J Liquor 31087 Riverside Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeshore Liquor &amp; Market 1511 West Lakeshore Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walmart 31700 Grape Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William's Bait &amp; Tackle 32040 Riverside Drive</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Fishing Beaches

- Lowell Street Fishing Beach
- Lowell Street at Lakeshore Drive
- Davis Street Fishing Beach
- Davis Street at Lakeshore Drive
- Whiskers Fishing Beach
- Townsend Street at Lakeshore Drive
- La Laguna Resort and Boat Launch
- 32040 Riverside Drive

Largemouth Bass
They are the lion of the freshwater fish and like to ambush prey in heavy brush or at the edge of steep drop-offs.

Hybrid Striped Bass
A voracious open water predator that controls the excessive threadfin shad population. The hybrid striped bass are a cross from a white bass female and a striped bass male.

Bluegill
Most widely distributed panfish and are probably the most fished for freshwater species in North America.

Both White & Black Crappie
The White Crappie is a little larger, with paler coloration than the black. The White Crappie have only 6 dorsal spines, whereas the Black have 7-8 spines.

Channel Catfish
One of the larger North American catfish. It is the only of catfish to have both spots and a forked tail.

Wild Carp
This carp has a scaleless head and a fully scaled body. They are a hardy, slow growing fish that have a long life span, up to 47 years.

Redear Sunfish
Redear are deep-bodied sunfish similar to bluegills and have a relatively small mouth. Color ranges from dark olive green above to almost white on the belly. The dorsal fin is normally equipped with 10 spines and it is broadly connected to the soft dorsal fin. The ear flap has a distinct red edge.