The Fishery:

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!

Community Services Department
130 South Main Street
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
(951) 674-3124 x 265

La Laguna Resort & Boat Launch
32040 Riverside Drive
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
(951) 471-1212

Public Beaches Open:
6:00 AM to 10:00 PM

Fishing by Boat:
Sunrise to Sunset

www.lake-elsinore.org

Fish Lake Elsinore!
Black and White Crappie – Distinguishable by color and the number of dorsal fins on each species. White crappies have 6 dorsal fins, while the black crappie has 7 to 8 dorsal fins. Crappies are a schooling fish that like to school around stumps, rock piles and stick ups. While primarily fish eaters, they will eat grubs, mealworms, wax worms and night crawlers and jigs. Recommended Tackle: Ultra to lightweight rod with 6 to 12 lb. test line. #10-12-14 treble hooks. No live bait. State record is 21 lb. 12 oz. Bag limit 5 – Size limit 12 inches.

Blue and Channel Catfish are two of the larger North American catfish. They spend most of their day hidden in sheltered areas and feed in shallow water at night and early morning. Duck and Dawn are great hours for Cat fishing! They will eat cut baits, shad, shrimp, night crawlers, chicken livers, and stink baits. Recommended Tackle: Medium to heavy rod with 6 to 20 lb. test line, and number 1-2-3 sized hooks. State record 53 lb. 8 oz. Bag Limit 10 with no size limit.

Bluegill - The most widely distributed panfish and considerably the most fished for freshwater species in North America. They can be caught near rock piles, submerged brush and weed lines. Schooling behavior makes for fast sport fishing when located. Their natural foods are insects, larvae and worms, but can also be enticed to strike at mini jigs. Recommended Tackle: Ultra to lightweight rod with 2 to 6 lb. test line. State Record 3 lb. 14 oz. Bag Limit 25 combined (bluegill and crappie).

Catch and release is recommended for 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.

**Fish & Tackle**

**Fishing Licenses available for purchase**

Big 5 Sporting Goods
18298 Collier Avenue
(951) 471-1362

Walmart
31700 Grape Street
(951) 245-5990

J & J Liquor
31087 Riverside Drive
(951) 674-6742

Lakeshore Liquor & Market
1511 West Lakeshore Drive
(951) 245-5990

Walmart
31700 Grape Street
(951) 245-5990

**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

**Lake Elsinore Fishing Report**

One photo is better than a thousand fish stories! The City posts photos of anglers and their catch on the City’s website. Submit a Fishing Report to the City by emailing fishingreport@lake-elsinore.org.

The Fishing Report should include name, city of residence, date, type of fish, size, bait used and photo (8mb file limit).