

DATE CAUGHT

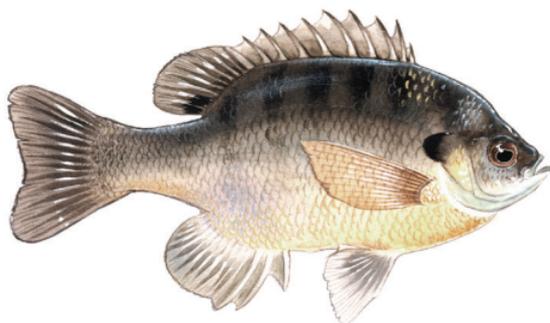
LOCATION

## Bluegill

(*Lepomis macrochirus*)

Also called **breem**.

**DESCRIPTION:** Deep blue underside of gill flap. Flexible, black ear flap and black spot on soft dorsal fin.  
**FRESHWATER HABITAT:** Vegetation and sunken trees of shallow backwater rivers, lakes and ponds.  
**SIZE:** Average under a pound, but can reach up to 4 pounds.



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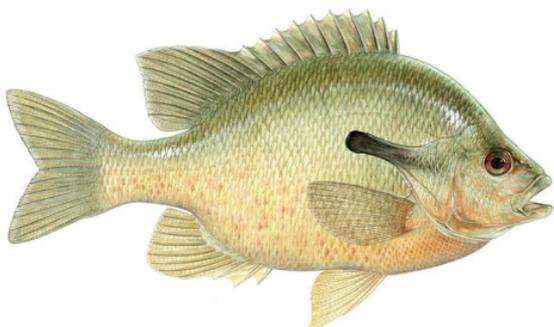
LOCATION

## Redbreast Sunfish

(*Lepomis auritus*)

Also called **yellowbellied sunfish**.

**DESCRIPTION:** Yellow to orange-red or crimson red belly; long narrow gill flap. Blue or blue-green stripes on head.  
**FRESHWATER HABITAT:** Prefers streams and rivers but also found in some lakes. Likes gravel or rocky bottoms, concentrating around boulders, outcroppings and aquatic vegetation.  
**SIZE:** Typically less than a pound but can reach up to 4 pounds.



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## Green Sunfish

(*Lepomis cyanellus*)

**DESCRIPTION:** Large mouth, heavy body shape like the black basses; dark green with lighter green striped sides and yellow or white belly. Turquoise spots on some scales.  
**FRESHWATER HABITAT:** Very versatile and utilizes a variety of habitats, nests in shallow water, preferably with gravel or rocky bottom.  
**SIZE:** Average under a pound but can reach up to 4 pounds.



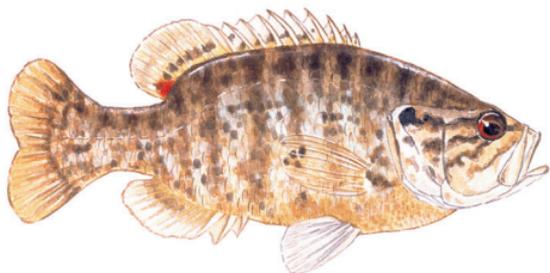
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## Warmouth

(*Lepomis gulosus*)

**DESCRIPTION:** Dark olive to gray with brownish sides, yellow markings, and five dark lines radiating from snout and eye on each side of head. Three spines on anal fin. Large mouth with red mark on gill flap. Breeding males with orange spot on dorsal fin base.  
**FRESHWATER HABITAT:** Found in shallow, slow moving, mud bottom creeks, ponds lakes and swamps.  
**SIZE:** Average under a pound and rarely larger than a pound.



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## Longear Sunfish

(*Lepomis megalotis*)



**DESCRIPTION:** Colorful. Red or orange breast and belly; blue stripes on head. Long and flexible black gill flap with a white edge completely around. Short, rounded pectoral fins.

**FRESHWATER HABITAT:** Found in unpolluted, shallow waters of lakes and streams.

**SIZE:** Rarely found over a pound.

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## Redear Sunfish

(*Lepomis microlophus*)

Also called **shellcracker** (because they eat snails and clams).



**DESCRIPTION:** Dark olive above; yellow to green on the sides; white on belly. Red edge on the gill cover on the male and orange on the female.

**FRESHWATER HABITAT:** Found on the bottom of clear quiet waters with moderate vegetation.

**SIZE:** Average less than a pound, but can reach up to 4 pounds.

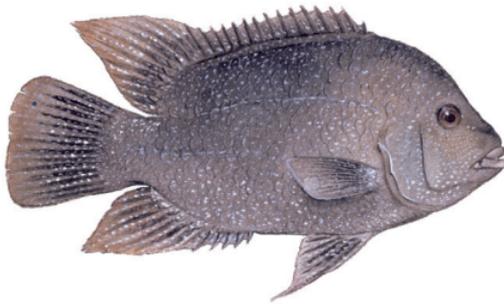
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## Rio Grande Cichlid

(*Herichthys cyanoguttatus*)

Also called **Rio Grande perch**, **Texas cichlid**.



**DESCRIPTION:** While not a sunfish, it is a similar-sized fish and is often caught in similar habitat to the sunfish. Only native cichlid in the U.S. Dark to light olive background, distinctive cream and turquoise colored spots; lighter individuals may have vertical bars of darker color, both dorsal and anal fins long and tapered. Five or six anal fin spines. Males may also develop a hump on the head.

**FRESHWATER HABITAT:** Cannot tolerate temperatures below 49°F, so confined to the southern streams of Texas, around moderate vegetation.

**SIZE:** Average less than a pound, can reach 10 inches.

## FISHING TIPS FOR SUNFISH AND CICHLID

Use light tackle, 2-6 pound test line with small bait hooks, sizes 6-14, and 1/4 oz. or smaller sinkers. Most natural baits work well, such as worms, mealworms, crickets or small minnows. Small lures and jigs such as miniature crank baits or beetle spinners, or fly fishing tackle such as flies, poppers, or worm imitations also work well.

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