

America's

12 Best Fishing Holes

by Erwin A. Bauer

THIS SUMMER more Americans will go fishing than ever before. Fishing will be so popular because it's fun, it's perfect for family participation, and it's better than ever. With modern, almost foolproof tackle that is easy to use, anyone can catch fish this season!

Although anglers rarely agree on which are the best places to fish, year in and year out some waters prove much better than others. Here, then, are 12 fishing spots likely to prove best for family fishing in 1959. These choices are based on last year's catch, on scientific count, and on nearby facilities available for family fishing vacations.

Marathon, Fla.: All Florida has good fishing, both in fresh water and as far offshore as the Gulf Stream. But probably the hottest spot of all is that maze of shallow bays and bars, of mangrove islands and ship channels, around Marathon, about halfway from the mainland to Key West. There's fishing here for experts and beginners alike.

Charter boats will take parties for sailfish in the ocean or for smaller fish on the reefs. About 350 species inhabit these waters. Tarpon are abundant in nearby shallow waters all Summer long, and it costs nothing to fish from 100 miles of highway bridges and causeways—where the catch could be a half-pound mullet or a half-ton shark!

Probably no area in America has such a vast range of accommodations, all at reduced rates in Summer. An innovation hereabouts is the "botel"—a motel that's really a houseboat and fishing boat combined.

Santee-Cooper Reservoir, S. C.: Little known until recently, this giant hydroelectric dam now provides sport that anglers dream about. The catch might include striped or black bass, jumbo catfish, and just about the largest pan fish available anywhere. The prediction is that Santee-Cooper will be especially good in 1959.

There are fishing camps, lodges, motels, and boat rentals near Monck's Corner, Bonneau, and Kingstree. There's good ocean fishing in the surf at nearby Myrtle and Edisto Beaches.

Bass Islands, Ohio: Residents of Western Lake Erie have been calling this picturesque archipelago "Ohio's Treasure Islands" in recent years—and no wonder. For some of the finest walleyes, smallmouth, and white bass abound right here within a short drive of Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago,

With your tackle box filled with new lures
and this list of angling paradises,
you can't miss a big catch—well, hardly.

- 1 Marathon, Florida
- 2 Santee-Cooper Reservoir, South Carolina
- 3 Bass Islands, Ohio
- 4 Southwestern Montana
- 5 Padre Island—Laguna Madre—Port Isabel, Texas
- 6 Hot Springs, Arkansas
- 7 Upper Peninsula, Michigan
- 8 Moosehead Lake, Maine
- 9 San Diego, California
- 10 Quetico—Superior Forest, Minnesota—Ontario
- 11 Cumberland Lake, Kentucky
- 12 Puget Sound—Olympic Peninsula, Washington

Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh. This is one of the nation's top boating and sailing areas, too.

Facilities for fishermen are available at Port Clinton, Catawba, Lakeside, and Put-in-Bay. A car ferry runs on schedule all Summer from mainland to the islands.

Southwestern Montana: For serious trout fishermen, this is promised land. Besides Yellowstone Park and its wonderful fishing, this corner of Montana contains such classic trout rivers as the Madison, Gallatin, Ruby, Missouri, Jefferson, and Big Hole, plus Georgetown and many other lakes that are anglers' paradises.

There are accommodations at Livingston, Bozeman, Jackson, Ennis, West Yellowstone, and Dillon. Non-fishing vacationers can explore famous ghost towns, visit hot springs or dude ranches.

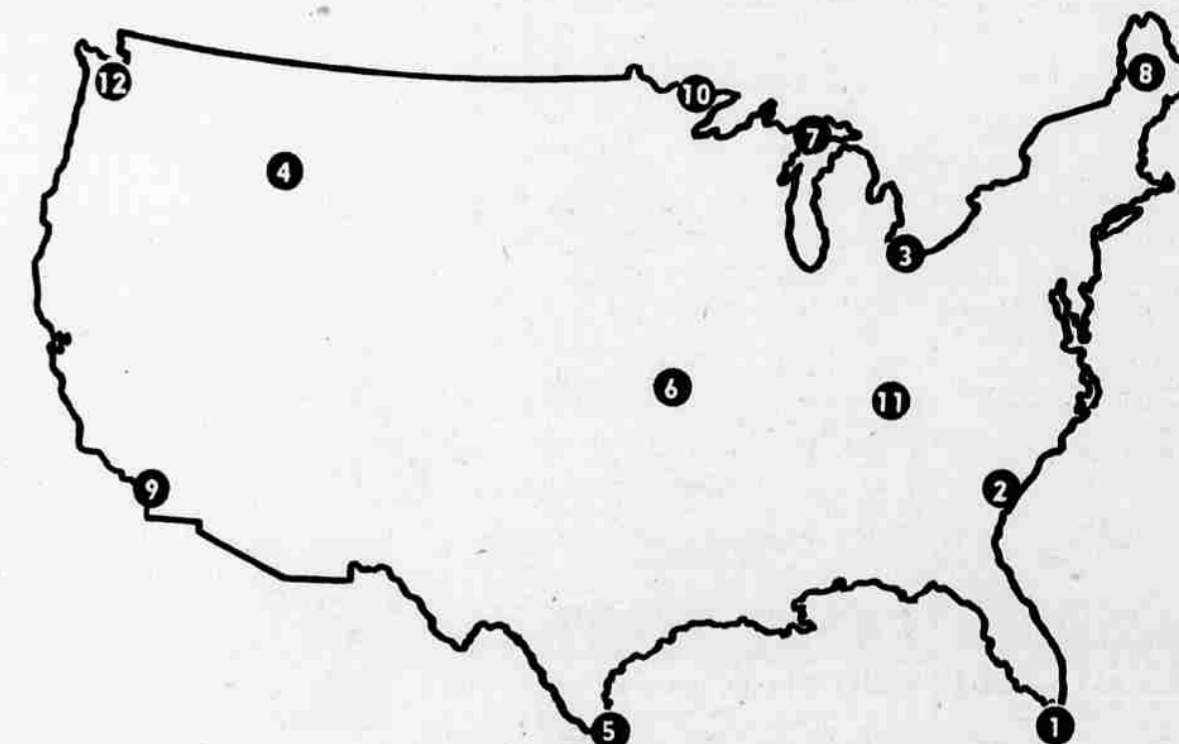
Padre Island—Laguna Madre—Port Isabel, Texas: Few places in North America can match the fine, year-round climate and extraordinary fishing in this Southern tip of Texas. The salt fishing is good in the Gulf and there's always the chance of marlin. Channel bass and sea trout run along Padre Island's ocean beach, which can be traveled safely by car. Tarpon fishing is fast in Santiago Pass and near the mouth of the Rio Grande. And there's no better sea-trout fishing anywhere than in Laguna Madre.

Boats, bait, and tackle are available in Port Isabel, but living accommodations are best in nearby Brownsville or Harlingen. It's possible to camp on the Padre beach.

Hot Springs, Ark.: Some of the finest bass and pan fish lurk in the three lakes—Hamilton, Catherine, and Ouachita—which surround this busy Ozark resort. Add to these lakes a dozen rivers which also contain bass and seem made for floating downstream through primitive hill country.

No shortage of accommodations in any price range here, and boats and guides are plentiful, too. Ouachita could prove to be the best bass lake of the year. Nearby are these other productive lakes: Norfolk, Bull Shoals, Narrows. Just across the border, in Oklahoma, is Tenkiller Reservoir, another good bet for '59.

Upper Peninsula, Mich.: This is an air-conditioned, evergreen vacationland surrounded by water. Fishing in its thousands of lakes and



streams is consistently excellent, especially around Escanaba, Marquette, Manistique, and Les Cheneaux Islands. Accommodations range from small housekeeping cabins to plush resorts. No hay fever suffering here.

Moosehead Lake, Me.: Anglers have been catching king-size trout, landlocked salmon and togue in Moosehead Lake ever since the first settler wet a line here. Action begins (with salmon) as soon as ice leaves the 800 square miles of crystal-clear water. It ends when it's time to trade tackle for deer rifles.

Moosehead was made for family vacations. The region is full of inns, motels, campsites, cottages, and hotels from Greenville to Lily Bay and Rockwood.

San Diego, Calif.: The warm ocean currents of San Diego's coastal waters make it an outstanding salt-water fishing area. Nearby communities depend on fishing and fishermen for a livelihood. Best waters are San Diego Bay, Mission Bay, the beach, the Bluffs, and Los Coronados Islands. Fish run from yellowtails, albacore, and bluefin tuna to giant black sea bass and striped marlin off Point Loma. Charter boats, guides, tackle, bait are always available in San Diego and in nearby coastal villages.

Quetico—Superior Forest, Minn.—Ontario: Last Summer an estimated 5,000 families made canoe trips into this undeveloped wilderness of peace and solitude. Outfitters in Ely, Minn., rent everything from canoe and tent to dehydrated food

and waterproof maps of canoe routes. Rental rates are very low.

Cumberland Lake, Ky.: The fishing in many Southern reservoirs runs in cycles; 1959 may be the peak year at Cumberland, a "little old fishing hole" about 150 miles long. There are bass, big walleyes, and pan fish. Boat docks and fishing camps dot the shore, with most activity at Beaver Lodge and Monticello.

Puget Sound—Olympic Peninsula, Wash.: Almost the year around there's premium fishing in this damp but scenic corner of the Northwest. Both chinook and silver salmon run in the Sound, even within sight of downtown Seattle. Battling steelheads migrate upstream in many rivers from the sea, while rainbow and cutthroat trout abound in smaller rivers and lakes of Olympic National Park. Summed up, this is paradise for the outdoorsman who likes spectacular scenery and high adventure with his angling.

Of course, there are other fine fishing holes, too. Take the farm ponds: more than a million of them are scattered from coast to coast. Fishing for bass and pan fish is at least fair in most of them and the ticket is the farmer's permission.

Any list of top fishing waters should also include Chesapeake Bay; Pamlico Sound, N. C.; Rangeley Lakes, Me.; Hayward Lakes, Wis.; the upper Mississippi River; Grand Isle, La.; Lake Texoma, Tex.; Okeechobee Lake, Fla.; San Francisco Bay; Thousand Islands in the St. Lawrence River; and Kentucky Lake, Ky. and Tenn.

See you there!