

“One day my son and I caught 100 crabs in less than an hour in a canal near Delacroix. I don’t even know what the name of that canal really is. I just call it the hundred crab canal.”

Cajun Crabbing

Catching blue crabs down in the Louisiana bayou is easy summer fun!

WHERE TO FIND | Nearly every road running north-south on Louisiana’s coast was built through a tidal marsh. During construction, ditches were dug along both sides of these roads so that the rising and falling tidal marsh waters have a place to go. These ditches are usually loaded with crabs when the water warms up in the hotter months.

Public beaches and public piers also have great summertime blue crab runs when the females head to the sand to spawn.

SIMPLE GEAR, SIMPLE BAIT | Gearing up for crabbing is simple and can be much less expensive than prepping for a day in the boat. Some days, all that’s needed is a ball of twine, a pack of chicken necks, long-handled landing net and a bucket.

Crabbing at the beach is as simple as stringing a 20- to 50-foot line between two wooden stakes in thigh-deep water and attaching a piece of bait every three or four feet. Check your line every 15 minutes and if you have some crabs on, just hold a net held beneath the baits and shake the crabs into it.

Bait is a matter of personal preference, but many people tend to go with chicken leg quarters or chicken necks.

Other options include fish heads, cast-netted mullet or in a pinch, roadkill could work as long as the buzzards haven’t claimed all the good parts.

WHEN TO FIND | It’s best to start early in the morning because as the sun comes up and the water warms, the crabs move deeper and get shy. They see shadows and movement easier when it’s sunny, so a good strategy is to get baits in the water very early when it’s still pretty dark and wrap up your crabbing before 9 a.m.

CATCH & COOK | South Louisianans are very proud of their seafood and prefer to cook their crabs by boiling them for about 10 minutes with lots of cayenne pepper, salt, lemon juice and garlic and then let them sit in that concoction for about 20 minutes after the fire is turned off. Then they’re ready to crack and enjoy!

Next time you get an itch to go “fishing,” consider leaving the boat and the rods and reels at home. Steal the string off your kite, grab a pack of chicken not fit for frying and invite some friends to go crabbing!

story and photos by **CHRIS MACALUSO**

Whatcha Catchin’?

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR YOUTH CCA MEMBERS THAT HAVE SENT IN PHOTOS OF THEIR BEST CATCHES!

You can share yours by emailing them to hpeterrek@joincca.org.



Nina



Cade



Willow



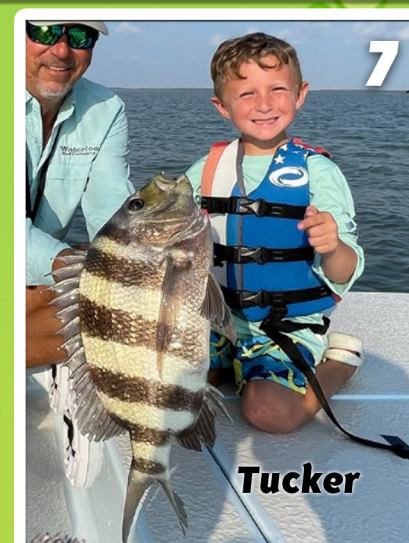
Hayden Townes Kane Gonzalo Will



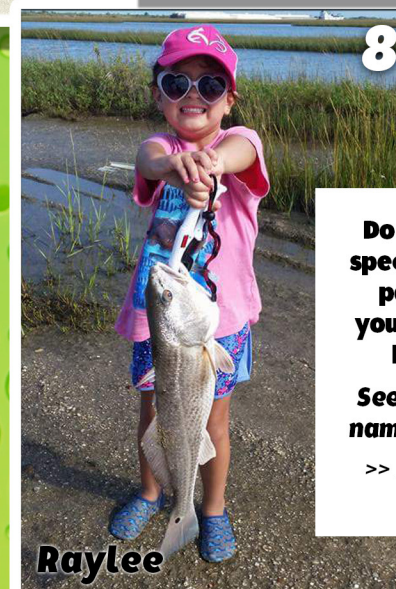
Randy



Alena



Tucker



Raylee

Do you see a species on this page that you’ve caught before?

See if you can name them all!

>> Answers on page 2.



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