Lone Star Cane Pole

Never guaranteed. Always honest.

Lake Athens - fact sheet

East Texas · Henderson County · near Athens · 1,799 acres

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The water

Vegetation above the FM 2495 bridge; some standing timber mid-lake; riprap dam; structure around Goat Island. A sunfish lake more than a blue cat lake.
Level: 96.5% full, -0.57 ft vs. full pool (TWDB, Nov 13)
Water temperature: 65°F - estimated, ±5°F (Estimated from 14 days of air temperatures)

Bite outlook

Fri Nov 13: Crappie Fair Bluegill Fair Blue catfish Fair
Sat Nov 14: Crappie Fair Bluegill Fair Blue catfish Fair
Sun Nov 15: Crappie Fair Bluegill Fair Blue catfish Good
Mon Nov 16: Crappie Good Bluegill Fair Blue catfish Fair
Tue Nov 17: Crappie Good Bluegill Fair Blue catfish Fair
Wed Nov 18: Crappie Fair Bluegill Fair Blue catfish Fair
Thu Nov 19: Crappie Good Bluegill Fair Blue catfish Fair

Never guaranteed - an honest read of the weather and water. Full reasons at https://matthewcoley.site/canepole/index.php?lake=lake-athens

Regulations (TPWD 2026-27)

Blue catfish: Statewide rule - 25 blue + channel combined, no minimum length; only 10 may be 20 in or longer.
Crappie: Statewide rule - 25 a day, 10-inch minimum.
Bluegill: no bag or length limit on sunfish.

Confirm current rules at tpwd.texas.gov before keeping fish.

TPWD ratings

Bluegill: Good (sunfish - fly fishing, up to 10 in)
Blue catfish: Poor (catfish)
Crappie: Fair

Eat-safe advisory (Texas DSHS)

None on file in the DSHS advisory layer. Check dshs.texas.gov/seafood for the current list.

Where the fish are this month

Crappie (Fall): Shallower again, usually no less than 10 ft. Docks hold fish in the top 10 ft (MDC).
Bluegill (Fall): Same deeper cover as late summer, plus shallower cover as water cools.
Blue catfish (Fall): Deeper in fall, following shad. On Texoma, blues returned from the river in late September-October.

Sources: TPWD, TWDB, USGS, National Weather Service, Data from MET Norway, Texas DSHS. https://matthewcoley.site/canepole/