Lone Star Cane Pole

Never guaranteed. Always honest.

Sam Rayburn Reservoir - fact sheet

East Texas · Angelina, Nacogdoches, San Augustine, Jasper, Sabine County · near Jasper · 114,500 acres

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The water

Hydrilla, coontail and pondweed down-lake; standing timber, brush and laydowns up-lake. Crappie go shallow in spring, then to brush piles and creek channels; a few man-made attractors.

Level: 60.1% full, -11.80 ft vs. full pool (TWDB, Nov 13)

Water temperature: 66°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 Tough 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 Good 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=sam-rayburn

Regulations (TPWD 2026-27)

Blue catfish: 50 blue + channel combined, no minimum length; no more than 5 may be 30 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)
Blue catfish: Excellent (catfish)
Crappie: Excellent

Eat-safe advisory (Texas DSHS)

Advisory ADV-51 - Sam Rayburn Reservoir · issued 1/24/2014. Species and meal limits: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/seafood/PDF2/FishConsumptionAdvisoryBaNNews/ADV-51_signed.pd

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/