Lone Star Cane Pole

Never guaranteed. Always honest.

Toledo Bend Reservoir - fact sheet

East Texas · Shelby, Sabine, Newton County · near Burkeville / Jasper · 181,600 acres

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The water

Hydrilla dominates, plus coontail, eelgrass and lily pads; timber, brush and laydowns in the upper third; crappie on brush piles and creek channels outside the spawn; man-made habitat.
Level: 84.1% full, -4.33 ft vs. full pool (TWDB, Nov 13)
Water temperature: 67°F - estimated, ±5°F (Estimated from 14 days of air temperatures)

Bite outlook

Fri Nov 13: Crappie Fair Bluegill Good 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 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=toledo-bend

Regulations (TPWD 2026-27)

Blue catfish: 50 blue + channel combined, no minimum length; no more than 5 may be 30 in or longer.
Crappie: No minimum length, 25 a day.
Bluegill: no bag or length limit on sunfish.
License: Texas and Louisiana licenses are honored on the boundary water; fish landed in Texas must meet Texas limits.

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

TPWD ratings

Bluegill: Excellent (sunfish - bluegill and redear)
Blue catfish: Good (catfish)
Crappie: Good

Eat-safe advisory (Texas DSHS)

Advisory ADV-12 - Toledo Bend Reservoir · issued 11/2/1995. Species and meal limits: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/seafood/PDF2/Active/ADV-12_signed_TBR_SRR_BAS_CDL_BCC.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/