

ROBERTSON MILLPOND PRESERVE

FISHING AT THE PRESERVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Was the millpond ever fished before it became a preserve?

Historically, Robertson Millpond has a rich history of fishing. Local residents of Wendell and the nearby area who visited the millpond prior to its recognition as a preserve can recall enjoyable times on the pond, catching fish such as jack (chain pickerel), crappie, flier and others.

Do I need a fishing license?

Yes. As with all public waters in North Carolina, a fishing license is required for anyone aged 16 or older and all fishing regulations, including minimum size and daily creel (catch) limits, apply. Information about licenses can be found on the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission’s website.

Where can I fish on the pond?

During operational hours, the public can fish at designated areas on land and on the fishing boardwalk. The entirety of the pond can be fished by kayak, canoe or Jon boat (no gas-powered motors).

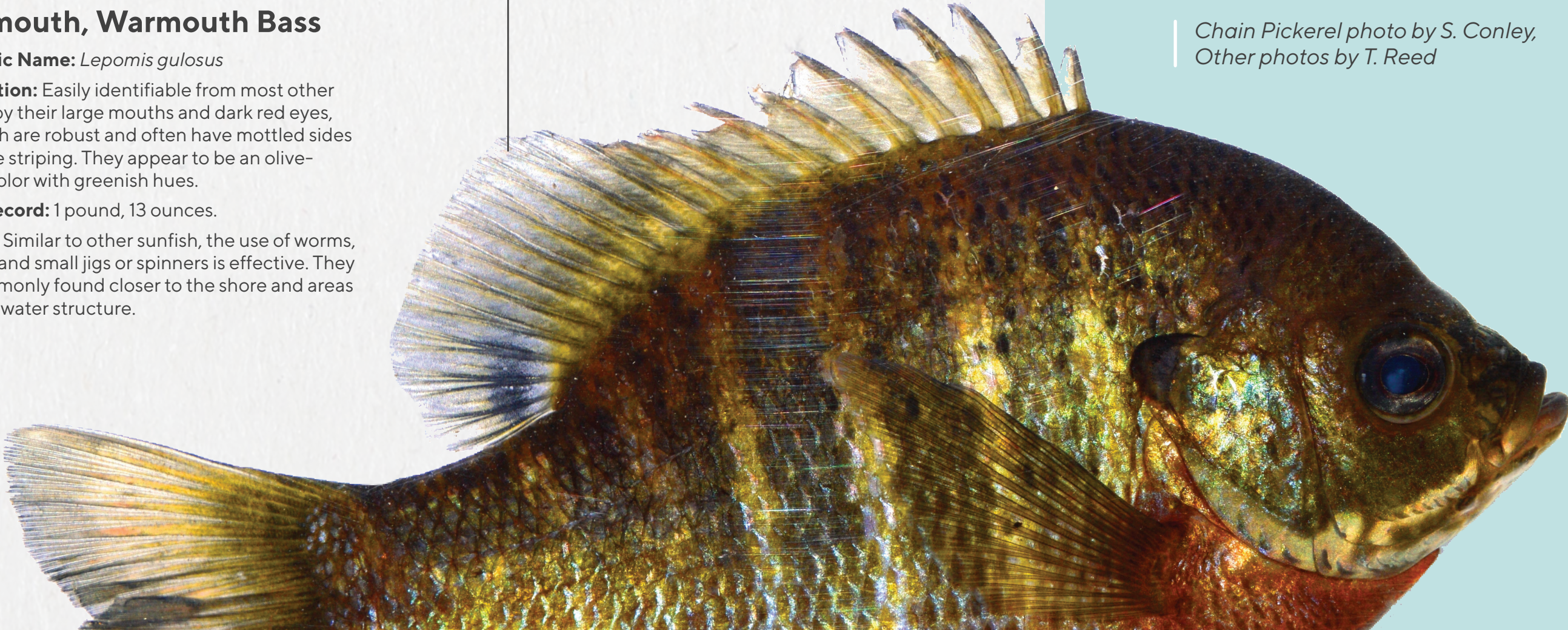


Common Name:
Warmouth, Warmouth Bass

Scientific Name: *Lepomis gulosus*
Description: Easily identifiable from most other sunfish by their large mouths and dark red eyes, these fish are robust and often have mottled sides with face striping. They appear to be an olive-brown color with greenish hues.
State Record: 1 pound, 13 ounces.
Fishing: Similar to other sunfish, the use of worms, crickets and small jigs or spinners is effective. They are commonly found closer to the shore and areas of underwater structure.

Common Name:
Bluegill, Bream

Scientific Name: *Lepomis macrochirus*
Description: It gets its name from the bluish tint on the undersides of its gill flap. It also has a solid black colored opercula flap (upper bony portion of gill flap).
State Record: 4 pound, 5 ounces.
Fishing: It is generally a very easy fish to attract with live baits including worms and crickets. Corn and dough balls are also popular baits. Artificial lures range from very small crankbaits and jigs to poppers and flies.



Common Name:
Pumpkinseed

Scientific Name: *Lepomis gibbosus*
Description: Easily identifiable from most other sunfish due to their bright colors, they are small and chunky with a small mouth. Their ear flap is typically dark in color with an orange or red margin.
State Record: 1 pound, 6 ounces.
Fishing: Many baits are used, such as worms with small hooks, as well as small jigs or even flies. They tend to spend their time on the edge of dense vegetation or woody debris.



Common Name:
Chain Pickerel, Jack, Jackfish

Scientific Name: *Esox niger*
Description: It can be distinguished from its cousin, the redfin pickerel, by its signature “chain-link fencing” patterns along the sides of its body, hence its name. It remains active during the winter and is often found in both deep pools near drop-offs, as well as in shallower areas that have sufficient cover, including weeds, logs and aquatic vegetation.
State Record: 8 pounds.
Fishing: It favors a wide variety of artificial baits including spinners, jigs and crank-baits, as well as live minnows.

*Chain Pickerel photo by S. Conley,
Other photos by T. Reed*



Common Name:
Flier

Scientific Name: *Centrarchus macropterus*
Description: Fliers have an almost circular, oval-shaped body with a distinctive “teardrop” oriented vertically beneath its eye. The fish is largely found in slow moving, warm waters such as swamps, backwater creeks and drainage ditches. It has 11 to 13 dorsal spines.
State Record: 1 pound, 5 ounces.
Fishing: Fishing techniques include using worms, crickets and small jigs or spinners.



Common Name:
Black Crappie

Scientific Name: *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*
Description: Black crappie have seven to eight spines on their dorsal fins, while white crappie only have five to six spines. They are also typically more mottled in appearance than white crappie and lack the vertical bars along the back that white crappie display. They are often found in deeper, still waters with sufficient cover including downed trees, brush piles and other aquatic vegetation.
State Record: 4 pound, 15 ounces.
Fishing: Jigging with jigs and spoons, live minnows near submerged cover and trolling with jigs/live minnows are all effective fishing methods for crappie.



Common Name:
Bullhead Species

Scientific Name: *Ameiurus spp.*
Description: There are five different kinds of bullheads in North Carolina including the Yellow, Brown, Black, Snail and Flat bullheads. All are difficult to tell apart without close examination, but a stocky appearance and lack of a forked tail can easily distinguish it from other catfish species.
State Record: Varies, depending on species.
Fishing: A variety of baits including worms, minnows, cut-bait, chicken livers and virtually any scented bait cast near the bottom are effective for catching bullheads.