

Snakehead Kayak Day

10 May, 2025



Snakehead Kayak Fishing

- 10 May, 2025
- Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve
- Show Time at 8:00 a.m.



- **Brooke Road Access Point**
- **Limited Parking (~22 spots)**

2500 Brooke Road

**Well marked
Easily visible from road**





PARKING LOT



Trail to Kayak Launch

- Improved trail / boardwalk
- 200 yards +
- Buddy carry or kayak trolley
- Trolley (wheels) help





Kayak Launch



The Water





THE FISH

A snakehead fish is lying on a large, flat rock. The fish has a mottled pattern of dark spots on its body and a prominent dorsal fin. It has a fly lure in its mouth, which is orange and yellow. To the left of the fish is a black fishing bag with the brand name 'Cabela's' written in yellow. A fishing rod with a cork handle and a reel is also visible on the rock. The background shows a body of water.

Snakehead

Successful Fly Technique

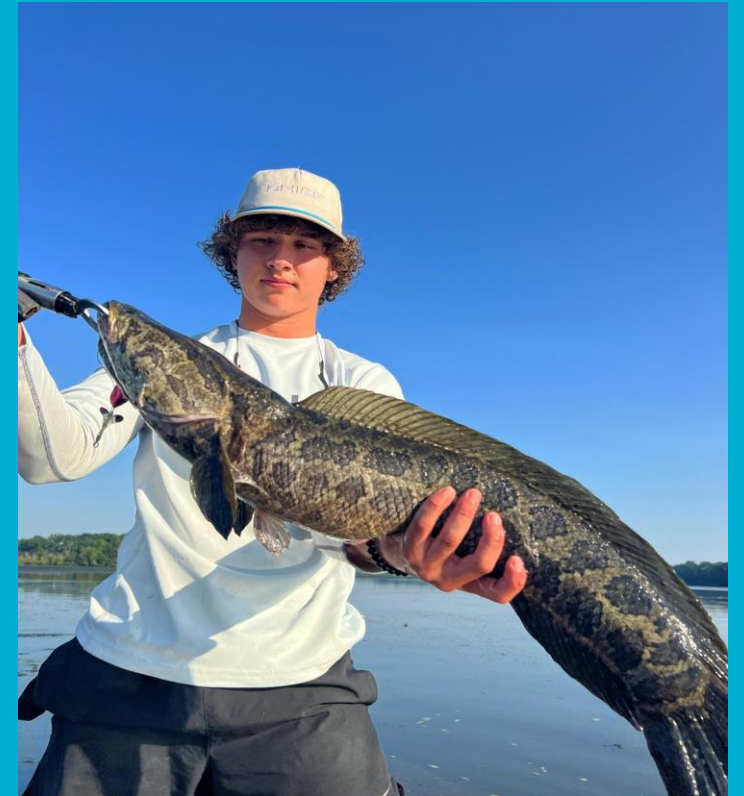
(by Andrew Spangler)

Snakehead overview

Northern Snakehead- *Channa argus* or Frankenfish

Snakehead are an invasive species originating in asia.

They are aggressive ambush feeders- will eat most things that cross them especially on fryballs



Habitat

- Snakehead prefer shallow dark colored bottoms with vegetation and structure where they can air breathe.
- fish around creek mouths and edge of the channel at low tide when all the fish are pushed out of the shallows



Ideal Conditions

Outgoing to low tide- fish will be pushed out of the shallows and are looking for other fish being pushed out

High tide: ~ 6:00 a.m.

Low tide: ~ Noon

Tide will be outgoing at 8 am

Techniques for catching snakehead

Sight casting- look for fish laying up in the shallow water sunbathing or chasing prey

Blind casting- fish along weedlines and up in the lily pads with a topwater fly with a fast retrieve.

Creek mouths- throw a baitfish fly at creekmouths on an outgoing tide as snakehead will be staged there waiting to ambush baitfish,

Tackle

Rods- 6 wt -9wt

Floating line

Leader 12-20lb tapered leader for casting bigger flies.

Tippet 15-30lb fluorocarbon tippet

Flies for success

Topwater flies- mouse, frog patterns

Subsurface flies- game changers, large baitfish patterns



Handling snakehead

Large net- snakehead tend to freak out in the boat.

Fish grips- can be helpful for holding fish



Should I keep the fish

- Snakehead are not required to be killed anymore but cannot be transported live
- very good table fare, a stringer or cooler would be recommended if kept.
- catch and release is allowed

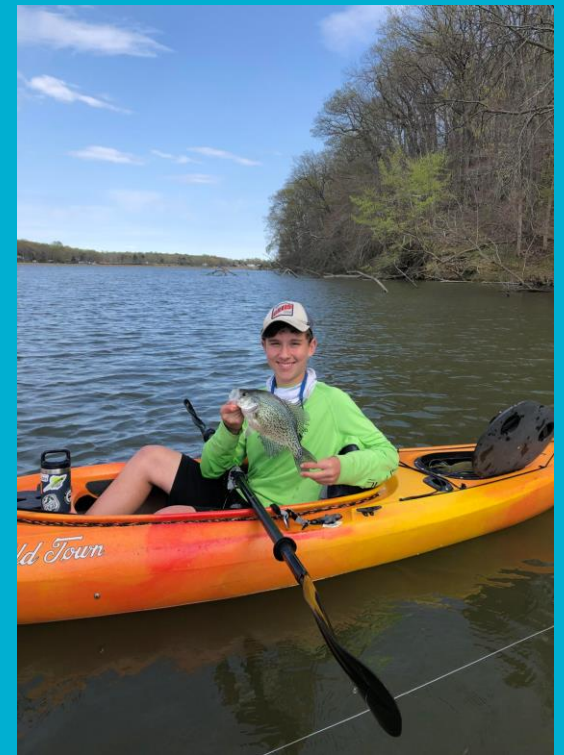


Other species

Crappie- look for tree laydowns on deeper water- small baitfish patterns

Gar- they are all over and may eat a rope fly

Bass- same as targeting snakehead



For additional details, see:

- 2023 and 2024 Trip Reports on the web site

- Prior year videos

- - <https://youtu.be/3WxpTJdL5D0>

- - <https://youtu.be/Gmr3jMc8V7w>

