

Broken Bow Lake Fishing Guide

Species, seasons, gear, and the best spots on a 14,000-acre clear-water lake.

Why Broken Bow is a Top Fishery

Broken Bow Lake's exceptional clarity (10–20 ft visibility), 180 miles of shoreline, and cold tailwaters below the dam make it one of Oklahoma's most diverse fishing destinations. From largemouth bass in summer to rainbow trout in the river year-round, there's a bite for every angler.

Species & Seasons

Species	Best season	Where	Top technique
Largemouth bass	Apr–Jun, Oct	Coves, rocky points	Soft plastics, crankbaits
Smallmouth bass	Year-round	Main lake rocks	Tubes, jerkbaits
Spotted bass	Spring/Fall	Deeper points	Drop shot, jigs
Crappie	Mar–May	Brush piles, docks	Minnows, jigs
Walleye	Spring nights	Main lake humps	Trolling crankbaits
Striper / hybrid	Summer	Open water	Live shad, top-water
Rainbow trout	Year-round	Lower Mtn Fork River	PowerBait, flies
Brown trout	Fall–Spring	Lower Mtn Fork River	Streamers, small spinners

Top 5 Fishing Spots

- Stevens Creek arm** — smallmouth and spotted bass along bluffs
- Beavers Bend coves** — early-morning largemouth on top-water
- Carson Creek** — crappie and white bass schools
- The Narrows** — vertical structure, mixed species
- Lower Mountain Fork River (below dam)** — Oklahoma's premier trout fishery

Licensing

- Oklahoma fishing license required for ages 16–64 (resident & non-resident)

bullet Trout permit required to fish the Lower Mountain Fork River

bullet Buy online: gooutdoorsoklahoma.com

Gear & Tactics

What to pack and how to fish Broken Bow's clear water effectively.

Clear-Water Tactics

- Use 6–10 lb fluorocarbon — visibility kills bites here
- Natural colors: green pumpkin, watermelon, shad patterns
- Fish early and late — bass go deep at midday in summer
- Long casts; the lake's clarity makes fish boat-shy

Recommended Kit

- Medium spinning rod 6'6" with 8 lb fluorocarbon
- Soft plastics (Senkos, finesse worms)
- Small crankbaits (shad pattern)
- Top-water (Whopper Plopper, popper) for dawn
- Pliers, line clippers, polarized sunglasses
- Net, measuring tape, livewell or cooler with ice

Tip: Hire a local guide for your first trip — they know seasonal patterns and save you hours of searching.

Catch & Release Best Practices

- Wet your hands before handling fish
- Support the belly; don't lip-grab large fish vertically
- Use barbless or pinched-barb hooks for quick release
- Revive fish in the water before releasing