Saltwater Fishing Apps

Back in the day, the sport of saltwater fishing looked quite different. Valuable tips and favorite spots were kept close to the vest. Novice anglers learned to fish mostly by word of mouth and trial and error, although some were lucky enough to be taught by expert family members or friends. There's no doubt about it – recreational fishing has evolved immensely in recent decades, and much of this transformation can be attributed to fishing-related online applications ("apps"). Anglers of all skill levels can benefit from the multitude of available fishing apps, as they are great tools for enhancing saltwater fishing expertise and opportunities! Below, we've highlighted some of our favorites.

Weather Apps

"Buoyweather" supplies an engaging, high-resolution time lapse of weather, wind, wave, and tide forecasts up to 2 days in advance. Users can monitor wave height and period, wind speed, sea surface temperature, and bathymetry at almost any point on Earth to prioritize ideal fishing conditions and determine weather windows for longer fishing excursions. These features also enable anglers to track inclement weather patterns to stay safe on the water. Color-coded scales allow for quick and easy referencing of oceanic conditions, and users can select favorite locations for efficient access, even while on the water. "Buoyweather" offers advanced resolution via a global satellite network measuring weather patterns and ocean conditions, which are then incorporated into regional forecasts, ensuring more accurate predictions for longer time periods. The free version provides 2-day forecasts; users can upgrade to the Premium subscription to access 16-day forecasts.

Availability: iOS, Android, Web

Account required: No

Cost: Free for basic version, or $14.99/month for Premium subscription

"Fishweather" provides detailed wind information captured from over 50,000 weather stations worldwide, which is used to produce weather forecasts. Anglers can take advantage of the zoom and search features to evaluate local weather conditions, and can even review onsite fishing reports from fellow anglers. Color-coded interactive maps show wind speed and direction in real-time or a week in advance, helping anglers plan fishing trips safely and efficiently. All of the above features are included in the free version, but users can also opt for a variety of subscription levels. The latter incorporate additional weather stations, access to more detailed forecasts, and in-app support options.

Availability: iOS, Android, Web

Account required: No

Cost: Free for basic version, or $3.99/month for Plus, $9.99/month for Pro, or $14.99/month for Gold subscriptions

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"National Weather Service" offers a wide range of marine forecasts and weather warnings for continental U.S. coastal waters, the Great Lakes, and the offshore and high seas areas of the North Atlantic and North Pacific oceans. Hourly marine forecasts for specific locations are available, as well as resources for tracking tropical cyclones, sea ice, and even tsunamis. Marine channel forecasts for Mobile Bay, AL and Tampa Bay, FL are updated regularly and show water level, precipitation, wave height, and wind speed predictions. Users can also take advantage of national forecast maps showing precipitation, temperature, wind speed and direction, and sky cover. Precipitation probabilities are given for short-range forecasts (12-48 hours), while medium-range forecasts depict pressure patterns over the course of 6 days, allowing users to gain a comprehensive understanding of upcoming weather conditions to plan for fishing trips of any duration.

Availability: Web

Account required: No

Cost: Free

"Windy.com" is a great tool for understanding wind direction and speed – critical factors in fishing decisions. It also provides dozens of other weather layers applicable to fishing, such as temperature, precipitation, cloud coverage, wave height, swells, currents, and sea surface temperature. The global interface is highly customizable; users can toggle weather layers on/off, change color palettes, switch between 2D and 3D visualization modes, and save favorite

preferences. The gallery enables users to add layers to their "quick menu," where they can evaluate a range of environmental conditions up to 9 days in advance. "Windy.com" remains one of the most comprehensive weather forecasting applications available and is widely used by outdoor enthusiasts of all specialties.

Availability: [iOS](#), [Android](#), [Web](#)

Account required: No

Cost: Free

Fishing Regulations Apps

"[Fish Rules](#)" is, by far, the premier fishing regulations app for every angler, and is endorsed and used by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. This app makes it easy to view and understand fishing regulations in each angler's location, determined by a global positioning system (GPS). Just search for a species, click on the species photo/name, and all season, bag limit, and size limit information will appear. The app also provides identification clues, edibility facts, and other names commonly used to refer to each species. With a free account, anglers can use the logbook feature to indicate the species caught and whether the fish was released or harvested, along with its length and weight. There is a ProStaff subscription available for purchase. This subscription unlocks access to thousands of artificial reef locations and enables an "Identify your fish" feature, where a user can submit a photo of a fish and a "Fish Rules" staff member will identify it within 48 hours.

Availability: [iOS](#), [Android](#), [Web](#)

Account required: No

Cost: Free for basic version, or $29.99/year for ProStaff subscription

"[FishVerify](#)" is a valuable reference tool that can be used to identify common marine species and verify rules and regulations. Users can quickly determine if their catch is in season and, if so, the bag limit(s) and size limit(s) for the species. The app also provides details on how to properly measure fish and which species have high (or low) edibility. Premium features allow the use of image recognition software to accurately identify the species caught; accurate identification is then supplemented with short descriptions on the appearance, habitat, and size range of the species. Users can also take advantage of the catch log feature to record catch, GPS coordinates, weather, and water conditions so they can pinpoint (and return to) fishing hotspots. Lastly, Premium status unlocks access to a digital wallet, where fishing licenses, permits, and boat insurance information can be stored digitally and securely.

Availability: [iOS](#), [Android](#)

Account required: No

Cost: Free for basic version, or $5.99/month ($29.99/year) for Premium subscription

Citizen Science Apps

"[iSnapper](#)" is designed to provide fisheries researchers with frequent catch information for one of the most highly targeted species in the northern Gulf of Mexico, red snapper. This app offers a unique opportunity to capture information, such as fish discard rates and more accurate effort estimates, that would otherwise be impossible to collect. The app is easy to use; anglers simply start a new trip and answer a few questions each time they go fishing. The number of fish harvested and released, along with the general fishing vicinity, should be recorded for every trip. Notably, users should provide vessel

registration numbers to ensure all catches become official data points! The responses are immediately sent to researchers, who then generate catch metrics that aid in the management of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery.

Availability: [iOS](), [Android]()

Account required: Yes

Cost: Free

"[MyCatch]()" enables anglers to become real-life (citizen) scientists! Created by Angler's Atlas, this app provides a place for users to record the fish they catch, track personal stats, explore new fishing areas, and participate in live fishing events. These events involve continuously tracking leaderboards, which are updated in real time, to see whether a catch is prizeworthy! By simply uploading catch information, users are helping fisheries biologists and university researchers obtain meaningful data that are otherwise difficult to collect. These data make it possible for scientists to answer important questions and fill collective knowledge gaps in the field of fisheries science.

Availability: [iOS](), [Android]()

Account required: For some things, yes

Cost: Free

"[SciFish]()" allows users to document data on fish catches to support the sharing of fisheries information along the U.S. Atlantic coast. Developed by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, which leads data management for Atlantic coast marine fisheries, the app hosts a plethora of fisheries science projects through partnerships with the South Atlantic Fisheries Management

Council (SAFMC) and the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF). SAFMC Release and NCDMR Catch U Later are two projects that aim to collect data on released fish. SAFMC Release focuses on red snapper and shallow-water groupers to better understand release conditions and post-release survival for these species, while Catch U Later was designed to evaluate North Carolina's recreational flounder fishery. Fishermen log simple fisheries data (fish length, approximate location, interesting observations, etc.) for specific projects within the application, thereby providing valuable insight into the U.S. Atlantic coast's commercial and recreational fisheries.

Availability: [iOS](#), [Android](#)

Account required: Yes

Cost: Free

Fishing Network Apps

"[Anglr](#)" is a fishing app built by anglers with the philosophy that fishing experiences are best enjoyed with friends – both old and new, in-person and virtual. "Anglr" attracts both serious fishermen and avid outdoorsmen and offers features such as trip logs, a dynamic social network, and competitive challenges. Users can access satellite and topographic maps to plan their trips, create personal logbooks to document fishing successes, share fishing activities by going live with friends, and join monthly fishing competitions for a chance to win prizes. Users can also sync the app to a variety of devices (phones, Apple watches, Lowrance fishing electronics, or even virtual fishing rods) to minimize screen time during their adventures. A Pro subscription offers additional maps and layers, live National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) weather updates, and exclusive partner perks to take advantage of promotions, discounts, and freebies. This subscription also provides the "Anglr" Bullseye tracker - a waterproof button with Bluetooth capabilities that can be attached to apparel or hats, enabling anglers to mark waypoints and catches without needing to pull out a phone and tap a point on a map. Bullseye automatically

records locations, gear used, and weather conditions so anglers can maximize each fishing experience.

Availability: [iOS](#), [Android](#)

Account required: Yes

Cost: Free for basic version, or $2.50/month ($29.99/year) for Pro subscription

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"[FishAngler](#)" is an app that provides weather and fishing forecasts, detailed map layers, and a database to log catches and fishing spots. Users can search and explore lakes, rivers, and oceans, and note weather conditions coinciding with optimal catches and experiences. Marine forecasts include wind, wave, and tidal conditions up to 7 days in advance, and the logbook organizes and tracks all fishing trips, including locations fished, gear used, and species caught. There are also options to upload catch photos to share with other members and select newsfeeds to reflect "global," "local," or "following" networks. Users can share experiences, start conversations, and create groups reflecting specific interests, and can opt for the free version or select the VIP subscription. The "FishAngler" VIP subscription includes industry discounts, ad-free scrolling, longer live feed uploads, and increased networking visibility.

Availability: [iOS](#), [Android](#)

Account required: Yes

Cost: Free for basic version, or $4.99/month ($44.99/year) for VIP subscription

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"[Fishbrain](#)" provides anglers with an abundance of tools to maximize their fishing experience and develop their fisheries expertise. One of the most

popular fishing apps available, "Fishbrain" provides depth maps, weather forecasts, information on local fish species, and – most importantly – a social network where fishermen can learn from other members and ask questions. Users can select species of interest and view previous catches from other anglers, obtain recommendations on the best types of fishing gear, and discover new fishing hotspots based on local reports from other anglers. "Fishbrain" also gives seasons, bag limits, and size limits based on species of interest. Finally, the app allows users to build and maintain a personal logbook of catches, where it identifies each fish caught, documents weather conditions for each catch, and provides useful summaries for planning future fishing trips. There is a Pro subscription available that provides exclusive access to depth maps, exact catch positions, advice on best bait types for target species, and "BiteTime" – an AI-generated fishing forecast that summarizes the best time to fish to lure in the best catch!

Availability: iOS, Android

Account required: Yes

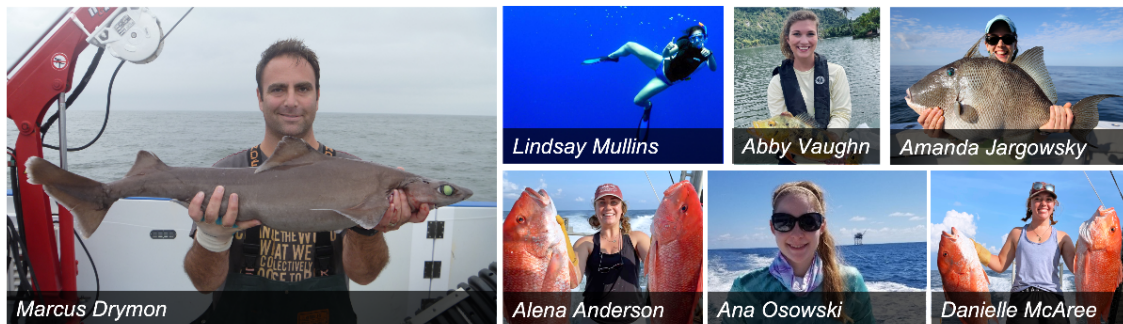*Cost*: Free for basic version, or $12.99/month ($79.99/year) for Pro subscription

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"Fishidy" is a social network platform for fishing enthusiasts that is based on waterway locations. Developed by a team of anglers from Madison, WI, the location database includes lakes, rivers, streams, and coastlines of the United States. Users select locations on a highly interactive map to gauge fishing conditions, see the number of catches at each location by other anglers, and identify the number of fishing hotspots within each waterway. To plan the best fishing experience, anglers can zoom in using the map or select specific zip codes to find an ideal fishing spot nearby and eliminate unproductive spots. Members can also share useful tips and information, post photos, and comment on others' posts to foster confidence, growth, and fun among the fishing community. The premium subscription provides exclusive access to fishing tips and mapping layers designed by Fishing Hot Spots – a collection of more than 600 maps spanning 41 states that are actively used by manufacturers like Lowrance, Raymarine, and Garmin, and allow direct navigation to specific fishing areas.

Availability: [iOS](#), [Android](#), [Web](#)

Account required: Yes

Cost: Free for basic version, or $9.99/month ($49.99/year) for Premium subscription

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If you know of any top-notch fishing apps not included in this newsletter, reach out to us at marinefisheriesecology@gmail.com!

I'm Marcus Drymon, an Assistant Extension Professor at Mississippi State University and a Marine Fisheries Specialist at Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant. Lindsay Mullins, Abby Vaughn, Amanda Jargowsky, Alena Anderson, Ana Osowski, Danielle McAree, and I are the Marine Fisheries Ecology Lab. We'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to us at marinefisheriesecology@gmail.com

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