

with small children because of the increased likelihood of catching fish. They can be an excellent place to take someone who is learning to fish because of the ease of catching fish.

Steps - Catchable-size fish are stocked at densities well above the standing stock which would be present in the pond by natural production. Anglers are allowed to fish the pond for the stocked fish. A minimal entrance fee is usually charged. An additional charge is then paid for any fish that are caught. Price is based either on the number or weight of the fish in the angler's creel.

Fishermen must be told what they can and cannot do, how they will be charged and hours of operation. This can be done verbally or by posting signs. Most operations use signs so there is no dispute while the anglers are fishing or when the anglers leave with their catch.

A minimum of two ponds should be at the site. This allows the fishermen to select the pond where they would like to fish. Having more than one pond will allow the fishery to continue in operation should a disease outbreak occur in one of the ponds. When

the fish become "smart", they can be removed from the pond with a net (seined) and placed into another pond to stimulate them to bite.

Ponds should ideally be of a variety of shapes and sizes to give the fishermen the feeling of a natural setting (Fig. 4). The pond bottoms should be smooth and the banks not so irregular as to prevent the ponds from effectively being seined. The ponds should be about one half acre in size. This will accommodate a fairly large number of people who will be able to "reach" most of the fish, but will not be so large that the ponds can't be easily seined.

Ponds should be about 4 to 5 feet in depth. This will allow easy seining of the ponds and good survival of stocked fish. If water levels fluctuate, this should be the minimum depth encountered during the year. Well water can be supplied to maintain water level and water quality.

Currently, the only fish that is available in quantity for use in fish-out ponds in Florida is the channel catfish. They can be purchased locally or hauled in live from out of state. Other species are difficult to obtain in abundance or do not hold up



Figure 4. Fish-out ponds should be constructed for easy harvest by seining and aesthetically appealing to patrons.