

# CHARLESTON LAKE



## SPAWNING SANCTUARIES

### NEW REGULATIONS

Starting in 2024, there will be two new spawning sanctuaries on Lake Charleston. The new regulations and the descriptions of the sanctuaries are included in the OMNRF's official 2024 Fishing Regulations. Within the spawning sanctuary boundaries, all fishing is prohibited from April 15 through the Friday before the first Saturday in July. Note, it is a citable offense to fish for any species within a spawning sanctuary during the closed season.

### SPAWNING SANCTUARIES LOCATIONS

The shaded areas in the map above show the boundaries of the two spawning sanctuaries. The coordinate are:

**Central Island Complex Sanctuary:** Within 100m of Sheep Island (44°33'21"N., 76°00'45" W.), Democrat Island (44°32'34" N., 76°00'55"W.), Fisher Island (44°33'00" N., 76°01'05"W.), Hogback Island (44°32'43"N., 76°00'28" W.), Prospect Island (44°32'32"N., 76°00'22" W.), Tar Island (44°32'57"N., 76°00'41"W.), Victoria Island (44°32'53"N., 76°01'07"W.), and Rockhouse Island (44°33'16"N., 76°01'07" W.)

**Sand Bay & Sally's Hole:** Includes Brown Island (44°33'42" N., 75°58'52"W.)

#### WHAT ARE SPAWNING SANCTUARIES?

Spawning sanctuaries are designated areas within a lake where fishing is prohibited during the reproductive period when fish are spawning and guarding their young.

#### WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Spawning sanctuaries will fully protect species like largemouth and smallmouth bass that spawn within their boundaries from the disruptions that angling can cause to their reproductive behaviors.

#### MONITORING ACTIVITIES

To determine how well the spawning sanctuaries protect nesting largemouth and smallmouth bass, a coalition of researchers will be conducting studies on Opinicon Lake throughout the reproductive season.