

GAMER GUIDE

Dredge Edition

Never let a catch slip through your tentacles with our DREDGE Gamer Guide



WHAT IS DREDGE?

DREDGE was released on 30 March 2023 by Developer Black Salt Games and publisher Team17. It is available on all platforms, from PC to mobile and consoles, including Xbox, PlayStation, and Nintendo Switch.

Dubbed as a “cosmic horror fishing adventure with a sinister undercurrent,” DREDGE is a single-player experience where you captain a small fishing vessel, navigating a Lovecraftian-inspired world filled with terrors.

You’ll meet interesting and somewhat creepy characters along the way, as you upgrade your ship, fish, dredge for treasures, and avoid the darkness from down below. It’s an atmospheric masterpiece that will keep you busy for over a dozen hours.

With our DREDGE Gamer Guide, you’ll never let a catch slip through your tentacles. Let’s begin by dredging up some details on the general gameplay loop, tips to survive the cosmic horror fishing adventure, the best fish to catch, the world map, abilities, and must-know information about both DLCs.



DREDGE GAMEPLAY LOOP EXPLAINED

DREDGE's gameplay loop is the epitome of easy to learn, difficult to master. Here's how a regular session of DREDGE might go down.

- The player leaves the dock, setting out to catch some fish.
- Using the fishing minigame, the player catches various fish from fishing spot pools.
- The player moves to the next fishing spot or dredges valuable items from floating wreckage.
- Oftentimes, a player will set course to either a main quest (pursuit) or a side pursuit currently in their journal.
- If a player spots something creepy or interesting (or both!), they investigate for potential rewards.
- Once the player's cargo hold is full, they return to the nearest town and sell their catches at the Fishmonger, and upgrade their ship at the Shipwright if they have enough materials.

While anyone might be able to catch some fish right from the start, and sail to the nearest dock, or follow instructions from NPCs, the game will quickly become more challenging, changing from a cosy, yet somewhat creepy fishing experience to more of an intense survival-horror.

That's why we've got some tips to survive in the mysterious archipelago of DREDGE to share.



TIPS TO SURVIVE IN DREDGE

To complete DREDGE, the Pale Reach and Iron Rig DLCs, you must master movement across the ocean, manage your inventory, and know when to tuck your tail between your legs, sailing away to live and fish another day.

MANAGE YOUR INVENTORY

Your ship's cargo hold has limited space even when fully upgraded. Players must employ inventory management skills, swapping and turning fish and other items to fit into open spaces.

Efficient management of your inventory and knowing when to head back to a town to unload your recent catches are of the utmost importance.

DREDGING FOR THE WIN

When you see floating wreckage, always dredge! These types of spots hold trinkets you can sell for cash, and importantly, upgrade materials!

CHECK THOSE CRAB POTS

Always put out some Crab Pots, and check back every few days to see what they've caught. Clear your inventory before heading to your Crab Pots spot, and repair them when their durability is low to ensure a constant flow of catches.



TIPS TO SURVIVE IN DREDGE

KEEP ON UPGRADING

The ability to upgrade your ship is at the core of DREDGE's gameplay loop. When you have enough materials, return to a Shipwright and start researching/upgrading. You can choose from several options at each tier, from more powerful lights to engines and new fishing equipment.

USE THE RIGHT TOOLS

If you are on a quest to catch a specific type of fish or Aberration, ensure that you have the correct fishing rod equipped to get the job done. There's nothing more frustrating in DREDGE than reaching a rare fishing spot, only to realise you need a rod of a different type to actually catch the fish.

LIGHT A PATH

If you are caught out in the dark, unable to make it to a safe harbour before nighttime, it's not the end of the world. We recommend upgrading your ship's lighting system and using the magical Banish ability to ward off enemies. Keep track of your panic meter, and maybe use the Haste ability to reach a safe spot as quickly as possible.

TIMING YOUR EXPEDITIONS

Ideally, you'll do most of your questing, dredging, and fishing during the day, while staying close to a safe harbour during the nighttime. Time management is the key to success in DREDGE, so plan and learn how far you can push an expedition, depending on your ship speed, upgrades, and ability to catch fish quickly.



ALL FISH CONDITIONS

The fish you've caught don't stay fresh forever. Instead, they slowly degrade with time, going through three main stages in DREDGE. As a fish's condition deteriorates, the selling price drops significantly. The condition of the fish in your cargo hold will degrade one level every twelve (12) in-game hours.

- Fresh fish sell for 100% of their value.
- Stale fish sell for 60% of their value.
- Rotting fish sell for 30% of their value.

A fish can also deteriorate to become "Rot", taking up only one inventory space. At this point, it is entirely worthless.



ALL FISH CONDITIONS

INFECTED FISH CONDITION & CAVEATS

Fish can become infected, and will then be worth 30% of their regular fresh price. Once an infection creeps into your supply of fish, you'll see the following in-game message:

"Something slithers into your cargo hold."

Infection is a gameplay system that can occur randomly when carrying some fish in your cargo hold. When a fish becomes infected, it changes from its current condition (fresh, stale, or rotting) to "Infected." You'll see dark purple growths appear on the fish.

That's bad, right? Not necessarily! Infected fish will never become rot. Furthermore, there's a 10% chance that a regular fish will be turned into an Aberration when the infection spreads. An Aberration, however, can never become infected. Some DREDGE players keep an infected fish in their inventory to "catch" all Aberrations.

As the infection spreads in your cargo hold, you'll see the following messages:

- "A sickly stench rises from your cargo hold."
- "The foul smell in your cargo hold grows stronger."

To get rid of infection in your cargo hold, simply sell the affected fish, or destroy them if you have to.



TYPES OF FISH AND RODS

To complete DREDGE, the Pale Reach and Iron Rig DLCs, you must master movement across the ocean, manage your inventory, and know when to tuck your tail between your legs, sailing away to live and fish another day.

You'll unlock more rods and fishing nets with various properties via the Research tab. Once you've unlocked a new rod, you can purchase it via the Shipwright or Travelling Merchant.

- Coastal
- Shallow
- Oceanic
- Abyssal
- Hadal
- Volcantic
- Mangrove
- Depth
- Ice (The Pale Reach DLC)

These are the regular fish types, and you'll need to use rods or fishing nets with the corresponding properties to catch these types of fish. There are, however, two additional subtypes of fish in DREDGE, namely Aberrations and Exotic.



TYPES OF FISH AND RODS

ABERRATIONS

Aberrations are the mutated versions of normal fish, boasting warped appearances and odd glows. They can be caught in the same water as any other fish. Look out for a blue glow in a fishing spot, which guarantees an Aberration. You can increase your chances of catching an Aberration if your panic level is high when fishing at night, and by using cursed fishing rods.

EXOTIC

There are five Exotic fish in DREDGE (if you own The Iron Rig and Pale Reach DLCs). Each exotic fish can only be caught once naturally, and has specific locations you must uncover during the “Recording Rarities” pursuit.

Some fish types only occur in specific areas. For example, Ice fish types are caught in the icy region of The Pale Reach, while Twisted Shark Aberration is caught in the Volcanic area of the Devil's Spine.



PRO TIP:

Use Exotic Bait from The Iron Rig DLC and navigate to where you've caught Exotic fish to catch them again!



ALL NORMAL & MAGICAL ABILITIES

NORMAL ABILITIES

Foghorn

Honk your foghorn to scare off crows or to make creatures notice you.

Spyglass

Use this ability to scout ahead, finding fishing and dredging spots to plan your next trip.

Light

See better in the dark by toggling your lights on, reducing panic buildup.

Crab Pot

Place a crab pot if you have some in your cargo hold.

Bait

Throw your selected type of bait into the water, creating a fishing spot.

Trawl Net

Drop down to passively collect fish as you move through the waters.

MAGIC ABILITIES

Manifest

Teleports you back to the Blackstone Isle location.

Haste

Gives the player a temporary speed boost to get away from enemies. This ability does raise engine heat and panic, so use it wisely.

Banish

Scare away nearly all types of monsters for a limited time.

Atrophy

Instantly collect all fish from a fishing spot, increasing the chance of getting Aberrations.

Mastering how to use your abilities in DREDGE most effectively is part of the challenge. We recommend using them as often as possible.



DREDGING UP THE PAST

Without spoiling the main story, it is critical to note that DREDGE players should explore as much as possible. Take your time, sail off the beaten path during the day, and look out for wreckage or NPCs wandering on remote islands.

Some of the best secrets in DREDGE are found by accident, from a small locket to a note that adds more depth to the intricate story. Unlike many other games, there's no handholding in DREDGE, which means you can miss many side quests if you don't pay attention.

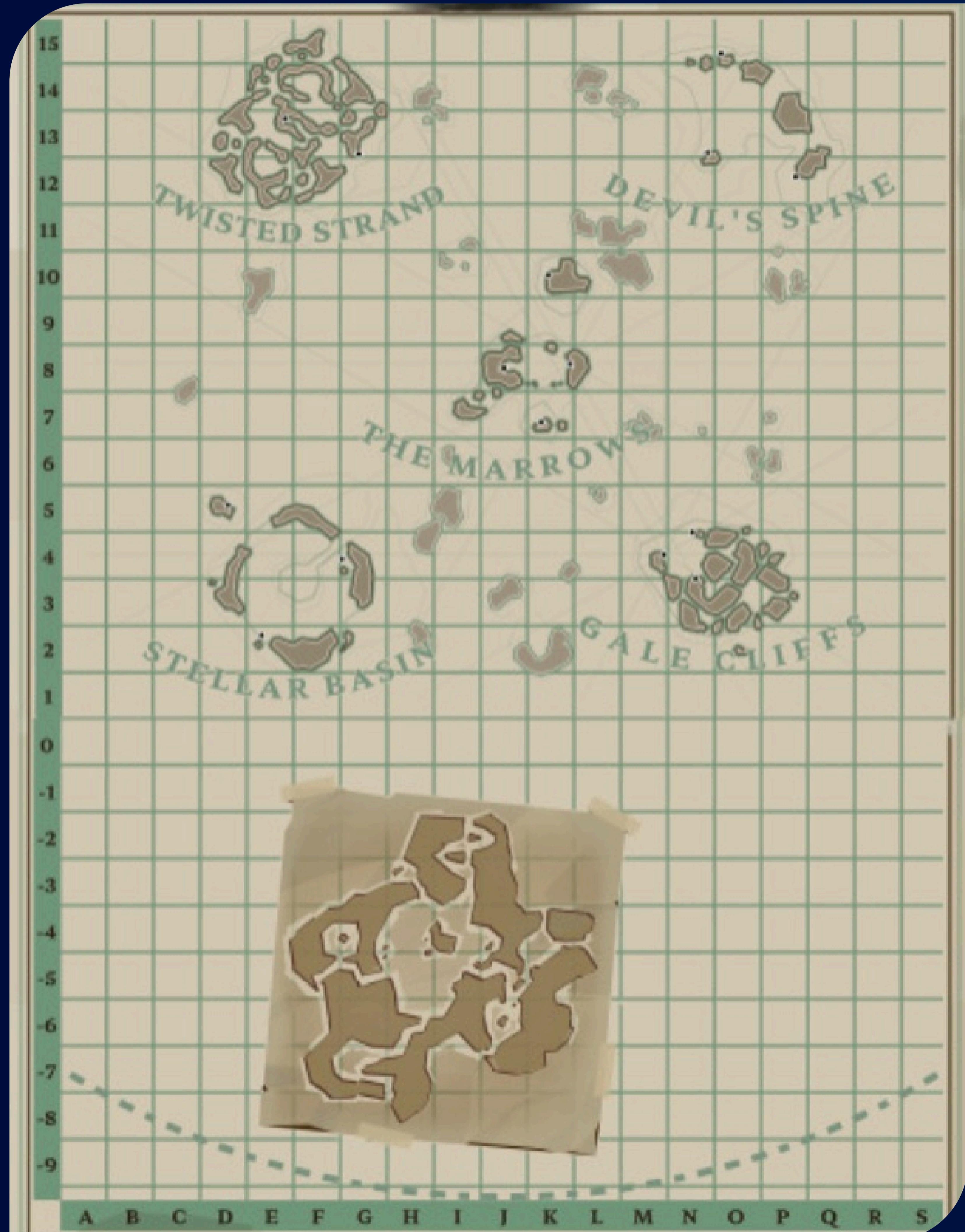
DREDGE is inspired by the works of H.P. Lovecraft, with a sinister undertone, otherworldly creatures, panic, madness setting in at night, and suspicious characters. The game delivers a sinking feeling that keeps creeping into the player before being fully revealed, offering a masterclass in Lovecraftian horror storytelling.



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THE DREDGE MAP

DREDGE is set in a mysterious archipelago, ripe for exploration. Players begin their journey in The Marrows, and as they continue to explore, they'll travel to the Stellar Basin, Gale Cliffs, Devil's Spine, and Twisted Strand. With the Pale Reach DLC, a new, icy location opens up to the far South, while the Iron Rig DLC opens up a drilling rig area to the far North.



PRO TIP:

Don't just follow the main quest! DREDGE rewards explorers with insatiable curiosity, offering up secrets, upgrade materials, characters, story tidbits, and side pursuits for those who are brave enough.

THE PALE REACH DLC LOCATION & DETAILS

If you've purchased DREDGE's Complete Edition or The Pale Reach DLC individually, you might wonder how to begin your new journey. The DLC adds a new icy area to explore, pursuits to follow, and fish to catch.

You can launch DREDGE after purchase and open your map. You'll see a red circle marker south of the Stellar Basin. Simply sail south, and you'll reach the Bleak Pontoon location, where you'll dock and speak to the Travelling Merchant.

THE PALE REACH DLC FEATURES

The Pale Reach offers roughly one to three hours of storyline, and a bunch of other nice little features that build upon the DREDGE experience.

- Uncover a mystery frozen beneath the ice in a brand-new side story, where you'll retrace the steps of a crew who braved the icy waters before you.
- Upgrade your ship with four new pieces of equipment.
- Catch 11 new fish of the Ice type.
- Add the new Ice Shaper addon for your ship, which allows you to cut through floating ice blocks.
- Earn eight new achievements.



PRO TIP:

Purchase and use Ice Blocks to extend the shelf life of your valuable catches, allowing them to stay fresh for much longer.

The IRON RIG DLC LOCATION & DETAILS

As the second expansion of DREDGE, The Iron Rig DLC boasts more content than The Pale Reach, where players build up an oil rig while assisting the Ironhaven Corporation.

Once you've purchased The Iron Rig DLC, you can navigate to its location by heading straight north. The massive structure is unmissable, sitting proudly between the Twisted Strand and Devil's Spine areas.

THE IRON RIG DLC FEATURES

The Iron Rig focuses on the new constructible destination, where players will uncover the new horrific secrets as they assist the Ironhaven Corporation. The DLC tasks players to revisit previous areas, investigating ancient disturbances. Check out the DLC's main features below.

- Uncover dark secrets in three to six hours of new story content.
- Unlock and craft eight new pieces of equipment.
- Catch over 50 new fish.
- Research and enhance powerful versions of old abilities.
- Unlock a new tier of your boat's hull, making it bigger.
- Earn 12 new achievements.



PRO TIP:

While you don't need to complete the game's main story to access The Iron Rig DLC content, we suggest at least completing the Twisted Strand area before assisting the Ironhaven Corporation.



THANK YOU

The best page