

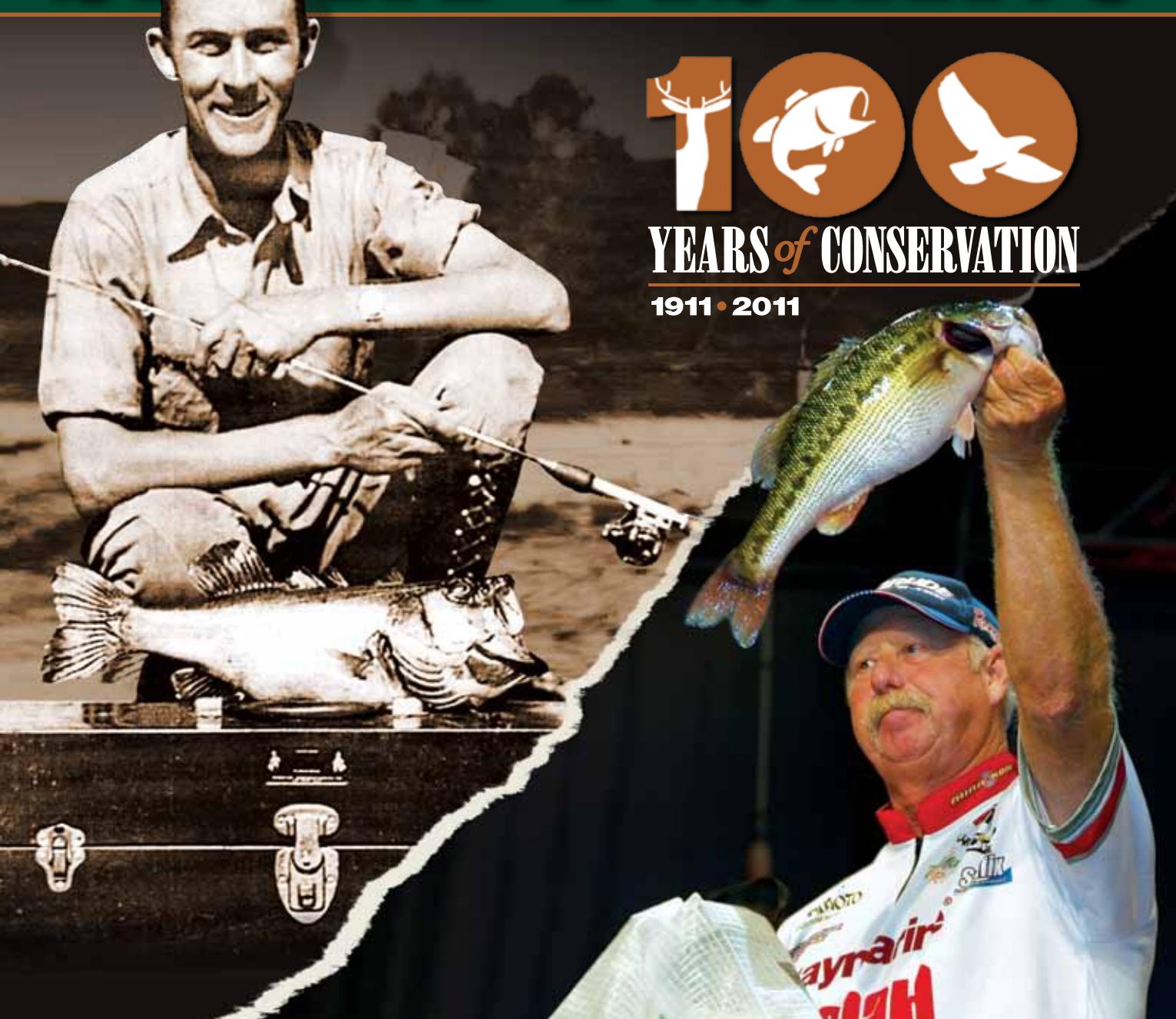


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2011 GEORGIA REGULATIONS

# SPORT FISHING



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A Publication of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources,  
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Mark Williams, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources

Dan Forster, Director, Wildlife Resources Division

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**Note:** The Wildlife Resources & Coastal Resources Divisions designed this guide to help you quickly find and understand regulations for fishing in Georgia. The Game & Fish Code and rules of the Department of Natural Resources are the final authority on questions on law. This publication was paid for by the sale of advertising. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources does not necessarily endorse products or services listed.

**Editor:** Keith Weaver (GADNR)

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### ON THE COVER

**Cover photography:** Upper left is George Perry, Helena, GA circa 1934, holding an award winning bass that he caught (photo submitted by Bill Baab Photography). Lower right is Tom Mann Jr., Gainesville, GA, professional angler, holds up his catch at the FLW Forest Wood Cup Tournament at Lake Lanier, August 2010.

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- Georgia's share is approximately \$6.9 million annually.
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- SFR and license fees pay for freshwater and saltwater programs and activities to benefit these resources.



**Learn more about the Sport Fish  
Restoration Program at:**

**[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) and [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com)**

# Contact Information & Offices

Refer to the color map to locate offices and facilities by their corresponding numbers. The color codes below correspond to the regional locations of offices and facilities on the map.

## Statewide or General Offices

### **1 Wildlife Resources Division State Headquarters**

2070 US Highway 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025  
 Main Number ..... 770-918-6400  
 Fisheries Management ..... 770-918-6406  
 Law Enforcement ..... 770-918-6408  
 Game Management ..... 770-918-6404  
 Nongame Conservation ..... 770-761-3035

### **Wildlife Resources Conservation Center**

2065 US Highway 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025  
 Boating Registration ..... 800-366-2661  
 License Unit ..... 800-366-2661  
 Boating Education ..... 770-761-3010

### **2 Coastal Resources Division Headquarters**

One Conservation Way, Brunswick, GA 31520  
 Main Number ..... 912-264-7218  
 Coastal Law Enforcement ..... 912-264-7237  
 Report a Fish Kill ..... 800-241-4113  
 Turn in Poachers (T.I.P) Statewide ..... 800-241-4113

## WRD Fisheries Regional Offices and Facilities

### **3 Northwest Regional Office**

312 North River St. NW, PO Box 519, Calhoun, GA 30703  
 Calhoun ..... 706-624-1161  
 Atlanta ..... 770-387-4821  
 Law Enforcement (Calhoun) ..... 706-624-1367  
 Law Enforcement (Atlanta) ..... 770-769-9680

### **4 Rocky Mountain Recreation & Public Fishing Area**

..... 706-802-5087

### **5 Summerville Hatchery**

..... 706-857-3394

### **6 Northeast Regional Office**

2150 Dawsonville Hwy, Gainesville, GA 30501  
 Gainesville ..... 770-535-5498  
 Law Enforcement (Gainesville) ..... 770-535-5499

### **7 Buford Trout Hatchery**

..... 770-781-6888

### **8 Burton Office & Trout Hatchery**

..... 770-535-5498

### **9 East Central Regional Office & Walton Fish Hatchery**

2123 US Highway 278, SE Social Circle, GA 30025  
 Social Circle ..... 706-557-3039  
 Atlanta ..... 770-918-6418

### **10 McDuffie PFA & Hatchery**

..... 706-595-1619

### **11 Thomson District Office**

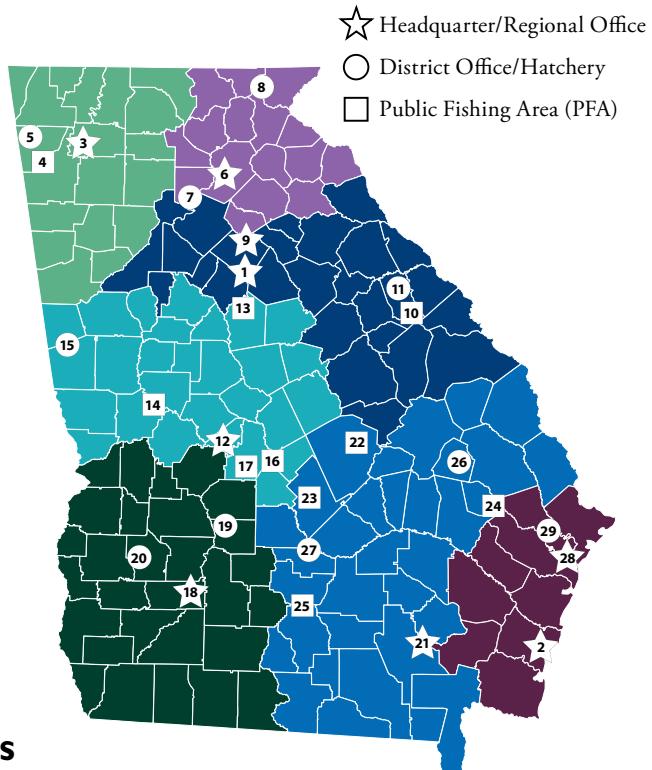
District Office ..... 706-595-1619  
 Law Enforcement Office ..... 706-595-4211  
 Augusta Number ..... 706-737-1480

### **12 West Central Regional Office**

1014 MLK Blvd., Fort Valley, GA 31030  
 Fort Valley ..... 478-825-6151  
 Macon Law Enforcement ..... 478-751-6415

### **13 Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center/ Marben PFA**

..... 478-825-6151 or 770-784-3063



 **The Go Fish Georgia Education Center** ..... 478-988-6701

**14 Big Lazer Creek Public Fishing Area** ..... 478-825-6151

**15 West Point District Office** ..... 706-845-4180

**16 Ocmulgee PFA** ..... 478-783-2557

**17 Flat Creek PFA** ..... 478-825-6151

**18 Southwest Regional Office**

2024 Newton Road, Albany, GA 31701

Albany ..... 229-430-4256

Albany Law Enforcement ..... 229-430-4252

**19 Cordele Hatchery** ..... 229-276-2362

**20 Dawson Office & Steve Cocke Hatchery** ..... 229-995-4486

**21 South Central Regional Office**

108 Darling Ave., PO Box 2089, Waycross, GA 31502

Waycross ..... 912-285-6094

Metter Law Enforcement ..... 912-685-2145

**22 Hugh M. Gillis PFA** ..... 478-296-6192

**23 Dodge County PFA** ..... 478-374-6765

**24 Evans County PFA** ..... 912-739-1139

**25 Paradise PFA** ..... 229-533-4792

**26 Metter District Office** ..... 912-685-6424

**27 Bowens Mill Office & Hatchery** ..... 229-426-5272

**28 Coastal Regional Office**

22814 Highway 114, Richmond Hill, GA 31324

Demeries Creek ..... 912-727-2112

Coastal Law Enforcement ..... 912-264-7237

**29 Richmond Hill Hatchery** ..... 912-756-3691

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## 2011

### LICENSING

- Georgia anglers are now offered a variety of fishing licenses and combinations. Please see page 13 for the full list of options.
- Georgia anglers and hunters who have lost their GA recreational hunting/fishing license can reprint them at no cost at [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com). Georgia anglers and boaters are able to take advantage of license and boat registration services online at this address, by phone, and at participating license dealers.

### FRESHWATER REGULATION CHANGES

- Effective October 1, 2010 Georgia anglers may possess and fish with blueback herring in five additional reservoirs in Georgia. The additions include Bartlett's Ferry, Blue Ridge, Goat Rock, Oliver, and West Point. Blueback herring possession remains illegal in Alabama waters (see reciprocal agreement on page 20).

### SALTWATER REGULATION CHANGES

At the time of printing, legislative and/or regulations changes were pending that may affect some species and licensing issues.

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Enjoy your Georgia fishing trip, but be sure that you know the freshwater and saltwater regulations before you go. Regulations may vary on different bodies of water so be sure

to consult the necessary pages. To use this guide follow these steps:

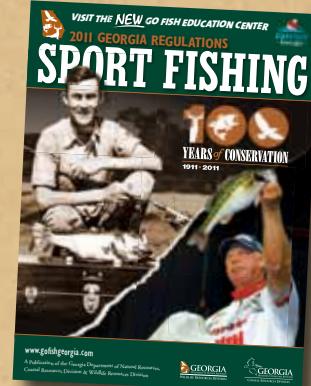
1. Be familiar with fishing **license requirements** and know who needs a license. See page 12 for freshwater and saltwater license requirements.
2. Know the **daily limits** and **seasons** on page 14 (freshwater) and page 40 (saltwater) and note any exceptions. See freshwater fish length limits on page 15 and legal freshwater fishing methods on pages 16.
3. Are you **trout fishing** or fishing on **Public Fishing Areas**? See pages 22–25 (trout) and pages 18–19 (PFAs).
4. Are you from **out of state** or **fishing border waters**? See **Agreements with Bordering States** on pages 20–21. Be aware that each states rules and laws may differ so know license requirements and possession limits.

**It is your responsibility to know what regulations apply where you are fishing.**

### REPORT FISH KILLS

Help protect our valuable fish resources. Report fish kills as quickly as possible.

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## About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports the Georgia Department of Natural Resource's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important fisheries and habitat programs!

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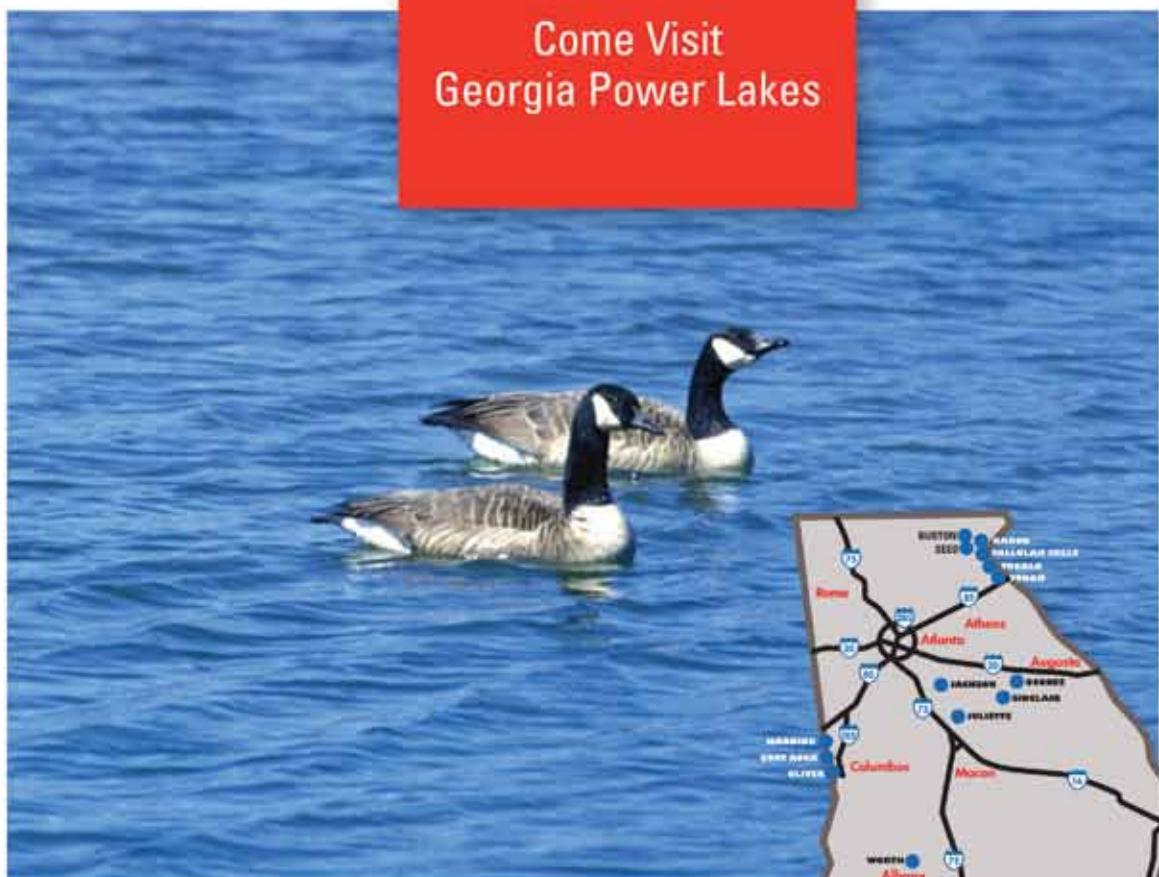
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### DAILY LIMIT

The number of fish that may be taken, caught, or killed during any one day.

### FISHING

Catching, capturing, taking, or killing fish, mussels and all seafood and includes all lesser acts such as attempting to catch, capture, or kill by any device or method and directly assisting any person in catching or attempting to catch fish or seafood.

### GAME FISH

Fish that are listed under Daily Limits (see page 14).

### IMMEDIATE FAMILY

All persons living in one household under one head of household and bearing a blood or dependent relationship to the head of household.

### NON-GAME FISH

Any fish not designated as game fish under Daily Limits (see page 14).

### PUBLIC FISHING AREA

Designated areas owned and/or operated by the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Fisheries Section for the primary purpose of fishing and are open to the public. These are listed on pages 18–19.

### RESIDENT

Any citizen of the United States who has maintained a legal residence in Georgia for a period of at least three months prior to purchasing a fishing license.

### COVER:

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Centennial Celebration – 2011 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division. The cover of our Sportfishing

Regs shows how far we have come in 100 years, from the World Record largemouth bass caught by George Perry in 1932 to hosting a world-class fishing tournament last year on Lake Lanier. Upper Left – George Perry, Helena, GA circa 1934, holding an award winning bass that he caught. Lower Right - Tom Mann, Jr., Gainesville, GA , professional angler, holds up his catch at the FLW Forest Wood Cup Tournament at Lake Lanier, August, 2010.

There have been many success stories over the past 100 years including conserving thousands of acres of prime wildlife habitat, and the successful restoration of several wildlife species including whitetail deer, wild turkeys, alligators and bald eagles. Please join us as we celebrate 100 years of conservation. Watch in coming months for more information about our Centennial. Go to [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com) for more information.

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- \*Phone: 1-800-366-2661
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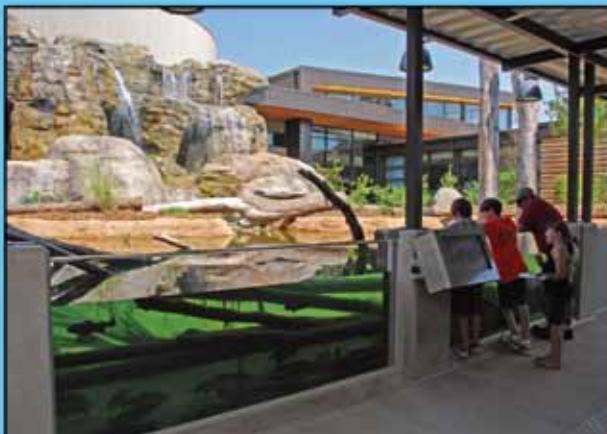
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# FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

## BUYING LICENSES

- There are several ways for you to purchase a Georgia fishing license.
- Buy in person at license dealers statewide including most WRD/CRD regional offices; state parks; marinas; major retailers; and sporting goods, bait and tackle, and hardware stores.
  - Internet sales are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com) or [www.active.com/outdoors/](http://www.active.com/outdoors/).
  - By telephone at 800-366-2661, 8am – 8pm M-F, 9am – 5pm S-S.

**Note:** Social Security Number is required for the purchase of all licenses to meet the State's requirements for Georgia Code 19-11-9.1(a).

## WHO NEEDS A FISHING LICENSE

Anglers age 16 and older must have a current Georgia fishing license in their possession while fishing in fresh or salt water in Georgia. A temporary authorization number obtained by telephone or internet sale may be used a period of seven days until the paper copy is received or printed. Conservation Rangers may require photo identification when checking fishing licenses. **Exception:** A fishing license is not required to fish in private ponds (does not include ponds owned by governments—city, county, state, or federal) nor by a landowner and their immediate family when fishing on their land. (See definition of *immediate family* on page 8.)

## Lost Your License?

Go to [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com) or [active.com/outdoors](http://active.com/outdoors) and follow the links to print out a replacement for any recreational license.

Those wishing to purchase a Lifetime License must first complete the needed application before purchasing. Lifetime Licenses can not be purchased on-line. The free senior lifetime license may be obtained online.

## Fishing for Savings: How to Save Money on Your License Purchase!

**Multi-Year License:** Offers anglers an opportunity to fish longer and save money. 2-year Fishing License - \$16 (An annual fishing license is \$9)

**Combo Licenses:** Convenient, new 2-year and 3-day Hunting & Fishing Combo Licenses save money.

- 2-year Hunting & Fishing Combo License—\$31 (An annual combo license is \$17.)
- Resident 3-day Hunting & Fishing Combo License—\$3.50 (3-day combo includes fishing privileges on WMAs and PFAs.)

**Stacking Licenses:** Anglers can purchase multiple annual or multi-year licenses and “stack” them into one transaction which will save money and eliminate multiple service charges. Note: Not all licenses can be stacked, if you have questions, visit [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com) or call 1-800-366-2661.

**Early Renewal Discount:** An easy way to save! The majority of hunting and fishing licenses offer sportsmen an early renewal option with a savings of \$2.75 when a same privilege license is purchased before expiration of the old license.

## RESIDENTS

- Proof of residence, such as a Georgia driver's license, is required to purchase a resident fishing license.
- For purposes of buying a fishing license, residents are U.S. citizens living in Georgia for at least three months and includes out-of-state college students living in Georgia. Students may use a current Georgia student I.D. as documentation. Residents also include full-time, active duty military personnel who are stationed in Georgia or who list Georgia as their home of record, and their dependents.
- A free hunting and fishing license may be issued once for Georgia resident military veterans discharged from active duty on or after July 1, 2005 who were on ordered Federal duty for a period of 90 days or longer. Valid for 12 months from date of issue. More details may be found under **Freshwater and Trout License Requirements** at [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com).
- **Residents 65 years of age or older** may fish with the Senior (65+) Lifetime License. This license can be obtained free online at [gofishgeorgia.com](http://gofishgeorgia.com) or from license dealers by furnishing proof of age (driver's lic., birth certificate, etc.).
- **Permanently and totally disabled:** Residents may obtain a Disability Honorary Combination Hunting and Fishing License by applying to the License Unit (800-366-2661). Proof of disability must accompany the application. Proof of disability may come from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Social Security Admin., Railroad Retirement System or other government agency.
- **Any resident who is totally blind** may apply for a Lifetime Honorary Fishing License and must provide a Physician's Certification of Blindness with the application.

## NONRESIDENTS

- Nonresidents 16 or older, regardless of physical condition, must have a valid nonresident Georgia fishing license to fish in Georgia freshwater and saltwater, except in private ponds. See also **Agreements for Bordering States** on pages 20–21).
- Nonresidents under 16 do not require a fishing license or trout license.

## RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS FOR BORDERING STATES

Georgia DNR has Agreements with Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina allowing holders of Georgia fishing licenses to fish in the waters covered without obtaining a fishing license from the bordering state. See **Agreements with Bordering States** on pages 20–21.

## MOUNTAIN TROUT LICENSES

- All resident anglers ages 16 to 64 must have a trout license and Georgia fishing license to fish in designated trout waters and to fish for or to possess trout. A WMA license is not required to fish for trout **except** for Waters Creek (see page 22).
- Resident Senior (65+) lifetime and honorary license holders are not required to have a trout license.
- Landowners and their immediate families may fish on their premises without a trout license.
- All nonresident anglers, 16 or older, regardless of physical condition, must possess a nonresident fishing license and nonresident trout license to fish for or possess trout or to fish in designated trout waters.
- **State park visitors** are not required to have a trout license to fish in the impounded waters of the Park. However, those visitors wishing to harvest trout will need to have a trout license in their possession.
- See **Public Fishing Areas** on pages 18–19.

## 2011 RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE FEES

Annual licenses are valid for one full year from date of purchase.

### RESIDENT LICENSES

Annual Fishing .....	\$9.00
Two-Year Fishing .....	\$16.00
3-Day Fishing/Hunting Combination*.....	\$3.50
Annual Trout .....	\$5.00
Two-Year Trout .....	\$10.00
3-Day Trout .....	\$3.50
Annual Wildlife Management Area .....	\$19.00
Annual Hunting & Fishing Combination.....	\$17.00
Two-Year Hunting & Fishing Combination.....	\$31.00
Sportsman**.....	\$55.00
Two-Year Sportsman** .....	\$105.00

### NONRESIDENT LICENSES

Annual Fishing .....	\$45.00
3-Day Fishing/Hunting Combination*.....	\$20.00
Annual Trout .....	\$20.00
3-Day Trout .....	\$10.00
Annual Wildlife Management Area .....	\$73.00
Annual Hunting & Fishing Combination.....	\$100.00

### CONVENIENCE FEES

Internet Transactions .....	\$2.50
Telephone Transactions.....	\$5.00
Walk-In Transactions .....	\$3.00

- \* Residents and non-residents may purchase the 3-day Combination License or Apprentice 3-day License for fishing.
- \*\* Under the new license structure, sportsmen save \$5 annually (\$55/year compared to \$60/year) when purchasing this license which covers all hunting and fishing privileges including Hunting, Big Game, WMA, Georgia Waterfowl Conservation, Fishing and Trout Licenses and the H.I.P. Permit (excludes the Deer Dog License, Alligator License and Federal Duck Stamp).

## A Lifetime of Fishing and Hunting!



Lifetime licenses are available for anglers of all ages. The Lifetime license satisfies all state license requirements for the life of the purchaser. Purchasing a lifetime license online is not available.

An application must be completed in order to purchase this license.

Under 2 years old .....	\$200
Ages 2-15 .....	\$350
Ages 16 and older .....	\$500
Ages 60-65 .....	\$95
Over 65 .....	\$0*

**Under 16 years old  
non-resident grandchild of  
resident lifetime license holder .....** \$1000

\* \$10 for a plastic, permanent card

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The image shows a close-up of a person's face and hand holding a large fish. The fish has a mottled green and brown pattern on its body and a white belly. The person's hand is visible, gripping the fish's lower jaw. The background is blurred, focusing on the fish and the person's eye.

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# FRESHWATER FISHING

## FRESHWATER GAME SPECIES DAILY LIMITS (See page 18 for special limits on Public Fishing Areas.)

	SPECIES	DAILY LIMIT	EXCEPTIONS
Bass	Largemouth, Redeye (Coosa), Shoal, Smallmouth, Spotted (Kentucky), and/or Suwannee bass	10	—
Catfish	Channel and/or Flathead	No limit	—
Crappie	Black and/or White	30	—
Pickerel	Chain, Grass and/or Redfin	15	—
Sauger	—	8	—
Shad	American and/or Hickory	8	—
Striped Bass, White Bass and/or Hybrid White-Striped Bass	—	15, only two of which can be 22 inches or longer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit taken from the North Newport River, Medway River including Mount Hope Creek, Little Ogeechee River, Ogeechee River, Oconee River downstream of GA Hwy 22 in Milledgeville, Ocmulgee River downstream of the GA Hwy 96 bridge between Houston and Twiggs counties, Altamaha River, St. Mary's River, Satilla River, and the tributaries to these river sections; and from saltwater is a <u>two fish limit, both of which must be 22 inches in length or longer.</u></li> <li>• Limit taken from the Savannah River and its tributaries downstream of J. Strom Thurmond Dam is a <u>two fish limit, both of which must be 27 inches in length or longer.</u></li> <li>• Limit taken from Lake Richard B. Russell from the Russell Dam to Lake Hartwell Dam and Lake Secession Dam, all tributaries to Lake Richard B. Russell is two (2) striped bass per day, only one (1) of which can exceed 34 inches in length.</li> <li>• See South Carolina Agreement on page 20.</li> </ul>
Sturgeon		May not be taken in fresh or saltwater in Georgia	
Sunfish or Bream	Bluegill, Flier, Redbreast, Redear, Rock bass, Spotted, Warmouth and/or Shadow bass	50	Bream: See South Carolina Agreement on page 20.
Trout	Brook, Rainbow, and/or Brown trout	8	See Amicalola Creek, Chattahoochee River, Chattooga River, Smithgall Woods, Smith Creek, Toccoa River, and Waters Creek on pages 22–25.
Walleye	—	8	Limit on Blue Ridge Reservoir is 15.

## FRESHWATER GAME SPECIES DAILY LIMITS

- It is unlawful to take in one day or to possess at any one time, except at a residence or commercial storage facility, more than the daily limit for each species. It is unlawful to possess more than a total of 50 individuals of all the game fish listed in this section, except channel and flathead catfish.
- Once the daily limit for a particular species is taken, it is unlawful to continue to fish for that species.

**Exception: Daily limits differ on certain waters shared by Georgia and South Carolina. See Agreements with Bordering States (pages 20–21).**

## SEASONS

There is no closed season for fishing in freshwater in Georgia except for the following:

- **Trout Season:** Trout streams that are designated as seasonal trout streams are **OPEN** to fishing for any species from **March 26–October 31, 2011 and from March 31–October 31, 2012.** Seasonal trout streams are **CLOSED** to fishing for all fish species at all other times. See pages 22–25 for trout stream designations.
- **Flint, Chattahoochee and Spring Creeks:** The Flint River and its tributaries from the Georgia Power Co. dams at Albany to the US Hwy 84 bridge; the Chattahoochee River and its tributaries from the Columbia Lock and Dam to the GA (see page 16).

Hwy 91 bridge; and Spring Creek and its tributaries downstream to GA Hwy 253 are **CLOSED** to striped bass fishing and spear fishing from May 1–October 31 each year.

- **Lakes Seminole and Blackshear:** All fishing, including spear fishing, for any species in the marked areas around five fish refuges in Lake Seminole and in three fish refuges in Lake Blackshear is prohibited from May 1–October 31 each year.
- **Coosa River:** The season for taking lake sturgeon from the Coosa River and its tributaries is **CLOSED**. See [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com) for more information on this closure and how to identify this fish.
- **Noodling or Grabbling:** The season is open March 1–July 15 statewide in freshwater.

## ANGLER AWARDS PROGRAM

Catching a big fish is always a thrill and usually requires exceptional fishing skill. Each year DNR recognizes the achievement of anglers who catch “trophy” fish by presenting them with an Angler Award. Fish do not have to be a new state record to qualify. Applications, minimum weights/lengths for species, and full program details are available at any Fisheries office and at [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com). To qualify you must:

- Catch your fish on legal sport fishing tackle in Georgia (see page 16).

• Meet the minimum weight or length requirements for that species.

• Take the fish to a DNR Fisheries Office and have it positively identified. A clear side view photo of the fish can now be used for identification in the case of “catch-and-release.” Please call before coming to an office to make sure that someone will be available to identify your fish (list on page 4).

• Complete application and submit it with a clear side view photo of the whole fish to the address listed on the form.

If you think you, or someone you know, caught a new **state freshwater record**, follow these steps:

- Do not clean or freeze the fish.
- Keep the fish cool, preferably on ice.
- Weigh the fish to the nearest ounce as soon as possible on scales certified accurate by the Georgia Department of Agriculture (at Fisheries Section offices and businesses that sell products by weight) in the presence of two witnesses over the age of 18. Witnesses cannot be members of the immediate family. Estimated weights are not accepted.
- Take the fish to a DNR Fisheries Office as soon as possible and have it positively identified by a DNR fisheries biologist or technician. Please call the office before you come (list on page 4).
- Complete an application and submit with

a clear side view photo of the whole fish within 90 days of the catch.

- Freshwater Records see page 30
- Saltwater Records see page 44

### LENGTH LIMITS

**Note:** There are no minimum length limits on freshwater game fish **unless** they are listed below. All lengths are Total Length (see "How to Measure Fish" below). You must release all fish shorter than the minimum length indicated for that species.

### LARGEMOUTH BASS

12 inches statewide **except:**

- Bear Creek Reservoir (Jackson County): bass between 16 and 22 inches must be released immediately. All others may be kept.
- Lake Blackshear: 14 inches
- Lake Blue Ridge: no minimum (0 inches)
- Lake Burton: no minimum (0 inches)
- Lake Juliette: no minimum (0 inches)
- Lake Lanier: 14 inches
- Lake Oconee: bass between 11 and 14 inches must be released immediately. All others may be kept.
- Ocmulgee River from the Spring Street bridge crossing in Macon downstream to the confluence of the Ocmulgee River and the Oconee River: 14 inches
- Lake Walter F. George: 14 inches
- West Point Reservoir: 14 inches
- Public Fishing Area lakes operated by the Department of Natural Resources: 14 inches. This limit will not apply to lakes which have been posted as having a different length limit for largemouth bass.

### SHOAL BASS

- Lake Lanier: 14 inches
- Flint River and its tributaries: 12 inches

### SPOTTED BASS

- Lake Lanier: 14 inches

### STRIPED BASS, WHITE BASS, & HYBRID

### WHITE-STRIPED BASS

You may only keep two fish of the total limit that are 22 inches or longer, **except:**

- The minimum length for all fish is 22 inches on the North Newport River, Medway River including Mount Hope Creek, Little Ogeechee River, Ogeechee River; Oconee River downstream of GA Hwy 22 in Milledgeville; Ocmulgee River downstream of GA Hwy 96 bridge between Houston and Twiggs counties; Altamaha River, Saint Mary's River, Satilla River, and the tributaries to these river sections; and from saltwater.
- The minimum length is 27 inches on the Savannah River and its tributaries downstream of J. Strom Thurmond Dam (2 fish limit).
- See agreement with South Carolina (page 20)

### TROUT

No minimum length limit for trout **except:**

- Waters Creek:
  - Brown and rainbow trout: 22 inches
  - Brook trout: 18 inches
- Noontootla Creek and its tributaries on Blue Ridge WMA
  - All trout: 16 inches

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### Fishing Gear Must Be Regularly Checked

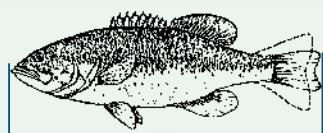


- Attend to gear such as limb lines. (All trotlines must be checked at least every 24 hours and removed after the fishing trip.)
- Make every reasonable effort to retrieve lost gear (including hooks, line and lead sinkers).
- Recycle used fishing line.

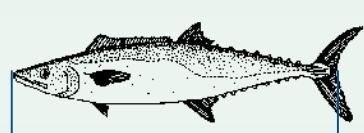
**For more information, contact:**  
Fisheries Section – (770) 918-6406

## How to Measure a Fish

Freshwater fish are measured as Total Length (TL) Minimum sizes for saltwater finfish are measured in two ways: Total Length (TL) and Fork Length (FL). Methods for measuring fish are described below:



Total Length



Fork Length

### Freshwater and saltwater finfish

#### TOTAL LENGTH:

- Place the fish on its side with the jaw closed
- Squeeze the tail fin lobes together
- Measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail

#### Saltwater fish

#### FORK LENGTH:

- Fork Length (FL) is used to measure fish with deeply forked tails.
- Measure the straight line distance from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.
- For either method, you must release all fish shorter than the minimum length indicated for that species.

### Creel and Possession Note to Anglers

Creel and possession limits are per person. In order for Conservation Rangers to correctly determine compliance with these limits, each individual should keep trout or other fish on separate stringers or in separate creels. It is unlawful for one individual to possess more than the legal limit of any fish species.

# FRESHWATER FISHING METHODS

## The following are legal methods for freshwater fishing.

### HOOK AND LINE

- There is no restriction on the number of poles and lines used to fish for game fish **except:**
  - Fishing for trout: 1 pole
  - Fishing on Public Fishing Areas: 2 poles
  - Sport shad fishing: 2 poles
- Anglers using more than two poles and lines to fish for shad must abide by commercial shad regulations.
- Landing nets may be used to land fish legally caught.
- Game fish may be used as live bait (where live bait is legal) if they are taken legally and you do not exceed daily creel and possession limits.

### SPORT TROTINES & JUGS

- A “sport trotline” is one line or a combination of lines using less than 51 hooks. Sport trotlines must be:
  1. Marked with the owner’s name and address and with visible buoys
  2. Submerged at least three (3) feet below the surface of the water
  3. Attended regularly and removed after the completed fishing trip.
- Unmarked or unattended trotlines will be confiscated by DNR. It is unlawful to use any sport trotline within one-half mile below any lock or dam.
- Only catfish and nongame fish (year-round) and American and Hickory shad during shad season may be taken with trotlines.
- Trotlines and jugs are not permitted on Lake Tobeofkee or any State Park lake.

- Use of 51 or more hooks is considered Commercial Fishing (see page 26).

### SPEAR FISHING

- “Spearing” is the use of a handheld spear or similar device and the use of a weapon, other than a firearm, which propels the spear to which a wire, rope, line, etc. is attached and secured to the weapon or the person using the weapon.
- Only nongame fish, and catfish as described below, may be speared in freshwater and are not to be sold or used for commercial purposes.
- The taking of flathead and channel catfish by spear may be done any time day or at night by light in the Savannah River and its tributaries and impoundments in the Savannah River Basin only.
- All spears must have barbs or other devices to recover fish and must be attached to a line secured to the person using the weapon.
- A sport fishing license is required to spear fish in Georgia.
- The person spearing fish must be completely submerged.

**Note:** See **Seasons** on page 14.

### SEINES, CAST NETS, BOW NETS

- Only nongame fish less than 5 inches in length may be taken using a minnow seine and are not to be sold or used for commercial purposes.
- All other fish and eels taken in minnow seines must be released immediately unharmed into the water.
- A minnow seine must be less than 20 feet in length and have a  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch or less mesh (square or diameter).

- Minnow seines may not be used in designated trout waters.
- Minnow traps are illegal in freshwater.
- Dip nets and cast nets may be used to take threadfin shad, gizzard shad, and blueback herring of any size for bait except cast nets may not be used in State Park Lakes.
- Bow nets are considered sport shad fishing gear and shall have a minimum legal size of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches stretched mesh.

### BOW FISHING

Nongame fish (does **not** include channel or flathead catfish, see note below) may be taken by bow and arrow from freshwater under the following conditions:

- Possession of a sport fishing license is required to bow fish in Georgia.
- Arrows must be equipped with barbs or similar devices for recovering fish and must be attached to the person or bow by a line sufficient for recovering the arrow and fish.
- Poisonous or exploding arrowheads are illegal.
- Arrows cannot be discharged into the water closer than 150 feet to anyone engaged in any other means of recreation.
- Legal hours for fishing with bow and arrow are from sunrise to sunset, except that fish (**nongame**) may be taken at night while using a light in reservoirs over 500 acres in size.
- Any game fish with an open wound possessed by a person bow fishing will be considered evidence of taking fish illegally.
- **Note:** Channel and flathead catfish are game fish, and may not be taken by bow and arrow, except in the Savannah River and its tributaries and impoundments in the Savannah River basin by bow and arrow any time during the day or at night by the use of a light.

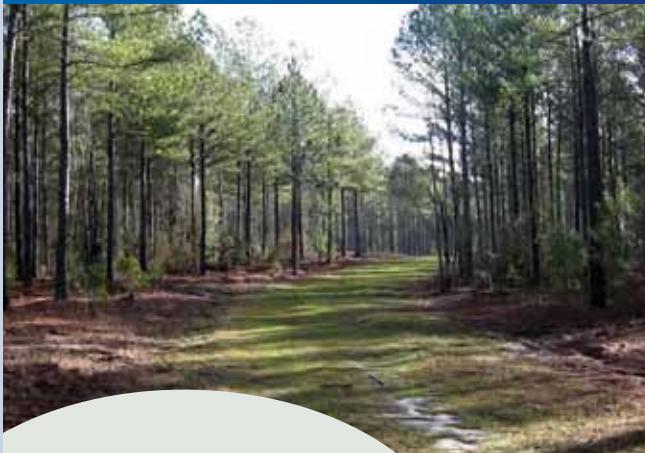
### NOODLING OR GRABBING

- Flathead, channel and blue catfish may be taken by hand, **without** the aid of any device, hook, snare, net or other artificial element and without the use of any scuba equipment, air hose or other artificial breathing apparatus.
- Noodling is legal in the fresh waters of the state from March 1–July 15 each year.
- A sport fishing license is required to noodle (grabble) in Georgia.
- It is illegal to take game fish (other than the catfish species listed above) and all other species of fish by hand.
- It is not legal to alter any natural or man-made features in order to attract or capture fish by hand. It is not legal to raise any part of a natural or artificial device out of the water to aid in the hand capture of enclosed fish.

## In Georgia It Is Unlawful To:

- Possess or use live blueback herring for bait in all fresh waters **except** the following: Lakes Bartlett's Ferry, Blue Ridge, Chatuge, Goat Rock, Juliette, Lanier, Nottely, Oliver, and West Point; and the Altamaha River watershed downstream of the following: Juliette dam on the Ocmulgee River, Lake Juliette dam on Rum Creek, Lake Tobeofkee dam on Tobeofkee Creek, Lake Sinclair dam on the Oconee River; and watersheds of all other streams that flow directly into the Atlantic Ocean (this drainage includes Burton, Tugaloo, and Raburn). For maps of restricted waters go to [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com) and see “Freshwater Regulations” section.
- It is still illegal to possess and fish with live blueback herring in Alabama waters.
- Fish for game fish, except American shad, hickory shad, channel catfish, blue catfish, or flathead catfish, by any means other than pole and line.
- Take any fish from public freshwater by any method other than the methods listed on this page. Snagging fish is illegal.
- Use electronic devices, explosives, poisons, or firearms to take fish.
- Stock or release fish or bait into any public waters except the water from which it was taken.
- Discard fish caught in public waters

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## PUBLIC FISHING AREAS

Public Fishing Areas (PFAs) are great places for family outings! You can fish from the bank or a boat, picnic, hike, watch wildlife, and enjoy the outdoors. Good bank fishing opportunities are available at all PFAs and many of them have special kids fishing areas for young anglers. **Remember, not all PFAs have the ability to sell licenses on site.** Please call each PFA for details.

### PLEASE READ BEFORE FISHING A PFA

#### Licenses:

- Anglers 16 years of age and older must possess a valid Wildlife Management Area (WMA) license and a current fishing license to fish, **except** a WMA license is not required to fish at Rocky Mountain Recreation and Public Fishing Area.
- If you have a Sportsman's license, 3-Day Hunting/Fishing License, Senior Lifetime license or Honorary license you are not required to have a WMA license to fish on a PFA.

#### Length and Daily Limits:

Unless a pond or lake has been posted as having a different length limit or daily limit, the following apply:

#### Length limit:

Largemouth bass: 14 inches minimum

#### Daily limits:

Largemouth bass.....	5
Bream or sunfish (of any one species or a combination) .....	15
Channel catfish.....	5
All other species .....	see page 14

#### Grass carp must be released immediately.

**Hours of Operation:** PFAs are open year-round, seven days a week from sunrise to sunset.

To find a PFA location refer to the map on page 4. Find each of the following PFAs by the numbers indicated in parentheses (#).

### BIG LAZER CREEK (#14)

Talbot County, 478-825-6151

**Fish Species:** Largemouth bass, Bluegill and Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, Crappie. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait.

**Water:** 195 acre lake.

**Facilities:** Concrete two-lane boat ramp, fishing pier, fish cleaning station, restrooms, picnic tables, primitive camping, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Directions from Talbotton:** East on US Hwy 80 for 4 mi.; left on Po Biddy Road for 6.4 mi.; left on Bunkham Road; left into area.

### CHARLIE ELLIOTT WILDLIFE CENTER/

### MARBEN PFA (#13)

Jasper/Newton Counties,  
478-825-6151 or 770-784-3063

**Fish Species:** Largemouth bass, Bluegill,

## On Public Fishing Areas IT IS UNLAWFUL to:

- Operate boats on ponds or lakes posted as closed to boats.
- Operate gas outboard motors unless lake is posted as being open to the use of outboard motors.  
**NOTE:** Gas motors, if allowed, must be operated at idle speed only.
- Consume alcoholic beverages except at campsites on the area. No alcoholic beverages are allowed anywhere on Rocky Mountain PFA.
- Fish in a pond or lake that has been posted "closed."
- Fish with any gear other than pole and line.
- Fish with more than two poles and lines.
- Use or possess live fish (minnows) for bait, unless otherwise posted.
- Operate personal watercraft (jet skis), sailboats, or sailboards.
- Drive on any closed road or block any gate.
- Camp any place other than designated camping areas.  
**NOTE:** Contact the PFA before visiting for regulations regarding camping.
- Swim, except at Rocky Mountain Recreation and PFA beach.
- Allow children under 14 years of age to be on PFA without adult supervision.
- Ride horses in restricted areas or areas not designated as open to equestrian use.
- Fish at night, unless otherwise posted.

Redear sunfish, Crappie, Channel catfish. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait.

**Water:** 20 ponds, totaling 293 acres, ranging in size from 1 to 95 acres.

**Facilities:** Kids only ponds, concrete boat ramps (6 lakes), boat docks, restrooms, fishing piers, fish cleaning station, picnic areas, primitive camping, some fishing areas accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Note:** Check information board for lakes that are open for fishing when you visit.

**Directions From Mansfield:** South on GA Hwy 11 for 2.7 mi.; left on Marben Farm Rd. Follow signs.

### DODGE COUNTY (#23)

478-374-6765 or 229-426-5272

**Fish Species:** Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, Crappie.

**Water:** 104 acre lake.

**Facilities:** Concrete boat ramps, fishing pier, fish cleaning station, restrooms, picnic tables, nature trail, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Directions From Eastman:** South on US Hwy 23/341 for 3 mi.; left on County Rd. 49 for 0.6 mi. to lake.

### EVANS COUNTY (#24)

912-739-1139 or 912-285-6094

**Fish Species:** Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, Crappie, Brown bullhead.

**Water:** Three ponds encompassing 122 acres (8, 30, 84 acres).

**Facilities:** Concrete boat ramps, fishing piers, fish cleaning station, restrooms, picnic tables, primitive camping, some facil-

ties accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Directions From Claxton:** East on US Hwy 280 for 8.5 miles; right on Old Reidsville-Savannah Road for 1 mile; left on Old Sunbury Road (dirt), PFA 0.3 miles on right marked by Wildlife Resources sign.

### FLAT CREEK (#17)

### (Houston County State Park)

Houston County, 478-825-6151

**Fish species:** Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish.

**Water:** 102 acre lake and one special event pond.

**Facilities:** Concrete two-lane boat ramp, fish cleaning station, restroom, picnic tables, bank fishing, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Directions from I-75:** Take I-75 to exit 134 (South Perry Parkway), Turn west onto South Perry Parkway, Travel approx. 0.25 miles and turn left (South) on Georgia Highway 41, Drive about 3.5 miles and turn left into Flat Creek Public Fishing Area

### HUGH M. GILLIS (#22)

Laurens County,

478-296-6192 or 912-285-6094

**Fish Species:** Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, Crappie.

**Water:** 109 acre lake and two 1 acre KFE ponds.

**Facilities:** Concrete boat ramps, fishing pier, fish cleaning station, restrooms, picnic tables, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Directions From East Dublin:** East on US Hwy 80 for 10 mi.; left on Keens Crossing Rd. for 1.4 mi., PFA entrance on right.

**MCDUFFIE (#10)**

McDuffie County, 706-595-1619

**Fish Species:** Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish.

**Water:** 7 ponds varying in size from 5 to 37 acres. Rodbender Lake is open the 1<sup>st</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Facilities:** Concrete boat ramps, courtesy docks, restrooms, picnic tables, tent and RV camping in designated areas (fee is \$15–25 per site per night), some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Directions From Thomson:** South on Hwy 17 to US Hwy 278; left (east) for 5.6 mi.; right on Ellington Airline Road for 2.8 mi.; right on Fish Hatchery Road for 0.8 mi.

**OCMULGEE (#16)**

Bleckley/Pulaski Counties, 478-783-2557

**Fish Species:** Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Crappie, Channel catfish. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait.

**Note:** Fishing for largemouth bass is catch-and-release only.

**Water:** 106 acre lake and one special event pond.

**Facilities:** Concrete two-lane boat ramp, fishing piers, fish cleaning station, restrooms, picnic areas, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Directions From Hawkinsville:** Travel north on Upper River Rd. for approximately 7 mi.; Left on Magnolia Rd. (PFA sign located at turn); travel approx. 2 mi. PFA entrance on right.

**PARADISE (#25)**

Berrien County, 229-533-4792 or 912-285-6094

**Fish Species:** Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, Crappie, Brown bullhead.

**Water:** 68 lakes encompassing 525 acres of water.

**Facilities:** Restrooms, fish cleaning station, picnic area, concrete boat ramps, tent camping (\$10 per site per night; pay a drop box; no reservation needed; first come first serve), group camp (\$20 per night; 20 person minimum; call for reservations), fishing pier, boat dock, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Directions From Tifton:** East on US Hwy 82 for 8 mi. to Whitley Road near Brookfield; follow signs from US Hwy 82 to the area.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN RECREATION & PUBLIC FISHING AREA (#4)**

Floyd County, 706-802-5087

**Fish Species:** Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, Black crappie, Hybrid white-striped bass.

**Water:** Two lakes (202 and 357 acres). Heath Lake is open the 1<sup>st</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> of each month **only**.

**Facilities:** Concrete boat ramps, fishing jetties, restrooms, picnic shelters, scenic overlooks, hiking trails, tent and RV camping, group primitive camping, group picnic area, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities

**Fee:** Daily or annual Rocky Mtn. PFA parking permit required (one per vehicle) WMA license not required.

**Restrictions:**

- It is illegal to possess alcoholic beverages.
- No one may rappel, rock climb or hang glide.

**Directions From Rome:** North on US Hwy 27 for 10.4 mi.; left on Sike Storey Road 0.4 mi.; left on Big Texas Valley Road 5.4 mi. to entrance.

**HUNTING on Public Fishing Areas**

There are hunting opportunities available at several PFAs located around the state. Refer to the Hunting Regulations Guide for a complete list of PFA hunting opportunities and regulations or visit [www.gohuntgeorgia.com](http://www.gohuntgeorgia.com).

**FISHING on Department Fish Hatcheries**

Unless otherwise posted, fishing is not allowed on state owned fish hatcheries. While most fish hatcheries have designated ponds for fishing, Department owned hatcheries can set creel limits, hours, dates, age limits, and other conditions. Please call the hatchery for more information regarding fishing opportunities and rules.

**FISHING on Wildlife Management Areas**

Unless otherwise posted, fishing is allowed on WMAs according to statewide regulations. Alcohol use is prohibited on WMAs except in designated camping areas. Refer to the Hunting Regulations Guide for a complete list of WMA regulations.

**Fishing Without Permission**

It is unlawful to fish on someone else's property without permission. Conservation Rangers and other law enforcement officers are charged with enforcing this law. Always ask permission before entering private land.

Permission is not required to fish in the Chattahoochee or Oconee National Forests, on Wildlife Resources Division Public Fishing Areas (PFAs) or Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), or in Georgia State Parks as long as all applicable state regulations are followed

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## AGREEMENTS WITH BORDERING STATES

Agreements with bordering states allow holders of Georgia fishing licenses to fish in the waters covered without obtaining a fishing license from the bordering state. **Note:** Regulations under these agreements may differ from Georgia's general laws and regulations. If this is the case, the laws and regulations of the agreement explained in this section are to be followed.

### ALABAMA



#### WATERS COVERED

The banks and waters of only that portion of the Chattahoochee River forming the boundary between Georgia and Alabama and Lakes Bartletts Ferry (Harding), George W. Andrews, Goat Rock, Oliver, Seminole, Walter F. George (Eufaula) and West Point; however, this agreement does not include that portion of West Point Reservoir lying upstream (north) of Georgia Hwy 109 bridge on the Chattahoochee River arm of the reservoir. The waters covered by this agreement do not include other streams or tributaries which flow into the Chattahoochee River or its impoundments or the portion of Lake Seminole covered by the agreement with Florida or Lake Weiss.

#### LICENSES

All persons meeting the sport fishing requirements of Georgia or Alabama may fish from the banks and in the waters covered without having to obtain any other license.

#### MINIMUM LENGTH LIMITS

##### • Largemouth bass:

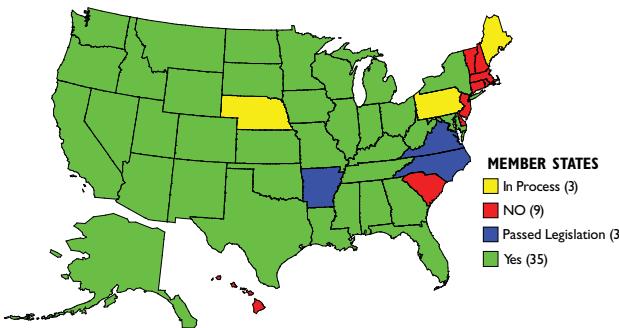
- Lake West Point: 14 inches
- Lake Walter F. George: 14 inches
- All other fishing laws and regulations of the State of Georgia apply in Georgia waters covered by this agreement.

#### CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- All creel and possession limits on waters covered by this agreement are the same as Georgia's statewide limits.
- **Note:** Anglers fishing in waters covered by reciprocal agreement may fish for and possess shoal bass for tournament weigh-in purposes in Alabama, however the harvest of shoal bass is prohibited in Alabama.
- **Note: It is illegal to possess and fish with live blueback herring in Alabama waters covered by this agreement.**

## Wildlife Violator Compact

Georgia, along with 35 other states, is a member of the Wildlife Violator Compact (WVC). This allows Wildlife Officers to treat non-residents hunting in WVC member states (shown below in green) as if they were a resident of that state in regards to wildlife violations. All wildlife law violators will be held more responsible due to the fact that their illegal activities in one state can affect their hunting privileges in all WVC member states.



For more information visit [gofishgeorgia.com](http://gofishgeorgia.com).

### SOUTH CAROLINA



#### GENERAL NOTES

- Any person using baskets, jugs, minnow seines, or trot lines in the waters covered must comply with the laws, rules and regulations of the state in which the baskets, jugs, minnow seines, or trot lines are fished, regardless of their residence.
- No person may carry to either state or possess in such state more fish than the laws of that state or those of this agreement permit, even though the fish were caught in the waters of the other state.
- No person may have a rifle in their possession or in a boat on South Carolina waters.

#### WATERS COVERED

On the banks and in the waters of all channels of the Savannah River from its mouth to the junction of the Tugaloo (Toogaloo) and Seneca Rivers; the Tugaloo River from its mouth to the junction of the Tugaloo and Chattooga Rivers; and the Chattooga River to the North Carolina state line (35th parallel of North latitude at Ellicott's Rock). This agreement also applies to all the waters and banks of Clarks Hill Reservoir (Strom Thurmond), Richard B. Russell Reservoir, Hartwell Reservoir, Yonah Lake, Tugaloo (Toogaloo) Lake, the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam, and Stevens Creek Lake (except that portion on the Stevens Creek arm upstream of South Carolina Hwy 53). The agreement does not apply to any flowing portions of tributary streams to these impoundments nor to tributary streams of the Savannah, Tugaloo and Chattooga Rivers.

#### LICENSES

- All persons meeting the freshwater license requirements of Georgia or South Carolina may fish from the banks and in the waters covered without having to obtain any other license.
- This agreement does not apply to commercial fishing or saltwater sport fishing.
- A South Carolina saltwater fishing license is required when fishing from a boat on the SC side of the Savannah River downstream of where the CSX Railroad trestle crosses the Back River.

#### LENGTH LIMITS

- Largemouth bass caught in the Georgia portion of the waters covered by this agreement that are shorter than 12 inches in length must be released immediately.
- All other laws and regulations of Georgia apply in the Georgia portion of waters covered by this agreement.

#### CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- Limits for taking fish from the waters covered by this agreement are:

Largemouth bass, Spotted bass, and/or Redeye (Coosa) bass .....	10
Trout.....	8
Bream (all species).....	30
Walleye .....	8
Sauger .....	8
Crappie (Black and/or White) .....	30
White bass .....	30*
Striped bass and/or Hybrid white-striped bass .....	10*
- \* **Except (1):** Limit taken from the Savannah River and its tributaries downstream of J. Strom Thurmond Dam is a (2) fish limit, both of which must be 27 inches in length or longer. This applies to striped bass, white bass, and hybrid white-striped bass.  
–(2) Limit taken from Lake Richard B. Russell from the Russell Dam to Lake Hartwell Dam and Lake Secession Dam, all tributaries to Lake Richard B. Russell is two (2) striped bass per day, only one (1) of which can exceed 34 inches in length.

- It is unlawful to possess a total of more than forty (40) of all species listed on page 20.

## FLORIDA



### WATERS COVERED

- The waters and the banks of the St. Mary's River, not including its tributaries.
- The waters and banks of Lake Seminole, bounded on the west by Florida State Road No. 271; on the south by the Jim Woodruff Dam; on the east by the line immediately east of the Chatahoochee Marina (also known as the Booster Club) running northwest across the reservoir to the tip of land at the junction of the Flint and Chatahoochee Rivers, west of Spring Creek; and on the north by the Herman Talmadge Bridge across the Chatahoochee River.

### LICENSES

- Any person who has a valid fishing license and properly issued permits or licenses, or both, required by Georgia or Florida in their possession may sport fish for freshwater fish in the waters covered.
- Georgia Honorary Disability License is not recognized by Florida under this agreement.
- Effective July 1, 2008, the reciprocal licensing agreement between Georgia and Florida regarding sportsmen 65 years and older was terminated. Georgia Honorary Lifetime License holders must possess a Florida non-resident fishing license to fish in Florida. Florida Senior citizens must possess a Georgia non-resident fishing license to fish in Georgia.
- A nonresident fishing license is required to fish, castnet, seine, crab, gig, sport bait trawl, or harvest shell fish in saltwater in Georgia.
- A Florida saltwater fishing license is required to fish for or to possess saltwater fish on the Florida side of the St. Mary's River.

### CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- The limit for striped bass, white bass, and hybrid white-striped bass on the St. Mary's River is two fish which must be 22 inches or longer.
- For all other species in the waters covered, Georgia's statewide creel and possession limits (page 14) apply.
- All other fishing regulations of the State of Georgia apply on the Georgia side of the St. Mary's River and the Georgia portion of Lake Seminole. Florida laws and regulations apply on the Florida side of the St. Mary's River and the Florida portion of Lake Seminole.

## NORTH CAROLINA



### WATERS COVERED

Lake Chatuge and all tributary branches lying in Georgia or North Carolina which are accessible by boat from the main body of the reservoir.

### LICENSES

- Holders of a valid Georgia or North Carolina fishing license may fish with hook and line in Lake Chatuge only from boats. Boats may not be anchored to the shore or to a pier or boat dock connecting to the shore.
- Senior citizen and youth license exemptions authorized by either state are honored by both states on Lake Chatuge.
- All other laws and regulations of Georgia apply to the Georgia portion of Lake Chatuge. All other laws and regulations of North Carolina apply to the North Carolina portion of Lake Chatuge.

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# TROUT FISHING

WRD uses special regulations (see below) and stocking to provide quality trout fishing in Georgia. More than one million rainbow trout and brown trout are stocked each year from March through mid-September. The number of trout stocked and the stocking frequency depend on a stream's fishing pressure, public access, and water conditions. Streams with greater public access are stocked more often with more trout. General information about trout stocking and the Trout Streams of Georgia Map are available from WRD offices and at [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com). The map includes Georgia's trout streams, roads, and a list of recommended streams.

## TROUT SEASON

Trout season on seasonal streams is from **March 26–October 31, 2011** and from **March 31–October 31, 2012**. Many trout streams are open to fishing year-round (see pages 24–25 for stream listings).

## TROUT FISHING HOURS

- Fishing hours on seasonal trout streams, except Waters Creek (page 22), are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Night fishing is not allowed.
- Fishing 24 hours a day is allowed on year-round trout streams, **except** those in next paragraph, and on all impoundments on trout streams, except Dockery and Rock Creek lakes.
- Fishing hours on the Chattahoochee River from Buford Dam to Peachtree Creek, the Conasauga River watershed upstream of the Georgia-Tennessee state line and Smith Creek downstream of Unicoi dam are 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. Night fishing is not allowed.

## TROUT FISHING RULES

- Trout anglers are restricted to the use of one pole and line which must be hand held. No other type of gear may be used in trout streams.
- It is unlawful to use live fish for bait in any trout stream. Seining bait-fish is not allowed in any trout stream.
- It is unlawful to fish for any fish species in a seasonal trout stream when the season is closed.

## IMPOUNDMENTS ON TROUT STREAMS

### Anglers can:

- Fish for fish species other than trout without a trout license, **except** on Dockery and Rock Creek lakes.
- Fish year-round, **except** on Dockery Lake.
- Fish at night, **except** on Dockery and Rock Creek lakes.

### Impoundment notes:

- If you fish for or possess trout, you must possess a trout license. If you catch a trout and do not possess a trout license you must release the trout immediately.
- Visitors fishing impoundments on State Parks can fish for and possess trout without

Trout need clean, cold water to survive. Georgians can be good trout managers by using proper land use practices. Trees and other vegetation left along stream banks provide shade to keep water cold and help prevent soil from washing into the stream.

Many trout streams are bounded by private property. It is your responsibility to know when you cross a property line. Obtain permission from the landowner before fishing on private property.

**Note:** While fishing any specially regulated waters with a minimum size limit, it is unlawful to possess a trout which is less than the specified minimum size regardless of where the fish was caught.

a trout license. State Park visitors fishing trout streams must possess a trout license.

## DELAYED HARVEST STREAMS

Anglers fishing delayed harvest streams must release all trout immediately and use and possess only artificial lures with one single hook per lure from Nov. 1–May 14 annually. The use of additional "dropper" lures on one line is permitted as long as each lure contains one single hook. These restrictions do not apply from May 15–Oct. 31 of each year. The following streams are delayed harvest streams:

- **Amicalola Creek** from County Road 192 (Steele Bridge Road) downstream to GA Hwy 53.
- **Chattahoochee River** from Sope Creek (off Columns Drive) downstream to US Hwy 41 (Cobb Parkway).
- **Chattooga River** from GA Hwy 28 bridge upstream to the mouth of Reed Creek.
- **Smith Creek** on Unicoi State Park from Unicoi Dam downstream to the Unicoi State Park property boundary.

- **Toccoa River** on U.S. Forest Service land from 0.4 miles above the Shallowford Bridge upstream to a point 450 feet upstream of the Sandy Bottom Canoe Access.

Visit [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com) to see maps of Delayed Harvest Streams and learn more about this program.

## ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY

In streams listed here only artificial lures may be used. It is unlawful to possess any other type bait on an "artificial lures only" stream (see definitions on page 8).

- **Chattahoochee River** from GA Hwy 20 to the boat ramp at the National Park Service Medlock Bridge Park immediately upstream of GA Hwy 141.
- **Coleman River** and its tributaries from its junction with the Tallulah River upstream to Forest Service Bridge No. 54.
- **Conasauga River** and its tributaries (except Jacks River watershed) upstream of the Georgia-Tennessee state line are restricted to using only artificial lures from Nov. 1 through the last Saturday in March of each year. Natural baits may be used during trout season.

• **Hoods Creek** and its tributaries on the Warwoman WMA.

• **Jones Creek** and its tributaries on US Forest Service property.

• **Mountaintown Creek** and its tributaries upstream of Mountaintown Creek Watershed Structure No. 2 (Hills Lake).

• **Noontootla Creek** and its tributaries on Blue Ridge WMA. **Note:** All trout less than 16 inches in length caught from this section of Noontootla Creek must be released immediately.

• **Stanley Creek** and its tributaries on the Rich Mountain WMA.

• **Walnut Fork Creek** and its tributaries on the Warwoman WMA.

## OTHER TROUT STREAM REGULATIONS

### MOCASIN CREEK

That portion of Moccasin Creek between Lake Burton Hatchery water intake and a sign marking the approximate normal pool level of Lake Burton is restricted to anglers under 12 years of age and holders of Honorary Licenses.

### SMITHGALL WOODS-DUKES CREEK CONSERVATION AREA

Dukes Creek and its tributaries within the Dukes Creek Conservation Area are open to fishing year round by reservation only. For reservations call 706-878-3087.

• Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used or possessed on the portion of Dukes Creek and its tributaries in White County on the Conservation Area, including the GA Hwy 75 Alternate right-of-way. Possession of any bait, lure, or gear not legal for use on the stream is unlawful.

• All fish caught from Dukes Creek and its tributaries in White County on the Conservation Area, including the GA Hwy 75 Alternate right-of-way, must be immediately released where caught.

• No trout may be possessed while fishing on any stream on the Conservation Area or the GA Hwy 75 Alternate right-of-way.

### WATERS CREEK

Waters Creek, located on the Chestatee WMA, is managed for trophy trout. Waters Creek and its tributaries are open dur-

ing the trout season on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays only between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (7:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time) with the following restrictions:

- Artificial lures with a single barbless hook no larger than a #6 must be used. Only one lure can be used at a time. You cannot possess lures that do not meet these criteria while on the area.
- Landing nets may not exceed two (2) feet in length.
- Possession of any bait, lure, landing nets or gear not legal for use on the stream is unlawful.
- No night fishing.

#### **License requirements for Waters Creek:**

- **Residents:** Must have a Georgia resident fishing license, trout license, and WMA license. Senior (65+) Lifetime, Honorary and Sportsman's license holders do not need a WMA license.
- **Nonresidents:** Nonresident Georgia fishing license, nonresident trout license and nonresident WMA license.

#### **Size and possession limits:**

- **Size limits:** 22 inches for brown and rainbow trout and 18 inches for brook trout. It is a violation to possess a trout smaller than these limits while fishing on Waters creek.
- **Possession limit:** One (1) trout may be possessed daily. No person may take more than three (3) trout per season.



## **Handling & Releasing Fish**

When releasing a fish, you can give the fish a better chance of survival by following these guidelines:

- Play and release the fish as rapidly as possible.
- Try not to take the fish out of water.
- Handle the fish gently with bare, wet hands. Do not squeeze the fish, put your fingers in the gills or cause scale loss.
- Remove the hook quickly using needle-nose pliers. If the fish is hooked in the stomach or throat, cut the line and leave the hook. The hook will dissolve without harming the fish.
- Wet your measuring board before measuring the fish.
- Hold the fish in an upright position and move it gently back and forth so water runs over the gills. Release the fish when it is able to swim.
- Operate live well aerators continuously when holding fish that you plan to release.

## You Give, They Live. Buy A Tag!

Georgia residents who purchase a wildlife license plate for their vehicle help support the conservation of many plant and animal species in the state.

These tags are available at any county tag office (or by checking the wildlife license plate box on your mail-in registration form).



- The Trout Unlimited tag benefits the Fisheries Management trout conservation and management program.
- The bald eagle and hummingbird plates support the Nongame Conservation Section. This section works to conserve Georgia's nongame and endangered wildlife.
- The Bobwhite Quail and deer plate supports the Bobwhite Quail Initiative.



Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

## **HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES**

**Don't release live bait fish, or move live fish, aquatic plants, or mussels!**

- It is unlawful to stock or release fish into waters within the state without a permit from DNR, except for lawfully obtained fish of legal species stocked in private ponds.
- Never release live bait fish, aquarium fish, or aquatic plants into our waters.
- Dispose of bait fish after fishing so that they cannot enter a lake, river, or stream.
- Remove all plant fragments and mussels from your boat, motor, trailer, live well, and nets before leaving the launch site and clean your boat and equipment thoroughly before launching into new waters.

**Learn more about Aquatic Nuisance Species at [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com)**

# GEORGIA'S TROUT STREAMS BY COUNTY

**Seasonal Trout Streams (S)** are open March 26–October 31, 2011 and March 31–October 31, 2012.

**Year-round Streams (YR)** are open to fishing throughout the year and are designated in *italic type*.

**Watershed:** the stream and all its tributaries (streams flowing into that stream).

Abbreviations used throughout this section: **Cr. = Creek and R. = River**

**NOTE:** The following trout streams have special regulations (see pages 22–23 before fishing): Amicalola Cr., Chattahoochee R., Chattooga R., Coleman R., Conasauga R., Hoods Cr., Jones Cr., Moccasin Cr., Mountaintown Cr., Noontootla Cr., Smithgall Woods-Dukes Cr., Smith Cr., Stanley Cr., Toccoa R., Walnut Fork Cr., and Waters Cr.

## BARTOW COUNTY

(S) Boston Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 20.

(YR) *Connesena Cr. watershed; Dykes Cr. watershed; PineLog Cr. watershed; Pyle Cr. watershed; Salacoa Cr. watershed; Spring Cr. watershed; Stamp Cr. watershed upstream from Bartow Co. Rd. 269; Toms Cr. watershed upstream from Bartow Co. Rd. 82; Two Run Cr. watershed; Ward Cr. watershed.*

## CARROLL COUNTY

(YR) *Tallapoosa R. watershed north of I-20, not including Little Tallapoosa R. watershed.*

## CATOOSA COUNTY

(S) Hurricane Cr. watershed upstream from Peters Branch.

(YR) *Dry Cr. watershed (part of East Chickamauga Cr. watershed) upstream of Catoosa Co. Rd. 257; Little Chickamauga Cr. watershed upstream from Catoosa Co. Rd. 387; Tiger Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 2.*

## CHATTOOGA COUNTY

(YR) *Allgood Branch watershed; Chappel Cr. watershed; Chelsea Cr. watershed; East Fork Little R. watershed including Gilreath Cr.; Hinton Cr. watershed; Kings Cr. watershed; Little Armuchee Cr. watershed upstream from Co Rd. 326; Mt. Hope Cr. (Coon Cr.) watershed; Perennial Spring watershed; Raccoon Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 48; Ruff Creek watershed; Storey Mill Cr. watershed; Taliaferro Cr. watershed.*

## CHEROKEE COUNTY

(S) Boston Cr. watershed.

(YR) *Bluff Cr. watershed upstream of Cherokee Co Rd. 114; Pine Log Cr. watershed; Salacoa Cr. watershed; Soap Cr. watershed upstream of Cherokee Co Rd. 116; Stamp Cr. watershed; Wiley Cr. watershed.*

## COBB COUNTY

(YR) *Chattahoochee R. downstream to the mouth of Peachtree Cr.*

## DADE COUNTY

(S) East Fork Little R. watershed; Rock Cr. watershed.

(YR) *Allison Cr. watershed; Lookout Cr. watershed upstream from Dade Co Rd. 197.*

## DAWSON COUNTY

(S) Amicalola Cr. watershed upstream from Dawson Co Rd. 192 (Steele Bridge Rd) which is first bridge upstream from GA Hwy 53; Amicalola Cr. tributaries from GA Hwy

53 upstream to Dawson Co Rd. 192 (Steele Bridge Rd); Nimblewill Cr. watershed; Shoal Cr. watershed upstream from the mouth of Burt Cr.; Sweetwater Cr. watershed.

(YR) *Amicalola Cr. from Dawson Co Rd. 192 (Steele Bridge Rd) downstream to GA Hwy 53; Anderson Cr. watershed; Long Swamp Cr. watershed.*

## FANNIN COUNTY

(S) Charlie Cr. watershed; Etowah R. watershed; Jacks R. watershed; Owenby Cr. watershed; Persimmon Cr. watershed; South Fork Rapier Mill Cr. watershed; Star Cr. watershed; Toccoa R. tributary watersheds entering the river downstream from Blue Ridge Reservoir to the GA-Tennessee state line and upstream from the mouth of Stanley Cr. except those listed as year-round; Tumbling Cr. watershed; Wilscot Cr. watershed.

(YR) *Conasauga R. watershed (except Jacks R. watershed); Ellijay R. watershed; Fightingtown Cr. watershed; Mountaintown Cr. watershed; Noontootla Cr. watershed; Rock Cr. watershed; Rock Cr. Lake; Toccoa R. downstream from Lake Blue Ridge to the GA-Tennessee state line and upstream from the mouth of Stanley Cr. (does not include tributaries unless listed).*

## FLOYD COUNTY

(S) Johns Cr. watershed upstream from Floyd Co Rd. 212.

(YR) *Dykes Cr. watershed; Kings Cr. watershed; Lavender Cr. watershed upstream from Floyd Co Rd. 893; Little Cedar Cr. watershed; Mt. Hope Cr. watershed; Silver Cr. watershed upstream of GA Hwy 1E (Floyd Co Rd. 631); Spring Cr. watershed (flows into Etowah R.) Toms Cr. watershed.*

## FORSYTH COUNTY

(YR) *Chattahoochee R.*

## FULTON COUNTY

(YR) *Chattahoochee R. downstream to the mouth of Peachtree Cr.*

## GILMER COUNTY

(S) Harris Cr. watershed; Johnson Cr. watershed; Tails Cr. watershed; and all other streams or parts of streams not listed as year-round except: Coosawattee R. downstream from Old GA Hwy 5 (Gilmer Co Rd. 239); Talking Rock Cr.; and tributaries to Carters Reservoir not listed as year-round (these may be fished year-round without a trout license).

(YR) *Ball Cr. watershed; Cartecay R. watershed; Conasauga R. watershed (except Jacks R. watershed); Coosawattee R. from confluence of Carte-*

*cay and Ellijay rvs. downstream to old GA Hwy 5 bridge (Gilmer Co Rd. 239); Ellijay R. watershed; Fightingtown Cr. watershed; Mountaintown Cr. water shed; Noontootla Cr. watershed; Sevenmile Cr. watershed; Town Cr. watershed; Wildcat Cr. watershed.*

## GORDON COUNTY

(S) Johns Cr. watershed; Pin Hook Cr. watershed upstream from Gordon Co Rd. 275.

(YR) *Pine Log Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 53; Rocky Cr. watershed upstream from Gordon Co Rd. 210; Salacoa Cr. watershed upstream from US Hwy 411; Snake Cr. watershed.*

## GWINNETT COUNTY

(YR) *Chattahoochee R.*

## HABERSHAM COUNTY

(S) Amy's Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 17; Chattahoochee R. tributaries downstream to GA Hwy 255 (except Amy's Cr. downstream from GA Hwy 17 and Sautee Cr. downstream from GA Hwy 255 Alternate bridge); Left Fork Soque R. upstream of GA Hwy 356 and all tributaries to the entire Left Fork Soque R.; Nancytown Cr. watershed upstream from Nancytown Lake; Right Fork Soque R. upstream of Wilson Falls and tributaries to the entire Right Fork Soque R.; Soque R. tributaries that enter the river from the confluence of the Left Fork and Right Fork Soque rvs. downstream to the mouth of Deep Cr.

(YR) *Chattahoochee R. downstream to GA Hwy 255; Left Fork Soque R. downstream of GA Hwy 356 except tributaries; Liberty Cr. watershed; Middle Fork Broad R. watershed; North Fork Broad R. watershed; Panther Cr. watershed; Right Fork Soque R. downstream of Wilson Falls except tributaries; Roberts Branch watershed; Sautee Cr. downstream from GA Hwy 255 Alternate bridge; Soque R., except tributaries downstream from the confluence of Left Fork and Right Fork Soque rvs., to the mouth of Deep Cr.; Toccoa Cr. watershed.*

## HARALSON COUNTY

(YR) *Flatwood Cr. watershed; Lassetter Cr. watershed; Mann Cr. watershed upstream from Haralson Co Rd. 162; Tallapoosa Cr. watershed; Tallapoosa R. watershed upstream from Co Rd. 222.*

## HART COUNTY

(YR) *Savannah R. from Hartwell Dam downstream to Richard B. Russell Reservoir.*

**LUMPKIN COUNTY**

(S) Amicalola Cr. watershed; Bryant Cr. watershed; Cane Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 9-52 bridge; Cavender Cr. watershed; Chestatee R. tributaries upstream from the mouth of Tesnatee Cr., except for the Frogtown Cr. watershed; Dockery Lake; Etowah R. watershed upstream from Hightower Church Road (County Road 72) Bridge; Etowah R. tributaries from Castleberry Bridge upstream to Hightower Church Road (County Road 72) Bridge; Shoal Creek watershed; Yahoola Creek watershed upstream from the mouth of Bryant Cr.

*(YR) Chestatee R. upstream from the mouth of Tesnatee Cr.; Etowah R. from Castleberry Bridge upstream to Hightower Church Road (County Road 72); Frogtown Cr. watershed; Yahoola Cr. watershed from the mouth of Bryant Cr. downstream to GA Hwy 52.*

**MURRAY COUNTY**

(S) Jacks R. watershed upstream from Georgia-Tennessee state line; North Prong Sumac Cr. watershed; Rock Cr. watershed upstream from Murray Co Rd. 4 (most southern of two Rock Crks. which are in the Holly Cr. watershed); Sugar Cr. watershed upstream from Murray Co Rd. 4; Sumac Cr. watershed upstream from Coffey Lake.

*(YR) Conasauga R. watershed upstream from the GA-Tennessee state line (except Jacks R. watershed); Dill Cr. watershed; Holly Cr. watershed upstream from Dill Cr.; Mill Cr. watershed upstream from Murray Co Rd. 27; Mill Cr. (Hasslers Mill Cr.) watershed that is in the Holly Cr. watershed; Rock Cr. watershed (most northern of two Rock Crks. within Holly Cr. watershed) upstream from Murray Co Rd. 301.*

**PAULDING COUNTY**

(S) Pumpkinvine Cr. watershed upstream from Paulding Co Rd. 231; Raccoon Cr. watershed upstream from SR 2299 (Paulding Co Rd. 471).

*(YR) Possum Cr. watershed upstream from Paulding Co Rd. 64; Powder Cr. watershed; Thompson Cr. watershed; Ward Cr. watershed.*

**PICKENS COUNTY**

(S) Amicalola Cr. watershed upstream from Dawson Co Rd. 192; Cove Cr. watershed upstream from Pickens Co Rd. 294; Fisher Cr. watershed; Pin Hook Cr. watershed.

*(YR) Ball Cr. watershed; Bluff Cr. watershed; Cartecay R. watershed; Darnell Cr. watershed; Hobson Cr. watershed; Little Scarecorn Cr. watershed; Long Swamp Cr. watershed upstream from Cove Cr.; Mud Cr. watershed; Rock Cr. watershed; Salacoa Cr. watershed; Scarecorn Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 53; Seven-mile Cr. watershed; Sharp Mountain Cr. watershed; Soap Cr. watershed; Talking Rock Cr. watershed upstream from S1011 (GA Hwy 136); Town Cr. watershed; Wildcat Cr. watershed.*

**POLK COUNTY**

(S) Lassetter Cr. watershed; Pumpkinpile Cr. watershed upstream from Polk Co Rd. 437.  
*(YR) Cedar Cr. watershed upstream from Polk Co Rd. 121; Little Cedar Cr. watershed; Silver Cr. watershed; Spring Cr. watershed; Swinney Cr. watershed; Thomasson Cr. watershed; Thompson Cr. watershed upstream of Polk Co Rd. 441.*

**RABUN COUNTY**

(S) Bad Branch watershed (flows into Lake Seed); Bad Cr. watershed (flows into Tugaloo); Bridge Cr. watershed; Crow Cr. watershed (flows into Seed); Dickenson Branch (flows into Burton); Dicks Cr. watershed (flows into Burton); Falls Branch watershed (flows into Rabun); Flat Cr. watershed; Joe Cr. watershed (flows into Rabun); LaCounts Cr. watershed (flows into Seed); Moccasin Cr. watershed, except Moccasin Cr. from the Lake Burton hatchery water intake downstream to the sign marking the approximate normal pool level of Lake Burton; Popcorn Cr. watershed; Seals Cr. watershed (flows into Seed); Slick Shoal Cr. (flows into Seed); Timson Cr. watershed; Wildcat Cr. watershed; Worse Cr. watershed (flows into Tugaloo); and all other streams or parts of streams not listed as year-round except: Tallulah R. downstream from Lake Burton Dam and tributaries to Burton, Seed, Rabun, Tallulah Falls, Tugaloo and Yonah lakes not listed as year-round (may be fished year-round without a trout license).

*(YR) Chattooga R. upstream from the mouth of Warwoman Cr.; Little Tennessee R. downstream from US Hwy 23-441 bridge; Moccasin Cr. from the Lake Burton hatchery water intake downstream to the sign marking the approximate normal pool level of Lake Burton; Overflow Cr. watershed; Steko Cr. watershed; Tallulah R. downstream to Lake Burton; Warwoman Cr.; West Fork Chattooga R.*

**STEPHENS COUNTY**

*(YR) Little Toccoa Cr. watershed; North Fork Broad R. watershed upstream from NRCS flood control structure No. 1; Middle Fork Broad R. watershed upstream from NRCS flood control structure No. 44; Panther Cr. watershed; Toccoa Cr. watershed upstream from Toccoa Falls.*

**TOWNS COUNTY**

(S) Bearmeat Cr. watershed; Bell Cr. watershed; Bugshuffle Branch watershed (Allen Mill Cr.); Burch Branch watershed; Fodder Cr. watershed; Hog Cr. watershed; Shake Rag Branch watershed; and all other streams or parts of streams not listed as year-round except: Hightower Cr. downstream from Towns Co Rd. 88; Hiwassee R. downstream from Towns Co Rd. 87; and tributaries to Chatuge Reservoir not listed below as year-round (may be fished year-round without a trout license).

*(YR) Brasstown Cr. watershed downstream from US Hwy 76 bridge; Charlies Cr. watershed; Hightower Cr. downstream from US Hwy 76 bridge to Towns Co Rd. 88; Hiwassee R. downstream to Towns Co Rd. 87; Tallulah R.*

**UNION COUNTY**

(S) Arkaqua Cr. watershed; Bracket Cr. watershed; Butler Cr. watershed; Camp Cr. watershed; Conley Cr. watershed; Kiutuestia Cr. watershed; Low Cr. watershed; and all other streams or parts of streams not listed below as year-round except: Butternut Cr. watershed; Nottely R. downstream from Nottely Dam and tributaries to Nottely Reservoir not listed as year-round (these may be fished year-round without a trout license).

*(YR) Brasstown Cr. watershed downstream from US Hwy 76 bridge; Coosa Cr. watershed; Ivylog Cr. watershed; Noontootla Cr. watershed; Nottely R. from US Hwy 129-19 bridge downstream to Nottely Reservoir; Rock Cr. watershed; Toccoa R. (does not include tributaries unless listed); Youngcane Cr. watershed.*

**WALKER COUNTY**

(S) Furnace Cr. watershed; Johns Cr. watershed; Rock Cr. watershed upstream from Sawmill Branch; Sawmill Branch;

*(YR) Allen Cr. watershed; Chappel Cr. watershed; Chattanooga Cr. watershed upstream from Walker Co Rd. 235; Concord Cr. watershed; Dougherty Cr. watershed; Dry Cr. watershed (tributary to East Armuchee Cr.); Duck Cr. watershed; East Fork Little R. watershed (flows into Dade County); East Fork Little R. watershed (flows into Chattooga County); Gilreath Cr.; Gulf Cr. watershed; Harrisburg Cr. watershed upstream from Dougherty Cr.; Left Fork Coulter Branch watershed; Little Chickamauga Cr. watershed; Ruff Cr. watershed; Snake Cr. watershed; West Armuchee Cr. watershed; West Chickamauga Cr. watershed upstream from Walker Co Rd. 107.*

**WHITE COUNTY**

(S) Chattahoochee R. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 75 Alternate bridge; Chattahoochee R. tributaries from GA Hwy 75 Alternate bridge downstream to GA Hwy 255 bridge except Dukes Cr. watershed downstream from the US Forest Service property boundary, Sautee Cr., and Smith Cr. watershed upstream to Unicoi dam; Town Cr. watershed upstream from the mouth of Jenny Cr.

*(YR) Chattahoochee R. downstream from the GA Hwy 75 Alternate bridge to the GA Hwy 255 bridge; Dukes Cr. watershed downstream from the US Forest Service property boundary; Little Tesnatee Cr. watershed upstream from the mouth of Turner Cr.; Sautee Cr.; Smith Cr. downstream of Unicoi dam; Turner Cr. watershed (one nearest to Cleveland City limits).*

**WHITFIELD COUNTY**

*(YR) Coahulla Cr. watershed upstream from Whitfield Co Rd. 183; Dry Cr. watershed (part of East Chickamauga Cr. watershed); Spring Cr. (Deep Spring Cr.) watershed; Swamp Cr. watershed upstream from Whitfield Co Rd. 9; Tiger Cr. watershed.*

# COMMERCIAL FISHING & SALE OF FISH

## COMMERCIAL FISHING

- It is unlawful to fish commercially except in waters opened for commercial fishing by regulation of the DNR Board.
- It shall be unlawful to engage in commercial freshwater fishing without having a valid commercial fishing license.
- It is unlawful for any person to sell or purchase any game fish, however American shad, hickory shad, channel catfish, and flathead catfish taken while commercial fishing may be sold as described in the Game and Fish Code.
- For information on fish baskets, including usage, construction, and licensing contact the nearest Fisheries Section office or visit our website at [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com)
- For a complete copy of the freshwater commercial fishing regulations contact the nearest Fisheries Section office or visit [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com)
- For saltwater commercial fishing information contact the Coastal Resources Division or visit [www.coastalGADNR.org](http://www.coastalGADNR.org)

## SALE OF FISH & AQUACULTURE

### GAME FISH

It is unlawful for any person to sell or purchase any game fish **except** under the following conditions:

- See **Commercial Fishing** above.
- Game fish may also be sold by properly licensed commercial fish hatcheries, wholesale and retail fish dealers, and pond owners (see following paragraph) who conform to the Game and Fish Code.
- Game fish may be sold from a pond when the owner has obtained

a valid permit from DNR Law Enforcement Section (2 weeks required to process). **Note:** The permit must be displayed at the pond and the fish must be packaged and labeled for transport from the pond with the permit number and the number and pounds of each species contained in the package. Fish must remain so packaged until processed or released into another pond. **Note:** A permit will be issued only once annually and limits the time for taking fish from the pond to 15 days.

- Game fish shipped into Georgia may be lawfully transported, sold, and resold provided each person in possession of said game fish has an authentic bill of sale or lading which details the source of the fish and the species, number and pounds of the fish.

### DOMESTIC FISH

- Aquaculturists (fish farmers) must register with the Department of Natural Resources in order to sell domestic fish.
- Registration applications are available from any Fisheries Section office, at [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com), or by calling 770-761-3044. Find Aquaculture information under the **Fishing Regulation** section of the WRD website.
- Domestic fish are lawfully obtained farmed fish which are held in confinement in private ponds, but only if they are fish species which are either indigenous to Georgia or have been recognized prior to 1992 as having an established population in public waters in Georgia. White perch is not recognized as a domestic fish. Persons in possession of domestic fish from registered aquaculturists must have an authentic bill of sale or lading which identifies the seller, the date of transaction and at least two of the following for each fish species: number, weight, or average length.

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**BOATING****BOAT REGISTRATION**

- All boats that carry any means of mechanical propulsion (electric trolling motor and/or gas motor) and all sailboats 12 feet and longer must be registered.
- A Boat Registration Application can be downloaded from [www.gobootgeorgia.com](http://www.gobootgeorgia.com)
- You may also renew your boat registration online at [www.gobootgeorgia.com](http://www.gobootgeorgia.com)
- Renew registration by phone at **800-366-2661**.
- Georgia honors all other states' registrations, provided the boat is not used in excess of 60 consecutive days in Georgia.

**PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES**

- A wearable personal flotation device (PFD) is required for each person aboard a vessel. PFDs must be readily accessible to all occupants, in good and serviceable condition, legibly marked with the US Coast Guard approved number, and of appropriate size for the occupants. One Type IV throwable device must also be on board all vessels except Class A vessels (boats less than 15' 11" which also includes personal-watercraft, canoes and kayaks).
- Children under age 10 must wear a PFD when the vessel is under way, unless the child is within a fully enclosed cabin.
- PFDs must be worn by each person aboard a vessel in an area marked as "hazardous area."

**OUTBOARD MOTOR RESTRICTIONS**

- No motor in excess of 9.9 hp may be operated on the Ogeechee River upstream of State Hwy 119.
- No motor in excess of 25 hp may be operated on Lake Juliette or Lake Tugalo.
- Georgia State Park lakes often have boat and motor restrictions. Check with the Park Office at each park for details.

**BOATING SAFETY**

- No vessel may be operated over idle speed within 100 feet of any moored or anchored

vessel, vessel adrift, or any wharf, pier, piling, or persons in the water, or shoreline next to a full-time or part-time residence, public park, public beach, public swimming area, marina, restaurant, or other public use area.

- Recreation boaters in coastal waters please note: Tybee, Sea Island, St. Simons, and Jekyll Islands have temporal (May 1 - Sept. 30) 1,000 ft. safety zones.
- Booze and boats do not mix! It is unlawful to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- To learn requirements for operating your boat, obtain the *Handbook of Georgia Boating Laws* from any WRD Law Enforcement Office.
- To learn about a boating safety course contact the Boating Education Coordinator at 770-761-3010 or any WRD Law Enforcement Office (see page 8 for contact information).

See [www.gobootgeorgia.com](http://www.gobootgeorgia.com) for complete boating regulations.



The Georgia Department of Natural Resources receives Federal Aid in Sport Fish & Wildlife Restoration funds. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write:

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## FRESHWATER FISH



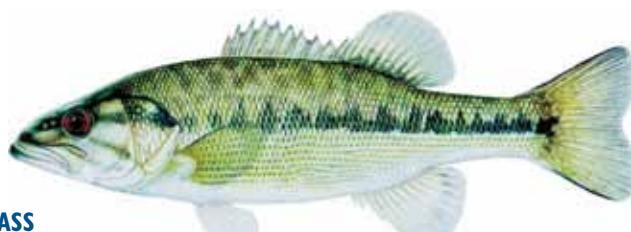
### LARGEMOUTH BASS

- Upper jaw extends beyond eye
- Spiny and soft dorsal fin separate or nearly so
- Tongue normally smooth, tooth patch rare



### SMALLMOUTH BASS

- Upper jaw extends to about middle of eye
- Usually has vertical stripes along body
- 3 short spines on anal fin



### SPOTTED BASS

- Upper jaw not past rear of eye
- Spiny and soft dorsal fin clearly connected
- Tooth patch on tongue



### SHOAL BASS

- Found in Chattahoochee, Flint, and Ocmulgee Rivers
- Vertical bars on fish of all sizes
- No tooth patch on tongue
- Light golden color



### CHAIN PICKEREL (JACKFISH)

- Elongated body with chain-like markings
- Sharp needle-like teeth



### WHITE BASS

- Seldom exceeds 3 pounds
- Tongue with one tooth patch
- Stripes often faint
- 2<sup>nd</sup> anal spine  $\frac{2}{3}$  or more the length of 3<sup>rd</sup> anal spine



### HYBRID

### WHITE-STRIPED BASS

- Back arched, body deep
- Stripes distinct and usually broken
- Tongue with two tooth patches
- 2<sup>nd</sup> anal spine  $\frac{2}{3}$  or more the length of 3<sup>rd</sup> anal spine



### STRIPED BASS

- Body slender
- Stripes distinct, occasionally broken
- Tongue with two tooth patches
- 2<sup>nd</sup> anal spine  $\frac{1}{2}$  or less the length of 3<sup>rd</sup> anal spine

### FLATHEAD CATFISH

- Head wide and flat
- Body dark in color
- Tail not forked
- Large mouth; lower jaw extends past upper jaw



### WALLEYE

- Sharp teeth
- No spots on dorsal fin
- Dark area at base of dorsal fin
- Eyes with milky cornea
- White spot at bottom of tail

**BLACK CRAPPIE**

- 7–8 dorsal spines
- Body color pattern irregular arranged spots

**RAINBOW TROUT**

- Small black dots throughout the body that extend into the tail
- Red stripe along side on silvery body

**REDEAR SUNFISH  
(SHELLCRACKER)**

- Red edge on operculum ear flap
- Spotted body

**BROWN TROUT**

- Black and red-orange spots inside light circles on brown body
- Caudal fin (tail) square

**REDBREAST SUNFISH**

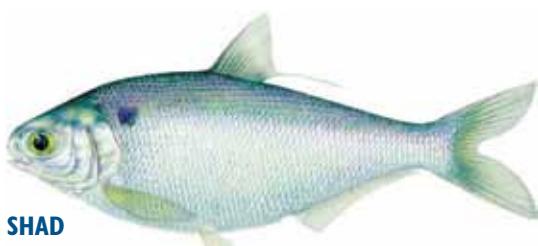
- Long, dark ear flap
- Blue lines on head
- Ear flap (operculum) not wider than eye

**BROOK TROUT**

- Light, wormlike markings on dark upper body
- White leading edge on lower fins (pectoral, pelvic and anal)

**BLUEGILL**

- Black spot on soft dorsal fin
- Vertical bars on body

**GIZZARD SHAD**

- Mouth below end of snout
- Elongated dorsal fin ray
- Deep body
- Blunt snout

**THREADFIN SHAD**

- Mouth at end of snout
- Elongated dorsal fin ray
- Pointed snout
- Yellow tail fin

## GEORGIA'S FRESHWATER FISH RECORDS

SPECIES	WEIGHT	ANGLER	LOCATION	DATE
Bass, Hybrid	25 lb. 8 oz.	David Hobby	Lake Chatuge	May 1995
Bass, Largemouth	22 lb. 4 oz	George Perry	Montgomery Lake	June 1932
Bass, Redeye	3 lb. 7 oz.	Steve Williams	Lake Hartwell	April 2004
Bass, Shoal	8 lb. 3 oz.	David Hubbard	Flint River	Oct 1977
Bass, Smallmouth	7 lb. 2 oz.	Jack Hall	Lake Chatuge	March 1973
Bass, Spotted	8 lb. 2 oz.	Wayne Holland	Lake Burton	Feb 2005
Bass, Striped (tie)	63 lb.	Kelly Ward	Oconee River	May 1967
		Terry McConnell	Lake Richard B. Russell	April 2009
Bass, Suwanee	3 lb. 9 oz.	Laverne Norton	Ochlocknee River	Oct 1984
Bass, White	5 lb. 1 oz.	J.M. Hobbins	Lake Lanier	June 1971
Bowfin	16 lb.	Charles Conley	Stephen Foster State Pk.	May 1976
Bullhead, Brown	5 lb. 8 oz.	James Andrews	O.F. Veal Pond	May 1978
Bullhead, Yellow	4 lb. 15 oz.	Glenn Settles	Ogeechee River	Oct 2003
Carp, Common	35 lb. 12 oz.	Rev. Donald Clark	Lake Jackson	1972
Catfish, Blue	80 lb. 4 oz.	Earnest Thompson	Lake Walter F. George	Feb 2010
Catfish, Channel	44 lb. 12 oz.	Bobby Smithwick	Altamaha River	May 1972
Catfish, Flathead	83 lb.	Carl Sawyer	Altamaha River	June 2006
		Jim Diveney	Altamaha River	July 2010
Catfish, White	8 lb. 10 oz.	James Sanders	Savannah River	June 1996
Crappie, Black (tie)	4 lb. 4 oz.	Shirley Lavender	Acree's Lake	June 1971
		Steve Cheek	Lake Spivey	March 1975
Crappie, White	5 lb.	Theresa Kemp	Bibb Co. Pond	April 1984
Gar, Longnose	30 lb. 4 oz.	Chad Leonard	Alapaha River	Sept 2008
Muskellunge	38 lb.	Rube Golden	Blue Ridge Lake	June 1957
Perch, Yellow (tie)	2 lb. 8 oz.	Charles Poole	Lake Burton	Feb 1980
		Larry D. Poole, Jr.	Savannah River	Feb 2008
Pickerel, Chain	9 lb. 6 oz.	Baxley McQuaig Jr.	Homerville	Feb 1961
Pickerel, Redfin	2 lb. 10 oz.	Gene Brantley	Lewis' Pond	July 1982
Pike, Northern	18 lb. 2 oz.	Keith Gragg	Lake Rabun	June 1982
Sauger	4 lb. 3 oz.	Stuart Bowers	Clarks Hill Reservoir	April 1986
Shad, American	8 lb. 3 oz.	Henry Baxley	Savannah River	April 1986
Shad, Hickory	1 lb. 15 oz.	Mark Bowers	Ogeechee River	April 1995
Sunfish, Bluegill	3 lb. 5 oz.	P.F. Gumm	Shamrock Lake	July 1977
Sunfish, Flier	1 lb. 4 oz.	Curt Brooks	Lowndes Co. Pond	Feb 1996
Sunfish, Green	1 lb. 7 oz.	Jeff Sumner	Private Pond	Feb 2006
Sunfish, Redbreast	1 lb. 11 oz.	Emory Walden	Coweta Co. Pond	April 1998
Sunfish, Redear	4 lb. 2 oz.	Pat Lawrence	Richmond Co. Pond	June 1995
Sunfish, Warmouth	2 lb.	Carlton Robbins	Private Pond	May 1974
Sunfish, Spotted	10 oz.	Mike Markovicic	Brier Creek	Sept 2003
Trout, Brook	5 lb. 10 oz.	Russell Braden	Waters Creek	March 1986
Trout, Brown	18 lb. 6 oz.	Charles Ford	Chattahoochee River	Nov 2001
Trout, Rainbow	17 lb. 8 oz.	Mark Cochran	Soque River	May 2004
Walleye	11 lb. 6 oz.	Neal Watson	Richard B. Russell Lake	Sept 1995

Blue type denotes a World Record Fish (either IGFA or NFFFH)



New State Record  
80 lb. 4 oz. Blue Catfish  
Lake Walter F. George, 2010

## 2011 Forestry for Wildlife Partners

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, proudly honors the 2010 Forestry for Wildlife Partners for their outstanding accomplishments in incorporating fish and wildlife conservation practices as an integral part of their overall land management goals.



OUR MISSION: SMART SOLUTIONS FOR EVERY SITUATION • OUR MISSION: SMART SOLUTIONS FOR EVERY SITUATION

**VACMASTER**  
Smart solutions for every situation.

**CHAMBER SOLUTIONS:** Our new **VP112 chamber machine** brings chamber technology into a compact size perfect for home use and making sous vide cooking available to the home chef.

**SUCTION SOLUTIONS:** VacMaster **suction machines** keep food fresh five times longer than traditional methods.

**BAG SOLUTIONS:** Available in 3 types for all your vacuum packaging needs. High-quality, **VacStrip storage bags**, economical **full mesh storage bags** and **rolls**, and our new **zipper bags**, which can be opened and zipped close for continued freshness.

**CONTAINER SOLUTIONS:** Some food items lose their shape and structure in vacuum bags. VacMaster **storage containers** provide air-tight seals for packaging these types of food.

We've got solutions.

Storage Bags



New VP112 Chamber Machines



Chamber Machines

Suction Machines



Storage Containers



# BRAGGING



Coastal Georgia, 2010



New Women's State Record,  
Black Drum 80 lbs.



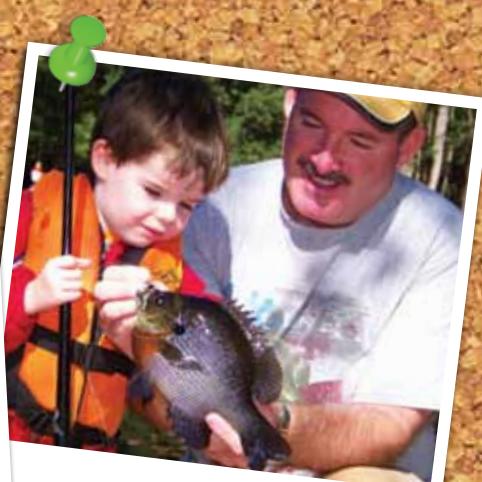
Coastal Georgia, 2010



Georgia Farm Pond, 2010



North Georgia, 2010



Private Pond



Chattahoochee River, 2010



New Men's State Record,  
Little Tunny, 19 lb. 4 oz



Coastal Georgia, 2010

# BOARD



Private Pond



James H. "Sloppy" Floyd State Park  
6/13/2010



Rocky Mountain DFL, 2010

**TALL TALES** worth sharing

Join **Georgia Outdoors** host **Sharon Collins** as she explores the wonders of Georgia's natural environment. To find out more about the program, visit [gpb.org/georgiaoutdoors](http://gpb.org/georgiaoutdoors).

**Georgia Outdoors** is a production of **Georgia Public Broadcasting** in partnership with the **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**.

**GEORGIA OUTDOORS**

**GPB** [gpb.org](http://gpb.org)

How Do You Get GPB? For a complete list of stations, programming information or GPB membership questions, visit [www.gpb.org](http://www.gpb.org), email [ask@gpb.org](mailto:ask@gpb.org) or call GPB Member & Audience Services at 1.800.222.4788 or 404.685.4788 in the Atlanta area.

## **TURN IN POACHERS (TIP) 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK**

**TIP HOTLINE: 1-800-241-4113 or \*DNR (cellular for AT&T customers)**

**VIA E-MAIL: TURNINPOACHERS@DNR.STATE.GA.US**

You can be paid for turning in a poacher! If your tip leads to an arrest, you will receive reward money—even if you wish to remain anonymous.

Turn In Poachers, Inc. (TIP) is a non-profit Georgia conservation organization whose mission is to protect wildlife by increasing public support for wildlife law enforcement. Contributions to the TIP reward program are greatly needed and appreciated. Donations (made payable to TIP) are tax deductible and can be sent to: Turn In Poachers, Inc., 3423 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 110, Atlanta, GA 30305



## **PROTECTED SPECIES MAY BE ENCOUNTERED WHILE FISHING**

Many rare and protected species live in or near water and may be encountered while fishing. There are 57 fish, 8 salamanders, 1 frog, 28 snails and/or mussels, 20 crayfish and 13 turtles on Georgia's protected species list. It is unlawful to capture, kill, or harm any protected species. However, any crayfish can be used for fishing bait as long as they are not collected from crayfish burrows or exported from the state of Georgia.

If you accidentally capture a protected species while fishing release it unharmed immediately.

For more information contact the Nongame Conservation Section at **770-918-6411** or visit [www.georgiawildlife.com](http://www.georgiawildlife.com).

## **CELEBRATE NATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING DAY Saturday, September 24, 2011**

The U.S. Congress and President Nixon established National Hunting & Fishing (NHF) Day 35 years ago to recognize hunters and anglers for the time and money, more than a billion dollars each year, they donate to wildlife conservation programs.

NHF Day events provide opportunities for outdoor-oriented people and urbanites alike to learn more about outdoor skills and activities.

To find out about Georgia events visit [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com)



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[www.mountaintopga.com](http://www.mountaintopga.com) ~ 800-984-1543

Up to 29" in length,  
11-20" typical



### **EASTERN HELLBENDER**

Large, harmless salamander found in clear, rocky mountain streams such as trout streams.

## THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF EATING FISH

Sport fish caught in Georgia are generally good quality and safe to eat. Fish provide a high protein, low fat diet which is low in saturated fats. Fish may have substantial health benefits when they replace a high fat source of protein in the diet.

## WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES?

Georgia DNR samples fish from water bodies each year to test for contaminants such as PCBs, chlordane, and mercury. Many of the fish tested have few or no contaminants and are safe to eat. **Waters where fish have been tested and found to be clean are listed to the right.** Fish from waters listed in the tables had some level of contaminants so you should restrict the amount of fish you eat from these waters. Recommendations are made to limit how often you eat a meal of fish from these sources to either once per week or month. A meal of fish is about 4 to 8 ounces. These guidelines are based on eating fish from a listed area for at least 30 years. That is because it would take months or years of regularly eating contaminated food to accumulate levels in your body that would affect your health.

**"One meal per week" means that eating a 4- to 8-ounce serving no more than once per week should cause no significant health risks.**

## SPECIAL NOTICE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

If you are pregnant or a nursing mother, or plan to become pregnant soon, you and also children under 6 years of age are sensitive to the effects of some contaminants. Women and children in these categories may wish to eat fish less often than recommended in the tables.

## HOW TO REDUCE YOUR HEALTH RISK

### Eat smaller fish and vary the kind of fish you eat.

Contaminants build up in top predators (bass), bottom feeders (catfish), and older (larger) fish to a greater extent than panfish, such as bream and crappie.

**Clean and cook fish properly.** Some chemicals have a tendency to concentrate in the fatty tissues of fish. By removing the fish's skin and trimming the fat, you can substantially reduce contaminants.

**Cook fish so fat drips away.** Broil, bake, or grill fish and do not use the drippings. Deep-fat frying removes some contaminants, but discard the oil once you have cooked the fish. Pan frying removes few contaminants.

### TRIM AWAY THESE FATTY AREAS.



Fish have been tested from the following water bodies and NO RESTRICTIONS ON CONSUMPTION ARE RECOMMENDED:

## LAKES

City of Adairsville pond; Allen Creek WMA Ponds A and B; Brasstown Valley Kid Fish Pond; Bowles C. Ford Lake (Savannah); Carters; Clayton Co. Water Auth. lakes; Dodge Co. PFA; Fort Yargo State Park; Hard Labor Cr. State Park (Rutledge); High Falls Lake; Juliette; Mayer; McDuffie PFA (East); Nancy Town Lake; Lake Oconee; Olmstead; Paradise PFA (Patrick and Horseshoe 4); Payton Park Pond; (Valdosta); Rocky Mountain PFA Lakes Antioch (East and West) and Heath; Seed; Shepherd and Margery (CEWC); Sinclair; and Walter F. George.

## RIVERS AND CREEKS

Alcovy River; Boen Creek (Rabun Co.); Brassington Creek (Towns Co.); Broad River; Buffalo Creek (Carroll Co.); Butternut Creek (Union Co.); Cane Creek (Lumpkin Co.); Chattahoochee River (Chattahoochee, Early and Stewart Cos.); Chattanooga Creek; Chattooga River (NW Ga.); Chickasawhatchee Creek; Coleman River; Conasauga River in Cohutta Forest; Dukes Creek; Daniels Creek (Cloudland Canyon State Park); East/South Chickamauga Creek; Goldmine Branch; Jacks River; Jones Creek; Little Dry Creek (Floyd Co.); Little Tallapoosa River; Little Tennessee River; Mill Creek (Whitfield Co.); Moccasin Creek (Lake Burton Trout Hatchery); Mud Creek (Cobb Co.); Nickajack Creek; Noonday Creek (Cobb Co.); Ocmulgee River (Butts, Monroe, Houston and Pulaski Cos.); Oconee River (below Barnett Shoals to Lake Oconee, Laurens Co. and Milledgeville to Dublin); North and Middle Oconee Rivers; Ogeechee River (Ft. McAllister); Olley Creek; Ponder Branch (Walker Co.); Proctor Creek (Cobb Co.); Slab Camp Creek (Oconee Co.); South River (Hwy 36, Butts Co.); Spirit Creek; Stamp Creek (Pine Log WMA); Stekoa Creek; Yahoola Creek; Yellow River; Sewell Mill Creek (Cobb Co.); Tallulah River; Upatoi Creek; Tributary to Cedar Creek (Hart County WMA); Headwaters of Chestatee River (Turner's Corner); and Hayner's Creek (Savannah).

## GUIDELINES FOR GEORGIA

The following tables list the current guidelines for eating fish for lakes and rivers in Georgia. **Please note: Lakes and rivers listed at the right of this page have been tested and the fish found to contain little or no contamination.** If the lake or stream where you fish is listed in the following tables (on pages 36–39), it is safe to eat the amount listed for a given species from that body of water. Water bodies are listed alphabetically.

"These guidelines are non-binding recommendations EPD determines based on the body of water a fish comes from, the species of fish and the amount of fish a person consumes. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide detailed information in an understandable format for people who eat fish. Waters listed in the fish consumption guidelines are not necessarily assessed as impaired using USEPA guidelines for Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act."

More details on fish contaminant testing are available in the publication "Guidelines for Eating Fish from Georgia Waters" available at: [www.gaepd.org](http://www.gaepd.org)

Call for a copy or more information:

Environmental Protection Division: 404-656-4713

Coastal Resources Division: 912-264-7218

Wildlife Resources Division: 770-918-6406



# GUIDELINES FOR LIMITING THE FISH YOU EAT FROM RIVERS & CREEKS

	Bass, Largemouth	Bass, Other	Bass, Shoal	Bass, Spotted	Bass, Striped	Bass, White	Bluegill	Bowfin	Buffalo	Bullhead	Carp	Catfish, Blue	Catfish, Channel	Catfish, Flathead	Catfish, White	Mullet, Striped	Pickeral, Chain	Redbreast	Redhorse	Redear	Sucker	Sunfish, Other
NO RESTRICTIONS																						
ONE MEAL PER WEEK																						
ONE MEAL PER MONTH																						
DO NOT EAT																						
NO DATA																						
Alapaha River	■																					
Alapahoochee River																						
Allatoona Creek (Cobb Co.)			■																		■	
Altamaha River	■																				■	
Altamaha River (below US Route 25)																	■	■				
Apalachee River	■																■					
Beaver Creek (Taylor Co.)	■									■												
Brier Creek (Burke Co.)	■																				■	
Canoochee River	■																				■	
Casey Canal	■											■										
Chattooga River (NE Ga., Rabun Co.)																					■	
Chattooga River (Helen to Lk. Lanier)	■	■																			■	
Chattahoochee River (Buford Dam to Morgan Falls Dam)	■															■						
Chattahoochee River (Morgan Falls Dam to Peachtree Crk.)	■											■									■	
Chattahoochee River (Peachtree Crk. to Pea Crk.)					■																■	
Chattahoochee River (Pea Crk. to West Point Lk., below Franklin)	■					■																
Chattahoochee River (Morgan Falls Dam to West Pt. Lk.)								■														
Chattahoochee River (Oliver Dam to Upatoi Crk.)	■																					
Chattahoochee River (West Point dam to I-85)	■				■																	
Chestatee River (below Tesnatee Riv.)						■															■	
Chickamauga Creek (West)																					■	
Cohulla Creek (Whitfield Co.)																					■	
Conasauga River (below Stateline)									■													
Coosa River (Rome to Hwy 100, Floyd Co.)	■					■																
Coosa River (Hwy 100 to Stateline, Floyd Co.)	■					■																
Coosa River (Zero River Mile to Stateline)																						
Coosa River (Coosa, Etowah below Thompson-Weinman dam, Oostanaula)								■														
Coosawattee River (below Carters)												■										
Etowah River (Dawson Co.)																					■	
Etowah River (above Lake Allatoona)																						
Etowah River (below Lake Allatoona dam)	■											■										
Flint River (Spalding/Fayette Cos.)	■																				■	
Flint River (Meriwether/Upson/Pike Cos.)						■																
Flint River (Taylor Co.)						■																
Flint River (Macow/Dooly/Worth/Lee Cos.)																						
Flint River (Dougherty/Baker Mitchell Cos.)																					■	
Gum Creek (Crisp Co.)																						
Holly Creek (Murray Co.)																						

	NO RESTRICTIONS	ONE MEAL PER WEEK	ONE MEAL PER MONTH	DO NOT EAT	NO DATA	Bass, Largemouth	Bass, Other	Bass, Shoal	Bass, Spotted	Bass, Striped	Bass, White	Bluegill	Bowfin	Buffalo	Bullhead	Carp	Catfish, Blue	Catfish, Channel	Catfish, Flathead	Catfish, White	Mullet, Striped	Pickeral, Chain	Redbreast	Redhorse	Redear	Sucker	Sunfish, Other
Ichawaynochaway Creek																											
Kinchafonee Creek (above Albany)																											
Little River (above Clarks Hill Lake)																											
Little River (above Ga. Hwy 133, Valdosta)																											
Mill Creek (Murray Co.)																											
Muckalee Creek (above Albany)																											
Ochlockonee River (near Thomasville)																											
Ocmulgee River (below Macon, Bibb Co.)																											
Ocmulgee River (Telfair/Wheeler Cos.)																											
Oconee River (above Barnett Shoals)																											
Oconee River (at I-16)																											
Ogeechee River (all to Ft. McAllister)																											
Ohoopee River (Emanuel/Toombs Cos.)																											
Okefenokee Swamp (Billy's Lake)																											
Oostanaula River (Hwy 156, Calhoun)																											
Oostanaula River (Hwy 140 to Coosa Riv.)																											
Patsiliga Creek (Taylor Co.)																											
Pipemaker Canal																											
Satilla River (Waycross, Ware/Pierce Cos.)																											
Satilla River (near Folkston, Camden Co.)																				<30"	>30" ††						
Savannah River (above & below New Sav. Bluff Lock & Dam)																											
Savannah River (Chatham/Screven Cos.)																											
Savannah River (Effingham Co.)																											
Savannah River (Tidal Gate)																											
Savannah River (New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam to Savannah Estuary)																											
Short Creek (Warren Co.)																											
South River (Panola Shoals, Rockdale Co.)																											
South River (Henry Co., Snapping Shoals)																											
Spring Creek (Seminole/Decatur/Miller Cos.)																											
St. Mary's River (Camden Co.)																											
St. Mary's River (Charlton Co.)																											
Sugar Creek (Murray Co.)																											
Sumac Creek (Murray Co.)																											
Suwannee River																											
Swamp Creek (Redwine Cove Road)																											
Talking Rock Creek																											
Tallapoosa River																											
Trib. To Hudson River (Alto, Banks Co.)																											
Withlacoochee River (Berrien/Lowndes Cos.)																											

\* This striped bass population migrates annually between West Point Lake and Morgan Falls Dam.

†† Women who are pregnant or nursing and young children may wish to further restrict their consumption due to the variable mercury levels in these fish.

RIVERS and CREEKS (continued)

# GUIDELINES FOR LIMITING THE FISH YOU EAT FROM LAKES

	<b>NO RESTRICTIONS</b>	<b>ONE MEAL PER WEEK</b>	<b>ONE MEAL PER MONTH</b>	<b>DO NOT EAT</b>	<b>NO DATA</b>	Bass, Hybrid	Bass, Large Mouth	Bass, Spotted	Bass, Striped	Bass, Other	Bluegill	Carp	Crapie	Catfish, Blue	Catfish, Channel	Catfish, Flathead	Catfish, Other	Suckers	Sunfish, Redear	Walleye
<b>LAKES</b>																				
Albany By-Pass Pond																				
Acworth							>16"													
Allatoona						>16"	>16"													
Andrews							>12"													
Banks							>12"													
Bartlett's Ferry						>16"	>16"	>12"	>16"					>12"						
Bear Cr. Reservoir								<16"												
Bennett CEWC PFA									>12"											
Black Shoals (Randy Poynter)										12-16"										
Blackshear										>12"										
Big Lazer PFA										>16"										
Blue Ridge										12-16"										
Burton											>16"									>16"
Pond N. Bush Field (Augusta)										12-16"										
Chatuge											12-16"									
Clarks Hill												>16"								
Evans County PFA																				
Goat Rock						<12"	>16"													
Hamburg																				
Hartwell (Tugaloo Arm)						12-16"	>16"													
Hartwell (main body of lake)						>16"	>16"													
Hugh M. Gillis PFA										12-16"										
Jackson																				
Ken Gardens																				
Kolomoki Mounds S.P. – Kolomoki L.																				
Kolomoki Mounds S.P. – Yohola L.																				
Lanier																				
Little Ocmulgee S. P.																				
McDuffie PFA, West																				
Nottely																				
Oliver																				
Rabun																				
Reed Bingham S.P.																				
Richard B. Russell																				
Seminole																				
So. Slappy Blvd. Off-ramp (Albany)																				
Stone Mountain																				
Tobesofkee																				
Tugalo																				
Tribble Mill Pk. Pond (Gwinnett Co.)																				
Varner																				
West Point																				
Worth (Chehaw Reservoir)																				
Worth (Flint Reservoir)																				
Yonah																				

# GUIDELINES FOR LIMITING THE FISH YOU EAT FROM COASTAL RIVERS & CREEKS

	NO RESTRICTIONS	ONE MEAL PER WEEK	ONE MEAL PER MONTH	DO NOT EAT	NO DATA	Atlantic Croaker	Bass, Striped	Bivalves*	Blue Crab	Drum, Black	Drum, Red	Flounder	Sheepshead	Southern Kingfish (Whiting)	Spot	Spotted Seatrout	Striped Mullet	Shrimp	Shrimp, White	Yellowtail (Silver Perch)	
COASTAL RIVERS and CREEKS	Turtle River System (Purvis, Gibson Crks.)	Red	Light Blue	Red	Orange	Blue	Blue	Red	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Orange	Red	Orange	Red	Orange	Light Blue	Light Blue	
	Turtle & Buffalo Rivers (upriver Hwy 303)	Orange	Light Blue	Red	Blue	Orange	Blue	Red	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Orange	Red	Orange	Red	Light Blue	Green	Light Blue	
	Turtle River (Hwy 303 to Channel Marker 9)	Orange	Light Blue	Red	Blue	Blue	Blue	Red	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Red	Light Blue	Green	Light Blue	
	Turtle River (C. Marker 9 & So. Brunswick River to Dubignons & Parsons Creeks)	Orange	Light Blue	Red	Blue	Blue	Blue	Red	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Orange	Blue	Blue	Orange	Light Blue	Green	Light Blue	
	Terry Creek (South of Torras Causeway to Lanier Basin)	Green	Light Blue	Red	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Red	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Light Blue	Blue	
	Terry & Dupree Creeks (North of Torras Causeway to Confluence w/ Back River)	Orange	Light Blue	Red	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Red	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Orange	Red	Orange	Orange	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	
	Back River (1 mi. above Terry Creek to Confluence with Torras Causeway)	Green	Light Blue	Red	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Red	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Orange	Light Blue	Green	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	
	Back River (South of Torras Cswy. to St. Simons Sound)	Blue	Light Blue	Red	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Red	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	
	Floyd Creek	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
	Academy Creek	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
	Altamaha Estuary	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
	Hayner's Creek (Savannah)	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
	North Newport (Upper), incl. Cay/Peacock	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
	Savannah Estuary	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue

\* Bivalves are all clams, mussels and oysters; Shellfish ban under National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

## KING MACKEREL SPECIAL JOINT STATE CONSUMPTION GUIDANCE ISSUED BY GEORGIA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA AND FLORIDA FOR SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

SIZE RANGE (Fork Length, Inches)	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEAL CONSUMPTION OF KING MACKEREL CAUGHT OFFSHORE GEORGIA COAST
24 to less than 33 inches	No Restrictions
33 to 39 inches	I meal per month for pregnant women, nursing mothers and children age 12 and younger I meal per week for other adults
Over 39 inches	Do Not Eat

### SALTWATER ADVISORY

Harmful toxins called PCBs are stored in the hepatopancreas ("the green gland" also known as the mustard, tomalley, or liver) found in the body section of blue crabs.

Recent studies have shown that crabs in the Middle Turtle River and Purvis and Gibson Creeks contain high levels of PCBs. While the crab meat may still be eaten in recommended amounts, the hepatopancreas should not be eaten because of the high PCB levels. If crabs are cooked whole, the juice should not be consumed. Because PCBs are transferred to cooking liquid, crab cooking liquid should also be discarded.

Cleaning crabs before you cook them ("backing" the crabs and rinsing out the guts and the gills) reduces the risk of consuming PCBs.

### REPORTING VIOLATIONS

#### TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

- DNR Law Enforcement in Brunswick 912-264-7237
- Toll-Free 24-hour Hot Line 800-241-4113

#### TO REPORT VIOLATIONS IN FEDERAL WATERS

- U.S. Coast Guard stations in Brunswick 912-267-7999 and Tybee Island 912-786-5440
- NOAA's toll-free, 24-hour Fisheries Enforcement hotline 800-853-1964
- DNR LE 800-241-4113

### Natural Shorelines are Good for Fishing

By keeping shorelines natural, you can help protect water quality and improve fish habitat. A shoreline without trees and shrubs can get washed away, making the water muddy and unsuitable for fish. If you live near a lake or a river, plant a buffer strip along the water's edge using trees, shrubs, wildflowers or other native plants. Trees and other vegetation filter pollution and provide shade, shelter, habitat, and food critical for bass, trout, and other fish to thrive and reproduce. Keep your favorite fishing spots well vegetated! For more tips and information, visit <http://water.epa.gov/type/lakes/index.cfm>



# GEORGIA RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING

- Fishing Licenses:** See page 12 for information on license requirements.
- Licenses are required for hook and line fishing, castnetting, seining, crabbing, gigging, sport bait trawling, and harvesting shellfish.
  - A Georgia Fishing license is required for anglers returning to Georgia ports or transiting Georgia waters with recreational catches from federal waters beyond the state's 3-mile territorial sea.
  - Reciprocal agreements with Alabama, South Carolina, and Florida currently do not apply to saltwaters.

- Georgia saltwater fishing guides have the option of purchasing a blanket fishing license to cover their customers. Anglers booking a trip with a Georgia saltwater fishing guide should inquire if they will need a Georgia fishing license or whether they will be covered by the guide's license. Persons interested in purchasing a Saltwater Guides License should call the DNR Coastal Regional License Office at 912-264-7237.

## SALTWATER FISHING INFORMATION

### GEORGIA SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS

For information and updates on licenses, regulations, and fishing in Georgia's inshore and offshore saltwaters contact:

**Georgia DNR Coastal Law Enforcement**  
One Conservation Way, Suite 201  
Brunswick, GA 31520-8687  
912-264-7237 or fax 912-262-3166

**Coastal Resources Division**  
Marine Fisheries Section  
One Conservation Way,  
Brunswick, GA 31520-8687  
912-264-7218 or fax 912-262-2318  
[www.CoastalGADNR.org](http://www.CoastalGADNR.org)

### FEDERAL SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS

For information and updates on recreational fishing regulations in federal waters (3–200 miles offshore), contact:

**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
4055 Faber Place Dr., Suite 201  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
843-571-4366 or 866-SAFMC-10  
[www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net)

For information and updates on federal regulations and required permitting for tunas, billfish, and sharks, contact:

**National Marine Fisheries Service**  
HMS Management Division  
1315 East-West Hwy  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301-713-2347  
[www.nmfspermits.com](http://www.nmfspermits.com)

For information on the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary contact:

**Gray's Reef Sanctuary Program**  
10 Ocean Science Circle  
Savannah, GA 31411  
912-598-2345  
[www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov](http://www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov)

### WANTON WASTE

Sort or cull your catch on the water. Return undersized or unwanted wildlife to the water alive. When you throw away wildlife, you are not only wasting valuable resources, but you are also breaking the law!

### ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Georgia maintains 15 inshore and 22 offshore artificial reefs located from inside the estuary to 80 miles offshore. Most are designated as Special Management Zones (SMZ) by the Federal Government. Within SMZs, only handheld hook-and-line and spear fishing gear may be used. For more information, coordinates and updates go to [www.CoastalGADNR.org](http://www.CoastalGADNR.org).

### BOATING SAFETY ZONES

Boating safety zones have been established off Jekyll, Tybee, St. Simons, and Sea islands. These zones extend from the northernmost point to the southernmost point of each of these islands and from the highwater mark to a distance 1,000 feet seaward. From May 1 through September 30, power boats, jet skis, and other motorized craft are prohibited in these zones.

### SALTWATER FINFISH

#### LANDING REQUIREMENTS/ TRANSFER PROHIBITION

All saltwater finfish (including sharks) under state or federal regulation must be landed with head and fins intact. Anglers must make catches available for inspection by government officials. Saltwater finfish subject to size and bag limits cannot be transferred to another person or vessel on the water. Commercial licenses are required to sell recreationally caught finfish.

#### GEAR

A seine may not be used as a gill net (a net constructed of single webbing attached to a float line and lead line and fished in a stationary manner to ensnare or entangle fish in the meshes). Only flounder may be taken with a gig (any handheld shaft with single or multiple points, barbed or barbless). **All seasons, hours, creel limits, minimum size limits, and other regulations applicable to saltwater finfish apply regardless of the gear used.**

**Sharks:** Recreational harvest of sharks is limited to hook and line gear only.

#### RELATED DEFINITIONS

**Minimum Size:** the specific size in length below which it is unlawful to take that finfish species.

**Open Season:** that specified period of time during which one may take certain finfish species from any waters of the state.

**Daily Creel Limit:** the lawful amount of a species of finfish that a person may take in one day.

**Possession Limit:** the lawful amount of a species of finfish that a person can legally have at any one time.

**Bushel:** 32 quarts.

### SALTWATER DEMARCACTION LINE

This line is established in this state as the separation point between saltwaters and freshwaters for commercial fishing and sport fishing. The saltwater demarcation line is defined below:

- The point at which U.S. Highway 17 crosses the following bodies of water and their tributaries shall be the line of demarcation for them: St. Mary's River, Satilla River, South Altamaha River, Champney River, Butler River, Darien River, Little Ogeechee System (except Salt Creek), North Newport River, Medway River, Big Ogeechee River, and the point at which Georgia Highway 25/South Carolina 170 crosses the Savannah River and its tributaries. All water seaward of these points shall be considered saltwater.
- The following streams and their tributaries are designated as salt water for their entire length: Crooked River, Little Satilla River, South Brunswick River, Turtle River, Sapelo River, South Newport River, Salt Creek (Little Ogeechee System), and all other rivers, streams, and tributaries in the six coastal counties which are not enumerated in this subsection.
- For purposes of crabbing, that portion of the St. Mary's River and the Satilla River System (including the Satilla River and White Oak Creek) which is seaward of the points at which the Seaboard Coastline Railroad crosses such streams and that portion of the Altamaha River System which is seaward of the points at which I-95 crosses the streams of that system shall be considered salt water. It shall be unlawful to place any crab trap in the waters of this state other than that described as salt water in Code Section 27-4-1 or by this subsection.

All limits per person unless specified. **FL** = fork length, **TL** = total length (see page 15)

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT and POSSESSION LIMIT	MINIMUM SIZE (inches)
Amberjack (no sale 4/1–4/30) <sup>2</sup>	3/16–12/31	1	28 FL
Atlantic croaker	All year	25	8 TL
Atlantic sturgeon		No Harvest	
Billfish (Blue marlin, White marlin, Sailfish) <sup>2</sup>		Catch and Release Only	
Black drum	All year	15	10 TL
Black sea bass <sup>2</sup>	All year	15	12 TL
Bluefish	3/16–11/30	15	12 FL
Cobia <sup>2</sup>	3/16–11/30	2	33 FL
Dolphin <sup>2</sup>	All year	10 (Not to exceed 60 per boat, except for headboats which are allowed 10 per paying customer.)	20 FL
Flounder	All year	15	12 TL
Gag grouper (no sale 3/1–4/30) <sup>2</sup>	All year	2	24 TL
King mackerel <sup>2</sup>	All year	3	24 FL
Red drum (Channel bass, Spottail bass, Redfish)	All year	5	14 TL (23 TL maximum)
Red porgy (no sale 1/1–4/30) <sup>2</sup>	All year	3	14 TL
Red snapper <sup>1,2</sup>	All year	2	20 TL
Sharks (all sharks other than the SSC and Prohibited Sharks) <sup>2</sup>	All Year	1 per angler or boat, whichever is less	54 FL
Small shark composite (SSC) <sup>2</sup> (Atlantic sharpnose, Bonnethead, Spiny dogfish)	All Year	1	30 FL
Prohibited Sharks ( <b>NO HARVEST</b> )		Sand tiger, Sandbar, Silky, Bigeye sand tiger, Whale, Basking, White, Dusky, Bignose, Galapagos, Night, Reef, Narrowtooth, Caribbean sharpnose, Smalltail, Atlantic angel, Longfin mako, Bigeye thresher, Sharpnose sevengill, Bluntnose sixgill, and Bigeye sixgill	
Sheepshead <sup>2</sup>	All year	15	10 FL
Spanish mackerel <sup>2</sup>	3/16–11/30	15	12 FL
Spot	All year	25	8 TL
Spotted seatrout	All year	15	13 TL
Striped bass (see Savannah River information on page 14)	All year	2	22 TL
Tarpon (no sale)	3/16–11/30	1	68 FL
Tripletail	All year	2	18 TL
Weakfish	All year	1	13 TL
Whiting	All year	No Creel or Possession Limit	10 TL

<sup>1</sup> Potential Red Snapper changes in 2011

<sup>2</sup> These species are also federally managed from 3 to 200 miles offshore. Go to [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net) for federal regulations.

## Tagged Fish

Coastal Resources Division (CRD) biologists are conducting long-term studies on the growth, migration and fishing exploitation rates of red drum, tarpon, and tripletail. If you catch a tagged fish, please record and report the following information: 1) your name, address, and phone number, 2) fish species, 3) date caught, 4) tag number, 5) total length and location, and 6) whether the fish was kept or released. To report a tagged fish call (912) 264-7218. If released, please do not remove the tag.

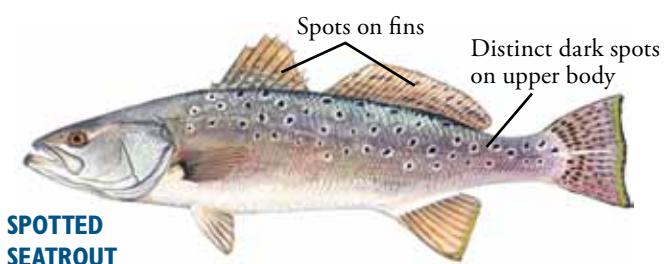
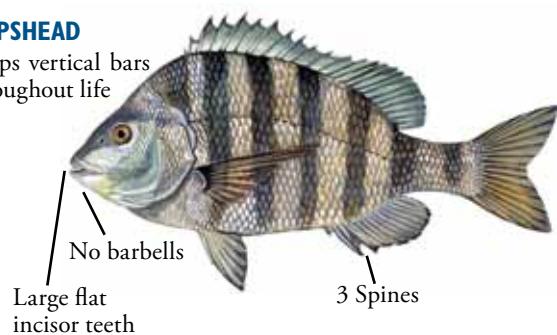
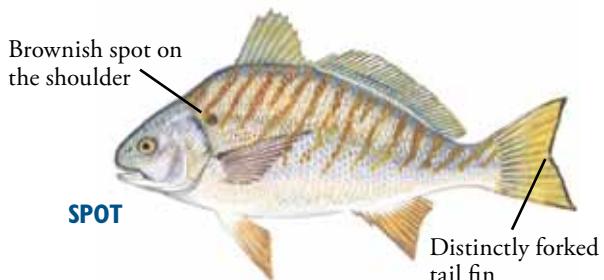
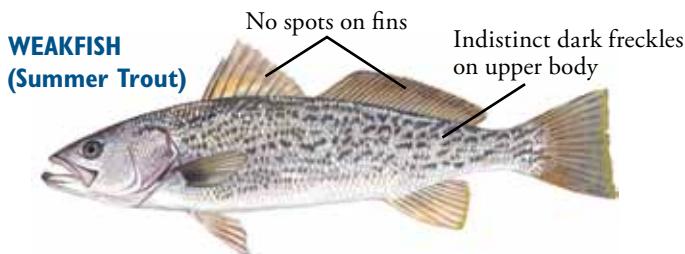
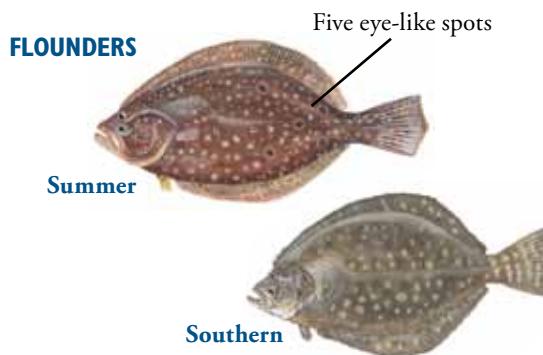
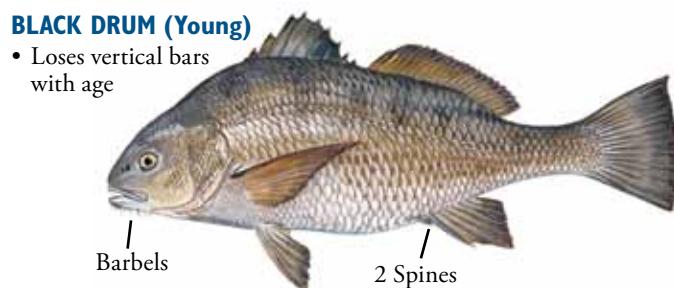
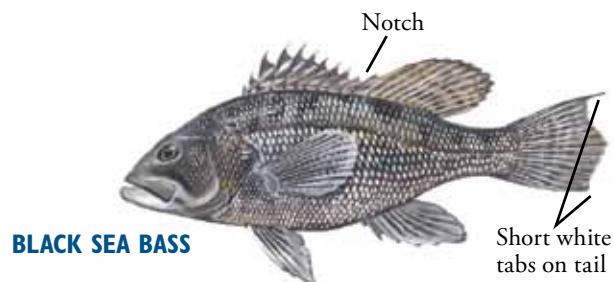
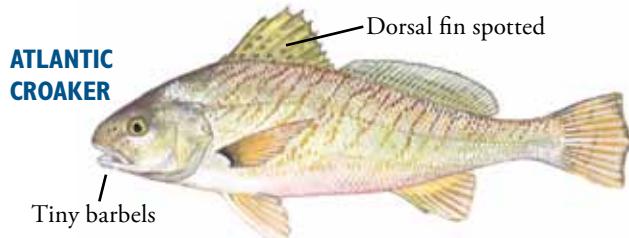
If kept, please return the tag to GADNR/CRD, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, GA 31520. If the tag number is

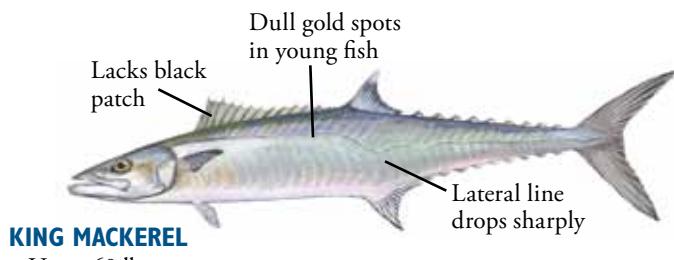
not legible lightly scrape the tag with your fingernail or similar flat object.

Tripletail with tag ID beginning with the prefix "TT" contain surgically implanted acoustic transmitters. Anglers who catch these tagged fish are encouraged to release them with the tag intact, then call and report the catch.

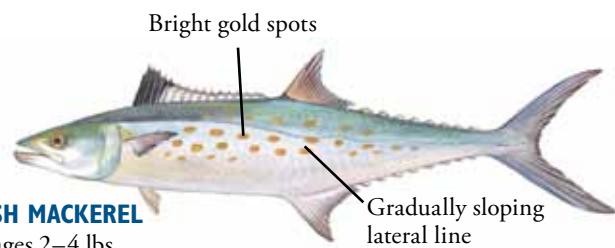
If you are an angler who practices catch and release and would like to become a cooperative angler please contact Donna McDowell with the Cooperative Angler Tagging Program at 912-264-7218.

## SALTWATER FISH

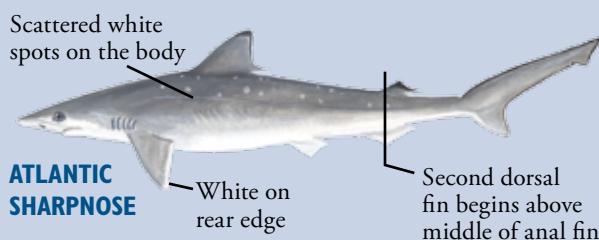


**KING MACKEREL**

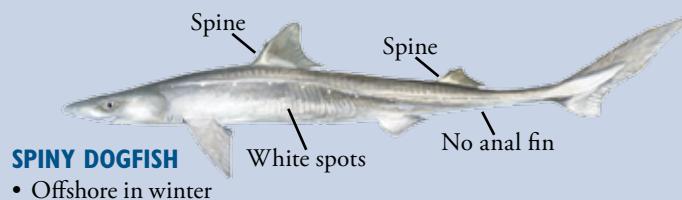
- Up to 60 lbs.

**SPANISH MACKEREL**

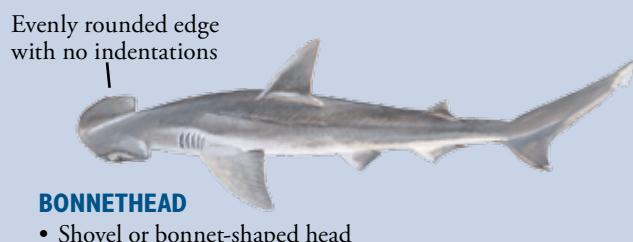
- Averages 2–4 lbs.

**SMALL SHARK COMPOSITE****ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE****BLACKTIP**

- Color dark to bluish-grey with a Z-shaped pattern

**SPINY DOGFISH**

- Offshore in winter

**BONNETHEAD**

- Shovel or bonnet-shaped head



Snout shorter than width of mouth

Interdorsal ridge

**SANDBAR**

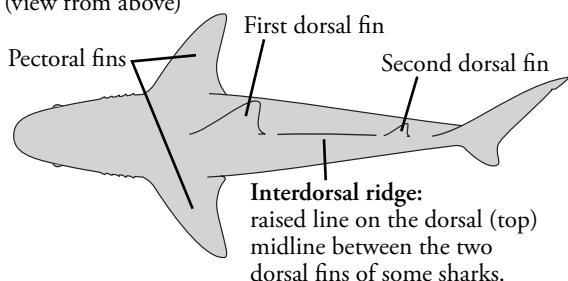
- Harvest prohibited
- Color brownish-grey above white below

**SAND TIGER**

- Harvest prohibited

**SHARK ANATOMY**

(view from above)

**SHARKS FOUND IN GEORGIA WATERS THAT CAN BE HARVESTED  
(not including small shark composite above)**

Blacknose	Blacktip
Bull	Finetooth
Lemon	Nurse
Scalloped Hammerhead	Smooth Hammerhead
Thresher	Tiger (has interdorsal ridge)

Most sharks with an interdorsal ridge caught in Georgia waters will be included in the "prohibited" or "no harvest" categories.

If you are not sure of the species and whether you may keep it, release it.

See the complete **Seasons, Limits, Sizes** list on page 41.

# GEORGIA'S SALTWATER GAMEFISH RECORDS

SPECIES	MEN'S RECORD			WOMEN'S RECORD		
	WEIGHT	MALE ANGLER (year)	WEIGHT	FEMALE ANGLER (year)		
Amberjack, Greater	92 lb. 1 oz.	Ben W. Key, Jr. (1975)	72 lb. 8 oz.	Tricia L. Nicosia (1986)		
Barracuda, Great	54 lb. 8 oz.	Wayne Hall (1999)	47 lb. 8 oz.	Marie Franklin (1999)		
Bass, Black Sea (tie)	5 lb. 11 oz.	J.C. Hadden, Jr. (1994)	4 lb. 8 oz.	Evelyn B. Carter (1983)		
	5 lb. 12 oz.	Willie J. Oakman (1998)				
Bluefish	17 lb. 12 oz.	Gary Q. Altman (1980)	14 lb. 4 oz.	Kathy Sikes (1986)		
Cobia	88 lb. 12 oz.	Jeffrey Clark (1985)	68 lb. 5 oz.	Wanda Carroll (1999)		
Croaker, Atlantic	5 lb. 12 oz.	David Flynt (1977)	1 lb. 1 oz.	Gretchen Keister (1992)		
Dolphin	67 lb. 6 oz.	Michael Sheppard (1997)	54 lb. 8 oz.	Romona Arsenault (1977)		
Drum, Black	92 lb. 0 oz.	John H. Thomas Jr. (2010)	80 lb. 0 oz.	Jennifer Mugrauer (2009)		
Drum, Red (Channel Bass)**	47 lb. 7 oz.	Richard Price (1986)	38 lb. 13 oz.	Sandra Price (1986)		
Flounder (Composite)	15 lb. 8 oz.	Walter C. Hewitt (1982)	15 lb. 10 oz.	Janice Youmans (1990)		
Grouper, Gag	38 lb. 0 oz.	David Sapp (2002)	20 lb. 0 oz.	Joyce L. Richards (1984)		
Grouper, Goliath**	124 lb. 0 oz.	James Chumley (1976)	Harvest prohibited, therefore record no longer allowed.			
Grouper, Scamp (tie)	26 lb. 0 oz.	Wayne Hall (1995)	23 lb. 6 oz.	Kathy Wash (1987)		
	26 lb. 4 oz.	James Hubbard (2009)				
Grouper, Warsaw	252 lb. 0 oz.	Gene Whitehurst (1981)	Minimum weight: 25 lbs.			
Jack, Crevalle	38 lb. 8 oz.	Lex Bazemore (2001)	30 lb. 6 oz.	Ann Allen (1981)		
Kingfish (Whiting)	2 lb. 12 oz.	Harold Guinn (1975)	2 lb. 4 oz.	Lois E. Guinn (1975)		
Ladyfish	3 lb. 12 oz.	Dwight Thornton (1977)	5 lb. 0 oz.	Marjorie Nighbert (1978)		
Mackerel, King	75 lb. 12 oz.	Joe H. Bell (2004)	42 lb. 0 oz.	Joyce Richards (1982)		
Mackerel, Spanish	8 lb. 4 oz.	James I. Geiger (1991)	7 lb. 14 oz.	Ida Knight (1988)		
Marlin, Blue**	491 lb. 8 oz.	John C. Howard, Jr. (1985)	178 lb. 0 oz.	Susan D. Meek (1985)		
Marlin, White**	49 lb. 12 oz.	Thomas Hester (1986)	Harvest prohibited, therefore record no longer allowed.			
Mullet, Striped	9 lb. 3 oz.	Steve Middleton (1994)	Minimum weight: 4 lbs.			
Pompano, Florida	5 lb. 4 oz.	Bill Knightbuford (2002)	1 lb. 7 oz.	Laura A. Cheek (1982)		
Porgy (Composite)	15 lb. 14 oz.	Louis F. Jiran (1988)	Minimum weight: 3 lbs.			
Porgy, Red	5 lb. 6 oz.	Jimmy Ginn (1980)	Minimum weight: 4 lbs.			
Runner, Rainbow	17 lb. 12 oz.	Tyler Bond (1984)	Minimum weight: 5 lbs.			
Sailfish**	65 lb. 0 oz.	Vann Downs (1981)	38 lb. 5 oz.	Laura Hammond (1992)		
Seatrout, Spotted	9 lb. 7 oz.	Tommy Hall (1976)	7 lb. 8 oz.	Amanda Wooten (1990)		
Shark, Blacktip	131 lb. 0 oz.	Albert Lee Boyd (1978)	148 lb. 0 oz.	Allison Gerber (2008)		
Shark, Bonnethead	22 lb. 8 oz.	Zachery Gross (2009)	Minimum weight: 20 lbs.			
Shark, Bull	455 lb. 0 oz.	Mark D. Noble (1978)	Minimum weight: 50 lbs.			
Shark, Dusky	272 lb. 8 oz.	Bill Hunter (1978)	6 lb. 2 oz.	Wendy Mead (1982)		
Shark, Hammerhead	770 lb. 0 oz.	Charlie Marshall (1973)	10 lb. 0 oz.	Katherine Bullis (1985)		
Shark, Lemon	375 lb. 0 oz.	Thomas Winslow (1974)	Minimum weight: 50 lbs.			
Shark, Mako	228 lb. 8 oz.	Harry Wooley (1975)	No minimum weight			
Shark, Nurse	244 lb. 0 oz.	Bill Watson (1981)	Minimum weight: 50 lbs.			
Shark, Sandbar (Brown)	158 lb. 8 oz.	Chet Lee Kirby (1979)	124 lb. 0 oz.	Dorothea Bays (1985)		
Shark, Sand Tiger**	290 lb. 0 oz.	Billy Castle (1977)	212 lb. 6 oz.	Clara Adams (1984)		
Shark, Spinner	145 lb. 6 oz.	Edward J. Hawie (2009)	Minimum weight: 50 lbs.			
Shark, Thresher	116 lb. 0 oz.	Mark D. Noble (1976)	Minimum weight: 50 lbs.			
Shark, Tiger	794 lb. 0 oz.	Chuck Hall (1975)	Minimum weight: 50 lbs.			
Sheepshead	14 lb. 14 oz.	Ralph V. White (2002)	12 lb. 9 oz.	Linda Carroll (2003)		
Snapper, Red	37 lb. 8 oz.	Bill Shearin, Jr. (1988)	29 lb. 8 oz.	Phyllis Thompson (1989)		
Snapper, Gray	10 lb. 8 oz.	Jason Carter (2009)	Minimum weight: 5 lbs.			
Snook	10 lb. 2 oz.	Lester Rooks (1990)	10 lb. 6 oz.	Marlene Patton (2008)		
Spadefish, Atlantic	13 lb. 2 oz.	Shahram Zare (2004)	11 lb. 5 oz.	Deidra H. Jeffcoat (2003)		
Swordfish	86 lb. 0 oz.	W.H. Lippitt (1980)	No minimum weight			
Tarpon	161 lb. 0 oz.	C. Edwards (1995)	139 lb. 0 oz.	Wendy A. Mead (1986)		
Triggerfish, Gray	11 lb. 3 oz.	Dean Williams (1989)	11 lb. 5 oz.	Elizabeth Zeagler (1987)		
Tripletail	38 lb. 14 oz.	Kyle Thigpen (2005)	22 lb. 7 oz.	Joan Thigpen (1994)		
Tuna, Blackfin	38 lb. 10 oz.	Teddy Elrod (2005)	30 lb. 8 oz.	Penny Morgan-Turner (1999)		
Tuna, Yellowfin	249 lb. 2 oz.	Ken Cooper (1980)	165 lb. 4 oz.	Anne Smith (1973)		
Tunny, Little	19 lb. 4 oz.	John Smits (2010)	20 lb. 0 oz.	Str. Mary Clarice (1973)		
Wahoo	123 lb. 3 oz.	Michael Stefanick (2000)	77 lb. 0 oz.	Linda Li-Chao Yang (1988)		
Weakfish (Summer Trout)	6 lb. 8 oz.	Frank Taylor (1976)	Minimum weight: 3 lbs.			

For more information on Saltwater records, go to Coastal Resources Division at 912-264-7218

**RED indicates new record!**

\*\* Current regulations require the immediate release of these fish and therefore are not eligible for state records. Due to the maximum 23 inch size limit on Red Drum, a state record cannot be submitted



New Men's State Record,  
Black Drum 92 lb.

A Georgia Fishing license is required to recreationally fish for any seafood, whether for personal consumption or bait. **The sale of recreationally harvested seafood or bait is prohibited.**

## SHRIMP

### "BAITING" SHRIMP

It is unlawful to place, deposit, distribute, or scatter any bait of any kind in, on, or over any waters so as to lure, attract, or entice shrimp toward the bait or to cause shrimp to congregate in the area where bait is placed. It is illegal to knowingly fish for shrimp in baited waters.

### FOOD SHRIMPING SEASON

The season for the recreational harvest of food shrimp is the same as that established for commercial shrimping. The Commissioner of DNR may open the season from May 15 through the end of February; however, it is generally opened mid-June through mid-January. The opening and closing of the food shrimping season is announced via coastal media outlets, posted at marinas, and at [www.CoastalGADNR.org](http://www.CoastalGADNR.org).

### SPORT BAIT SHRIMPING WITH POWER-DRAWN NETS

**Gear:** Power-drawn nets 10 feet or smaller may be used in saltwaters to harvest shrimp for bait. Information on the specific net dimensions is available from DNR offices in Brunswick and Demeries Creek (Richmond Hill).

**Bait Zones:** A 10-foot sport bait trawl may be used to take shrimp only in rivers and creeks or portions thereof that have been opened to bait shrimping by DNR. Charts of established "Bait Zones" are also available at DNR offices in Brunswick and Demeries Creek.

**Seasons and Hours:** Unless otherwise designated, bait zones are open year-round for sport bait shrimping. Sport bait shrimping is legal only between the hours of ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.

**Harvest Limit:** A sport bait shrimper may



# GRAY'S REEF

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Our regulations are in place to better protect your resources.

### Quick Reference To Regulations:

1. Fishing is allowed only by rod and reel or handline.
2. No anchoring except in an emergency.
3. Diving is allowed; but taking of any marine organisms (including lobsters) living or dead is prohibited.

#### Coordinates of Gray's Reef

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary consists of 16.68 square nautical miles (NM) of high sea waters off the coast of Georgia. The Sanctuary boundary includes all waters and sea floor within a rectangle described as: Datum: NAD83 Geographic Coordinate System  
 (1) N 31.362732°: W 80.921200°  
 (2) N 31.421064°: W 80.921201°  
 (3) N 31.421064°: W 80.828145°  
 (4) N 31.362732°: W 80.828145°  
 (5) N 31.362732°: W 80.921200°

- (5)(i) Injuring, catching, harvesting, or collecting, or attempting to injure, catch, harvest, or collect, any marine organism, or any part thereof, living or dead, within the Sanctuary by any means except by use of rod and reel, and handline gear;
- (ii) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that any marine organism or part thereof referenced in this paragraph found in the possession of a person within the Sanctuary has been collected from the Sanctuary.
- (6) Using any fishing gear within the Sanctuary except rod and reel, and handline gear, or for law enforcement purposes.
- (7) Using underwater any explosives, or devices that produce electric charges underwater.
- (10) Anchoring any vessel in the Sanctuary, except as provided in §922.92 when responding to an emergency threatening life, property, or the environment.

For a complete listing of all Sanctuary regulations and the full legal language of the regulations, see the sanctuary website at <http://graysreef.noaa.gov>



### To Report Violations

**NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Hotline**

1-800-853-1964

**Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

1-912-264-7237 or  
1-800-241-4113

**U.S Coast Guard Station Brunswick**

Contact the USCG on  
VHF Channel 16  
1-912-267-7999

not possess at any time more than two (2) quarts of shrimp, no more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of which may be dead, and may not take more than four (4) quarts of shrimp within a 24-hour period. When two or more persons occupy the same boat, there may be no more than four (4) quarts of shrimp on board the boat at any time; no more than one pint of which may be dead, and no more than eight (8) quarts of shrimp may be taken within a 24-hour period.

#### SEINING FOR SHRIMP

**Gear and Areas:** Seines equal to or smaller than 12 feet long, with a maximum depth of four feet, and a maximum stretch mesh of one (1) inch may be used throughout the

year and throughout Georgia's saltwaters. Seines less than 100 feet long and with a minimum stretch mesh of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch may be used on sand beaches of any barrier island in Georgia. Seines from 100 to 300 feet long and with a minimum mesh size of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches may be used only on the oceanfront sides of beaches. The use of seines over 12 feet long in any inlet or tidal slough is prohibited. Seines over 300 feet long are also prohibited. It is unlawful to use any seine in saltwaters such that it blocks more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the entrance of any tidal river, creek, slough, or inlet to the ocean.

**Hours:** During the open season, seines may be used at any time of day.

**Harvest Limits:** No one person taking shrimp solely by means of a seine, whether such person is acting alone or in a group of persons, may possess more than 24 quarts of shrimp with heads on or 15 quarts of tails taken by such seine in any 24-hour period. If any person or group of persons occupying the same boat is in possession of a cast net and a seine, such person or persons shall be subject to the limits imposed for shrimp taken by cast net.

#### CAST NETTING FOR SHRIMP

It is unlawful for any person to sell or otherwise dispose of, for human consumption, any shrimp taken as bait.

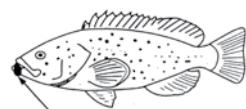
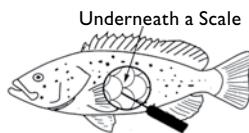
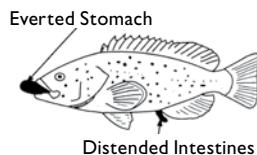
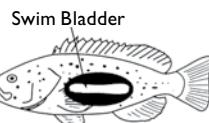
**Gear:** Georgia law defines a cast net as a

## DEFLATING YOUR FISH

Many marine reef fish have gas-filled organs called swim bladders. These organs control buoyancy and allow the fish to maintain a certain depth in the water column. When some fish are brought quickly to the surface, the gas in the swim bladder can over-expand and rupture the bladder. Escaping gas fills the gut cavity. If released in this buoyant condition, the fish cannot descend and may float away and die. Swim bladder over-expansion can cause everted stomachs or intestines, as shown here. If a fish is unable to submerge, be prepared to vent the fish's gut cavity and get the fish back into the water as quickly as possible if you wish to release it. Venting helps the gas escape, allows the

fish to descend, and improves survival.

Use wet gloves to handle the fish and have a deflating tool on hand. A simple deflating tool can be made by mounting a sharpened football needle in a 1" x 3" dowel rod. A center hole is drilled lengthwise through the rod to allow gas to pass from the needle through the rod. Hold the fish gently on its side. Insert the needle through the thin lower body wall below the rear end of the pectoral fin. Insert the needle only as far as needed to allow the gas to escape. Squeeze gently to help push the gas out. Do not try to push the stomach back into the throat. Revive the fish in the water and release it when it can swim upright.



Credit: Florida Sea Grant, 1995

# CRAB, SHELLFISH AND BAIT MINNOWS

cone shaped net with a weighted circumference thrown and retrieved by hand without mechanical assistance. Two types of cast nets are further defined: a "Bait shrimp cast net" having a minimum bar mesh of  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch and a "Food shrimp cast net" having a minimum bar mesh of  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch. Bait shrimp cast nets cannot be used to take shrimp for personal consumption; however, food shrimp cast nets may be used to take bait. **There are no restrictions on the length of a bait or food shrimp cast net. Bait and food shrimp cast nets can be modified with the addition of duct tape or other materials to enhance performance.**

## FOOD SHRIMP

**Hours and Areas:** During the open season, cast netting for personal consumption may be conducted at any time of day in all the state's saltwaters.

**Harvest Limits:** No person taking shrimp for personal consumption with a cast net may possess more than 48 quarts of heads-on shrimp or 30 quarts of shrimp tails in any day. When one or more persons occupy the same boat, there may be no more than 48 quarts of heads-on shrimp or 30 quarts of shrimp tails on board at any time. No vessel owner shall allow the vessel to be used to take more than the allowable catch limits in any day.

## BAIT SHRIMP

**Season, Hours and Areas:** There is no closed season for cast netting for bait. Cast netting for bait may be conducted at any time of day in all of Georgia's saltwaters.

**Harvest Limits:** Recreational cast netters collecting bait shrimp are limited to two quarts per person at any time, provided that person may take a maximum of four quarts of bait shrimp per day. When two or more persons occupy the same boat, there may be no more than four quarts of bait on board the boat at any time, and the persons occupying the boat may take no more than eight quarts of bait shrimp per day. Bait shrimp taken with a cast net may be live or dead.

## STONE CRABS

Georgia does not regulate the harvest of stone crab; however, the harvest of the whole crab is discouraged. It is recommended that only one claw measuring at least  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " from the elbow to the tip of the lower, immovable finger be removed. A properly removed claw should not have meat from the body attached.

## BLUE CRABS

### AREAS, SEASONS, HOURS

Unless otherwise designated, the saltwaters of Georgia are open year-round for recreational crabbing at any time of the day.

## GEAR

**Traps:** Up to six standard size crab traps (2 x 2 feet or smaller) may be used recreationally. Two unobstructed escapement rings ( $2\frac{3}{8}$  inch inside diameter) must be installed on an outside vertical wall. Each trap must be marked with a fluorescent green or lime green float bearing the owner's name and address in one-inch letters. Traps should be sufficiently weighted to prevent loss in strong tidal currents. It is unlawful to place or set crab traps in the channel of any stream with a lawfully established system of waterway markers. Disposal of crab traps in public waters is a violation of State and Federal laws.

**Other Gear:** Subject to other restrictions outlined in these regulations, legal crabs may be taken with other legal fishing gear such as seines, cast nets, hand-lines, and lift rings.

## SIZE AND HARVEST LIMITS

It is unlawful to take or possess any crab less than 5 inches from spike to spike across the back (other than a "peeler" or a "mature adult female" crab). Peelers must measure at least 3 inches from spike to spike across the back. **No sponge (egg-bearing) crabs are allowed.** Recreational crabbers may take no more than one bushel of crabs during any 24-hour period. No more than two bushels may be taken recreationally or possessed during a 24-hour period on a boat with more than one person aboard.

**Terrapins in Crab Traps:** Recent studies have investigated the effectiveness of excluder devices for preventing the capture of diamond-back terrapins in commercial-style crab traps. Terrapins that enter crab traps cannot escape and often drown. To learn how to build your own terrapin excluder visit [www.terrapinconservation.org](http://www.terrapinconservation.org).

## SHELLFISH

### SEASON AND HOURS

Saltwaters may be opened for taking shellfish between January 1 and December 31. Prior to harvesting any shellfish, check with the DNR-Coastal Resources Division ([www.CoastalGADNR.org](http://www.CoastalGADNR.org)) for any seasonal closures that may be in effect during the calendar year. Shellfish must be harvested between the hours of  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before official sunrise and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour after official sunset.

## GEAR

Shellfish may only be taken with handheld implements.

## AREAS

Updated charts of approved public picking areas for shellfish should be obtained from Coastal Resources Division's Ecological Services Section or at [www.CoastalGADNR.org](http://www.CoastalGADNR.org). It is illegal to recreationally harvest

shellfish except in designated public picking areas, unless authorized in writing by a private property owner with legal harvest rights to an area. Private property owners wishing to harvest recreational quantities of shellfish or to issue permission to others must notify and provide DNR with specific information. It is unlawful to give permission to take shellfish from a closed area. Harvesters taking shellfish from private property must have on their person proof of ownership or permission.

## SIZE AND HARVEST LIMITS

Oysters must measure no less than three inches from hinge to mouth, unless the oyster cannot be removed from a legal-sized oyster without destroying it. For clams, the maximum depth from one shell half to the other must be at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick. Recreational quantity limits are up to two bushels of oysters and one bushel of clams per person per day, with a maximum limit of six bushels of oysters and one bushel of clams per boat per day.

## WHELK (CONCH)

Recreational harvest of whelk is limited to 1 bushel/person. There is no minimum size, closed season or closed area. A recreational fishing license is required, including hand harvest from the beach.

## BAIT MINNOWS

### SEASON, HOURS AND AREAS

Bait minnows may be harvested year-round. **Bait minnows may not be trapped in freshwater.**

## GEAR

No more than two traps may be used recreationally, except that a licensed saltwater fishing guide may use a maximum of four traps. Maximum dimensions for rectangular traps may not exceed 24" x 8" x 9". Cylindrical traps may not exceed 24" in length and 30" in circumference. Recreational bait minnow traps shall have a mesh size of no smaller than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch bar mesh. The throat opening of the funnel shall not exceed  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter. Each trap must have attached a tag or float bearing the name and address of the person using the trap. Subject to specific gear design criteria, sizes, time of day, and area restrictions outlined in these regulations, bait minnows may also be taken recreationally year-round in seines and cast nets.

## POSSESSION LIMITS

No individual recreationally harvesting bait minnows may possess more than two quarts of bait minnows at any given time. A licensed saltwater fishing guide may possess not more than 10 quarts at any given time.

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