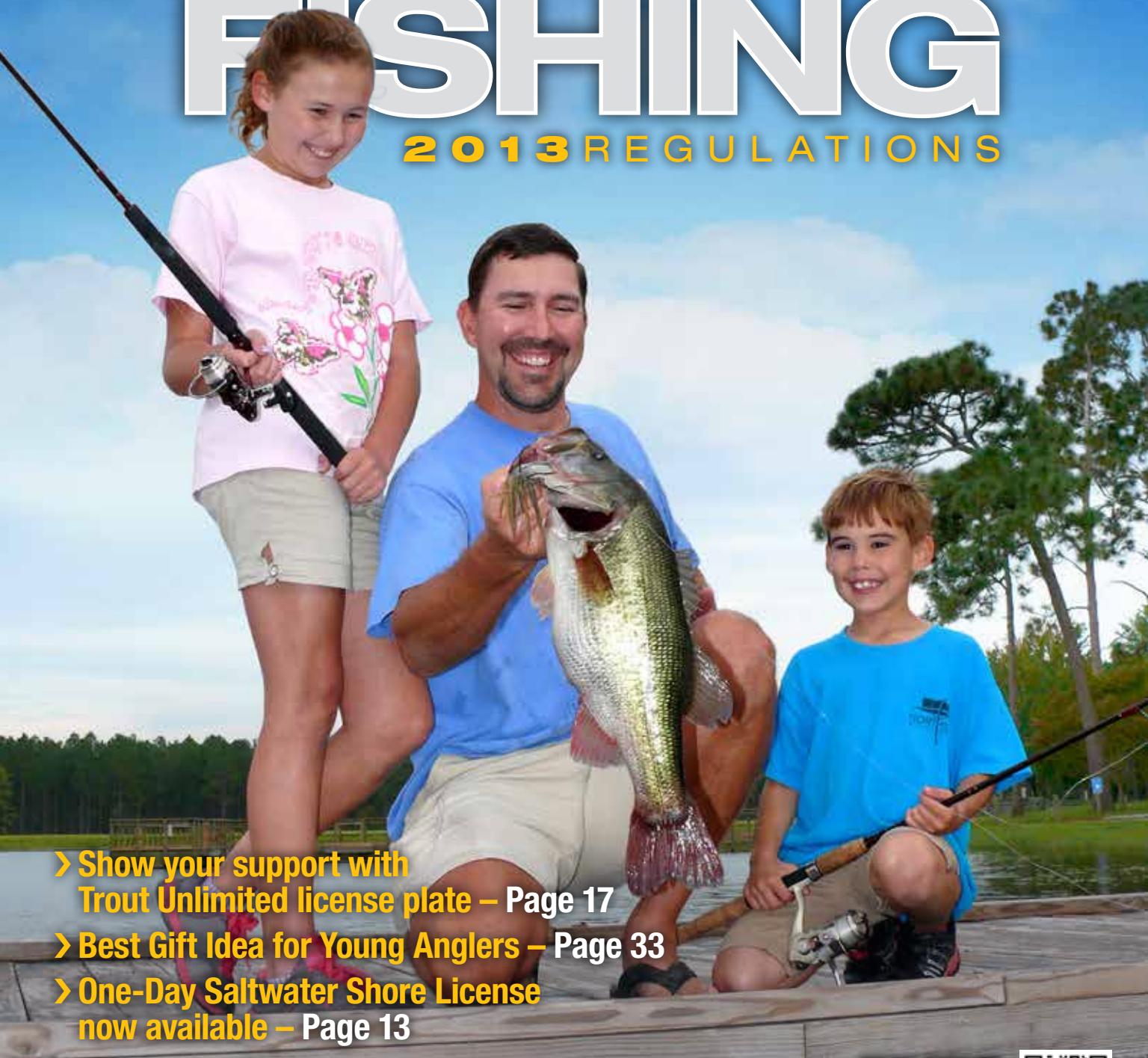


GEORGIA
**SPORT
FISHING**
2013 REGULATIONS



- › Show your support with
Trout Unlimited license plate – Page 17
- › Best Gift Idea for Young Anglers – Page 33
- › One-Day Saltwater Shore License
now available – Page 13





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Price does not include land improvements. Prices subject to change. Some of the homes shown have options not in the base price.

**GUARANTEED
BUILDOUT
TIMES**

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Go Fish Education Center!

See page 32.

2013 FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

Nathan Deal, Governor

Mark Williams, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources

Dan Forster, Director, Wildlife Resources Division

Spud Woodward, Director, Coastal Resources Division

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www.GADNR.org.

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 partially 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)

Advertising: J.F. Griffin Publishing (413) 884-1001

On The Cover

Father, Michael Staton, takes his daughter, Emily Staton, and son, Aaron Staton, fishing at Paradise PFA.

Photo was taken by Bert Deener



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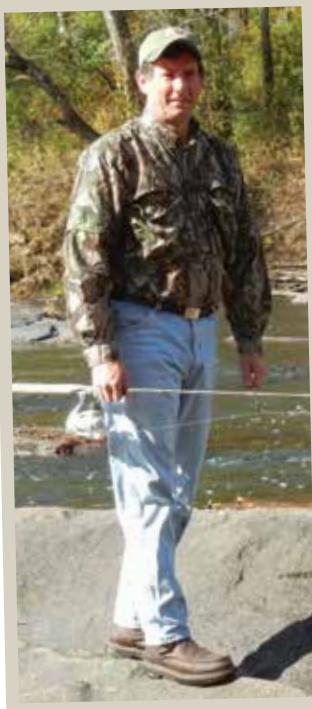
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Thank you anglers! You've made an amazing contribution to Georgia's fish, wildlife and habitats. By purchasing a license as well as fishing equipment and related items, you and your fellow anglers have helped fund sport fish restoration programs for years, thanks to the Sport Fish Restoration Act.

The Sport Fish Restoration Act allows funds accumulated from a federal excise tax on fishing equipment and related items to be directed to activities that benefit recreational anglers. A portion of these funds is provided to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources based on several factors, including the number of paid sporting licenses.

In Georgia, Sport Fish funds add up to approximately \$6 million a year and helps make the following activities possible:

- Managing sport fish populations in more than half a million acres of impoundments, 16,000 miles of streams, 100 miles of coastline and 300 square miles of Atlantic Ocean.
- Raising freshwater fish in hatcheries and stocking them in public waters.
- Maintaining and operating public fishing areas.
- Building boat ramps and fishing piers.
- Enhancing fish habitat in impoundments, streams, estuaries and the Atlantic Ocean.
- Creating the next generation of ethical anglers.

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act joins with the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act and together, these programs have contributed more than \$12 billion to fish and wildlife conservation in the U.S. - more than any other single conservation effort. Additionally, they have played a key part in the implementation of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation through which wildlife species and habitats are sustained through science-based, proactive management for the benefit of all.

Generations of Georgia's citizens have benefited from this partnership and with your support, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program will continue to conserve habitat for fish and wildlife, and recreational opportunities for anglers, boaters, hunters and shooters far into the future.

Regarding wildlife and sport fish conservation, it is often asked, "how can I help?" There is a simple answer. Buy a fishing license. By purchasing a license, you are contributing to this important work, and we thank you for being our partner in conservation.

As a lifetime license holder, I know that I am not only saving money, but am also contributing to restoration programs for years to come. On every hunting and fishing trip I take — whether it's whitetail hunting near my home in south Georgia or fishing on the Altamaha River, I am reminded of how sportsmen and women have helped to conserve Georgia's natural resources.

Thank you for your continued support, and good luck on your next fishing trip!

Mark Williams

Commissioner, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

**DON'T FORGET
TO CHECK OUT THE**



BRAGGING BOARD

ON PAGE 34!!



Discover Fishing on Georgia's Free Fishing Days!

**June 1, 2013;
June 8, 2013**

- No fishing or trout license required
- All waters of the state
- Must be a Georgia resident
- Does not include fees at private lakes
- No WMA license required to fish on a Public Fishing Area or Waters Creek trophy trout stream
- All other Fishing Regulations apply



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2013**

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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 Northeast Office**

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

Buford Trout Hatchery**Burton Hatchery****4 Northwest Office**

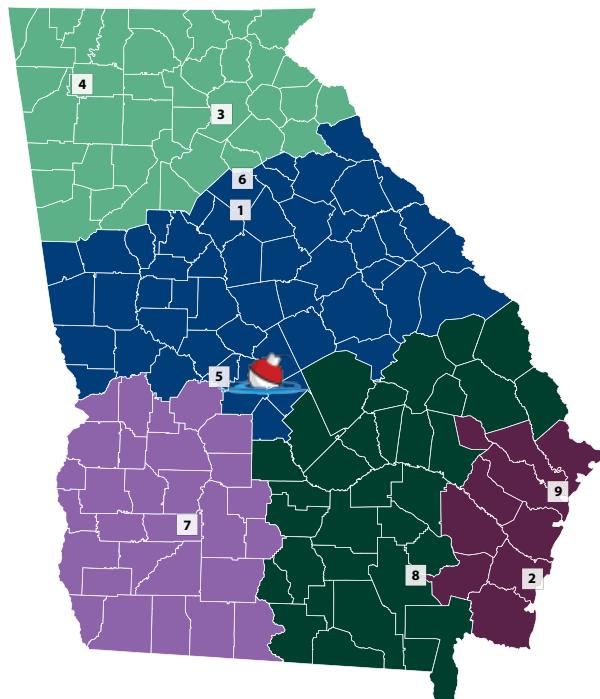
312 North River St. NW, PO Box 519, Calhoun, GA 30703
 Calhoun 706-624-1161
 Atlanta number 770-387-4821
 Law Enforcement (Calhoun) 706-624-1367
 Law Enforcement (Atlanta) 770-769-9680

Rocky Mountain Recreation & Public Fishing Area**Summerville Hatchery****5 West Central Office**

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

**Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center/
Marben PFA** 478-825-6151 or 770-784-3063**Big Lazer Creek Public Fishing Area****West Point District Office****Flat Creek PFA****6 East Central Office**

2123 US Highway 278, SE Social Circle, GA 30025
 Atlanta number 770-918-6418

Walton Fish Hatchery**Thomson District Office**

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

McDuffie PFA & Hatchery

 **Go Fish Education Center** 478-988-6701
 1255 Perry Pkwy., Perry, GA 31069

7 Southwest Office

2024 Newton Road, Albany, GA 31701
 Albany 229-430-4256
 Albany Law Enforcement 229-430-4252

Steve Cocke Hatchery**Cordele Hatchery****8 South Central Office**

108 Darling Ave., PO Box 2089, Waycross, GA 31502
 Waycross 912-285-6094
 Metter Law Enforcement 912-685-2145

Ocmulgee PFA**Hugh M. Gillis PFA****Dodge County PFA****Paradise PFA****9 Coastal Office**

22814 Highway 114, Richmond Hill, GA 31324
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Evans County PFA**Richmond Hill Fish Hatchery**

>> See page 22 for a map of Public Fishing Areas.

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SPORTFISHING 2013 CHANGES

Freshwater Regulation Changes

Anglers please note that some Fishing Regulations covering Georgia and South Carolina shared waters have changed effective July 1, 2012. Please see Agreements with Bordering States page 18 for details.

Saltwater Regulation Changes

- Southern kingfish (Whiting) no longer regulated.
- FREE Saltwater Information Program endorsement is required when fishing in saltwater (see pg. 43)
- One-day saltwater shore-based fishing license available. \$5 for resident or non-resident.

Someone's Stealing Georgia's Wildlife



- Poaching is the illegal taking of wildlife.
- Poachers rob you of hunting opportunities.
- Poachers steal everyone's wildlife.
- Poachers give ethical hunters a bad name.
- Rewards are paid if an arrest is made.
- Anonymity is respected.

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SPORTFISHING 2013 DEFINITIONS

Artificial Lure

Any lure which is made completely of natural or colored wood, cork, feathers, hair, rubber, metal, plastic, tinsel, styrofoam, sponge, or string, or any combination of such materials, in imitation of or as a substitute for natural bait. This does not include any item sprayed with or containing scented or chemical attractants.

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 15).

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

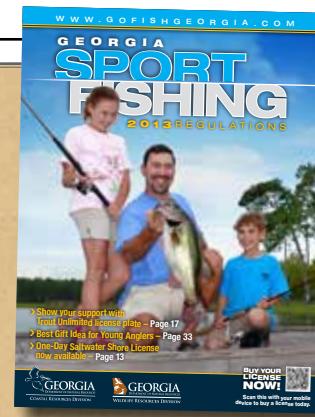
Any fish not designated as game fish under Daily Limits (see page 15).

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 21–23.

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.



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 Resources' 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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- 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



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FRESHWATER & SALTWATER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Buying Licenses

You can purchase Georgia fishing license:

- 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. A complete list of license agents can be found at gofishgeorgia.com.
- Online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.gofishgeorgia.com or www.active.com/outdoors.
- By telephone at 800-366-2661, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. M-F, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. S-S.

Notes: Social Security Number is required for the purchase of all licenses to meet 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 for 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 10.

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 a 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.

Multi-Year License

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

- **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 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 18–19.
- Nonresidents under 16 do not require a fishing license or trout license.

Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP)

Any person, age 16–64, entering any designated fee area on state-managed WMAs and PFAs must possess a valid GORP. **Persons who possess a valid 3-day hunting & fishing, WMA, Lifetime, Sportsman's, or Honorary license are exempt from this requirement.** Designated fee areas are marked with the posting of a sign at the site or area entrance.

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

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. *

* Enter your email address when buying a license to receive a renewal reminder. Renew early and save \$2.75!

Agreements with Bordering States on pages 18–19.

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 or GORP License is required to fish for trout in Dawson Forest (North of GA Hwy 53), & Rich Mountain (Cartecay Tract). See page 25 for Waters Creek special regulations. For a full list of properties requiring a GORP please visit www.gofishgeorgia.com.
- 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 21–23.

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 or call 1-800-366-2661.

2013 RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE FEES

Annual licenses are valid for one full year from date of purchase.			
LICENSE	TERM	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Fishing license	Annual	\$9.00	\$45.00
	Two-year	\$16.00	n/a
Trout license	Annual	\$5.00	\$20.00
	Two-year	\$10.00	n/a
Wildlife Management Area	Three-day	\$3.50	\$10.00
	Annual	\$19.00	\$73.00
Hunting & Fishing Combination	Annual	\$17.00	\$100.00
	Two-year	\$31.00	n/a
	Three-day*	\$3.50	\$20.00
Sportsman	Annual	\$55.00	n/a
	Two-year	\$105.00	n/a
One-Day Saltwater Shore-Based Fishing	One-day	\$5.00	\$5.00
SIP Permit (requirement for fishing in salt water)	Annual**	FREE	FREE

TRANSACTION FEES

Internet Transactions		\$2.50
Telephone Transactions		\$5.00
Walk-In Transactions		\$3.00
GEORGIA OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL PASS (GORP) (See pages 12, 21.)		
Individual	Annual	\$19.00
	Three-day	\$3.50
Small Group (less than 8 people)	Annual	\$35.00
	Three-day	\$10.00
GORP Plus (Includes fish/hunt license)	Three-day	\$3.50

* Residents and non-residents may purchase the 3-day Combination License or Apprentice 3-day License for fishing.

** Expires at the end of February each year.

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- Ages 16-59: **\$500**

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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 18–19).

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 30–October 31, 2013 and from March 29–October 31, 2014**.

Seasonal trout streams are **CLOSED to fishing for all fish species at all other times. See pages 25–27 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 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 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.

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," page 52). 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:**

- See agreement with South Carolina (page 18)**
- 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).

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

Fishing Gear Must Be Regularly Checked

- Attend to gear such as limb lines. (Anglers are encouraged to check all gear within 24 hours)
- 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

Creel and Possession Note to Anglers

Creel and possession limits are per person. 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.

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 Lakes Hartwell, Russell, Clarks Hill, Burton, Tugaloo, and Raburn). For maps of restricted waters go to www.gofishgeorgia.com and see "Freshwater Regulations" section.
- It is 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.

FRESHWATER

GAME SPECIES DAILY LIMITS

(See page 21 for special limits on Public Fishing Areas.)

SPECIES		DAILY LIMIT	EXCEPTIONS
Bass	Largemouth, Redeye (Coosa), Shoal, Smallmouth, Spotted, 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	—
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"> 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 two fish limit, both of which must be 22 inches in length or longer. Limit taken from the Savannah River and its tributaries downstream of J. Strom Thurmond Dam is a two fish limit, both of which must be 27 inches in length or longer. 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. See the new Fishing Regulations for shared waters for Georgia and South Carolina on page 18.
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 18.
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 25–27. See the new limits for shared waters of Georgia and South Carolina on page 18.
Walleye	—	8	Limit on Blue Ridge Reservoir is 15.



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FRESHWATER FISHING METHODS

Hook & Line

- There is no restriction on the number of poles and lines used to fish for game fish **except:**
 - Fishing for trout in designated trout waters: 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 Trotlines & 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 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 and jugs.

- Trotlines and jugs are not permitted on Lake Tobeokee and any State Park Lake.
- Use of 51 or more hooks is considered Commercial Fishing (see page 31).

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 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 next column) 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.

Blackout Prevention



Shallow Water Blackout is an underwater "faint" due to a lack of oxygen to the brain brought on by holding your breath for long periods of time. Without immediate rescue, the swimmer quickly drowns.

SWB is most common among physically fit swimmers, spear fishermen and free divers.

- SWB can happen in any depth of water from your bath tub to the ocean.
- Hyperventilation in order to increase dive time leads to Shallow Water Blackout.
- SWB is most common among free divers/spear fishermen that are pushing themselves to hold their breath longer.
- It happens to divers of all fitness levels . . . even Navy SEALS.



To Learn More: www.shallowwaterblackoutprevention.org

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
- You may also renew your boat registration online at 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 6 for contact information).

See www.gobootgeorgia.com for complete boating regulations.

NEW Designs coming later in 2013!

Georgia residents who buy or renew 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 bobwhite quail and deer plate supports the Bobwhite Quail Initiative.
- 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.



Learn more at www.georgiawildlife.com/conservation/support

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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.**

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.

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, CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS

See GA-SC chart below.

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 Chattahoochee Marina (also known as the Booster Club) running northwest across the reservoir to the tip of land at the junction of the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers, west of Spring Creek; and on the north by the Herman Talmadge Bridge across the Chattahoochee River.

GEORGIA - SOUTH CAROLINA BORDER WATERS - RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT			
Species	Water Body	Possession Limit	Size Limit
Striped bass or hybrid bass or combination	Lakes Hartwell and Clarks Hill	10	only 3 may be over 26 inches
Striped bass or hybrid bass or combination	Lake Russell	2	only 1 may be over 34 inches
Striped bass, hybrid bass, white bass or combination	Savannah River downstream of Clarks Hill dam	2	27-inch minimum length limit
White bass	All border waters covered	10	no size limit
Trout	All border waters covered	5	no size limit
Bass (largemouth, spotted, redeye, smallmouth or combination)	All border waters covered	10	12-inch minimum length for largemouth bass
Walleye or Sauger or combination	All border waters covered	8	no size limit
aggregate of all game fish (does not include catfish)	All border waters covered	40	

All other laws and regulations of Georgia apply in the Georgia portion of waters covered by this agreement.

South Carolina regulations differ for:	
Crappie	possession limit of 20; minimum size limit of 8 inches
Bream	possession limit of 30; no more than 15 can be redebreast sunfish
Smallmouth Bass	12-inch minimum size limit

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.
- 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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Together, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program (WSFR) has contributed more than \$12 billion to fish and wildlife conservation in the U.S. through a self-imposed investment paid by manufacturers and users of gear bought by anglers, boaters, hunters, and shooters and managed by Federal and State fish and wildlife agencies. Fishing and hunting licenses and motorboat fuel tax also support fish and wildlife.

To learn more about Sport Fish Restoration in Georgia, visit www.fws.gov and www.gofishgeorgia.com

SPORT FISH RESTORATION AT WORK IN GEORGIA

- Georgia's sport fish funds are approximately \$6 million annually.
- SFR and your license fees have funded: management of public waters, production of sport fish for stocking in public waters, development and management of Public Fishing Areas, aquatic education programs, development and maintenance of boating access facilities and more.
- SFR and license fees pay for freshwater and saltwater programs and activities to benefit these resources.



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FRESHWATER 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.

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.
- Remember, not all PFAs have the ability to sell licenses on site. Please call each PFA for details.

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 (unless otherwise posted)	5
Bream or sunfish (of any one species or a combination)	15
Channel catfish	5
All other species	see page 15

Grass carp must be released immediately.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Public Fishing Areas hours of operation are Wednesday through Sunday, sunrise to sunset.

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.

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 (gastateparks.org) as long as all applicable state regulations are followed.

Continued on page 22...

Downloadable PFA Guides available at:
www.gofishgeorgia.com

Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP)

Beginning January 1, 2012, the Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP) is required to use 32 properties owned by Georgia Wildlife Resources Division. This includes all Public Fishing Areas except for Rocky Mountain PFA. If you are ages 16 to 64, you must have a GORP or one of the following to access the PFAs:

- 3-Day Fishing/Hunting License
- Sportsmen's License
- Lifetime or Honorary License
- Wildlife Management Area License

Traditionally, these properties—Wildlife Management Areas and Public Fishing Areas—have been supported financially by revenue from hunting and fishing licenses as well as federal funds from the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program. While WMAs and PFAs are managed primarily for wildlife habitat, uses such as hiking, horseback riding and other activities are also allowed. The GORP offers these users a way to contribute to the upkeep of the properties.

- GORP 3-Day: \$3.50
- GORP Plus Fishing 3-Day (residents only): \$3.50
- GORP Annual: \$19
- Small Group, 3-Day: \$10
- Small Group, Annual: \$35

For a complete list of GORP User Fee Areas, visit georgiawildlife.com. Transaction fees apply.



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FRESHWATER PUBLIC FISHING AREAS

To find a PFA location refer to the map on page 22 directly below.

BIG LAZER CREEK

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, shooting range, restrooms, picnic tables, primitive camping, shooting range, 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.

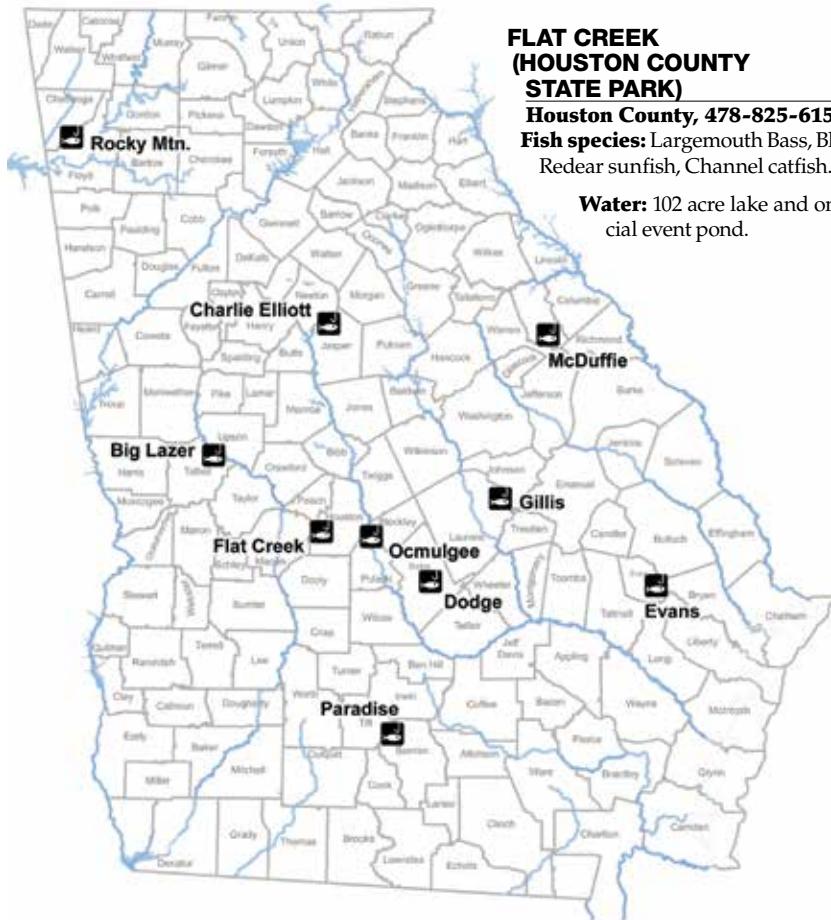
CHARLIE ELLIOTT WILDLIFE CENTER/MARBEN PFA

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

Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, 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.

PUBLIC FISHING AREAS



Facilities: Kids only ponds, concrete boat ramps (6 lakes), boat docks, restrooms, fishing piers, fish cleaning station, picnic areas, primitive camping, shooting and archery ranges, and 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

478-374-6765 or 912-285-6094

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

Water: 104 acre lake.

Facilities: Concrete boat ramps, fishing pier, fish cleaning station, 3-D archery range, 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

Area temporarily closed for repairs. Expected to reopen Summer 2013.

For more, visit georgiawildlife.com/PFA/Evans

FLAT CREEK (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, archery range and 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

**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

McDuffle 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 1st through the 15th 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), archery range, and 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

**Area temporarily closed for repairs.
Expected to reopen Spring 2014.**

For more, visit georgiawildlife.com/PFA/Ocmulgee

PARADISE

**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.

DNR ARCHERY AND SHOOTING RANGES

McDuffle PFA

Flat Creek

Marben PFA

Dodge PFA

Big Lazer Creek

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.

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

Floyd County, 706-802-5087

Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, Black crappie, Walleye.

Water: Two lakes (202 and 357 acres). Heath Lake is open the 1st–10th 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, biking trails, swimming beach, 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.

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FRESHWATER 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. The map includes Georgia's trout streams, roads, and a list of recommended streams.

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.

Trout Season

Trout season on seasonal streams is from **March 30–October 31, 2013** and from **March 29–October 31, 2014**. Many trout streams are open to fishing year-round (see pages 26–27 for stream listings).

Trout Fishing Hours

- Fishing hours on seasonal trout streams, except Waters Creek (page 25), 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 trout streams. 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.
- 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.

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 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 10).

- 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.

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Stocking lists, stream maps by county, trout accessible sites, and NE and NW Georgia Fishing Guides are available at GoFishGeorgia.com.

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

Other Trout Stream Regulations

MOCCASIN 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 during 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.

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TROUT STREAMS BY COUNTY

Seasonal Trout Streams (S) are open March 30–October 31, 2013 and from March 29–October 31, 2014.

Year-round Streams (YR) are open to fishing throughout the year and are designated in **blue 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 24–25 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) Rock Cr. watershed.

(YR) Allison Cr. watershed; East Fork Little R. 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 Cartecay and Ellijay rive. 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 rive. 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 rive., 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; Tallapoosa River; 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; Sevenmile 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

(YR) Cedar Cr. watershed upstream from Polk Co Rd. 121; Lassetter Cr. watershed; Little Cedar Cr. watershed; Pumpkinpile Cr. watershed upstream from Polk Co Rd. 437; 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); Timpson 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; Stekoia 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.

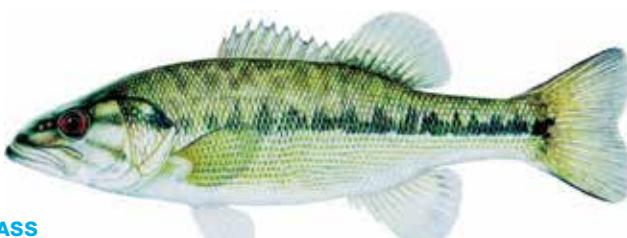


GEORGIA FRESHWATER FISH**LARGEMOUTH BASS**

- 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**

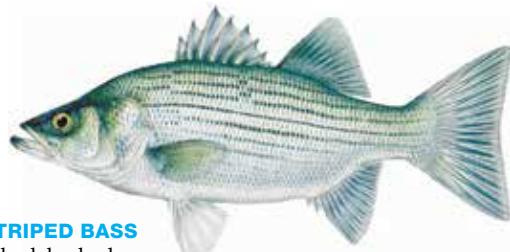
- Found in Chattahoochee, Flint, and Ocmulgee Rivers
- Vertical bars on fish of all sizes
- No tooth patch on tongue
- Light golden color

**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
- 2nd anal spine $\frac{1}{2}$ or more the length of 3rd anal spine

**HYBRID****WHITE-STRIPED BASS**

- Back arched, body deep
- Stripes distinct and usually broken
- Tongue with two tooth patches
- 2nd anal spine $\frac{1}{2}$ or more the length of 3rd anal spine

**STRIPED BASS**

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

**REDEYE BASS**

- Small tooth patch found on tongue
- Sides olive to brown in coloring; dark vertical bars; prominent dark spot on the gill cover
- Considerable amount of redness in eyes
- White margin on tail

**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**

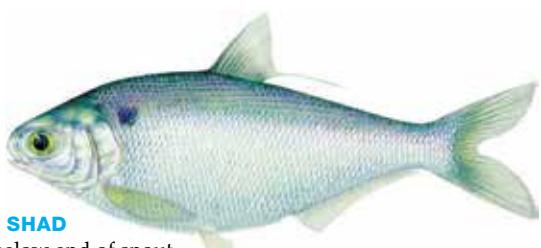
- Light, wormlike markings on dark upper body
- White leading edge on lower fins (pectoral, pelvic and anal)

**BLUEGILL**

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

**CHANNEL CATFISH**

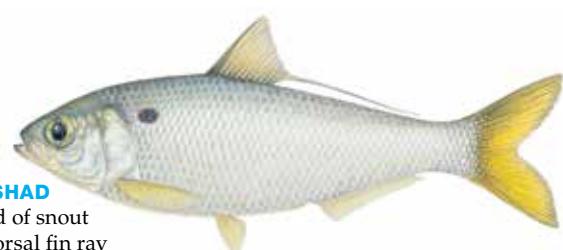
- Numerous small, black spots present
- Deeply forked tail fin

**GIZZARD SHAD**

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

**BLUEBACK HERRING**

- Pointed snout
- Small dorsal fin
- Lower jaw sloped upward
- Body not as deep as gizzard shad

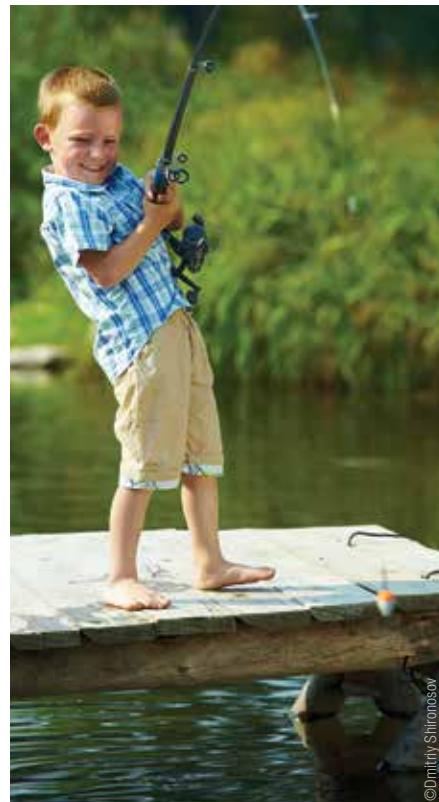
**THREADFIN SHAD**

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

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
		Kelly Ward	Oconee River	May 1967
Bass, Striped (tie)	63 lb.	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
Catfish, White	8 lb. 10 oz.	Jim Diveney	Altamaha River	July 2010
		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, Spotted	10 oz.	Mike Markovicic	Brier Creek	Sept 2003
Sunfish, Warmouth	2 lb.	Carlton Robbins	Private Pond	May 1974
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)



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2012 Forestry for Wildlife Partners

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division proudly honors the 2012 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.



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 flat-head 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
- For a complete copy of the freshwater commercial fishing regulations contact the nearest Fisheries Section office or visit www.gofishgeorgia.com
- For saltwater commercial fishing information contact the Coastal Resources Division or visit 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.

- Registration applications are available from any Fisheries Section office, at 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.

DOMESTIC FISH

- Aquaculturists (fish farmers) must register with the Department of Natural Resources in order to sell domestic fish.



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Sunday, 1-5 p.m.



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EDUCATION
CENTER

www.gofisheducationcenter.org

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Get Kids Hooked!

KIDS FISHING EVENTS

An easy way to get kids hooked is by going to a kids fishing event. Georgia events are offered during the spring and summer throughout the state. It's a great way for kids to have a fun experience and takes the pressure off of parents and grandparents to ensure they hook a fish.

These events are often staffed by experienced volunteers and held at ponds and other spots that are stocked for kids. Georgia Wildlife Resources Division supports most events by providing channel catfish and trout to improve their chances and educational materials.

To find an event, visit www.georgiawildlife.com/fishing/kids-fishing

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Ask about field trips at your child's school. Wildlife Resources Division has seven regional wildlife educational centers throughout the state. The Go Fish Education Center in Perry offers programs for all grade levels on fishing and conservation.

The Go Fish center offers educational programs that include on-site classroom programs, public workshops and seminars. Classroom programs are interactive, hands-on lessons that align to the Georgia Performance Standards. Live fish and wildlife exhibits, fishing simulators, educational displays and a theater offer several options for teaching conservation. For more information, visit gofishgeorgia.com/fishing/kids-fishing.

SUMMER CAMPS

Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center (hour east of Atlanta) offers numerous day and overnight summer camps on conservation and outdoor recreation for ages 6-15. Activities include fishing, canoeing, hiking, pond studies, orienteering and more. Visit gofishgeorgia.com/CharlieElliott/Camps.

MORE INFO ONLINE

Visit www.gofishgeorgia.com/fishing/kids-fishing for links to:

- Find a Kids' Fishing Event
- Places to Take Kids Fishing
- Tips for Fishing with Kids
- "My First Fish" Certificate - download

BEST GIFT FOR A YOUNG ANGLER

It's never too early! Buy a lifetime license for a child and save hundreds.

Lifetime licenses are full privilege sportsman's licenses (\$55 annually), and include all state paid recreational hunting and fishing privileges. Lifetime licenses include hunting, big game, Wildlife Management Area (WMA), alligator, Georgia waterfowl conservation, salt and freshwater fishing and mountain trout licenses.

Consider the savings:

Age	Lifetime License Cost
Under 2 years old	\$200
Ages 2-15	\$350
16 and older	\$500



BRAGGING BOARD



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. 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 6).
- 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 6).
- 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**

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.

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.); Brasstown 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); Stekoaa 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).

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.



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 on this page (above) 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."

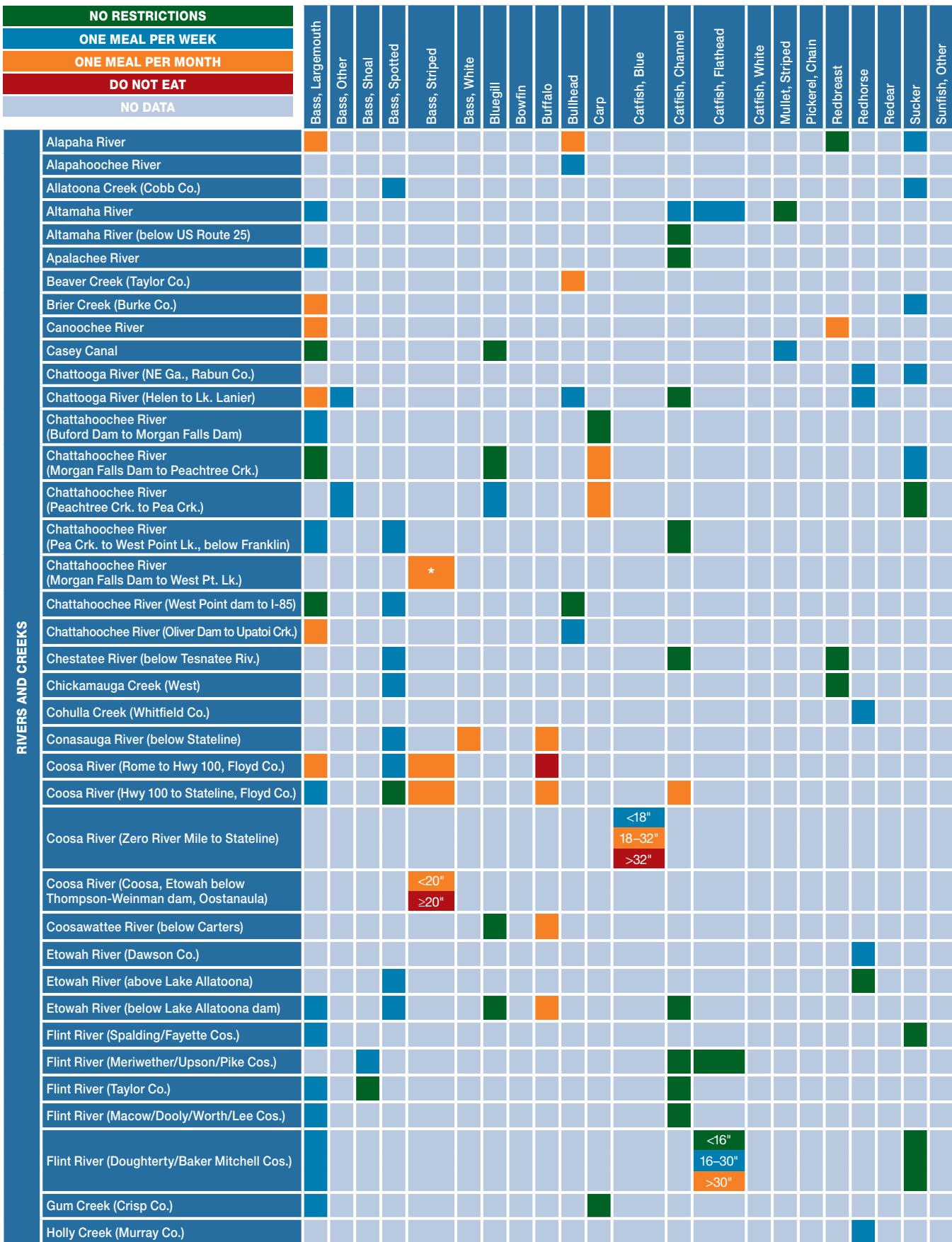
More details on fish contaminant testing are available in the publication "Guidelines for Eating Fish from Georgia Waters" available at: www.gaepd.org

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

FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES: 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	Rear	Sucker	Sunfish, Other
NO RESTRICTIONS																						
ONE MEAL PER WEEK																						
ONE MEAL PER MONTH																						
DO NOT EAT																						
NO DATA																						
Ichawaynochaway Creek																						
Kinchafoonee 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.)																						
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.

FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES: LAKES

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

SALTWATER

FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES: 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	Light Blue	Light Blue	Red	Orange	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Orange	Orange	Light Blue	Red	Orange	Light Blue	Light Blue
Turtle & Buffalo Rivers (upriver Hwy 303)	Orange	Light Blue	Red	Blue	Orange	Light Blue	Light Blue	Red	Orange	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Orange	Orange	Light Blue	Blue	Red	Light Blue	Green
Turtle River (Hwy 303 to Channel Marker 9)	Orange	Light Blue	Red	Blue	Orange	Light Blue	Light Blue	Red	Orange	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Orange	Orange	Red	Orange	Red	Light Blue	Green
Turtle River (C. Marker 9 & So. Brunswick River to Dubignons & Parsons Creeks)	Orange	Light Blue	Red	Blue	Orange	Light Blue	Light Blue	Red	Orange	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Orange	Orange	Blue	Orange	Red	Light Blue	Green
Terry Creek (South of Torras Causeway to Lanier Basin)	Green	Light Blue	Red	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	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	Light Blue	Light Blue	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	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Green	Orange	Green	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	Light Blue	Light Blue	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	Green	Light Blue	Light Blue	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
Academy Creek	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	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	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	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
	≥27"																			

* 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	1 meal per month for pregnant women, nursing mothers and children age 12 and younger 1 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.

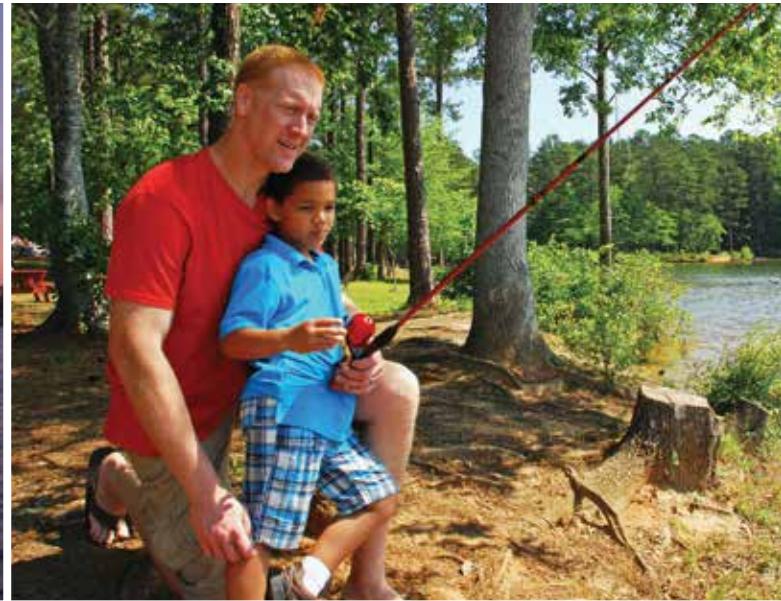
Cleaning crabs before you cook them ("backing" the crabs and rinsing out the guts and the gills) reduces the risk of consuming PCBs.

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>



Close to home & your budget!



Georgia State Parks offer many options for anglers:

- Beautiful lakes and clean rivers and streams
- Coastal fishing trips
- Boat ramps and boat rentals
- Fully-stocked, lake-front cottages
- Scenic tent and RV campsites

Come for the solitude or an adventure with family and friends. Enjoy Georgia's natural resources while casting a line in the water. You'll have a great time whether you catch a fish or catch a nap!

For overnight reservations call 800-864-7275.



GeorgiaStateParks.org

Go Fish Georgia

In 2007, the Go Fish Georgia Initiative launched with the mission to promote and enhance boating and fishing tourism and boost economic development. Leveraging public and private support, the initiative is improving access, quality and awareness of fishing in Georgia through:

1. Interactive education about Georgia's diverse aquatic life, their natural habitats and the wise stewardship of these resources through the Go Fish Education Center in Perry (see ad on opposite page).
2. Quality fisheries supported by state-of-the-art indoor/outdoor warm water fish hatchery.
3. Construction of the Georgia Bass Trail, 14 tournament-style mega boat ramps to improve access for local anglers and help communities attract major bass fishing tournaments. Two more ramps are in the permitting or construction stages.

Georgia Bass Trail

These tournament-style ramp facilities include multiple boat ramp lanes, extra capacity parking lots and weigh-in areas for tournaments.

Local communities aid in the planning and development and then assume responsibility for the maintenance.

Communities market the ramps to local, regional and national fishing groups for tournaments and other events. It's a win-win for the community as locals have full access for recreational boating and fishing year-round.



Did you know?

People

- 1.1 million people fish in Georgia
- 136,000 of those are from out of state
- 17 million days are spent fishing in Georgia annually

Economics

- Fishing is responsible for 16,881 jobs and \$522 million in wages
- Fishing produces \$116 million in state and local tax revenues.
- Fishing generates \$1.1 million in retail sales.
- A major bass fishing tournament can have a significant economic impact on the community.

SOURCES: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, American Sportfishing Association

SALTWATER RECREATIONAL 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.

New for 2013

- FREE Saltwater Information Program endorsement is required when fishing in saltwater (see pg. 43)
- One-day saltwater shore-based fishing license available. \$5 for resident or non-resident.
- Southern kingfish (Whiting) no longer regulated.

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

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

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

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

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. The 19 reefs beyond 3 miles offshore are designated as federal Special Management Zones and as such, only allow hand-held hook-n-line and spear fishing gear. For more information, coordinates and updates go to 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

Maximum Size: the specific size in length above which it is unlawful to take that finfish species.

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 Demarcation 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.

Attention Anglers: Be Counted, Be Heard

If you enjoy saltwater fishing in Georgia, we have important news for you. GADNR is starting a Saltwater Information Program (SIP) to help manage our saltwater fishery resources. We are relying on the participation of you and your fellow saltwater anglers.



Get Your FREE SIP Permit.

Starting January 1, 2013, anyone who holds a Georgia fishing license and wants to fish in saltwater will need a **FREE**, annual SIP permit.

- Obtain it from any current license vendor. To locate a vendor, visit www.CoastalGaDNR.org/SIP or call **1-800-366-2661** (M-F from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Sat – Sun from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.).
- Download your permit on the Internet at www.CoastalGaDNR.org/SIP

Don't Be Late—Sign up for Your **Free** 2013 SIP Permit Today!

For Frequently Asked Questions or assistance, please visit www.CoastalGaDNR.org/SIP or call **1-800-366-2661**.



Frequently asked questions about the Georgia Saltwater Information Program (SIP) Permit

Q. What's this all about?

A. The Saltwater Information Program (SIP) permit is part of a nationwide effort to collect contact information annually for everyone who fishes recreationally in saltwater. Doing so will help state and federal fishing effort surveyors improve their ability to contact anglers periodically and ask them questions about their fishing activities. This information is the backbone of good saltwater fishery management.

Having an accurate Georgia "phone book" of all recreational saltwater anglers will provide a better picture of how many people go fishing and what they catch. This will result in a better understanding of the impact of recreational fishing on fish populations, and will lead to better fishery management decisions to create and maintain sustainable saltwater fisheries. It will also allow us to document the importance of saltwater recreational fishing so that services like boat ramps and fishing piers are provided and maintained.

Q. I already have a Georgia saltwater fishing license. Why do I need this permit?

A. There is only one type of saltwater fishing license in Georgia and that's a 1-day license for fishing from shore in the saltwaters of the state. The SIP permit is automatically included when purchasing this 1-day license. All other short-term or annual Georgia fishing licenses cover both freshwater and saltwater and will require you to obtain the SIP permit when

recreationally fishing in saltwater. Plus, tens of thousands of Georgians have lifetime, senior, honorary or other long-term licenses that are not renewed each year. Without their contact information, there is no way to do more than make an educated guess how often they go fishing and how many fish they catch. That's a problem. Bottom line: The SIP permit will help us to ensure fish are out there to catch when you, your children or grandchildren go saltwater fishing. Besides, this free permit exempts all Georgia anglers from having to register with the federal government through something known as the National Saltwater Angler Registry, and pay a federal registration charge every year.

Q. How much does the SIP permit cost?

A. The SIP permit is free, whether you add it to an existing license or include it in the purchase of a new license.

Q. Isn't this going to cost DNR money that won't be available to spend on other fishery management activities like hatcheries, boat ramps, and such?

A. The company that manages the Georgia hunting and fishing license system is not charging the state any extra to administer the SIP permit process. The one-time cost of updating the computer programming of the license system to include the SIP permit was paid by a grant from NOAA Fisheries.

Q. Will the SIP permit be available like other hunting and fishing licenses?

A. You bet. We want this to be as easy and user friendly as possible. Your SIP permit is available through any license vendor currently selling hunting and fishing licenses in person, by telephone or internet. Please make sure you provide an accurate email address, if you have one. Then we can send you an automatic email reminder every year when it is time for you to renew your license and SIP permit. If you renew early, you will receive a "renewal discount" and be charged \$2.75 less for your new license and SIP permit.

Q. What does my SIP permit look like?

A. When you get a SIP permit you will receive an updated print out that adds the SIP permit to all your other valid licenses so you only have to carry one piece of paper. If you have a lifetime, senior or other long-term license, you will need to carry that along with the documentation of your SIP permit.

Q. I'm a senior citizen and have a senior license. What does any of this have to do with me?

A. Even if you have a senior license you still need to obtain a SIP permit if you plan to fish in saltwater. We need contact information from all saltwater anglers over the age of 16 to ensure that our survey results are accurate.

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. 5 lb. 12 oz.	J.C. Hadden, Jr. (1994) Willie J. Oakman (1998)	4 lb. 8 oz.	Evelyn B. Carter (1983)
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 Swenson (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, Red	19 lb. 8 oz.	John Wren (2012)		
Grouper, Scamp (tie)	26 lb. 0 oz. 26 lb. 4 oz.	Wayne Hall (1995) James Hubbard (2009)	23 lb. 6 oz.	Kathy Wash (1987)
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.	
Pinfish	1 lb. 9 oz.	Will Ricks (2012)		
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)	22 lb. 11.5 oz.	Amanda Page (2012)
Shark, Bull	455 lb. 0 oz.	Mark D. Noble (1978)	121 lb. 9oz	Jennifer Swenson (2011)
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)	322 lb. 0 oz.	Deborah Carpenter (2011)
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)	190 lb. 0 oz.	Pam Page (2012)
Sheepshead	14 lb. 14 oz.	Ralph V. White (2002)	12 lb. 9 oz.	Linda Carroll (2003)
Snapper, Cubera	10 lb. 0 oz.	Chris Gray (2012)		
Snapper, Red	37 lb. 8 oz.	Bill Shearin, Jr. (1988)	29 lb. 8 oz.	Phyllis Thompson (1989)
Snapper, Gray	12 lb. 9 oz.	David Blackshear (2011)	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 lb.	

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.



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SEASONS, LIMITS, SIZES

All limits per person unless specified. FL = fork length, TL = total length
(see "How to Measure a Fish," page 52)

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT AND POSSESSION LIMIT	MINIMUM SIZE (inches)
Amberjack (no sale 4/1–4/30)*	3/16–12/31	1	28 FL
Atlantic croaker	All year	25	8 TL
Atlantic sturgeon	No Harvest		
Billfish (Blue marlin, White marlin, Sailfish)*	Catch and Release Only		
Black drum	All year	15	10 TL
Black sea bass*	All year	15	12 TL
Bluefish	3/16–11/30	15	12 FL
Cobia*	3/16–11/30	2	33 FL
Dolphin*	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)*	All year	2	24 TL
King mackerel*	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)*	All year	3	14 TL
Red snapper*	All year	2	20 TL
Sharks (all sharks other than the SSC and Prohibited Sharks)*	All Year	1 per angler or boat, whichever is less	54 FL
Small shark composite (SSC)* (Atlantic sharpnose, Bonnet-head, Spiny dogfish)	All Year	1	30 FL
Prohibited Sharks (NO HARVEST)	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	All year	15	10 FL
Spanish mackerel*	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 15)	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

* These species are also federally managed from 3 to 200 miles offshore. Go to 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 the Cooperative Angler Tagging Program at 912-264-7218.

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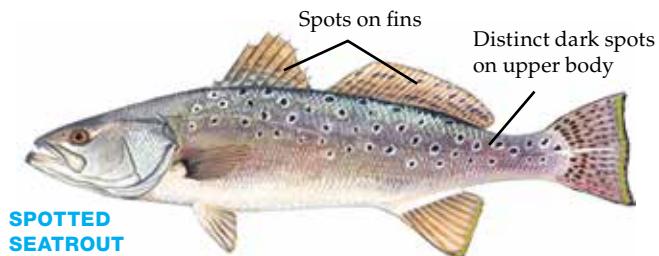
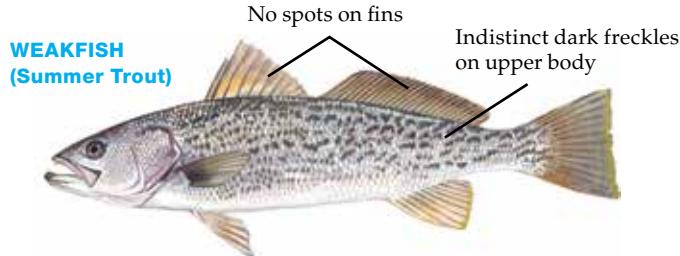
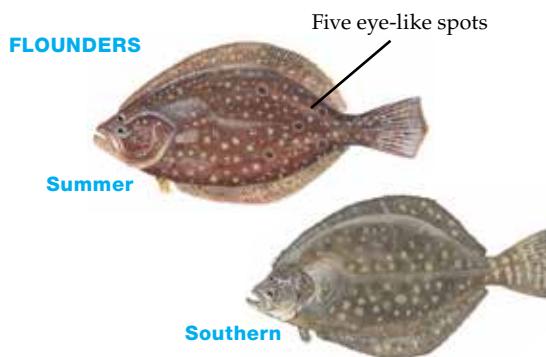
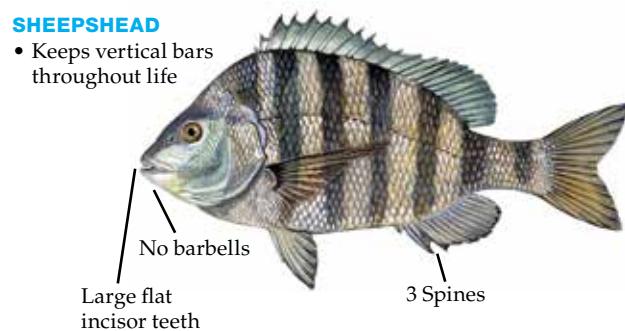
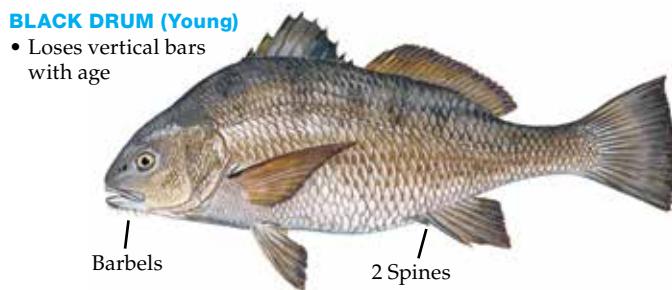
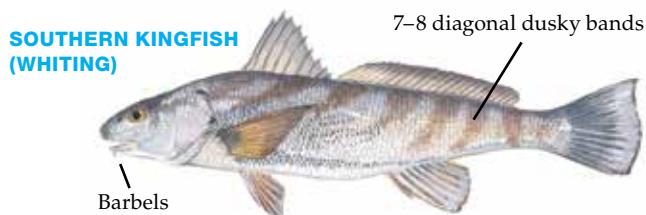
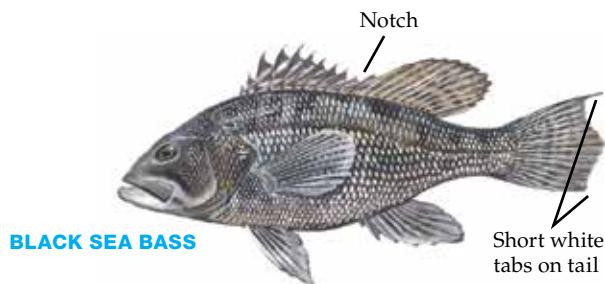
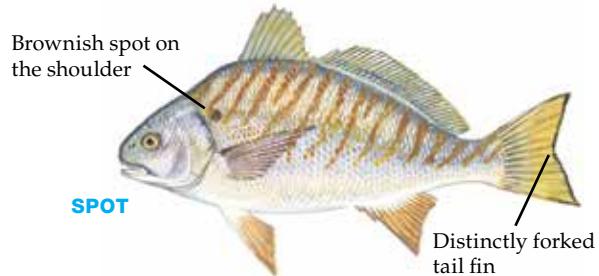
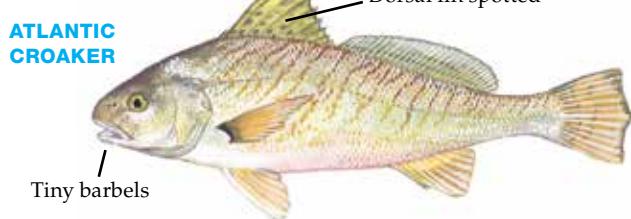
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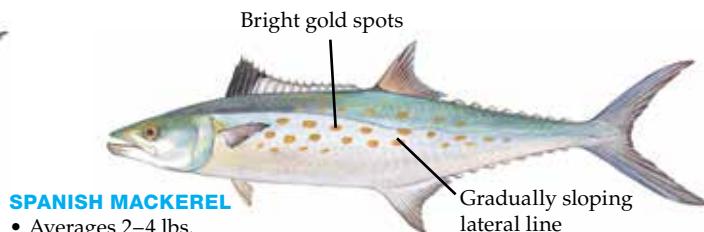
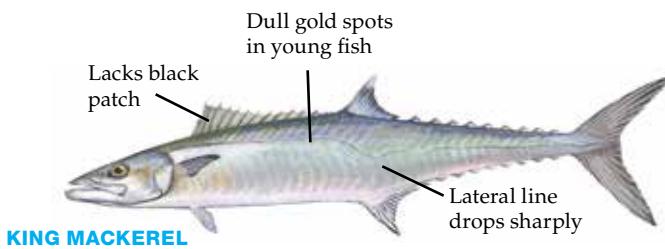
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SALTWATER

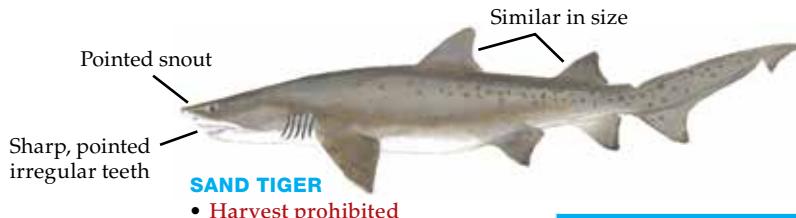
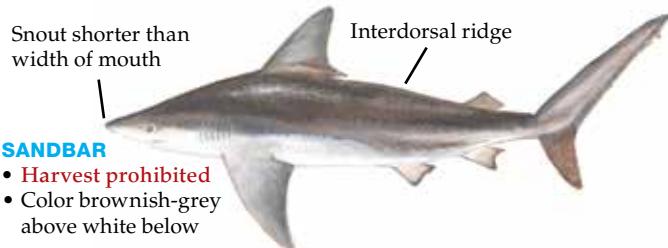
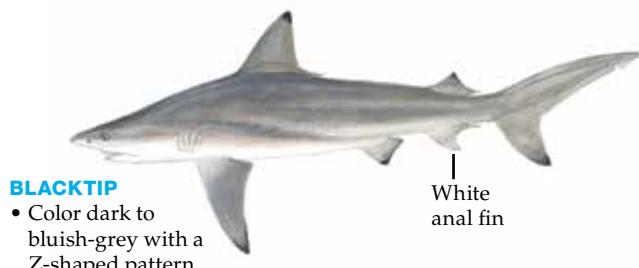
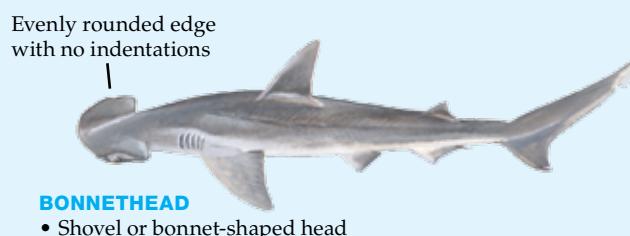
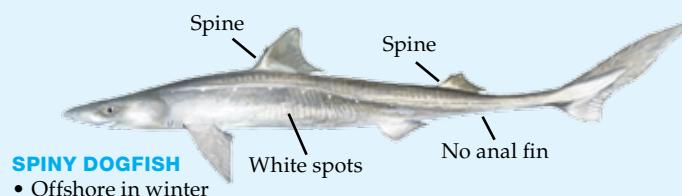
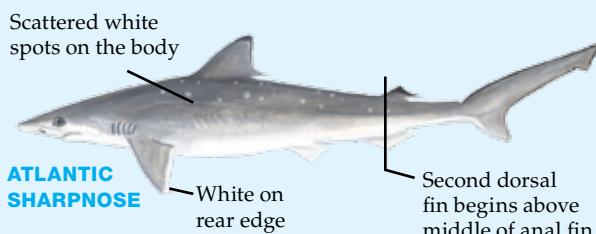
GEORGIA SALTWATER FISH



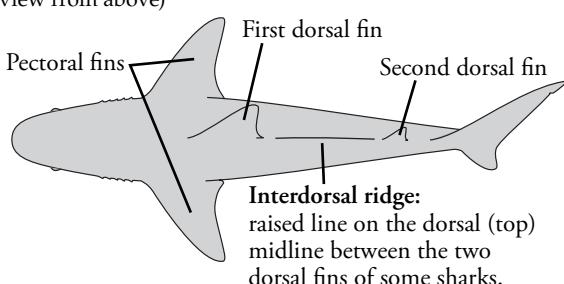
SALTWATER GEORGIA SALTWATER FISH



SMALL SHARK COMPOSITE



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.

SHRIMP, CRAB, SHELLFISH & BAIT MINNOWS

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

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

SHRIMP "BAITING" PROHIBITED

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.

SHRIMPING SEASON

Unless otherwise designated, there is no closed season for the harvest of bait shrimp, regardless of the approved gear used. 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.

TRAWL NETS (Sport Bait Shrimping)

Gear: Power-drawn trawl nets 10 feet or smaller may be used in saltwaters to harvest shrimp for bait. Information on the specific net dimensions for bait trawls is available from DNR offices in Brunswick.

Areas: Unless designated otherwise, a 10-foot sport bait trawl may be used at any season 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.

Hours: Trawling for bait shrimp is legal only between the hours of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before official sunrise to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after official sunset.

Harvest Limit: A sport bait shrimper may 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.

Commercial licenses are required to use trawl nets (power-drawn or hand-retrieved) to harvest shrimp for food. Trawling for food shrimp may only be conducted in the waters seaward of the sound boundary when those waters are open to the harvest of food shrimp.

SEINES

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

Hours: Unless otherwise designated, seines may be used any time of day during the open season for bait shrimp and food shrimp.

Harvest Limits: Recreational seiners collecting bait shrimp are limited to two quarts per person at any time and no more than four quarts per person per day, or a maximum of four quarts per group at any time or eight quarts per day. No one person taking food 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 NETS

Gear: A cast net is a cone shaped net with a weighted circumference thrown and retrieved by hand without mechanical assistance. Two types of cast nets are defined: a "Bait shrimp cast net" having a minimum bar mesh of $\frac{1}{8}$ inch and a "Food shrimp cast net" having a minimum bar mesh of $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 either net and cast nets can be modified with the addition of duct tape or other materials to enhance performance.

Areas and Hours: During the open season and unless designated otherwise, cast nets may be used to harvest bait or food shrimp 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 onboard 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 may be alive or dead when caught with a cast. No person taking food shrimp 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.

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 $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches 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 ($2\frac{1}{8}$ 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.

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) 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. 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 24x8x9 inches. Cylindrical traps may not exceed 24 inches in length and 30 inches 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.

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, eight salamanders, one 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 DNR's Nongame Conservation Section at **770-918-6411** or visit www.georgiawildlife.com.



MAP TURTLE

Aquatic turtle with prominent spiny keel on midline of shell. Found in large streams, rivers in northwest and southwest portions of state.



ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE

Huge aquatic turtle that may weigh more than 100 lbs. Occurs in large streams, rivers, reservoirs in the southwest corner of the state. Jaws are powerful—keep a safe distance!

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

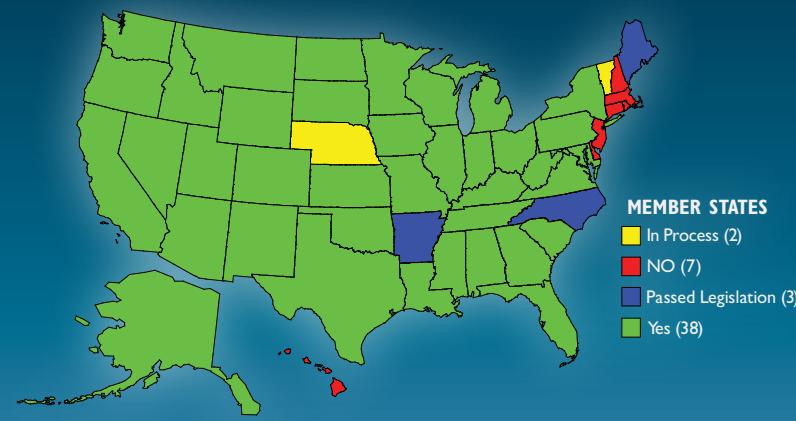


EASTERN HELLBENDER

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

Wildlife Violator Compact

Georgia, along with 38 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 georgiawildlife.com.

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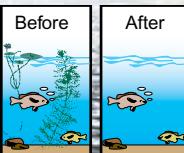
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HANDLING & RELEASING FISH GENERAL GUIDELINES

Many marine fish have gas-filled organs called swim bladders. These organs control buoyancy and allow the fish to maintain depth. When some fish are brought quickly to the surface, the gas in the swim bladder can over-expand and rupture the bladder, a condition known as **"barotrauma."** Escaping gas fills the gut cavity which can lead to everted stomachs or intestines. If released in this condition, the fish cannot descend and may float away and die. Generally, fish caught deeper than 30 feet will suffer some effects of barotrauma.

- **Recompression.** The **best and first choice** for release should be to return fish to the depth from which they are caught, a technique known as recompression. A variety of recompression tools are on the market, including descender devices, release weights, and release baskets (see www.fishsmart.org). Fish should be returned to the depth of capture when practical. If catching fish at great depth, returning them to at least 60 to 100 feet will dramatically improve survival.
- **Venting.** If recompression is not possible, venting is a second option. Venting helps the gas escape and allows the fish to descend. A simple venting tool can be made by mounting a sharpened football needle in a 1" x 3" dowel rod with a hole drilled lengthwise through the rod to allow gas to pass. Hold the fish gently on its side. Insert a 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 puncture a protruding stomach or try to push the stomach back into the throat.**

By developing a few simple habits, anglers can greatly increase the chances that the fish they release will survive. Try these tips the next time you go fishing.

- **Plan Ahead.** Before you go, decide whether you might release fish on your trip and prepare the equipment necessary to do so.
- **Avoid Encounter.** If catching fish that you don't want or cannot keep due to regulation, change your fishing depth, move to a different area, or use different bait.
- **Use Appropriate Gear.** Use non-stainless steel hooks that dissolve quickly. Use non-offset circle hooks when fishing with natural bait to avoid gut-hooking. Flatten barbs so they can be removed with less damage to a fish.
- **Don't Exhaust the Fish.** Use gear and line strength to minimize playing time, landing fish as quickly as possible. If possible, leave fish in the water rather than bringing them on board. If you must handle, use knotless rubberized landing nets, rubberized gloves, or wet towels or wet hands to avoid removing the slime layer. Make sure to wet your measuring board or boat deck. Don't put your fingers in the gills.
- **Support the Body When Lifting Large Fish.** The lower jaw is not meant to support the full weight of any fish.
- **Time is of the Essence!** Release fish as soon as practical and do not keep them out

Turn in Poachers (TIP)

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

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

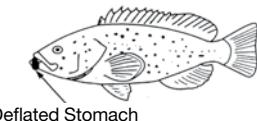
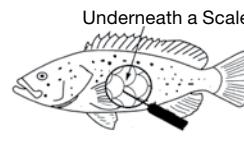
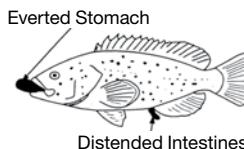
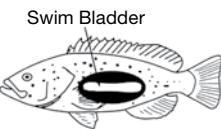
TO REPORT VIOLATIONS IN FEDERAL WATERS

- 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

of the water longer than necessary. Have your camera always on the ready.

- **Some Fish May Need a Little Assistance.** If the fish does not immediately swim away, support the fish horizontally in the water and gently move it back and forth so that water runs over the gills. Release the fish when it is able to swim away on its own.

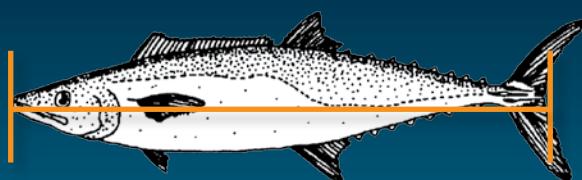
Deflating Your Fish



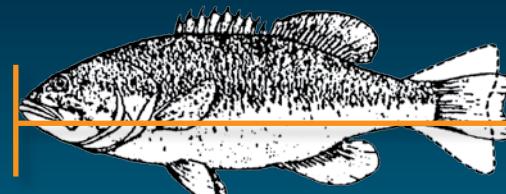
Credit: Florida Sea Grant, 1995

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:



Fork Length



Total Length

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