

2017

GEORGIA
**SPORT
FISHING**
REGULATIONS

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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.



GEORGIA
SPORT
FISHING
REGULATIONS

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Get Kids Hooked!

See page 31.

2017 FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

Nathan Deal, Governor

Mark Williams, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Rusty Garrison, Director, Wildlife Resources Division
Spud Woodward, Director, Coastal Resources Division
Eddie Henderson, Colonel, Law Enforcement Division

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* List of Board Members was current as of press time. To see a current list of Board Members please go to 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: Taylor Brown, Georgia DNR

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

On The Cover

Angler Bill Oyster displays a healthy wild rainbow trout caught from a stream in Georgia's trout capital, Fannin County.

Photo provided by
www.davidcannonphotography.com



SPORTFISHING COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE



Working With Wildlife For You

From Georgia's Appalachian Mountains to her Golden Isles, our state is blessed with many magnificent natural resources. I am fully committed to protecting both our diverse resources, and the sportsmen and women who enjoy them each day in our great state. On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources, I want to thank our anglers for your support of Georgia's wildlife and for your efforts in wildlife conservation.

Sportsmen and women are the original conservationists. Your license purchases, which fund wildlife conservation efforts, make you a partner in all the efforts of this agency. With each purchase of boat fuel or fishing equipment, you also contribute a percentage of your purchase to wildlife conservation.

I'm proud to say that Georgia has approximately 1 million acres of land available for public hunting and angling opportunities through our 102 wildlife management areas and other public lands. Our 1.29 million resident anglers have access to more than 4,000 miles of trout streams, 12,000 miles of warm water streams, and 500,000 acres of impoundments. We could not have gotten here without your help and support.

How else can you support wildlife? Give someone special a lifetime hunting and fishing license as a gift. Put a wildlife license plate on your car. Donate to the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation. Or, volunteer your time – there are great conservation groups with which to be involved. Thank you again for your continued support. I hope to see you at one of our sites soon!

Mark Williams

Commissioner, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Call 1-800-241-4113

Report Fish Kills

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

Report Poachers

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

RangerHotline@dnr.ga.gov

1-800-241-4113

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Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

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.

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STATEWIDE OR GENERAL OFFICES**1 Wildlife Resources Division State Headquarters**

2067 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
 Hunter 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
 Ranger Hotline 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 District Office**

2592 Floyd Springs Road, Armuchee, GA 30105
 Armuchee 706-295-6102
 Law Enforcement (Acworth) 770-529-2424
 Law Enforcement (Atlanta) 770-769-9680

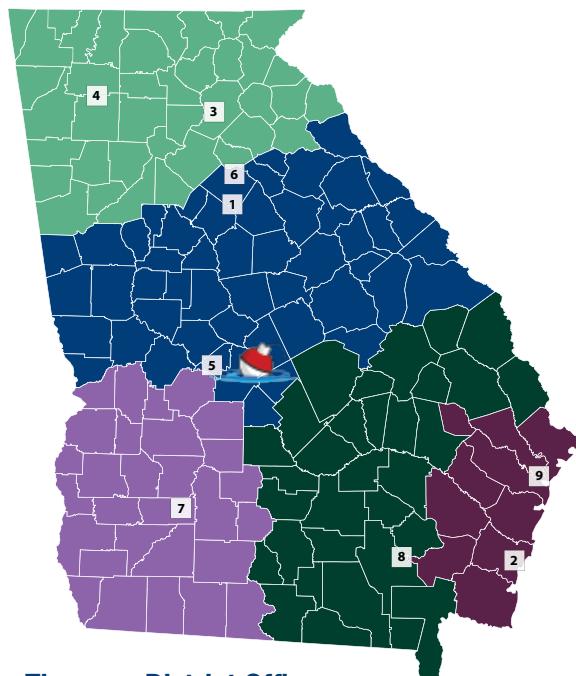
Rocky Mountain Recreation & Public Fishing Area**Summerville Hatchery****5 West Central Office**

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**

2065 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

McDuffle 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**Bowens Bill Hatchery****Hugh M. Gillis PFA****Dodge County PFA****Paradise PFA****9 Coastal Office**

22814 Highway 144, Richmond Hill, GA 31324
 Richmond Hill 912-727-2112
 Coastal Law Enforcement 912-264-7237

Evans County PFA**Richmond Hill Fish Hatchery**

>> See page 19 for a map of Public Fishing Areas.

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SPORTFISHING 2017 DEFINITIONS

Artificial Lure

Any lure which is made completely of natural or colored wood, cork, feathers, hair, rubber, metal, plastic, tinsel, styrofoam, sponge, 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 pages 13 and 43).

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 pages 13 and 43).

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 19–21.

Resident

Resident means any person who has been domiciled within the state of Georgia for a period of at least three (3) months (declared Georgia their state of legal residence as shown by a GA driver's license or GA ID with a Georgia address). Residents include full-time military personnel on active duty and the dependents of such military personnel for other than Lifetime and Honorary Licenses. Residents also include out-of-state college students living in Georgia. Students may use a current Georgia student ID as documentation.

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 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.

2017 Major Changes

Freshwater Regulation Changes

- Walleye daily creel and possession limit at Lake Blue Ridge has changed from 15 fish to the statewide limit of 8 fish.

Public Fishing Areas open seven days a week!

Stop the Spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species

It's as simple as Clean, Drain, Dry!

- CLEAN** watercraft, trailer, motor, and equipment. Remove all visible plants, mussels, animals, and mud.
- DRAIN** water from the boat, bilge, motor, and liverwell by removing the drain plug and opening all the water draining devices.
- DRY** your boat and equipment completely before using it in a new body of water.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net



Becoming an Outdoors Woman



Photo Credit: Jenn Joh

BOW is a non-profit educational program offering hands-on workshops to women of all ages and fitness levels. Developed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, these workshops are hosted at various locations in the state and allow participants to develop hunting, fishing, boating and other outdoor recreation skills while also providing insight into the management and preservation of the natural, historical and cultural resources of Georgia.

To learn more about BOW visit
www.georgiawildlife.com/BOW



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Catfish • Hybrid Bass • Carp

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FRESHWATER & SALTWATER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Buying Licenses

You can purchase a Georgia fishing license:

- Online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.gofishgeorgia.com or www.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com.
- 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.
- 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. Additionally, a free SIP is required to fish in saltwater. 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 resident and their immediate family when fishing on their land. See definition of *immediate family* on page 6.

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 persons domiciled in Georgia (declared Georgia only state of legal residence) 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 and their dependents for purposes other than lifetime licenses.
- 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.
- **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.) and residency (driver's license).
- **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. Applications are online at www.gofishgeorgia.com.

- **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 16–17.
- 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. For a complete list of GORP properties and additional information please go to www.gofishgeorgia.com

Reciprocal Agreements for Bordering States

Georgia DNR has Agreements with Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina allowing holders of Georgia fishing licenses to fish in the waters covered without obtaining a fishing license from the bordering state. See **Agreements with Bordering States** on pages 16–17.

Mountain Trout Licenses

- All resident anglers ages 16 and older 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 23 for Waters Creek special regulations. For a full list of properties requiring a GORP please visit www.gofishgeorgia.com.
- Resident Senior (65+) Lifetime, Lifetime Sportman's, Sportman's and honorary license holders include the trout fishing privilege.
- 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 19–21.

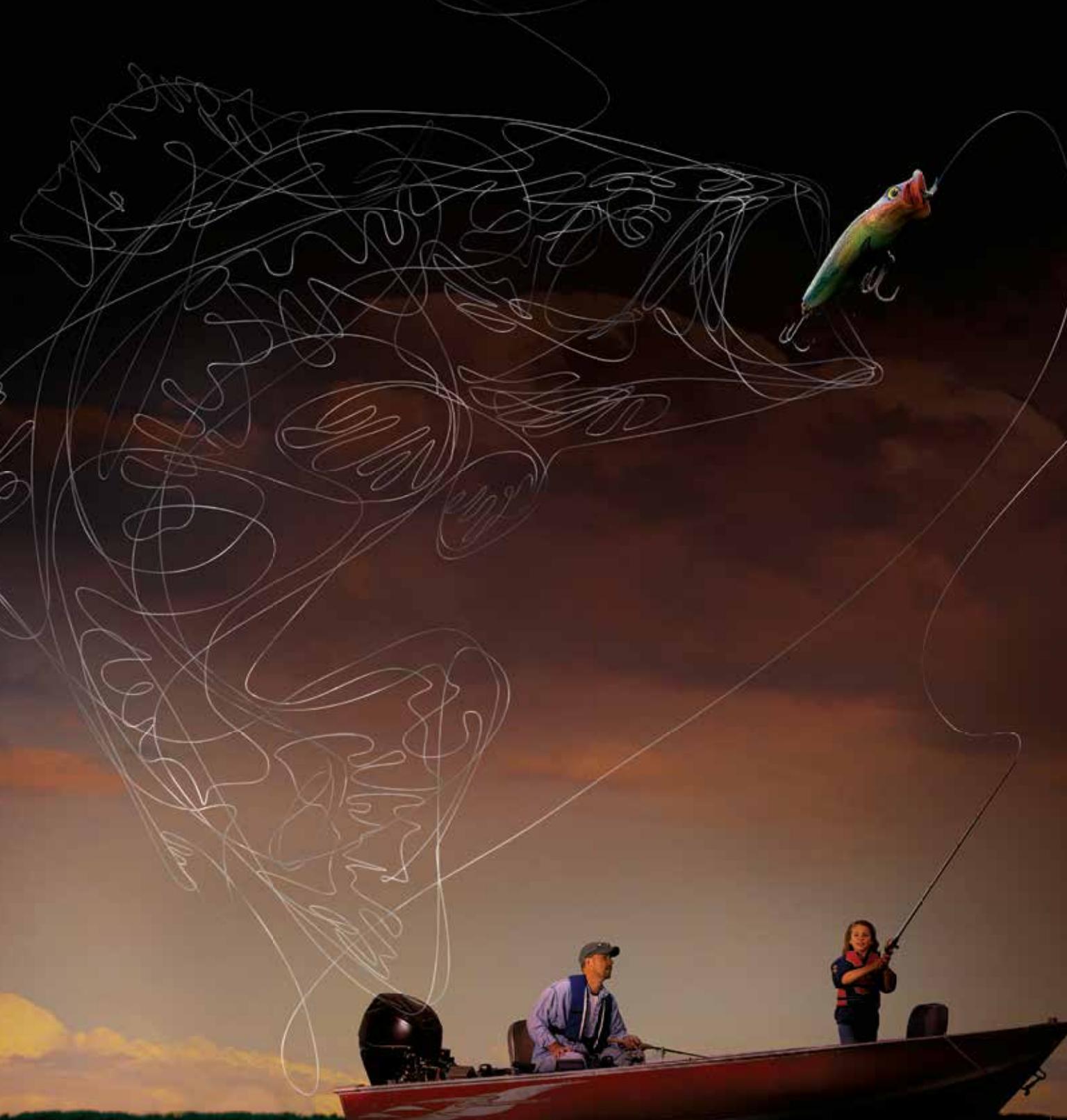
Discover Fishing on Georgia's Free Fishing Days!

June 3, 2017; June 10, 2017; Sept. 23, 2017

- 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

Biggest Savings!

- Early Renewal Discount
- Save \$2.75 if you renew before your license expires!
- Buy a Lifetime License
- This one-time purchase satisfies all state license requirements for hunting and fishing for the life of the holder!
- Stack Your Licenses
- Stack several years of privileges in one purchase to save on the transaction fee!



THE SIMPLE ACT OF FISHING, PRESERVES FISHING.

Every time you purchase a fishing license or register your boat, a portion of the proceeds go toward preserving our nation's coastlines, lakes, rivers and streams. Protecting our memories on the water for generations to come.

Learn more at TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation



TAKEMEFISHING.org



2017 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
	Three-day	\$3.50	\$10.00
Wildlife Management Area	Annual	\$19.00	\$73.00
	Two -year	\$38.00	n/a
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 8, 19.)

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 \$20.00

* Residents and non-residents may purchase the 3-day Combination License, Apprentice 3-day License or a GORP Plus License.

** Expires at the end of February each year.

>>Reprint for FREE! Go to www.gofishgeorgia.com or www.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com and follow the links to print out a replacement for any recreational license.

- License Fees Subject to Change

A Lifetime of Fishing and Hunting!

Lifetime Sportsman's Licenses are available for anglers of all ages. The license satisfies all paid state license requirements for the life of the purchaser. This license application is available online at www.gofishgeorgia.com. An application must be completed in order to purchase this license.

- Under 2 years old (available to Residents and Nonresidents): **\$200**
- Ages 2–15: **\$350**
- Ages 16–59: **\$500**
- Ages 60–64: **\$95**
- Ages 65 and older: **\$0***
- Veterans: **\$400**
- Shooting Preserve: **\$75**



* \$10 for a durable, plastic card. Also available online.

For a one-time price, you can enjoy a lifetime of great Georgia fishing and hunting opportunities!

TIP GIVE A LIFETIME LICENSE

The perfect gift for graduation, milestone birthdays, and even the birth of a child! Visit gofishgeorgia.com or call 800-366-2661 for information on purchasing a Lifetime License.

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VIVA

justforfishing.com

Georgia's Public Boat Ramps

WRD operates 150 boating access sites across the state providing access to your favorite activities, such as fishing. The purchase of fishing licenses and related equipment helps install and operate these sites. Inappropriate use and vandalism to these sites costs tens of thousands of dollars annually, reducing our ability to provide new opportunities.

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO PROTECT YOUR RAMPS!

Report vandalism:
www.gadnrle.org/ranger-hotline



Don't let others take away your recreational opportunities.

SHOOTERS & HUNTERS: HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES.

The target shooting and hunting community prides itself on being safe and responsible with firearms in all situations—from using them outdoors to storing them safely at home. Sometimes, however, unusual conditions such as extremely dry environments require an extra level of awareness and safety on the part of shooters.

Wildfires have many possible causes. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry, reminds all shooters that during dry and hot weather conditions their use of certain ammunition and targets could accidentally ignite a wildfire. NSSF reminds all target shooters and hunters, as well as other outdoor enthusiasts, to consider the potential consequences of their activities in fire-prone environments.



- Make it a point to know the regulations and rules related to shooting in areas experiencing dry and hot conditions, whether on public or private land or at shooting ranges. Many national forests, for example, do not allow recreational shooting when fire restrictions are in effect.
- Consider the type of ammunition and targets you are using. Minimize the risk of fires by not using steel-jacketed ammunition, ammunition with steel-core components, tracer rounds or exploding targets in fire-prone areas.
- Remember that equipment, such as cars and ATVs, can have extremely hot exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, so park only in designated areas.
- Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials safely.
- Follow guidelines to extinguish campfires.
- Warn others of potential dangers and behaviors for starting wildfires.
- Report any wildfire you see to authorities.
- Spread this message to other target shooters, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.

FRESHWATER GENERAL REGULATIONS

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. **New:** See page 13 for actual creel limits.
- 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 16–17).

Seasons

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

- Trout Seasons:** All designated trout waters are now open year round.
- 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:** All fishing, including spear fishing, for any species in the marked areas around five fish refuges in Lake Seminole 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 43). You must release all fish shorter than the minimum length indicated for that species.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

12 inches statewide **except:**

- 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: 14 inches
- Lake Lindsey Grace: bass between 15 and 22 inches must be released immediately. All others may be kept. In addition, only one bass may be greater than 22 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 (below Warwick Dam): 12 inches
- Flint River and its tributaries (above Warwick Dam): 15 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 16)**
- The minimum length for all fish is 22 inches on the North Newport River, Medway River including Mount Hope Creek, Little Ogeechee River, Ogeechee River; Oconee River downstream of GA Hwy 22 in Milledgeville;

Ocmulgee River downstream of GA Hwy 96 bridge between Houston and Twiggs counties; Altamaha River, Saint Mary's River, Satilla River, and the tributaries to these river sections; and from saltwater.

- The minimum length is 27 inches on the Savannah River and its tributaries downstream of J. Strom Thurmond Dam (2 fish limit).
- See table on page 13 for full details

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.

FRESHWATER TURTLES

- No more than 10 freshwater turtles (any combination of species) may be possessed without a commercial turtle permit (contact the Special Permit Unit — 770-761-3044). There is no closed season for the harvest of freshwater turtles, however, taking of species protected by federal or state law is prohibited (for a list of species access: www.georgiawildlife.com/node/2626#Common_Name). For more information www.georgiawildlife.com/turtling.



Trout Waters

Trout Waters are now open year-round, see pages 22-25 for a listing of designated trout waters.

FRESHWATER**GAME SPECIES DAILY LIMITS** (See page 19 for special limits on Public Fishing Areas.)

SPECIES		DAILY LIMIT	EXCEPTIONS
Bass	Largemouth, Redeye (Coosa), Shoal, Smallmouth, Spotted, and/or Suwannee bass	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Grace (Wayne Co.) — Only one bass may be greater than 22 inches. • 14 inch minimum length limit for largemouth bass from Lake Oconee. • 12 inch minimum length limit for largemouth bass from the Ocmulgee River (Macon's Spring Street bridge crossing to confluence with Oconee River). • 15 inch minimum length limit for shoal bass from the Flint River and its tributaries upstream of Warwick Dam.
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 Fishing Regulations for shared waters for Georgia and South Carolina on page 16.
Sunfish or Bream	Bluegill, Flier, Redbreast, Redear, Rock bass, Spotted sunfish, Warmouth and/or Shadow bass	50	Bream: See South Carolina Agreement on page 16.
Trout	Brook, Rainbow, and/or Brown trout	8	See Amicalola Creek, Chattahoochee River, Chattooga River, Smithgall Woods, Smith Creek, Toccoa River, and Waters Creek on pages 22–25. See the new limits for shared waters of Georgia and South Carolina on page 16.
Walleye	—	8	—

Sturgeon - May not be taken in fresh or saltwater in Georgia.



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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

- 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.
- Trotlines are not permitted on Lake Tobeosofkee or any State Park Lake.
- Use of 51 or more hooks is considered Commercial Fishing (see page 25).

Set Hooks & Jugs

- Only catfish and nongame fish (year round) and American and Hickory shad during shad season may be taken with set hooks and jugs.
- It is illegal to use jugs and set hooks on Lake Tobeosofkee or any State Park Lake.
- A sport fishing license is required to fish with set hooks and jugs in Georgia.
- There are no other restrictions on the use of set hooks and jugs (number of, dimensions, materials, etc.)
- DNR encourages anglers using these methods to check them regularly, remove them at the end of the fishing day, and avoid areas popular with recreational boaters.

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 12.

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 below) may be taken by bow and arrow from freshwater under the following conditions:

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

Noodling

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

In Georgia It Is Unlawful To:

- Possess or use live blueback herring for bait in all fresh waters except the following: Lakes Bartlett's Ferry, Blue Ridge, Chatuge, Goat Rock, Juliette, Lanier, Nottely, Oliver, and West Point; and the Altamaha River watershed downstream of the following: Juliette dam on the Ocmulgee River, Lake Juliette dam on Rum Creek, Lake Tobeosofkee dam on Tobeosofkee 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 Rabun). For maps of restricted waters go to www.gofishgeorgia.com and see "Freshwater Regulations" section.
- It is unlawful 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.

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.goboardgeorgia.com
- You may register or renew online at www.goboardgeorgia.com
- Register or renew 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 13 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."



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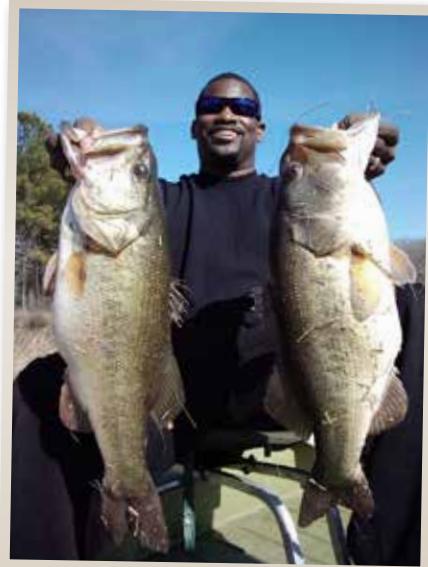
- No motor in excess of 9.9 hp may be operated on the Ogeechee River upstream of State Hwy 119.
- No motor in excess of 25 hp may be operated on Lake Juliette or Lake Tugalo.
- Georgia State Park lakes often have boat and motor restrictions. Check with the Park Office at each park for details.

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.
- Alcohol 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 please visit www.goboardgeorgia.com or obtain the *Handbook of Georgia Boating Laws* from any DNR Law Enforcement Office.
- To learn about a boating safety course please visit www.goboardgeorgia.com or

contact the Boating Education Coordinator at 770-918-6414 or any DNR Law Enforcement Office (see page 4).

See www.goboardgeorgia.com for complete boating regulations.



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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.**

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 except for Savannah River downstream of Clarks Hill dam (see above for size limit).	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.

Note: South Carolina regulations differ for crappie and bream.

South Carolina

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 above for the length, creel and possession limits for the border waters covered by this agreement.

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.

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

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- Map and details of all public boat ramps

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 (please see map at www.gofishgeorgia.com).

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 13) 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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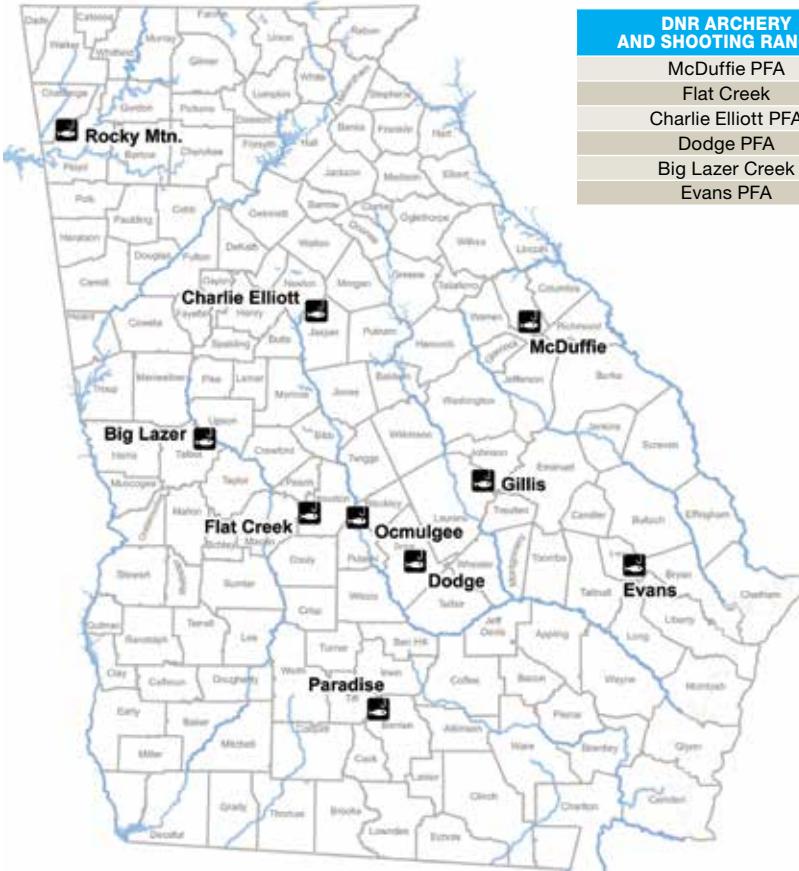
Public Fishing Areas (PFAs) are great places for family outings! You can fish from the bank or a boat, picnic, hike, watch wildlife, and enjoy the outdoors. Good bank fishing opportunities are available at all PFAs and many of them have special kids fishing areas for young anglers.

Please Read Before Fishing a PFA

LICENSES:

- Anglers 16 years of age and older must possess a valid fishing license and a valid Wildlife Management Area (WMA) 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, Lifetime license, 3-Day Hunting/Fishing License, 3-Day GORP Plus, Senior Lifetime license or Honorary license you are NOT required to have a WMA license to fish on a PFA.
- To access a PFA for non-fishing activities, visitors age 16–64 must have one of the following; Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (**GORP**), 3-day hunting/fishing license, WMA license, and Sportsman's, Honorary (resident disability license or resident one-time veteran's license) or Lifetime license. Please see box on page 10 for full details on (**GORP**).
- Not all PFAs have the ability to sell licenses on site. Please call each PFA for details. Licenses can also be obtained online or by phone.

PUBLIC FISHING AREAS



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 unless otherwise posted

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 13

Grass carp must be released immediately.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Public Fishing Areas hours of operation are open seven days a week, 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 Wildlife Management Areas

Unless otherwise posted, fishing is allowed on WMAs according to statewide regulations. Alcohol

DNR ARCHERY AND SHOOTING RANGES

McDuffie PFA
Flat Creek
Charlie Elliott PFA
Dodge PFA
Big Lazer Creek
Evans PFA

use is prohibited on WMAs except in designated camping areas. Refer to the Hunting Regulations Guide for a complete list of WMA regulations. A GORP Pass may be required on some areas.

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.

To find a PFA location refer to the map on this page.

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, 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.

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

Continued on page 20...

Downloadable PFA
Guides available at:

www.gofishgeorgia.com

FRESHWATER

PUBLIC FISHING AREAS

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

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. Primitive camping is allowed.

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

Evans County PFA has reopened:

912-739-1139 or 912-727-2112

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

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

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

Directions From Claxton: East on US Hwy 280 for 8.5 miles; right on Old Reidsville-Savannah Road for 1 mile; left on Old Sunbury Road (dirt),

PFA 0.3 miles on right marked by Wildlife Resources sign.

FLAT CREEK

Houston County, 478-825-6151

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

Water: 102 acre lake and Kids Only special event pond.

Facilities: Concrete two-lane boat ramp, fish cleaning station, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, 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 2 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. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait.

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.

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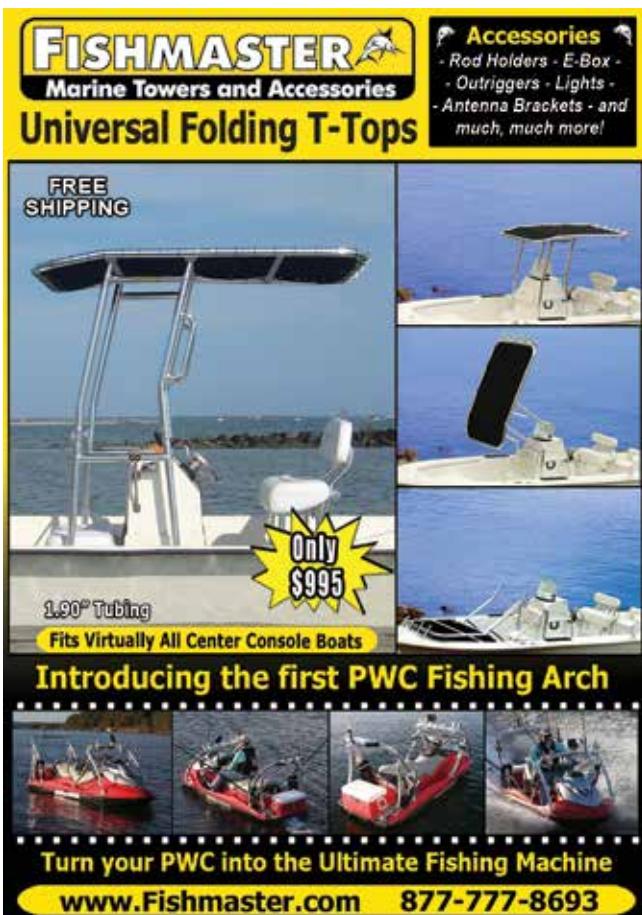
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Public Fishing Areas Unlawful Activities

- 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.
- 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.
- Consume alcoholic beverages except at campsites on the area. No alcoholic beverages are allowed anywhere on Rocky Mountain PFA.
- Operate personal watercraft (jet skis), sailboats, or sailboards.
- Allow children under 14 years of age to be on PFA without adult supervision.
- Fish at night, unless otherwise posted.

- 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.
- Ride horses in restricted areas or areas not designated as open to equestrian use.

OCMULGEE

Bleckley/Pulaski Counties

Area is temporarily closed but is anticipated to re-open in 2017.

478-783-2557 (PFA) or 912-285-6094 (Waycross)

Fish Species- Largemouth bass, bluegill, white crappie, redear sunfish

Water: 106 acre lake and Kids only Special Event Pond. Live bait is allowed for fishing,

Facilities: 2 Lane Concrete Boat ramp, courtesy dock, fish cleaning station, 2 fishing piers, restrooms, picnic tables, bank fishing, and nature trail. Some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. Primitive camping is allowed in designated area near WMA.

From Hawkinsville: Take HWY 341/27 south over the Ocmulgee River. In approximately a mile turn left onto HWY ALT 129/26. Continue 0.3 miles and turn left onto Upper River Road. Travel approximately six miles then turn left onto Allison's Landing Rd. In approximately a mile, fork right at the PFA sign.

From Cochran: Take HWY Alt 129 North turn left onto Porter Rd. Travel about eight miles and turn right onto Allison's Landing Rd. then turn right into the PFA at the sign.

PARADISE

Berrien County,

229-533-4792 or 912-285-6094

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

Water: 68 lakes encompassing 525 acres of water.

Facilities: Restrooms, fish cleaning station, picnic area, concrete boat ramps, tent camping (\$10 per site per night; pay at 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. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait.

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.

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Trout Season

All designated trout waters are now open year round (see pages 24–25 for stream listings).

Trout Fishing Hours

- Fishing 24 hours a day is allowed on all trout streams and all impoundments on trout streams **except** those in the next paragraph.
- Fishing hours on Dockery Lake, Rock Creek Lake, 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.
- See page 23 for fishing hours of Waters Creek.

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.

Impoundments On Trout Streams

ANGLERS CAN:

- Fish for fish species other than trout without a trout license on Dockery and Rock Creek lakes.
- Fish at night, **except** on Dockery and Rock Creek lakes. See Trout Fishing Hours for details.

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 6).

- **Chattahoochee River** from GA Hwy 20 to the boat ramp at the National Park Service Medlock Bridge Park immediately upstream of GA Hwy 141.
- **Coleman River** and its tributaries from its junction with the Tallulah River upstream to Forest Service Bridge No. 54.
- **Conasauga River** and its tributaries (except Jacks River watershed) upstream of the Georgia-Tennessee state line are restricted to using only artificial lures from Nov. 1 through the last Saturday in March of each year. Natural baits may be used during trout season.
- **Hoods Creek** and its tributaries on the Warwoman WMA.
- **Jones Creek** and its tributaries on US Forest Service property.
- **Mountaintown Creek** and its tributaries upstream of Mountaintown Creek Watershed Structure No. 2 (Hills Lake).
- **Noontootla Creek** and its tributaries on Blue Ridge WMA. **Note:** All trout less than 16 inches in length caught from this section of Noontootla Creek must be released immediately.
- **Stanley Creek** and its tributaries on the Rich Mountain WMA.
- **Walnut Fork Creek** and its tributaries on the Warwoman WMA.

Other Trout Stream Regulations

MOCASIN CREEK

That portion of Moccasin Creek between Lake Burton Hatchery water intake and a sign marking the approximate normal pool level of

Available Online

Trout stocking lists, county stream maps, easily accessible sites, and NE and NW Georgia Fishing Guides are available at GoFishGeorgia.com.

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 on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays 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. Lifetime, Senior (65+) Lifetime,

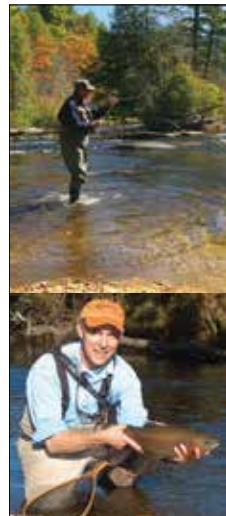
Honorary and Sportsman's license holders do not need a WMA license.

- **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 from January 1 to December 31 each year.



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A black and white photograph of a man fishing from a boat on a lake. The boat has "EUFALIA" written on it. Below the photo is the text "Lake Eufaula Bass Capital of the World" and contact information: 1-800-524-7529, www.eufaulachamber.com, Eufaula, Alabama, Located on the GA/AL State Line.

TROUT STREAMS DESTINATIONS BY COUNTY

All Trout Streams are open to fishing throughout the year.

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

Abbreviations used throughout this section:

Cr. = Creek and R. = River

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

BARTOW COUNTY

Boston Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 20; Connesena Cr. watershed; Dykes Cr. watershed; Pine Log 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

Tallapoosa R. watershed north of I-20, not including Little Tallapoosa R. watershed.

CATOOSA COUNTY

Dry Cr. watershed, which is a part of the East Chickamauga Cr. watershed, upstream of Catoosa Co Rd. 257; Hurricane Cr. watershed upstream from Peters Branch; Little Chickamauga Cr. watershed upstream from Catoosa Co Rd. 387; Tiger Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 2.

CHATTOOGA COUNTY

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 Cr. watershed; Storey Mill Cr. watershed; Taliaferro Cr. watershed.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

Bluff Cr. watershed upstream from Cherokee Co Rd. 114; Boston Cr. watershed; Pine Log Cr. watershed; Salacoa Cr. watershed; Soap Cr. watershed upstream from Cherokee Co Rd. 116; Stamp Cr. watershed; Wiley Cr. watershed.

COBB COUNTY

Chattahoochee R. upstream from the mouth of Peachtree Cr.

DADE COUNTY

Allison Cr. watershed; East Fork Little R. watershed; Lookout Cr. watershed, upstream from Dade Co Rd. 197; Rock Cr. watershed.

DAWSON COUNTY

Amicalola Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 53; Anderson Cr. watershed; Long Swamp Cr. watershed; Nimblewill Cr. watershed; Shoal Cr. watershed upstream from the mouth of Burt Cr.; Sweetwater Cr. watershed.

FANNIN COUNTY

Charlie Cr. watershed; Flat Cr. watershed; Rock Cr. Lake; Star Cr. watershed; Wilscot Cr. watershed; and all other streams or parts of streams not listed above except: Toccoa R. watershed below the mouth of Stanley Cr. to Blue Ridge Reservoir and tributaries of Blue Ridge Reservoir not listed above.

FLOYD COUNTY

Dykes Cr. watershed; Johns Cr. watershed upstream from Floyd Co Rd. 212; Kings Cr. watershed; Lavender Cr. watershed upstream from Floyd Co Rd. 893; Little Cedar Cr. watershed; Mt. Hope Cr. watershed; Silver Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 1E (Floyd Co Rd. 631); Spring Cr. watershed, which flows into Etowah R.; Toms Cr. watershed.

FORSYTH COUNTY

Chattahoochee R..

FULTON COUNTY

Chattahoochee R. upstream from the mouth of Peachtree Cr..

GILMER COUNTY

Harris Cr. watershed; Johnson Cr. watershed; Mountaintown Cr. watershed; Tails Cr. watershed; and all other streams or parts of streams not listed above, except: Coosawattee R. downstream from old GA Hwy 5 (Gilmer Co Rd. 239), Talking Rock Cr., and tributaries to Carters Reservoir not listed above.

GORDON COUNTY

Johns Cr. watershed upstream of Floyd Co Rd. 212; Pin Hook Cr. watershed upstream from Gordon Co Rd. 275; 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

Chattahoochee R..

HABERSHAM COUNTY

Amy's Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 17; Chattahoochee R. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 255 crossing of the Chattahoochee R.; Liberty Cr. watershed; Middle Fork Broad R. watershed; Nancytown Cr. watershed upstream from Nancytown Lake; North Fork Broad R. watershed; Panther Cr. watershed; Roberts Branch watershed; Soque R. watershed upstream from the mouth of Deep Cr.; Toccoa Cr. watershed.

HARALSON COUNTY

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

Savannah R. from Hartwell Dam downstream to Richard B. Russell Reservoir.

LUMPKIN COUNTY

Amicalola Cr. watershed; Cane Cr. watershed upstream from the GA Hwy 52 bridge; Cavender Cr. watershed; Chestatee R. watershed upstream from the mouth of Tesnatee Cr.; Dockery Lake; Etowah R. watershed upstream from Castleberry Bridge; Shoal Cr. watershed; Yahoola Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 52.

MURRAY COUNTY

Conasauga R. watershed upstream from the Georgia-Tennessee state line (includes Jacks R. watershed); Holly Cr. watershed upstream from the mouth of Dill Cr., including Dill Cr. watershed; Mill Cr. watershed upstream from Murray Co Rd. 27; Mill Cr. (Hasslers Mill Cr.) watershed, which is within Holly Cr. watershed; North Prong Sumac Cr. watershed; Rock Cr. watershed, the most southern of two Rock Cr. watersheds which are in the Holly Cr. watershed, upstream from Murray Co Rd. 4; Rock Cr. watershed, the most northern of two Rock Cr. watersheds which are in the Holly Cr. watershed, upstream from Murray Co Rd. 301; Sugar Cr. watershed upstream from Murray Co Rd. 4; Sumac Cr. watershed upstream from Coffey Lake.

PAULDING COUNTY

Possum Cr. watershed upstream from Paulding Co Rd. 64; Powder Cr. (Powder Springs Cr.) watershed; Pyle Cr. watershed; Pumpkintown Cr. watershed upstream from Paulding Co Rd. 231; Raccoon Cr. watershed upstream from State Route 2299 (Paulding Co Rd. 471); Tallapoosa R. watershed; Thompson Cr. watershed; Ward Cr. watershed.

PICKENS COUNTY

Amicalola Cr. watershed; Ball Cr. watershed; Bluff Cr. watershed; Cartecay R. watershed; Cove Cr. watershed upstream from Pickens Co Rd. 294; Fausett Cr. watershed; Fisher Cr. watershed; Hobson Cr. watershed; Little Scarecorn Cr. watershed; Long Swamp Cr. watershed, including Darnell Cr. watershed, upstream from Cove Cr.; Mud Cr. watershed; Pin Hook 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

Cedar Cr. watershed upstream from Polk Co Rd. 121; Little Cedar Cr. watershed; Pumpkinpile Cr. watershed upstream from Polk Co Rd. 437; Silver Cr. watershed; Spring Cr. watershed; Tallapoosa R. watershed; Thompson Cr. watershed upstream of Polk Co Rd. 441.

RABUN COUNTY

Bad Branch watershed Bad Cr. watershed; Crow Cr. watershed (includes Slick Shoal Cr.); Dicks Cr. watershed; Dickenson Branch; Falls Branch watershed; Flat Cr. watershed; Joe Cr. watershed; LaCounts Cr. watershed; Moccasin Cr. watershed; Popcorn Cr. watershed; Seals Cr. watershed; Timpson Cr. watershed; Wildcat Cr. watershed; Worse Cr. watershed; and all other streams or parts of streams not listed above, except: Tallulah R. downstream from Lake Burton Dam, Chattooga R. below Warwoman Cr., and tributaries to Burton, Seed, Rabun, Tallulah Falls, Tugaloo and Yonah reservoirs not listed above.

STEPHENS COUNTY

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

TOWNS COUNTY

Bearmeat Cr. watershed; Bell Cr. watershed; Bugsnuffle Branch watershed (Allen Mill Cr.); Burch Branch watershed; Fodder Cr. watershed; Hightower Cr. watershed; Hiwassee R. watershed downstream to Towns Co Rd. 87; Hog Cr. watershed; Shake Rag Branch watershed; and all other streams or parts of streams not listed above, except: Hiwassee R. downstream from Towns Co Rd. 87 and tributaries to Chatuge Reservoir not listed above.

UNION COUNTY

Bracket Cr. watershed; Camp Cr. watershed; Conley Cr. watershed; Coosa Cr. watershed; Ivylog Cr. watershed; Kiutuestia Cr. watershed; Low Cr. watershed; Nottely R. watershed upstream from Nottely Reservoir; Youngcane Cr. watershed; and all other streams or parts of streams not listed above, except: Butternut Cr. watershed, Nottely R. downstream from Nottely Dam, and tributaries to Nottely Reservoir not listed above.

WALKER COUNTY

Chappel Cr. watershed; Chattanooga Cr. watershed upstream from Walker Co Rd. 235; Concord Cr. watershed; Duck Cr. watershed; East Fork Little R. watershed, which flows into Dade County; East Fork Little R. watershed, which flows into Chattooga County, including Gilreath

Cr.; Furnace Cr. watershed; Gulf Cr. watershed; Harrisburg Cr. watershed, including Dougherty Cr. watershed, upstream from Dougherty Cr.; Johns Cr. watershed; Left Fork Coulter Branch watershed; Little Chickamauga Cr. watershed; Rock Cr. watershed, including Sawmill Branch, upstream from Sawmill Branch; Ruff Cr. watershed; Snake Cr. watershed; West Armuchee Cr. watershed; West Chickamauga Cr. watershed upstream from Walker Co Rd. 107.

WHITE COUNTY

Chattahoochee R. watershed upstream from the GA Hwy 255 crossing of the Chattahoochee R.; Little Tesnatee Cr. watershed (includes Turner Cr watershed) upstream from the mouth of Turner Cr.; Town Cr. watershed upstream from the mouth of Jenny Cr.

WHITFIELD COUNTY

Coahulla Cr. watershed upstream from Whitfield Co Rd. 183; Dry Cr. watershed, which is a part of East Chickamauga Cr. watershed; Snake Cr. watershed; Spring Cr. (Deep Spring Cr.) watershed; Swamp Cr. watershed upstream from Whitfield Co Rd. 9; Tiger Cr. watershed.

Commercial Fishing

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

- Game fish may also be sold by properly licensed commercial fish hatcheries, wholesale and retail fish dealers, and pond owners (see following paragraph) who conform to the Game and Fish Code.
- Game fish may be sold from a pond when the owner has obtained a valid permit from DNR Law Enforcement Section (2 weeks required to process). NOTE: The permit must be displayed at the pond and the fish must be packaged and labeled for transport from the pond with the permit number and the number and pounds of each species contained in the package. Fish must remain so packaged until processed or released into another pond. NOTE: A permit will be issued only once annually and limits the time for taking fish from the pond to 15 days.
- Game fish shipped into Georgia may be lawfully transported, sold, and resold provided each person in possession of said game fish has an authentic bill of sale or lading which details the source of the fish and the species, number and pounds of the fish.

Domestic Fish

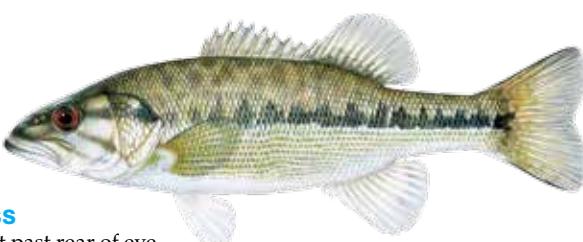
- Aquaculturists (fish farmers) must register with the Department of Natural Resources in order to sell domestic fish.
- Registration applications are available from any Fisheries Section office, at www.gofishgeorgia.com, or by calling 770-761-3044. Find Aquaculture information under the Fishing Regulation 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.

GEORGIA FRESHWATER FISH**LARGEMOUTH BASS**

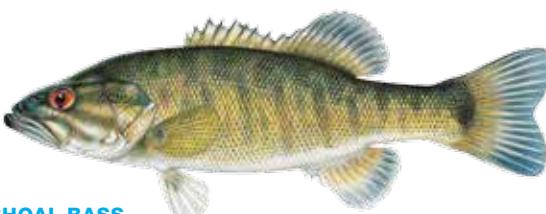
- Upper jaw extends beyond eye
- Spiny and soft dorsal fin separate or nearly so
- Tongue normally smooth, tooth patch rare
- **World Record 22 lb. 4 oz.**

**SMALLMOUTH BASS**

- Upper jaw extends to about middle of eye
- Usually has vertical stripes along body
- 3 short spines on anal fin
- State Record 7 lb. 2 oz.

**SPOTTED BASS**

- Upper jaw not past rear of eye
- Spiny and soft dorsal fin clearly connected
- Tooth patch on tongue
- State Record 8 lb. 2 oz.

**SHOAL BASS**

- Found in Chattahoochee, Flint, and Ocmulgee Rivers
- Vertical bars on fish of all sizes
- No tooth patch on tongue
- Light golden color
- **World Record 8 lb. 3 oz.**

**CHAIN PICKEREL (JACKFISH)**

- Elongated body with chain-like markings
- Sharp needle-like teeth
- **World Record 9 lb. 6 oz.**

**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
- State Record 5 lb. 1 oz.

**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
- State Record 25 lb. 8 oz.

**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
- State Record 63 lb.

**REDEYE BASS**

- Small tooth patch found on tongue
- Sides olive to brown in coloring; dark vertical bars; prominent dark spot on the gill cover
- White margin on tail
- State Record 3 lb. 7 oz.

**FLATHEAD CATFISH**

- Head wide and flat
- Body dark in color
- Tail not forked
- State Record 83 lb.

**WALLEYE**

- Sharp teeth
- No spots on dorsal fin
- Dark area at base of dorsal fin
- White spot at bottom of tail
- State Record 14 lb. 2 oz.

**BLACK CRAPPIE**

- 7–8 dorsal spines
- Body color pattern irregular arranged spots
- State Record 4 lb. 4 oz.

**REDEAR SUNFISH
(SHELLCRACKER)**

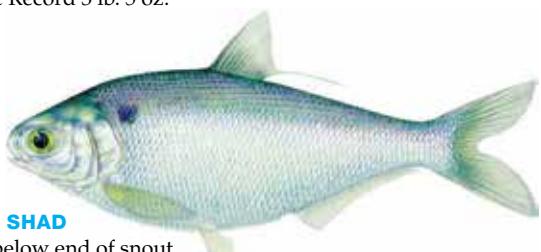
- Red edge on operculum ear flap
- Spotted body
- State Record 4 lb. 2 oz.

**REDBREAST SUNFISH**

- Long, dark ear flap
- Blue lines on head
- Ear flap (operculum) not wider than eye
- State Record 1 lb. 11 oz.

**BLUEGILL**

- Black spot on soft dorsal fin
- Vertical bars on body
- State Record 3 lb. 5 oz.

**GIZZARD SHAD**

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

**RAINBOW TROUT**

- Small black dots throughout the body that extend into the tail
- Red stripe along side on silvery body
- State Record 17 lb. 8 oz.

**BROWN TROUT**

- Black and red-orange spots inside light circles on brown body
- Caudal fin (tail) square
- State Record 18 lb. 6 oz.

**BROOK TROUT**

- Light, wormlike markings on dark upper body
- White leading edge on lower fins (pectoral, pelvic and anal)
- State Record 5 lb. 10 oz.

**CHANNEL CATFISH**

- Numerous small, black spots present
- Deeply forked tail fin
- State Record 44 lb. 12 oz.

**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



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. 3 oz.	Jimmy Tucker	Suwannee River	June 2014
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 Timpson	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
Crappie, Black (tie)	4 lb. 4 oz.	Shirley Lavender	Savannah River	June 1996
		Steve Cheek	Acree's Lake	June 1971
Crappie, White	5 lb.	Theresa Kemp	Lake Spivey	March 1975
Gar, Longnose	30 lb. 13 oz.	Gerald Kennedy	Bibb Co. Pond	April 1984
Muskellunge	38 lb.	Rube Golden	Lake Lanier	Sept 2013
Perch, Yellow	2 lb. 9 oz.	Thomas Lewis	Blue Ridge Lake	June 1957
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	Savannah River	June 1982
Sauger	4 lb. 3 oz.	Stuart Bowers	Clarks Hill Reservoir	April 1986
Shad, American	8 lb. 3 oz.	Henry Baxley	Richmond Co. Pond	April 1986
Shad, Hickory	1 lb. 15 oz.	Mark Bowers	Ogeechee River	April 1995
Shadow Bass	0 lb. 10 oz	Kristen Brown	Flint River	June 2016
Sunfish, Bluegill	3 lb. 5 oz.	P.F. Gumm	Lowndes Co. Pond	July 1977
Sunfish, Flier	1 lb. 4 oz.	Curt Brooks	Private Pond	Feb 1996
Sunfish, Green	1 lb. 7 oz.	Jeff Sumner	Emory Walden	March 1998
Sunfish, Redbreast	1 lb. 11 oz.	Pat Lawrence	Coweta Co. Pond	April 1998
Sunfish, Redear	4 lb. 2 oz.		Richmond Co. Pond	June 1995
Sunfish, Spotted	10 oz.	Mike Markovicic	Brier Creek	Sept 2003
	10 oz.	Ryan Kersey	Satilla River	June 2014
Sunfish, Warmouth	2 lb.	Carlton Robbins	Private Pond	May 1974
Trout, Brook	5 lb. 10 oz.	Russell Braden	Waters Creek	March 1986
Trout, Brown	20 lb. 14 oz.	Chad Doughty	Chattahoochee River	July 2014
Trout, Rainbow	17 lb. 8 oz.	Mark Cochran	Soque River	May 2004
Walleye	14 lb. 2 oz.	Wes Carlton	Lake Rabun	Feb 2016

RED indicates new record!

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

H4H
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New State Records!

Georgia added two new statewide records!

This 10 ounce, 9.25 inch fish caught by Kristen Brown is the first of this new freshwater fish record for Georgia.



This 14 lb. 2 oz. walleye was caught by Wes Carlton at Lake Rabun.



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PRICING

\$3 | KIDS (2 AND UNDER: FREE!)

\$4 | SENIORS & ACTIVE MILITARY

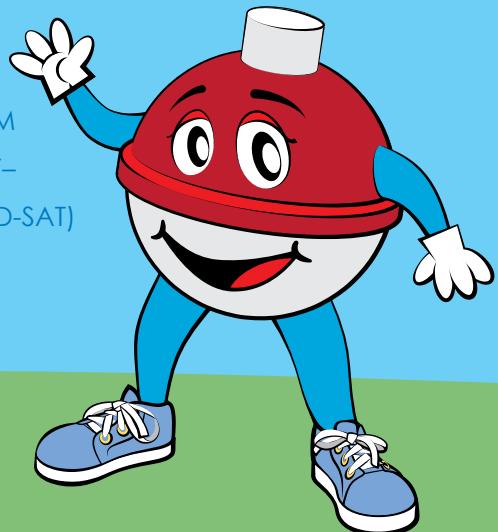
\$5 | ADULTS

HOURS

FRI-SAT 9AM-5PM

(MEMORIAL DAY-
LABOR DAY: WED-SAT)

SUN 1-5PM



ON I-75 TAKE EXIT 134
THEN HEAD EAST
ENTRANCE ON THE LEFT

GPS:

(N) 32.43340

(W) 83.74360



- Aquarium exhibits housing native Georgia fish, turtles and alligators
- Interactive fishing, hunting and boating simulators
- Catch and release casting pond where bait and poles are provided

For field trip information, other educational opportunities and general information please visit our website gofisheducationcenter.com

Also like us on facebook!

Get Kids Hooked!

KIDS FISHING EVENTS

Kids have fun fishing in stocked ponds with the help of experienced volunteers during these events offered in the spring and summer all around Georgia!

www.georgiawildlife.com/fishing/kids-fishing

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Plan a trip to one of our seven regional wildlife education centers. The GoFish Center in Perry, GA offers interactive, hands-on lessons, live fish and wildlife exhibits, fishing simulators and so much more! 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. gofishgeorgia.com/CharlieElliott/Camps

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

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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 14).
- Meet the minimum weight or length requirements for that species.
- Take the fish to a DNR Fisheries Office and have it positively identified. A clear side view photo of the fish can now be used for identification in the case of "catch-and-release." Please call before coming to an office to make sure that someone will be available to identify your fish (list on page 4).
- Complete application and submit it with a clear side view photo of the whole fish to the address listed on the form.

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

- Do not clean or freeze the fish.
- Keep the fish cool, preferably on ice.
- Weigh the fish to the nearest ounce as soon as possible on scales certified accurate by the Georgia Department of Agriculture (at Fisheries Section offices and businesses that sell products by weight) in the presence of two witnesses over the age of 18. Witnesses cannot be members of the immediate family. Estimated weights are not accepted.
- Take the fish to a DNR Fisheries Office as soon as possible and have it positively identified by a DNR fisheries biologist or technician. Please call the office before you come (list on page 4).
- Complete an application and submit with a clear side view photo of the whole fish within 90 days of the catch.
- **Freshwater Records see page 28**
- **Saltwater Records see page 42**

THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF EATING FISH

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

WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES?

Georgia DNR samples fish from water bodies each year to test for contaminants such as PCBs, chlordane, and mercury. Many of the fish tested have few or no contaminants and are safe to eat.

Waters where fish have been tested and found to be clean are listed to the right.

Fish from waters listed in the tables had some level of contaminants so you should restrict the amount of fish you eat from these waters. Recommendations are made to limit how often you eat a meal of fish from these sources to either once per week or month. A meal of fish is about 4 to 8 ounces. These guidelines are based on eating fish from a listed area for at least 30 years. That is because it would take months or years of regularly eating contaminated food to accumulate levels in your body that would affect your health.

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

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

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

HOW TO REDUCE YOUR HEALTH RISK

Eat smaller fish and vary the kind of fish you eat. Contaminants build up in top predators (bass), bottom feeders (catfish), and older (larger) fish to a greater extent than panfish, such as bream and crappie.

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

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

TRIM AWAY THESE FATTY AREAS.



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 34–37), 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	Crappie	Mullet, Striped	Pickeral, Chain	Redbreast	Redhorse	Rearbar	Sucker	Sunfish, Other
	NO RESTRICTIONS	ONE MEAL PER WEEK	ONE MEAL PER MONTH	DO NOT EAT	NO DATA																		
Alapaha River	Orange																						
Alapahoochee River																							
Allatoona Creek (Cobb Co.)			Blue																				Blue
Altamaha River	Blue																		Blue				
Altamaha River (below US Route 25)																							
Apalachee River	Blue																						
Beaver Creek (Taylor Co.)																							
Brier Creek (Burke Co.)	Orange																						Blue
Canoochee River (Hwy 192 to Lotts Cr.)	Orange																						
Ogeechee River Basin																							
Casey Canal	Green																						
Chattooga River (NE Ga., Rabun Co.)																							
Chattahoochee River (Helen to Lk. Lanier)	Orange	Blue			Green																		
Chattahoochee River (Buford Dam to Morgan Falls Dam)	Blue																						
Chattahoochee River (Morgan Falls Dam to Peachtree Crk.)	Green																						
Chattahoochee River (Peachtree Crk. to Pea Crk.)		Blue																					
Chattahoochee River (Pea Crk. to West Point Lk., below Franklin)	Blue																						
Chattahoochee River (Morgan Falls Dam to West Pt. Lk.)																							
Chattahoochee River (West Point dam to I-85)	Green																						
Chattahoochee River (Oliver Dam to Upatoi Crk.)	Orange																						
Chestatee River (below Tesnatee Riv.)																							
Chickamauga Creek (West)																							
Cohulla Creek (Whitfield Co.)																							
Conasauga River (below Stateline)																							
Coosa River (River Mile Zero to Hwy 100, Floyd Co.)	Orange																						
Coosa River (Hwy 100 to Stateline, Floyd Co.)	Blue																						
Coosa River (Coosa, Etowah below Thompson-Weinman dam, Oostanaula)																							
Coosawattee River (below Carters)																							
Etowah River (Dawson Co.)																							
Etowah River (above Lake Allatoona)																							
Etowah River (below Lake Allatoona dam)	Blue																						
Flint River (Spalding/Fayette Cos.)																							
Flint River (Meriwether/Upson/Pike Cos.)																							
Flint River (Taylor Co.)																							
Flint River (Macow/Dooly/Worth/Lee Cos.)																							
Flint River (Doughterty/Baker Mitchell Cos.)																							
Gum Creek (Crisp Co.)																							

	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	Crappie	Mullet, Striped	Pickeral, Chain	Redbreast	Redhorse	Redear	Sucker	Sunfish, Other
NO RESTRICTIONS																							
ONE MEAL PER WEEK																							
ONE MEAL PER MONTH																							
DO NOT EAT																							
NO DATA																							
Holly Creek (Murray Co.)																							
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 (Floyd/Gordon Counties)								<20"	≥20"														
Patsiliga Creek (Taylor Co.)																							
Pipemaker Canal																							
Satilla River (Waycross, Ware/Pierce Cos.)																							
Satilla River (near Folkston, Camden Co.)																<30"	>30" ††						
Savannah River (above & below New Sav. Bluff Lock & Dam)																							
Savannah River (Chatham/Screven Cos.)																							
Savannah River (Effingham Co.)																							
Savannah River (Tidal Gate)																							
Savannah River (New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam to Savannah Estuary)							≥27" ††																
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	Bass, Hybrid	Bass, Largemouth	Bass, Spotted	Bass, Striped	Bass, Other	Bluegill	Carp	Crappie	Catfish, Blue	Catfish, Channel	Catfish, Flathead	Catfish, Other	Suckers	Sunfish, Redear	Walleye
ONE MEAL PER WEEK															
ONE MEAL PER MONTH															
DO NOT EAT															
NO DATA															
Albany By-Pass Pond															
Acworth		>16"													
Allatoona	>16"	>16"	>16"												
Andrews		>12"													
Banks		12-16"													
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"		>12"					
Big Lazer PFA		>16"													
Blue Ridge		12-16"			12-16"					>16"					
Burton		>16"	12-16"												>16"
Pond N. Bush Field (Augusta)		12-16"													
Carters Lake		>16"	>16"												
Chatuge			12-16"												
Clarks Hill		>16"													
Evans County PFA		>16"													
Goat Rock	<12"	>16"									12-16"				
Hamburg		12-16"									>16"				
Hartwell (Tugaloo Arm)	12-16"	>16"		12-16"	>16"			>16"			>16"				>16"
Hartwell (main body of lake)	>16"	>16"			>16"										
Hugh M. Gillis PFA		12-16"													
Jackson															
Ken Gardens		>12"													
Kolomoki Mounds S.P. – Kolomoki L.		>12"													
Kolomoki Mounds S.P. – Yohola L.		>12"													
Lanier				>16"				>16"			>16"				
Little Ocmulgee S. P.		>16"										12-16"			
McDuffie PFA, West															
Nottely		>12"		>16"											
Oliver		>12"									>16"				
Rabun		>16"													
Reed Bingham S.P.		>12"													
Richard B. Russell		>12"													
Seminole		>12"													
So. Slappy Blvd. Off-ramp (Albany)		12-16"	>16"												
Stone Mountain		>16"													
Tobesofkee		>12"													
Tugalo		>12"													>16"
Tribble Mill Pk. Pond (Gwinnett Co.)		12-16"													
Varner		>12"													
West Point	>16"														
Worth (Chehaw Reservoir)		12-16"													
Worth (Flint Reservoir)		>12"													
Yonah		12-16"													

SALTWATER

FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES: COASTAL RIVERS & CREEKS

NO RESTRICTIONS	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)
ONE MEAL PER WEEK															
ONE MEAL PER MONTH															
DO NOT EAT															
NO DATA															
Turtle River System (Purvis, Gibson Crks.)	Red	Grey	Red	Orange	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Red	Orange	Grey	Grey
Turtle & Buffalo Rivers (upriver Hwy 303)	Orange	Grey	Red	Blue	Orange	Blue	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Red	Grey	Green	Green
Turtle River (Hwy 303 to Channel Marker 9)	Orange	Grey	Red	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Orange	Orange	Orange	Blue	Red	Grey	Green	Green
Turtle River (C. Marker 9 & So. Brunswick River to Dubignons & Parsons Creeks)	Orange	Blue	Red	Blue	Blue	Blue	Grey	Blue	Orange	Orange	Blue	Orange	Grey	Grey	Grey
Terry Creek (South of Torras Causeway to Lanier Basin)	Green	Grey	Red	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Blue
Terry & Dupree Creeks (North of Torras Causeway to Confluence w/ Back River)	Orange	Grey	Red	Green	Grey	Blue	Grey	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green	Orange	Green	Grey	Grey
Back River (1 mi. above Terry Creek to Confluence with Torras Causeway)	Green	Grey	Red	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey
Back River (South of Torras Cswy. to St. Simons Sound)	Blue	Grey	Red	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey
Floyd Creek															
Academy Creek															
Altamaha Estuary															
Hayner's Creek (Savannah)															
North Newport (Upper), incl. Cay/Peacock															
Savannah Estuary		≥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.



Good Fishing Depends on Clean Water

Many of our rivers, lakes, and coastal areas are experiencing algae blooms that cover our favorite fishing spots with green slime and cause fish kills and "dead zones" where no aquatic life can survive. The cause is usually nitrogen and phosphorus pollution that comes from farm and lawn fertilizers, septic systems, animal waste, and sewage treatment plants. Here's what you can do to keep the water clean:

- Take care not to over fertilize
- Pick up pet waste and properly manage waste from livestock
- Use green practices: rain barrels, rain gardens, and permeable pavements
- Maintain septic systems
- Encourage your community to invest

Supporting water quality protection supports great fishing!

Learn more at:
www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/



Fishing. Family. Fun.



**View our online
state parks guide!**

Camping & Yurts
Outdoor Adventures
Equipment Rentals

Georgia
State Parks
& Historic Sites

GaStateParks.org
800-864-7275
reservations

Georgia State Parks offer some of the best fly fishing, bass fishing and trout fishing in the country. So whatever type of fishing you prefer, there's something for everyone. Haul in that very first, exciting catch or pursue your lifetime passion. And, enjoy your favorite pastime with loads of other fun activities for the entire family. Hike a forest path or canyon trail, pack a picnic, spend the night in a lakeside yurt or a cozy cabin. There's plenty of fishing, family and fun at Georgia State Parks.



Georgia Outdoor Map



georgiaoutdoormap.com



Explore outdoor recreation opportunities and properties managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources with the free, interactive Georgia Outdoor Map.

The **Georgia Outdoor Map** includes:

- STATE PARKS
- WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS
- PUBLIC FISHING AREAS
- BOAT RAMPS
- HISTORIC & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Easily search by category to find locations to camp, hunt, hike, fish or explore history near where you live!

MANUFACTURING JOBS IN GEORGIA

The manufacturing of boats, fishing tackle, electronics, and accessories is big business in Georgia creating thousands of jobs and billions in economic activity.



Did you know?

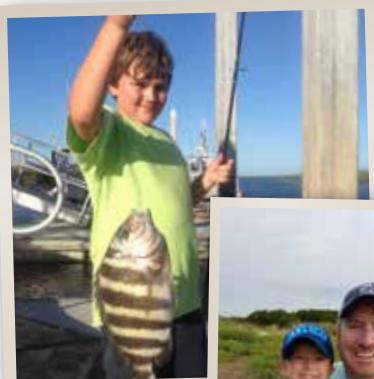
- 1.1 million resident anglers fish in Georgia.
- Fishing in Georgia generates \$1.3 billion in retail sales and a \$2.1 billion ripple effect each year.
- Fishing in Georgia is responsible for 15,644 jobs, \$622 million in salaries/wages/earnings, \$147 million in federal tax revenues and \$109 million in state and local tax revenues.

SOURCES: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, American Sportfishing Association



SALTWATER FISHING IN GEORGIA

From the deep waters of the Gulf Stream across a wide expanse of open Atlantic Ocean through winding tidal rivers to remote marshes, coastal Georgia offers a diversity of inviting places for the saltwater angler. Whether you fish from the surf, a fishing pier, or a boat, there is always something ready to tug on your line.



One reason that terrestrial wildlife management efforts have been so successful is the use of habitat restoration and enhancement in combination with harvest regulations to create sustainable populations of mammal and birds. This same opportunity exists in saltwater fishery management, especially in the South Atlantic region. Currently, many species of saltwater fish targeted by recreational anglers are in a stressed or overfished condition. Regulations are being used to control harvest so fish populations can rebuild, but the restoration and enhancement of fish habitat is equally important.

From the barrier island beaches out a distance of 40 miles, the seafloor of the Atlantic Ocean offshore Georgia is largely sand and sand/mud mixture. When manmade or natural material such as concrete structures or surplus vessels are placed on this seafloor they attract a wide array of marine life creating greater biodiversity and recreational fishing and diving opportunities. The list of marine species that benefit from manmade habitat numbers in the hundreds including many popular with anglers such as black sea bass, sheepshead, red snapper, gag grouper, and king mackerel. Protected species such as loggerhead sea turtles also utilize manmade habitats in the open Atlantic Ocean for foraging and resting. Many species of seabirds also feed on baitfish attracted to these areas.

Oysters were once far more abundant in Georgia estuaries than today. This decline was caused by overharvest, disease, and pollution during the 20th century. Also, man failed to return oyster shells to the estuary creating a shortage of habitat for larval oysters. The end result was a loss of hundreds, if not thousands, of acres of living oyster reefs that provided habitat for a wide array of fish species popular with anglers. By placing materials along the shorelines of tidal rivers and creeks, man can create new living oyster reefs to serve as habitat for spotted seatrout, red drum, black drum, and flounder. Many species of wading and shore birds depend on living oyster reefs as feeding areas. Mammals such as the raccoon, mink, and otter can be found foraging on and around oyster reefs during low tide.

For decades, anglers have done their part to help restore and enhance fish habitat through the purchase of fishing licenses and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program. This year, anglers have a new opportunity to help enhance coastal fish and wildlife populations through the purchase of a new specialty license plate for their vehicle and boat trailer. The majority of the sales proceeds for the marine habitat plate featuring a red rum will go into a dedicated fund to restore and enhance fish habitat in Georgia's estuaries and the Atlantic Ocean. For more information on the marine habitat license plate go to www.coastalgadnr.org/LicensePlate.

GEORGIA GO FISH!

Support Fish Habitat

SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING

Fishing Licenses: See page 8 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.
- A free Saltwater Information Program (SIP) permit, valid Mar. 1 to Feb. 28, is required for anyone age 16 and over who fishes in saltwater.
- 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 Guide's License should call the DNR Coastal Regional License Office at 912-264-7237.

Saltwater Fishing Information

GEORGIA SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS

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

Georgia DNR Coastal

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

Coastal Resources Division

Marine Fisheries Section
One Conservation Way,
Brunswick, GA 31520-8687
912-264-7218 or fax 912-262-2318
www.CoastalGADNR.org

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 georgiaoutdoormap.com.



For more information about shallow water blackout go to shallowwaterblackoutprevention.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: 9.3 gallons or approximately 37 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.

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)	2 lb. 11 oz.	Caroline Hicks (2014)
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)	19 lb. 2 oz.	Karen Kratzer (2016)
Grouper, Scamp	27 lb. 2 oz.	Jakob Hallstrom (2014)	23 lb. 6 oz.	Kathy Wash (1987)
Grouper, Warsaw	252 lb. 0 oz.	Gene Whitehurst (1981)	Harvest prohibited, therefore record no longer allowed.	
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)	45 lb. 7 oz.	Jessica Pace (2016)
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)	5.5 oz.	Marion Rawls (2016)
Pompano, African			25 lb. 13 oz.	Jennifer Roberts (2016)
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. 9 oz.	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, Gray	12 lb. 9 oz.	David Blackshear (2011)	10 lb. 4 oz.	Becky Manley (2015)
Snapper, Red	37 lb. 8 oz.	Bill Shearin, Jr. (1988)	29 lb. 8 oz.	Phyllis Thompson (1989)
Snapper, Yellowtail	5 lb. 0 oz.	Eddie N. Vanmeter II (2014)	—	
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	205 lb. 8 oz.	Brendin A. Page (2014)	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	40 lb. 8 oz.	Tyler Deal (2016)	30 lb. 8 oz.	Penny Morgan-Turner (1999)
Tuna, Yellowfin	249 lb. 2 oz.	Ken Cooper (1980)	165 lb. 4 oz.	Anne Smith (1973)
Tunny, Little	19 lb. 4 oz.	John Smits (2010)	20 lb. 0 oz.	Str. Mary Clarice (1973)
Wahoo	123 lb. 3 oz.	Michael Stefanick (2000)	77 lb. 0 oz.	Linda Li-Chao Yang (1988)
Weakfish (Summer Trout)	6 lb. 8 oz.	Frank Taylor (1976)	Minimum weight: 3 lbs.	

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

RED indicates new record!

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

SEASONS, LIMITS, SIZES

All limits per person unless specified. FL = fork length, TL = total length
(see "How to Measure a Fish," page 43)

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT AND POSSESSION LIMIT	MINIMUM SIZE (inches)
Amberjack*	All year	1	28 FL
American Eel	All year	25	9 TL
Atlantic croaker	All year	25	
Atlantic sturgeon		No Harvest	
Billfish (Blue marlin, White marlin, Sailfish)*		Catch and Release Only	
Black drum	All year	15	14 TL
Black sea bass*	All year	15	12 TL
Bluefish	All year	15	12 FL
Cobia*	All year	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*	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*	All year	3	14 TL
Red snapper*	All year	2	20 TL
Sharks (other than Hammerheads, SSC and Prohibited Sharks)*	All Year	1 per angler or boat, whichever is less	54 FL
Sharks: Hammerheads (Great, Scalloped, and Smooth)	All Year	1 per angler or boat, whichever is less	78 FL
Small shark composite (SSC)* (Atlantic sharpnose, Bonnethead, Spiny dogfish)	All Year	1 per angler	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*	All year	15	12 FL
Spot	All year	25	
Spotted seatrout	All year	15	14 TL
Striped bass (Saltwater)	All year	2	22 TL
Striped bass (Savannah River)	All year	2	27 TL
Tarpon	All year	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, black 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.

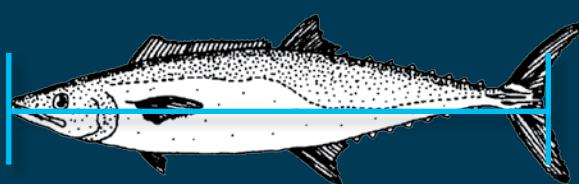
If kept, please return the tag to GADNR/CRD, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, GA 31520. If the tag number is not legible lightly scrape the tag with your fingernail or similar flat object.

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.

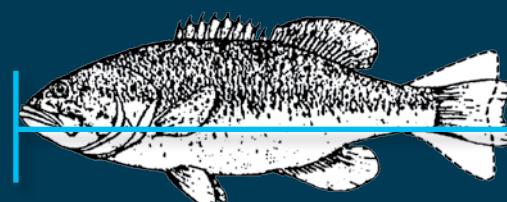
If you are an angler who practices catch and release and would like to become a cooperative angler please contact the Cooperative Angler Tagging Program at 912-264-7218.

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:



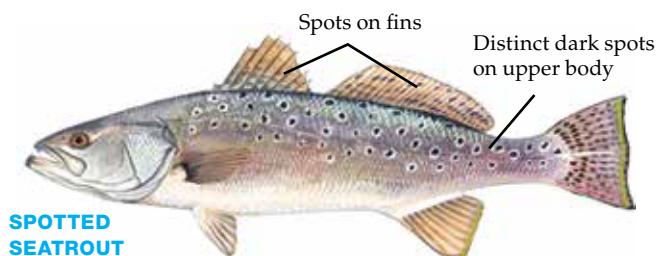
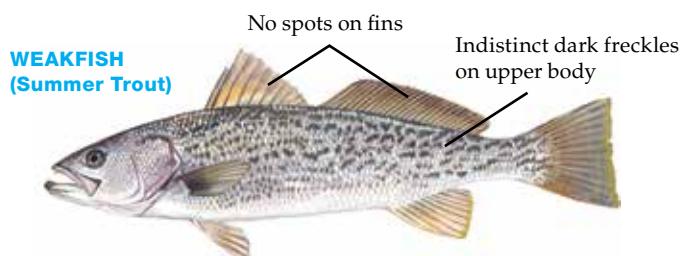
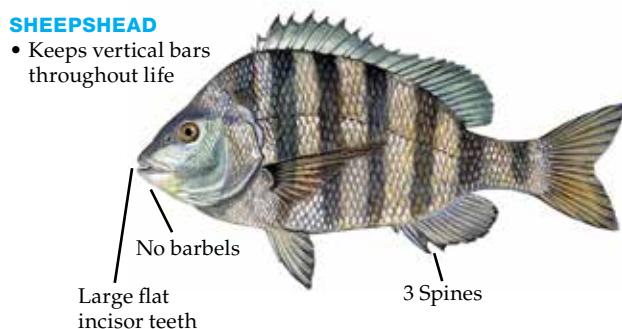
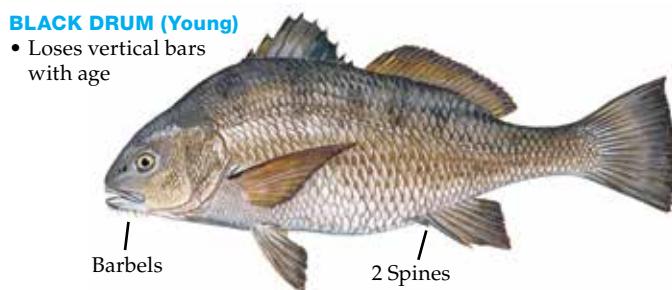
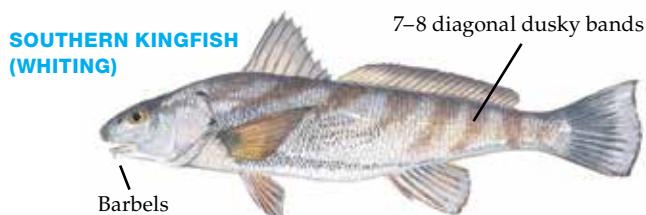
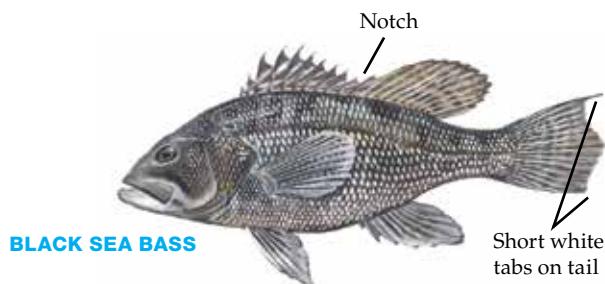
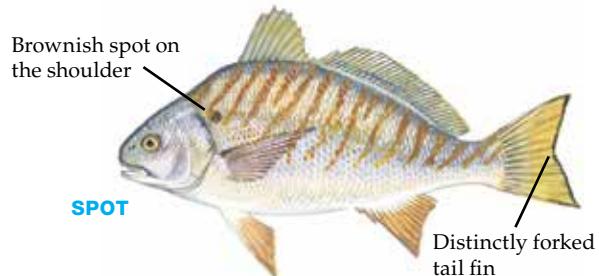
Fork Length



Total Length

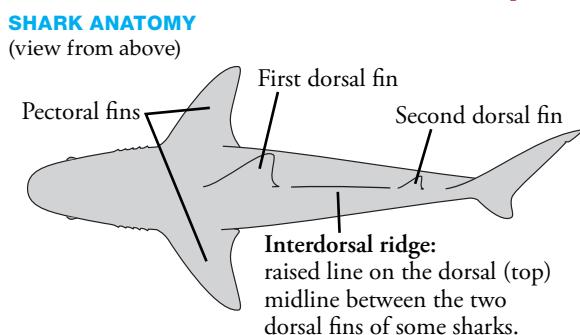
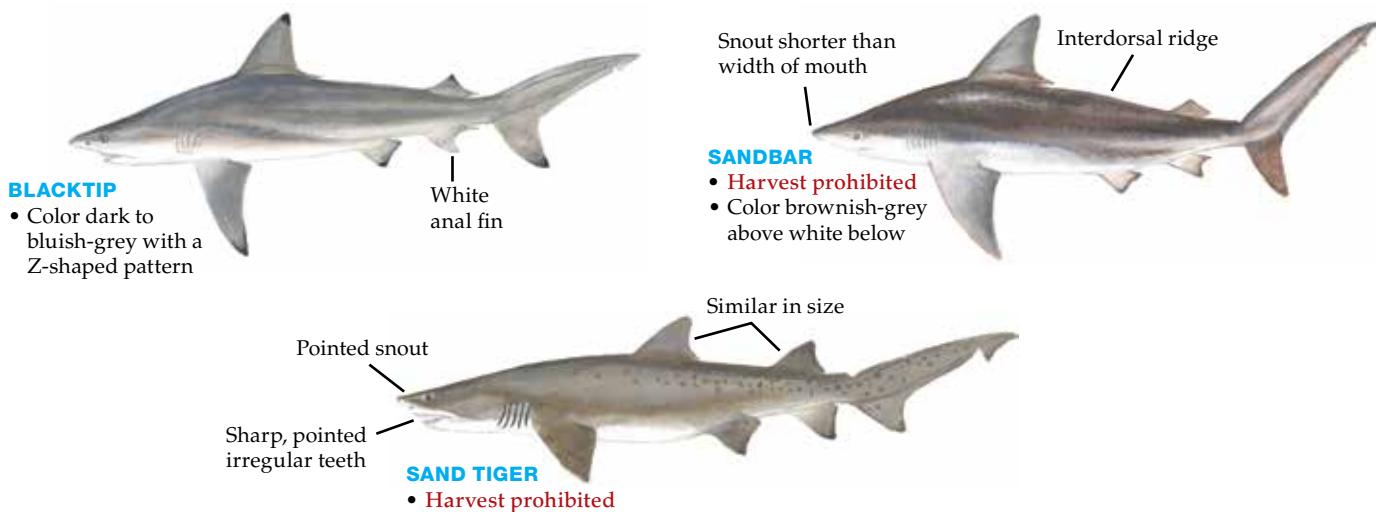
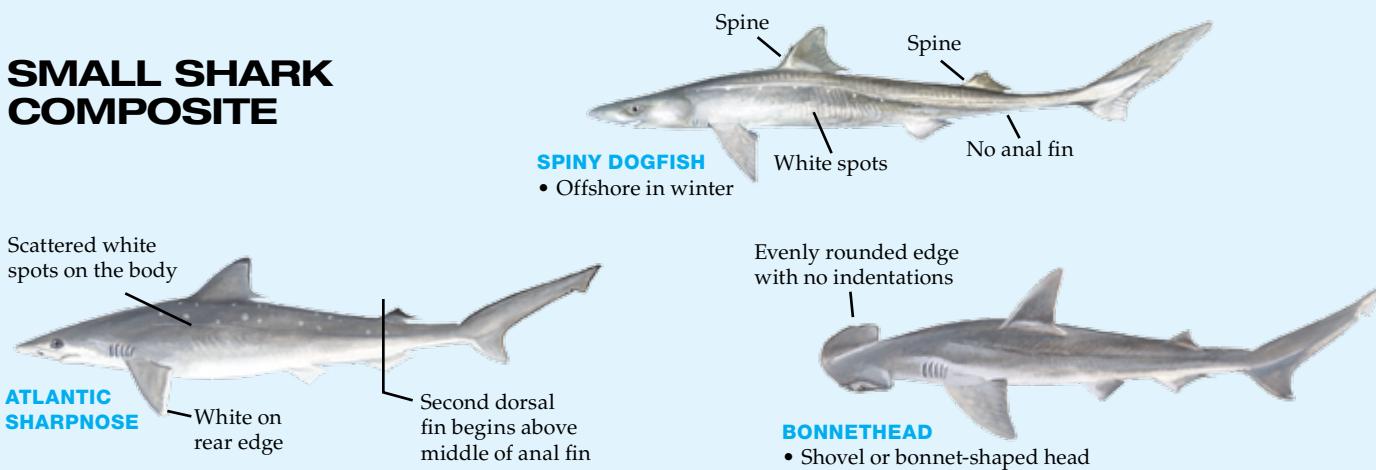
SALTWATER

GEORGIA SALTWATER FISH





SMALL SHARK COMPOSITE



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 43.

Fish identification pictures by: Duane Raver

SALTWATER

SHRIMP, CRAB, SHELLFISH & BAIT MINNOWS

A Georgia Fishing license is required to recreationally fish for any seafood, whether for personal consumption or bait. **It is illegal to sell any seafood or bait harvested with a recreational license!**

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 georgiaoutdoormap.com.

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 $1\frac{1}{4}$ 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 $2\frac{1}{2}$ 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and a "Food shrimp cast net" having a minimum bar mesh of $\frac{5}{8}$ inch. Bait shrimp cast nets cannot be used to take shrimp for personal consumption; however, food shrimp cast nets may be used to take bait. There are no length restrictions on 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 (2×2 feet or smaller) may be used recreationally. Two unobstructed escapement rings ($2\frac{3}{8}$ inch inside diameter) must be installed on an outside vertical wall. Each trap must be marked with a fluorescent green or lime green float bearing the owner's name and address in one-inch letters. Traps should be sufficiently weighted to prevent loss in strong tidal currents. It is unlawful to place or set crab traps in the channel of any stream with a lawfully established system of waterway markers. Disposal of crab traps in public waters is a violation of State and Federal laws.

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



SIZE AND HARVEST LIMITS

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

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

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 ½ hour before official sunrise and ½ 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 georgiaoutdoormap.com. 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 ¾ inch thick. Recreational quantity limits are up to two bushels of oysters and one bushel of clams per person per day, with a maximum limit of six bushels of oysters and one bushel of clams per boat per day.

Whelk (conch)

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

Bait Minnows

SEASON, HOURS AND AREAS

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

GEAR

No more than two traps may be used recreationally, except that a licensed saltwater fishing guide may use a maximum of four traps. Maximum dimensions for rectangular traps may not exceed 24 x 8 x 9 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 ¼ inch bar mesh. The throat opening of the funnel shall not exceed ¾ 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.

Guidelines for Sea Turtle Protection

If you hook or entangle a sea turtle while fishing, contact Georgia DNR Hotline: 1-800-2-SaveMe.

- Keep hands away from turtle's mouth and flippers.
- Do not lift the turtle by the hook or by pulling on the line.
- Safely land the turtle using a net or by walking it to shore.
- Leave the hook in place as removing it can cause more damage.
- Keep the turtle out of direct sunlight and cover with damp towel.
- Use non-stainless, barbless hooks when possible.

If you cannot reach Georgia DNR, cut the line as short as possible and release the turtle.



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. Remember a knife is not a proper venting tool!**

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.

Ranger Hotline

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

Please refer to call out box on page 2.

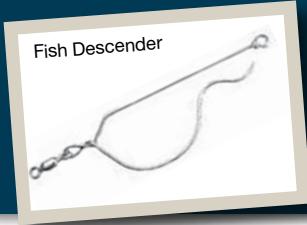
TO REPORT VIOLATIONS IN FEDERAL WATERS

- 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

• **Time is of the Essence!** Release fish as soon as practical and do not keep them out of the water longer than necessary. Have your camera always on the ready.

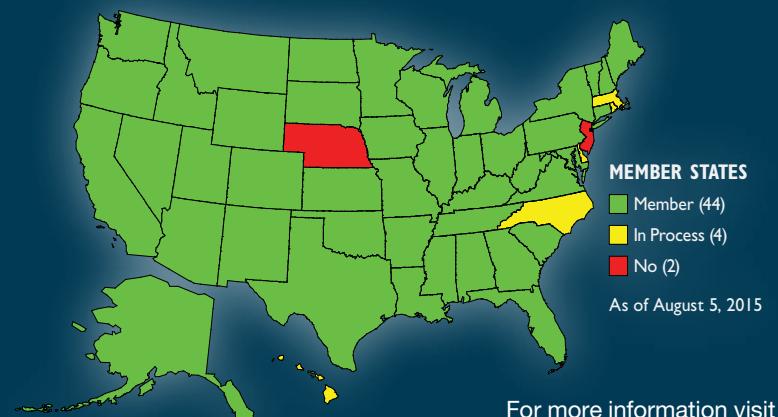
• **Some Fish May Need a Little Assistance.** If the fish does not immediately swim away, support the fish horizontally in the water and gently move it back and forth so that water runs over the gills. Release the fish when it is able to swim away on its own.

Recompression Tools



Wildlife Violator Compact

Georgia, along with 44 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.





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