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Visit one of our Models or Showrooms Today, Don’t Be Overcharged For Your New Home!

Price does not include land improvements. Prices subject to change. Some of the homes shown have options not in the base price.
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2016 FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS
Nathan Deal, Governor
Mark Williams, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Dan Forster, Director, Wildlife Resources Division
Spud Woodward, Director, Coastal Resources Division
Eddie Henderson, Colonel, Law Enforcement Division

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

Editor: Keith Weaver (GADNR)
Advertising: J.F. Griffin Publishing (413) 884-1001

On The Cover
Shoal Bass on the cover was caught in the Flint River, Georgia

Photo provided by www.davidcannonphotography.com
On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources, I want to thank all of the sportsmen who support wildlife and wildlife conservation in Georgia. Our state has some of the most diverse natural resources in the country and I want to thank you for your part in guarding these resources. Hunting and fishing is a valued part of the cultural heritage of our state and these are traditions that I’m committed to protecting.

Fishing supports conservation and sportsmen are the original conservationists. Your license purchases, which fund wildlife conservation efforts, make you a partner in all the efforts of this agency. You contribute through the purchase of boat fuel and fishing equipment as a percentage of those sales are dedicated 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 wildlife management areas and other public lands. 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 Wildlife Conservation Fund Tax Check-off on your state income tax form. Or, volunteer your time – there are great conservation groups with which to be involved. Thank you for your continued support, and now let’s get out there and enjoy all that Georgia has to offer!

Mark Williams
Commissioner, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

For more information:
www.georgiawildlife.com/conservation/support#License_Plate
We’re Bass Pro Shops® and TRACKER® Boats—the two greatest forces in fishing. For us, there’s no better place to be than on the water. And we know many of you feel the same way. So when you’re ready to upgrade your boat, restock your tackle box, or rethink your rod and reel selection, there’s no need to shop around. Go with those who know. Trust in the fishing authorities.

WHEN FISHING IS YOUR FIRST PRIORITY, TRUST THE EXPERTS

ROAM FREE AT BASSPRO.COM or TRACKERBOATS.COM
STATEWIDE OR GENERAL OFFICES

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

Wildlife Resources Conservation Center
2065 US Highway 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025
Boating Registration ...................................................... 800-366-2661
License Unit ................................................................. 800-366-2661
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
Buendorf Trout Hatchery
Burton Hatchery

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

Rocky Mountain Recreation & Public Fishing Area
Summerville Hatchery

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

Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center/
Marben PFA ..................................................... 478-825-6151 or 770-784-3063

Big Lazer Creek Public Fishing Area
West Point District Office

6 East Central Office
2123 US Highway 278, SE Social Circle, GA 30025
Atlanta number ............................................................ 770-918-6418

Walton Fish Hatchery

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

McDuffie PFA & Hatchery
Go Fish Education Center .................................. 478-988-6701
1255 Perry Pkwy., Perry, GA 31069

Steve Cocke Hatchery
Cordele Hatchery

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

Steve Cocke Hatchery

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

Ocmulgee PFA
Hugh M. Gillis PFA
Dodge County PFA
Paradise PFA

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.
Sun, meet your match.

Get ultimate UV protection from MagShield fabrics, available with up to UPF 50+.
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).

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.

Help Stop the Spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species
Don’t release live bait fish, or move live fish, aquatic plants, or mussels!

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

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS™
Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment.

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

CALL TOLL FREE:
1-800-241-4113
(24 hours a day, seven days a week)
Freshwater Regulation Changes
• All mountain trout water is now open to angling year round.
• Please see regulation changes to Georgia’s designated trout waters pages 22 - 25.

Saltwater Regulation Changes
• Spotted seatrout minimum length limit has changed from 13 inches to 14 inches.

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No more wrestling a walk-behind tiller!

DR® ROTO-HOG™ POWER TILLER
TILLS TWICE AS WIDE as most walk-behind tillers.
PUTS NO STRAIN on you because your towing vehicle does all the work.
TINE DEPTH ADJUSTS EASILY and precisely from your driver’s seat.

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TOLL FREE 800-664-1452
DRrototiller.com
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.goutdoorsgeorgia.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 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 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 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 4, 2016; June 11, 2016; Sept, 24, 2016
• 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

Want to Save Money?
Lifetime License – Buy it young and get the ultimate in savings! $500 lifetime license gets you $2420 worth of privileges
Early Renewal – Save $2.75 if you renew before your license expires
Multi Year License – purchase a 2 year license term and save $2–3 dollars
Combo Licenses – purchase your hunting and fishing license together and save $2
Stacking Licenses – You can stack several years of privileges in one purchase and save the transaction fee
MOVING FIREWOOD TRANSPORTS TREE-KILLING INSECTS AND DISEASES

Keep your backyard, campgrounds and favorite places safe from insects and diseases
BUY FIREWOOD NEAR WHERE YOU BURN IT.

DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD.org
Annual licenses are valid for one full year from date of purchase.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LICENSE</th>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>RESIDENT</th>
<th>NON-RESIDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing license</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
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<td>Two-year</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Two-year</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Three-day</td>
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<td>Wildlife Management Area</td>
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<td>One-Day Saltwater Shore-Based Fishing</td>
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TRANSACTION FEES

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<td>Walk-In Transactions</td>
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GEORGIA OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL PASS (GORP) (See pages 8, 19.)

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<td>Small Group (less than 8 people)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three-day</td>
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<tr>
<td>GORP Plus (includes fish/hunt license)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-day</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3.50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

* $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.

Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP)

The Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP) is required to use on any of the 32 designated properties owned by Georgia Wildlife Resources Division. This includes all Public Fishing Areas except for Rocky Mountain PFA. If you are ages 16 to 64, you must have a GORP or one of the following to access the PFA’s for non-fishing purposes:

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

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

- GORP 3-Day: $3.50, GORP Annual: $19
- GORP Plus Fishing 3-Day (residents only): $3.50, non-residents: $20.00
- Small Group 3-Day: $10, Small Group, Annual: $35

For a complete list of GORP User Fee Areas, visit georgiawildlife.com. Transaction fees apply.
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GREAT FISHING, ROOMS AND RATES since 1996

GRAND SLAM DESTINATION
### 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
  - Regularly Checked Fishing Gear Must Be
  - Encouraged to check all gear within 24 hours)

### 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.
### Game Species Daily Limits

(See page 19 for special limits on Public Fishing Areas.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>DAILY LIMIT</th>
<th>EXCEPTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bass</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>• Lake Grace (Wayne Co.) — Only one bass may be greater than 22 inches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 14 inch minimum length limit for largemouth bass from Lake Oconee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 12 inch minimum length limit for largemouth bass from the Ocmulgee River (Macon’s Spring Street bridge crossing to confluence with Oconee River).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 15 inch minimum length limit for shoal bass from the Flint River and its tributaries upstream of Warwick Dam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crappie</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickerel</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass, White Bass and/or Hybrid White-Striped Bass</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>• 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• See the Fishing Regulations for shared waters for Georgia and South Carolina on page 16.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish or Bream</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Bream: See South Carolina Agreement on page 16.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Limit on Blue Ridge Reservoir is 15.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sturgeon - May not be taken in fresh or saltwater in Georgia.**
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 the surface of the water.
- 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 Tallassee 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 Tallassee 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.

Spearing 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 ¾ 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 3½ 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 Tallassee dam on Tallassee 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, Tugalo, and Raburn). 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.goboatgeorgia.com
- You may register or renew online at www.goboatgeorgia.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.”

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

BOATING SAFETY
- No vessel may be operated over idle speed within 100 feet of any moored or anchored vessel, vessel adrift, or any wharf, pier, piling, or persons in the water, or shoreline next to a full-time or part-time residence, public park, public beach, public swimming area, marina, restaurant, or other public use area.
- Recreation boaters in coastal waters please note: Tybee, Sea Island, St. Simons, and Jekyll Islands have temporal (May 1 – Sept. 30) 1,000 ft. safety zones.
- 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.goboatgeorgia.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.goboatgeorgia.com or contact the Boating Education Coordinator at 770-918-6414 or any DNR Law Enforcement Office (see page 4).

See www.goboatgeorgia.com for complete boating regulations.

Unlimited towing details and exclusions can be found online at BoatUS.com/towing or by calling.

Breakdowns happen more often than you know and the average cost of towing service is around $600. But with Unlimited Towing from TowBoatU.S., when you need assistance on the water, all you need for payment is your BoatU.S. Membership card. Just show the card and we’ll get you on your way in no time.
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.

### 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

### 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 shool bass for tournament weigh-in purposes in Alabama, however the harvest of shool 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>WATER BODY</th>
<th>POSSESSION LIMIT</th>
<th>SIZE LIMIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Striped bass or hybrid bass</td>
<td>Lakes Hartwell and Clarks Hill</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>only 3 may be over 26 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or combination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped bass or hybrid bass</td>
<td>Lake Russell</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>only 1 may be over 34 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or combination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped bass, hybrid bass,</td>
<td>Savannah River downstream of</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27-inch minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white bass or combination</td>
<td>Clarks Hill dam</td>
<td></td>
<td>length limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White bass</td>
<td>All border waters covered</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>no size limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>except for Savannah River</td>
<td>downstream of Clarks Hill dam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout</td>
<td>All border waters covered</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>no size limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(largemouth, spotted, reedy,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smallmouth or combination)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye or Sauger or combination</td>
<td>All border waters covered</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>no size limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aggregate of all game fish</td>
<td>All border waters covered</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(does not include catfish)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

The waters and banks of Lake Seminole, • The waters and the banks of the St. Mary’s River, not including its tributaries.

**All border waters covered**

- **10 no size limit**
- **26 inches**
- **12-inch minimum length for largemouth bass**
- **8 no size limit**
- **40**

**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**

### MINIMUM LENGTH LIMITS

- **Largemouth bass:**
  - Lake Hartwell: 12 inches
  - Lake Windermere: 14 inches
  - Lake Lanier: 16 inches
  - Lake Lanier: 18 inches
  - Lake Lanier: 20 inches
  - Lake Lanier: 24 inches

### CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- **All creel and possession limits on waters covered by this agreement are the same as Georgia’s statewide limits.**
- **Note:** It is illegal to possess and fish with live blueback herring in Alabama waters covered by this agreement.

### 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.

### 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.**

### WATER RESOURCES

- **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.**

## GEORGIA SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

**WWW.GOFLISHGEORGIA.COM**

Facebook.com/WildlifeResourcesDivisionGADNR
Twitter.com/GeorgiaWild
YouTube.com/GeorgiaWildlife
GeorgiaWildlife.wordpress.com
Public.GovDelivery.com/accounts/GADNR/subscriber
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).

LICENSERS
- 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.

LICENSERS
- 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.
Your dollars at work for Georgia!
Successful Angler-funded Partnership to Improve Fishing

Your purchase of fishing tackle and motorboat fuels, along with fishing license sales, helps fund sport fish restoration in Georgia. This provides opportunities for fishing and other wildlife-associated recreation. It is only by **purchasing a fishing license** that these excise tax dollars paid by manufacturers come back to Georgia!

Your license fees and Sport Fish Restoration dollars at work:

Management of public waters, production of sport fish for stocking in public waters, development and management of Public Fishing Areas, aquatic education programs, development and maintenance of boating access facilities and more

These programs pay for freshwater and saltwater activities to benefit these resources.


**Anglers**, hunters, boaters purchase fishing/hunting equipment & motor boat fuels.

**State agencies** implement programs & projects.

**Manufacturers** pay excise tax on that equipment and boaters pay fuel taxes.

**States** receive grants.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** allocates funds to state fish & wildlife agencies.

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To learn more about Sport Fish Restoration in Georgia, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) and [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com)

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**INJURED or HURT?**

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- On-the-Job Injuries
- Wrongful Death
- Slip and Fall

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**Quit Wishin’ … Go Fishin’!**

Lake Chatuge is an actively managed, 7,050-acre TVA reservoir in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Georgia and Western North Carolina. A world record hybrid bass — weighing 25 lbs., 8 oz. — was landed here in 1994.

- Spotted Bass
- Bluegill
- Largemouth Bass
- Catfish
- Hybrid Bass
- Carp

[Hiawassee & Young Harris](http://www.MountainTopGA.com)

[800.984.1543](tel:800.984.1543)
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).

LENGTH AND DAILY LIMITS:

- Largemouth bass: 14 inches minimum
- DAILY LIMITS: Largemouth bass (unless otherwise posted) ....5
- Bream or sunfish (of any one species or a combination) ..........15
- Channel catfish ........................................................5
- All other species ...................................see page 13

Grass carp must be released immediately.

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

Hunting on Public Fishing Areas

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

Fishing on Wildlife Management Areas

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

Continued on page 20…
DODGE COUNTY
478-374-6765 or 912-285-6094
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.
Directions From Claxton: 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, grills, pavilion, bank fishing, archery range and 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 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.

MCDUFFIE
McDuffie County, 706-595-1619
Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish.
Water: 7 ponds varying in size from 5 to 37 acres. Rodbender Lake is open the 1st through the 15th of each month.
Facilities: Concrete boat ramps, courtesy docks, restrooms, picnic tables, tent and RV camping in designated areas (fee is $15–25 per site per night), archery range, and some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.
Directions From Thomson: South on Hwy 17 to US Hwy 278; left (east) for 5.6 mi.; right on Ellington Airline Road for 2.8 mi.; right on Fish Hatchery Road for 0.8 mi.

OCMULGEE
Area temporarily closed for repairs.
For more, visit georgiawildlife.com/PFA/Ocmulgee

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On Public Fishing Areas It Is Unlawful To:

- Operate boats on ponds or lakes posted as closed to boats.
- Operate gas outboard motors unless lake is posted as 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.

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 a drop box; no reservation needed; first come first serve), group camp ($20 per night; 20 person minimum; call for reservations), fishing pier, boat dock, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.
Directions From Tifton: East on US Hwy 82 for 8 mi. to Whitley Road near Brookfield; follow signs from US Hwy 82 to the area.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RECREATION & PUBLIC FISHING AREA
Floyd County, 706-802-5087
Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, Black crappie, Walleye. 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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WRD uses special regulations (see below) and stocking to provide quality trout fishing in Georgia. More than one million rainbow trout and brown trout are stocked each year from March through mid-September. The number of trout stocked and the stocking frequency depend on a stream’s fishing pressure, public access, and water conditions. Streams with greater public access are stocked more often with more trout. General information about trout stocking and the Trout Streams of Georgia Map are available from WRD offices and at www.gofishgeorgia.com. The map includes Georgia’s trout streams, roads, and a list of recommended streams.

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

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

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

## Trout Season

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 Chattoochee 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.
- **Chattoochee 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).

- **Chattoochee 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

**MOCCASIN CREEK**

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

**SMITHGALL WOODS-DUKES CREEK CONSERVATION AREA**

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

- Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used or possessed on the portion of Dukes Creek and its tributaries in White County on the Conservation Area, including the GA Hwy 75 Alternate right-of-way. Possession of any bait, lure, or gear not legal for use on the stream is unlawful.
- All fish caught from Dukes Creek and its tributaries in White County on the Conservation Area, including the GA Hwy 75 Alternate right-of-way, must be immediately released where caught.
- No trout may be possessed while fishing on any stream on the Conservation Area or the GA Hwy 75 Alternate right-of-way.

**WATERS CREEK**

Waters Creek, located on the Chestatee WMA, is managed for trophy trout. Waters Creek and its tributaries are open 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 per season.
**FRESHWATER**

**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., Mountain town 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; Connensa 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; Ruf 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.

**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; Wiliscott Cr. watershed; and all other streams or parts of streams not listed above except: Toccoa R. watershed below the mouth of Stan ley 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; Mountain town 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.

**GWENNETT 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; Yahaulla 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**

Possam Cr. watershed upstream from Paulding Co Rd. 64; Powder Cr. (Powder Springs Cr.) watershed; Pyle Cr. watershed; Pumkinvine 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; Faussett Cr. watershed; Fisher Cr. watershed; Hobson Cr. watershed; Little Searcroewn 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; Scarecrown 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; Tallapooa 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; Mocassin 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, Tugalo 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; Bugsuffle 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 Credit 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.

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

**Sale of Fish & Aquaculture**

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

**Domestic Fish**
- Aquaculturists (fish farmers) must register with the Department of Natural Resources in order to sell domestic fish.
- Registration applications are available from any Fisheries Section office, at [www.gofishgeorgia.com](http://www.gofishgeorgia.com), or by calling 770-761-3044. Find Aquaculture information under the Fishing Regulation section of the WRD website.
- Domestic fish are lawfully obtained farmed fish which are held in confinement in private ponds, but only if they are fish species which are either indigenous to Georgia or have been recognized prior to 1992 as having an established population in public waters in Georgia. White perch is not recognized as a domestic fish. Persons in possession of domestic fish from registered aquaculturists must have an authentic bill of sale or lading which identifies the seller, the date of transaction and at least two of the following for each fish species: number, weight, or average length.
**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 ½ 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 ½ 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 ½ 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 11 lb. 6 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

Fish identification pictures: Duane Raver and Joseph Tomelleri
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>ANGLER</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bass, Hybrid</td>
<td>25 lb. 8 oz.</td>
<td>David Hobby</td>
<td>Lake Chatuge</td>
<td>May 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, Largemouth</td>
<td>22 lb. 4 oz.</td>
<td>George Perry</td>
<td>Montgomery Lake</td>
<td>June 1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, Redeye</td>
<td>3 lb. 7 oz.</td>
<td>Steve Williams</td>
<td>Lake Hartwell</td>
<td>April 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, Shoal</td>
<td>8 lb. 3 oz.</td>
<td>David Hubbard</td>
<td>Flint River</td>
<td>Oct 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, Smallmouth</td>
<td>7 lb. 2 oz.</td>
<td>Jack Hall</td>
<td>Lake Chatuge</td>
<td>March 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, Spotted</td>
<td>8 lb. 2 oz.</td>
<td>Wayne Holland</td>
<td>Lake Burton</td>
<td>Feb 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, Striped (tie)</td>
<td>63 lb.</td>
<td>Terry McConnell</td>
<td>Lake Richard B. Russell</td>
<td>April 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, Suwanee</td>
<td>3 lb. 9 oz.</td>
<td>Laverne Norton</td>
<td>Ochlocknee River</td>
<td>Oct 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass, White</td>
<td>5 lb. 1 oz.</td>
<td>J.M. Hobbins</td>
<td>Lake Lanier</td>
<td>June 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowfin</td>
<td>16 lb. 3 oz.</td>
<td>Jimmy Tucker</td>
<td>Suwannee River</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullhead, Brown</td>
<td>5 lb. 8 oz.</td>
<td>James Andrews</td>
<td>O.F. Veal Pond</td>
<td>May 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullhead, Yellow</td>
<td>4 lb. 15 oz.</td>
<td>Glenn Settles</td>
<td>Ogeechee River</td>
<td>Oct 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carp, Common</td>
<td>35 lb. 12 oz.</td>
<td>Rev. Donald Clark</td>
<td>Lake Jackson</td>
<td>1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish, Blue</td>
<td>80 lb. 4 oz.</td>
<td>Earnest Timpson</td>
<td>Lake Walter F. George</td>
<td>Feb 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish, Channel</td>
<td>44 lb. 12 oz.</td>
<td>Bobby Smithwick</td>
<td>Altamaha River</td>
<td>May 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish, Flathead</td>
<td>83 lb.</td>
<td>Carl Sawyer</td>
<td>Altamaha River</td>
<td>June 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish, White</td>
<td>8 lb. 10 oz.</td>
<td>James Sanders</td>
<td>Savannah River</td>
<td>June 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crappie, Black (tie)</td>
<td>4 lb. 4 oz.</td>
<td>Shirley Lavender</td>
<td>Acre's Lake</td>
<td>June 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crappie, White</td>
<td>5 lb.</td>
<td>Theresa Kemp</td>
<td>Bibb Co. Pond</td>
<td>April 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gar, Longnose</td>
<td>30 lb. 13 oz.</td>
<td>Gerald Kennedy</td>
<td>Lake Lanier</td>
<td>Sept 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskellunge</td>
<td>36 lb.</td>
<td>Rube Golden</td>
<td>Blue Ridge Lake</td>
<td>June 1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perch, Yellow</td>
<td>2 lb. 9 oz.</td>
<td>Thomas Lewis</td>
<td>Savannah River</td>
<td>Feb 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickerel, Chain</td>
<td>9 lb. 6 oz.</td>
<td>Baxley McQuaig Jr.</td>
<td>Homerville</td>
<td>Feb 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickerel, Redfin</td>
<td>2 lb. 10 oz.</td>
<td>Gene Brantley</td>
<td>Lewis' Pond</td>
<td>July 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pike, Northern</td>
<td>18 lb. 2 oz.</td>
<td>Keith Gragg</td>
<td>Lake Rabun</td>
<td>June 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauger</td>
<td>4 lb. 3 oz.</td>
<td>Stuart Bowers</td>
<td>Clarks Hill Reservoir</td>
<td>April 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad, American</td>
<td>8 lb. 3 oz.</td>
<td>Henry Baxley</td>
<td>Savannah River</td>
<td>April 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad, Hickory</td>
<td>1 lb. 15 oz.</td>
<td>Mark Bowers</td>
<td>Ogeechee River</td>
<td>April 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish, Bluegill</td>
<td>3 lb. 5 oz.</td>
<td>P.F. Gumm</td>
<td>Shamrock Lake</td>
<td>July 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish, Flier</td>
<td>1 lb. 4 oz.</td>
<td>Curt Brooks</td>
<td>Lowndes Co. Pond</td>
<td>Feb 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish, Green</td>
<td>1 lb. 7 oz.</td>
<td>Jeff Sumner</td>
<td>Private Pond</td>
<td>Feb 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish, Redbreast</td>
<td>1 lb. 11 oz.</td>
<td>Emory Walden</td>
<td>Coweta Co. Pond</td>
<td>April 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish, Redear</td>
<td>4 lb. 2 oz.</td>
<td>Pat Lawrence</td>
<td>Richmond Co. Pond</td>
<td>June 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish, Spotted</td>
<td>10 oz.</td>
<td>Mike Markovic</td>
<td>Brier Creek</td>
<td>Sept 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish, Warmouth</td>
<td>10 oz.</td>
<td>Ryan Kensey</td>
<td>Satilla River</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout, Brook</td>
<td>5 lb. 10 oz.</td>
<td>Russell Braden</td>
<td>Waters Creek</td>
<td>March 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout, Brown</td>
<td>20 lb. 14 oz.</td>
<td>Chad Doughty</td>
<td>Chattahoochee River</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout, Rainbow</td>
<td>17 lb. 8 oz.</td>
<td>Mark Cochran</td>
<td>Soque River</td>
<td>May 2004</td>
</tr>
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</table>

RED indicates new record!
Blue type denotes a World Record Fish (either IGFA or NFFHF)
SAVE TODAY. SMOOTH WATER TOMORROW.

See how much you could save on boat insurance.
ON I-75 TAKE EXIT 134
THEN HEAD EAST
ENTRANCE ON THE LEFT

GPS:
® 32.43340
® 83.74360

HUGE AQUARIUMS: FISH & ALLIGATORS
STOCKED OUTDOOR FISHING POND
EXHIBITS AND SIMULATORS

PRICING
KIDS $3
SENIORS $4
ADULTS $5

HOURS
FRI–SAT 9AM–5PM
(SUMMER: WED–SAT)
SUN 1–5PM

GOFISHEDUCATIONCENTER.COM/GOFISHCAM
LIVE DAILY FROM 7AM–7PM

Watch fish and other creatures in the Piedmont Reservoir Exhibit, a 15-foot-deep aquarium that represents aquatic life in Georgia’s waters.

CHECK OUT OUR LIVE FISH CAM!
Get Kids Hooked!

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORE INFO ONLINE
Visit www.gofishgeorgia.com/fishing/kids-fishing for links to:
• Find a Kids’ Fishing Event
• Places to Take Kids Fishing
• Tips for Fishing with Kids
• “My First Fish” Certificate - download

BEST GIFT FOR A YOUNG ANGLER
It’s never too early! Buy a lifetime license for a child and save hundreds. Lifetime licenses are full privilege sportsman’s licenses ($55 annually), and include all state paid recreational hunting and fishing privileges. Lifetime licenses include hunting, big game, Wildlife Management Area (WMA), alligator, Georgia waterfowl conservation, salt and freshwater fishing and mountain trout licenses.

Consider the savings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Lifetime License Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Under 2 years old</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages 2-15</td>
<td>$350</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 and older</td>
<td>$500</td>
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WWW.GOFISHGEORGIA.COM
Purchase a license online at www.gofishgeorgia.com or www.active.com/outdoors or by phone 1-800-366-2661
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 to the address listed on the form 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. The following tables list the current guidelines for eating fish from Georgia waters. The guidelines are designed to help you avoid eating fish that may contain contaminants that could affect your health.

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.

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS
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 would 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.
## Fish Consumption Guidelines: Rivers & Creeks

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<tr>
<td>NO RESTRICTIONS</td>
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<td>ONE MEAL PER WEEK</td>
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<td>ONE MEAL PER MONTH</td>
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<td>DO NOT EAT</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### NO DATA

- Alapaha River
- Alapahoochee River
- Allatoona Creek (Cobb Co.)
- Altamaha River
- Altamaha River (below US Route 25)
- Apalachee River
- Beaver Creek (Taylor Co.)
- Brier Creek (Burke Co.)
- Canoochee River (Hwy 192 to Lotts Cr.)
- Ogeechee River Basin
- Casey Canal
- Chattooga River (NE Ga., Rabun Co.)
- Chattahoochee River (Helen to Lk. Lanier)
- Chattahoochee River (Buford Dam to Morgan Falls Dam)
- Chattahoochee River (Morgan Falls Dam to Peachtree Crk.)
- Chattahoochee River (Peachtree Crk. to Pea Crk.)
- Chattahoochee River (Pea Crk. to West Point Lk., below Franklin)
- Chattahoochee River (Morgan Falls Dam to West Pt. Lk.)
- Chattahoochee River (West Point dam to I-85)
- Chattahoochee River (Oliver Dam to Upatoi Crk.)
- 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.)
- Coosa River (Hwy 100 to Stateline, Floyd Co.)
- Coosa River (Coosa, Etowah below Thompson-Weinman dam, Oostanaula)
- Coosawattee River (below Carters)
- Etowah River (Dawson Co.)
- Etowah River (above Lake Allatoona)
- Etowah River (below Lake Allatoona dam)
- Flint River (Spalding/Fayette Cos.)
- Flint River (Meriwether/Upson/Pike Cos.)
- Flint River (Taylor Co.)
- Flint River (Macow/Dooly/Worth/Lee Cos.)
- Flint River (Dougherty/Baker Mitchell Cos.)
- Gum Creek (Crisp Co.)
| River/Location | Bass, Largemouth | Bass, Other | Bass, Spotted | Bass, Striped | Bass, White | Bluegill | Bowfin | Bullhead | Carp | Catfish, Blue | Catfish, Channel | Catfish, Flathead | Catfish, White | Crappie | Mullet, Striped | Pickerel, Chain | Redhorse | Redear | Redbreast | Sucker | Sunfish, Other |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------|--------|----------|-----|--------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|---------|----------|----------------|----------------|---------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------------|
| 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) |                |             |               |               |             |          |        |          |     |              |                  |                |               |         |          |                |                |         |        |          |        |        |                   |
| Ohoopooe River (Emanuel/Toombs Cos.) |                |             |               |               |             |          |        |          |     |              |                  |                |               |         |          |                |                |         |        |          |        |        |                   |
| Okefenokee Swamp (Billy’s Lake) |                |             |               |               |             |          |        |          |     |              |                  |                |               |         |          |                |                |         |        |          |        |        |                   |
| Oostanuala River (Floyd/Gordon Counties) | <20" | <20" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" |
| Patsiliga Creek (Taylor Co.) |                |             |               |               |             |          |        |          |     |              |                  |                |               |         |          |                |                |         |        |          |        |        |                   |
| Pipemaker Canal |                |             |               |               |             |          |        |          |     |              |                  |                |               |         |          |                |                |         |        |          |        |        |                   |
| Satilla River (Waycross, Ware/Pierce Cos.) |                |             |               |               |             |          |        |          |     |              |                  |                |               |         |          |                |                |         |        |          |        |        |                   |
| Satilla River (near Folkston, Camden Co.) | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >30" | >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" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥27" | ≥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 (Chariton 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO RESTRICTIONS</th>
<th>ONE MEAL PER WEEK</th>
<th>ONE MEAL PER MONTH</th>
<th>DO NOT EAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bass-Hybrid</td>
<td>Bass-Largemouth</td>
<td>Bass-Striped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany By-Pass Pond</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acworth</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allatoona</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrews</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartlett’s Ferry</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Cr. Reservoir</td>
<td>&lt;16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennett CEWC PFA</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Shoals (Randy Poynter)</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackshear</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Lazer PFA</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Ridge</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burton</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pond N. Bush Field (Augusta)</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carters Lake</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatuge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarks Hill</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evans County PFA</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat Rock</td>
<td>&lt;12&quot;</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamburg</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartwell (Tugaloo Arm)</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartwell (main body of lake)</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugh M. Gillis PFA</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Gardens</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolomoki Mounds S.P. – Kolomoki L.</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolomoki Mounds S.P. – Yohola L.</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanier</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Ocmulgee S. P.</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDuffie PFA, West</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottely</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabun</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed Bingham S.P.</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard B. Russell</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminole</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So. Slappy Blvd. Off-ramp (Albany)</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Mountain</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tobeasofkee</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tugalo</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribble Mill Pk. Pond (Gwinnett Co.)</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varner</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Point</td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worth (Chehaw Reservoir)</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worth (Flint Reservoir)</td>
<td>&gt;12&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yonah</td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td>12-16&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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
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- Encourage your community to invest

Supporting water quality protection supports great fishing!

Learn more at: [www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/](http://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/)

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**Saltwater Advisory**

Harmful toxins called PCBs are stored in the hepatopancreas (“the green gland” also known as the mustard, tomatley, 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.

---

**FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES: COASTAL RIVERS & CREEKS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES: COASTAL RIVERS &amp; CREEKS</th>
<th>Atlantic Croaker</th>
<th>Bass</th>
<th>Black Drum</th>
<th>Drum - Red</th>
<th>Flounder</th>
<th>Sheephead</th>
<th>Southern Kingfish</th>
<th>Speckled Seatrout</th>
<th>Spotted Seatrout</th>
<th>Striped Mullet</th>
<th>Shrimp</th>
<th>Shrimp, White</th>
<th>Yellowtail (Silver Perch)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO RESTRICTIONS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ONE MEAL PER WEEK</td>
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<tr>
<td>ONE MEAL PER MONTH</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>DO NOT EAT</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Turtle River System (Purvis, Gibson Crks.) | NO DATA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Turtle & Buffalo Rivers (upriver Hwy 303) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Turtle River (Hwy 303 to Channel Marker 9) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Turtle River (C. Marker 9 & So. Brunswick River to Dubignons & Parsons Creeks) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Terry Creek (South of Torras Causeway to Lanier Basin) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Terry & Dupree Creeks (North of Torras Causeway to Confluence w/ Back River) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Back River (1 mi. above Terry Creek to Confluence with Torras Causeway) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Back River (South of Torras Cswy. to St. Simons Sound) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIZE RANGE (FORK LENGTH, INCHES)</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEAL CONSUMPTION OF KING MACKEREL CAUGHT OFFSHORE GEORGIA COAST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 to less than 33 inches</td>
<td>No Restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 to 39 inches</td>
<td>1 meal per month for pregnant women, nursing mothers and children age 12 and younger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 39 inches</td>
<td>Do Not Eat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

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Learn more at: [www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/](http://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/)
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 Bass Trail

These tournament-style ramp facilities include multiple boat ramp lanes, extra capacity parking lots and weigh-in areas for tournaments. All 15 mega boat ramps improve access for local anglers and help communities attract major bass fishing tournaments. One more ramp is in the permitting or construction stages.

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

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

Go Fish
Georgia Initiative

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

- Interactive education about Georgia’s diverse aquatic life, their natural habitats and the wise stewardship of these resources through the Go Fish Education Center in Perry
- Quality fisheries supported by state-of-the-art indoor/outdoor warm water fish hatcheries
- The Georgia Bass Trail tournament ramps

Did you know?

- 1.4 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

WWW.GOFISHGEORGIA.COM

Purchase a license online at www.gofishgeorgia.com or by phone 1-800-366-2661
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.

Each year, thousands of anglers take to Georgia’s coastal waters in search of spotted seatrout, or speckled trout as they are known to many. The popularity of the species stems from its tenacious fight when hooked, its superb quality as table fare, and its accessibility to anglers fishing from shore and boat. However, this popularity makes the species vulnerable to overharvest. Thus, there are harvest regulations for spotted seatrout to ensure that adequate numbers of juvenile fish, especially females, reach adulthood and spawn at the level necessary to perpetuate the species. Each year, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff monitors spotted seatrout populations through surveys of angler catches and direct sampling with specialized nets providing a solid foundation of science-based information on the status of the species.

In 2012, the Finfish Advisory Panel (FAP) was created to advise DNR on saltwater finfish management. Membership includes saltwater fishing guides and anglers from throughout the coastal area with representation from inland areas, as well. The FAP members met with DNR staff several times over the past three years learning about the biology, population trends, and management goals for spotted seatrout. During these discussions, DNR informed the FAP members of the following benefits of increasing the minimum size limit from 13 to 14 inches:

- Greater egg production from female trout – a 14-inch female trout produces 20% more eggs each time she spawns as compared to a 13-inch female trout. Allowing the fish to reach an older age also allows it more opportunities to spawn. Increased egg production means, on average, a greater abundance of spotted seatrout in Georgia waters.
- More, larger quality trout in the population – a 14-inch trout weighs 23% more than a 13-inch trout. Most of this increase in weight is in the edible portion of the fish (i.e. the fillet).
- More resiliency of the seatrout population to the effects of periodic environmental extremes such as abnormally cold winters. There is evidence that larger, older trout can withstand colder water temperatures better than younger, smaller trout. Having more larger fish in the population can expedite a recovery after such an event.
- Studies show that approximately 90% of spotted seatrout survive the process of being caught on hook-and-line gear and released.

After hearing this information from DNR staff and discussing it amongst themselves, a majority of the FAP members recommended that DNR ask the Board of Natural Resources to change Georgia’s saltwater fishing regulations to increase the spotted seatrout minimum size. At its October 2015 meeting, after considering public comment provided through two public hearings and email, the Board members unanimously approved the increase of the minimum-size regulation for spotted seatrout from 13 inches to 14 inches, total length with an effective date of January 1, 2016.

Attention Anglers: Be Counted, Be Heard

During 2015, almost a quarter million anglers acquired a Saltwater Information Program (SIP) permit helping Georgia DNR to better manage saltwater fishing in our state. The no-cost SIP permit is an effective way to document who is fishing in saltwater so scientific surveys of saltwater fishing catch and effort can be most accurate.

Do your part: Be Counted, Be Heard!

In addition to a Georgia fishing license, a FREE SIP permit, valid from March 1 to February 28, is required for anyone age 16 and over who fishes in saltwater in Georgia.

SIP Permits are available from:
- Your local license vendor. To locate a vendor, visit www.CoastalGADNR.org/SIP;
- By calling 800-366-2661 (Mon–Fri 8a–8p and Sat–Sun 9a–5p)
- Online at www.CoastalGADNR.org/SIP

IMPORTANT: Permit renewal begins March 1, 2016, just in time for the kickoff of saltwater fishing season!

For more information go to www.CoastalGADNR.org/SIP or call 800-366-2661.
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.
- 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.grays reef. 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 saltwater 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 saltwater. 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.

www.gofishgeorgia.com
Purchase a license online at www.gofishgeorgia.com or by phone 1-800-366-2661

WWW.GO FISH GEORGIA.COM
Purchase a license online at www.gofishgeorgia.com or by phone 1-800-366-2661
## Georgia's Saltwater Gamefish Records

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

Red indicates new record!

For updated regulations and other information, please visit: www.gofishgeorgia.com

### Men's Record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Male Angler (Year)</th>
<th>Female Angler (Year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grouper, Goliath*</td>
<td>124 lb. 0 oz.</td>
<td>James Chumley (1976)</td>
<td>Harvest prohibited, therefore record no longer allowed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailfish*</td>
<td>65 lb. 0 oz.</td>
<td>Vann Downs (1981)</td>
<td>38 lb. 5 oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seatrout, Spotted</td>
<td>9 lb. 7 oz.</td>
<td>Tommy Hall (1976)</td>
<td>7 lb. 8 oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark, Mako</td>
<td>228 lb. 8 oz.</td>
<td>Harry Wooley (1975)</td>
<td>No minimum weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark, Sandbar (Brown)*</td>
<td>158 lb. 8 oz.</td>
<td>Chet Lee Kirby (1979)</td>
<td>124 lb. 0 oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark, Tiger</td>
<td>794 lb. 0 oz.</td>
<td>Chuck Hall (1975)</td>
<td>190 lb. 0 oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper, Cubera</td>
<td>10 lb. 0 oz.</td>
<td>Chris Gray (2012)</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper, Yellowtail</td>
<td>5 lb. 0 oz.</td>
<td>Eddie N. Vannmeter II (2014)</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swordfish</td>
<td>205 lb. 8 oz.</td>
<td>Brendin A. Page (2014)</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna, Yellowfin</td>
<td>249 lb. 2 oz.</td>
<td>Ken Cooper (1980)</td>
<td>165 lb. 4 oz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish (Summer Trout)</td>
<td>6 lb. 6 oz.</td>
<td>Frank Taylor (1976)</td>
<td>Minimum weight: 3 lb.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.

RED indicates new record!
Coastal Resources Division (CRD) biologists are conducting long-term studies on the growth, migration and fishing exploitation rates of red drum, tarpon, and tripletail. If you catch a tagged fish, please record and report the following information: 1) your name, address, and phone number, 2) fish species, 3) date caught, 4) tag number, 5) total length and location, and 6) whether the fish was kept or released. To report a tagged fish call (912) 264-7218. If released, please do not remove the tag. If kept, please return the tag to GADNR/CRD, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, GA 31520. If the tag number is not legible lightly scrape the tag with your fingernail or similar flat object.

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

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

For a list of species, open season, daily limit and possession limits, and minimum sizes, see page 43.

* These species are also federally managed from 3 to 200 miles offshore. Go to www.safmc.net for federal regulations.
### 2016 | GEORGIA SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

**SALTWATER**

**GEORGIA SALTWATER FISH**

- **Atlantic Croaker**
  - Dorsal fin spotted
  - Tiny barbels

- **Black Sea Bass**
  - Short white tabs on tail

- **Black Drum (Young)**
  - Loses vertical bars with age
  - 2 Spines

- **Southern Kingfish (Whiting)**
  - 7–8 diagonal dusky bands
  - Barbels

- **Tripletail**
  - Brownish spot on the shoulder

- **Spot**
  - Distinctly forked tail fin

- **Sheepshead**
  - Keeps vertical bars throughout life
  - No barbels
  - 3 Spines

- **Weakfish (Summer Trout)**
  - No spots on fins
  - Indistinct dark freckles on upper body

- **Red Drum**
  - Spots on fins
  - Distinct dark spots on upper body

- **Spotted Seatrout**
  - Dark spot or spots

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*World Wide Web Go Fish Georgia*
**King Mackerel**  
- Up to 60 lbs.
- Lacks black patch in young fish
- Lateral line drops sharply

**Spanish Mackerel**  
- Averages 2–4 lbs.
- Bright gold spots
- Gradually sloping lateral line

**KING MACKEREL**

**SPANISH MACKEREL**

---

**Small Shark Composite**

---

**Atlantic Sharpnose**  
- White on rear edge
- Second dorsal fin begins above middle of anal fin

---

**Spiny Dogfish**  
- Offshore in winter
- White spots
- No anal fin

---

**Bonnethead**  
- Shovel or bonnet-shaped head

---

**Blacktip**  
- Color dark to bluish-grey with a Z-shaped pattern
- White anal fin
- Pointed snout
- Sharp, pointed irregular teeth

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**Sandbar**  
- Harvest prohibited
- Color brownish-grey above white below
- Snout shorter than width of mouth

---

**Sand Tiger**  
- Harvest prohibited
- Interdorsal ridge
- Similar in size

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**Shark Anatomy**  
(view from above)

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**Fish identification pictures by:** Duane Raver

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**Sharks Found in Georgia Waters That Can Be Harvested**  
(not including small shark composite above)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blacknose</th>
<th>Blacktip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bull</td>
<td>Finetooth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemon</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scalloped Hammerhead</td>
<td>Smooth Hammerhead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thresher</td>
<td>Tiger (has interdorsal ridge)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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, regard- less 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 ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.

Harvest Limit: A sport bait shrimper may not possess 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 ¼ inches may be used only on sand beaches of any barrier island in Georgia. Seines from 100 to 300 feet long and with a minimum mesh size of 2 ½ 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 ½ 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 ¾ inch and a “Food shrimp cast net” having a minimum bar mesh of ½ 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 shrimp on board 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 ¾ inches from the elbow to the tip of the lower, immovable finger be removed. A properly removed claw should not have meat from the body attached.

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

GEAR
Traps: Up to six standard size crab traps (2 x 2 feet or smaller) may be used recreationally. Two unobstructed escapement rings (2 ½ inch inside diameter) must be installed on an outside vertical wall. Each trap must be marked with a fluorescent green or lime green float bearing the owner’s name and address in one-inch letters. Traps should be sufficiently weighted to prevent loss in strong tidal currents. It is unlawful to place or set crab traps in the channel of any stream with a lawfully established system of waterway markers. Disposal of crab traps in public waters is a violation of State and Federal laws.

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

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

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

**Shellfish**

**SEASON AND HOURS**
Saltwaters may be opened for taking shellfish between January 1 and December 31. Prior to harvesting any shellfish, check with the DNR-Coastal Resources Division ([www.CoastalGADNR.org](http://www.CoastalGADNR.org)) for any seasonal closures that may be in effect during the calendar year. Shellfish must be harvested between the hours of 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](http://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.

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

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**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.

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.

Ranger Hotline

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

Please refer to call out box on page 28.

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.