Homes Built On your Land!
110+ Customizable Plans

Nobody Offers More Value In A New Home!

CALL US TODAY!
8 Locations To Serve You

Ellijay, GA 706-273-7139
Bremen, GA 770-537-5337
Cullman, AL 256-737-5055
Warner Robins, GA 478-953-0601
Augusta, GA 706-855-5227
Lavonia, GA 706-356-1015
Prattville, AL 334-290-4397
Waynesville, NC 828-456-3309

Ellijay, GA pricing shown. Pricing does not include land improvements and subject to change. Some homes may show options not included in base price.
Contents

Commissioner’s Message............................................................2
Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program .................................2
Fisheries Section Offices & Public Fishing Areas ....................4
Definitions .................................................................................6
Protected Aquatic Species ..........................................................6
Free Fishing Days ......................................................................8
License Requirements ..................................................................8
Buying Licenses ........................................................................8
Recreational License Prices .......................................................10
Boating Regulations .................................................................15
Fish Kill Reporting ....................................................................18
Turn in Poachers Contact Information .......................................18
Public Fishing Areas ..................................................................19
Get Kids Hooked .......................................................................31
Angler Awards Program ............................................................32
Guidelines for Eating Fish .........................................................34-38
Measuring Fish Length .............................................................43

Freshwater Section .....................................................................12
Seasons ......................................................................................12
Length Limits .............................................................................13
Daily Limits ................................................................................13
Fishing Methods ........................................................................14
Agreements with Bordering States ............................................16
Trout Fishing .............................................................................22
Commercial Fishing .................................................................25
Sale of Fish ...............................................................................25
Freshwater Fish Identification .................................................26-27
State Freshwater Record Fish ..................................................28
Handling & Releasing Fish .........................................................48

Saltwater Section ......................................................................40
State Saltwater Record Fish .....................................................42
Finfish Limits and Information ....................................................43
Saltwater Fish Identification .....................................................44-45
Sport Bait Shrimping .................................................................46
Crabs .........................................................................................47
Shellfish ......................................................................................47
Bait Minnows ............................................................................47
Recompression Tools ...............................................................48
Handling & Releasing Fish .........................................................48

2020 FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

Brian P. Kemp, Governor
Mark Williams, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Rusty Garrison, Director, Wildlife Resources Division
Doug Haymans, Director, Coastal Resources Division
Thomas Barnard, Colonel, Law Enforcement Division

BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES*

First District
Alfred W. “Bill” Jones, III

Second District
Jeff “Bodine” Sinyard

Third District
Aaron McWhorter

Fourth District
Dwight H. Evans

Fifth District
Paul Shailendra

Sixth District
Dwight J. Davis

Seventh District
Thomas M. “Mike” Phelps, Jr.

Eighth District
J. Mark Mobley, Jr.

Ninth District
William A. Bagwell, Jr.

Tenth District
Ray P. Lambert, Jr.

Eleventh District
Robert D. Leebern, Jr.

Twelfth District
Duncan N. Johnson, Jr.

Thirteenth District
Billy E. New, Jr.

Fourteenth District
Delos H. Yancey, III

Coastal District
Nancy A. Addison

Members-At-Large
Joe Hatfield
Winburn E. “Brother” Stewart, Jr.
Milt Thomaston
Tim Lowe

* List of Board Members was current as of press time. To see a current list of Board Members please go to www.GADNR.org.

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

Editors: John W. Bowers & Sarah E. Hanson, Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
Advertising: J.F. Griffin Publishing (413) 884-1001

On The Cover
Angler Wyatt Crews of Waycross with a black crappie he caught at Lake Mayers near Baxley, GA.

Photo provided by Bert Deener, Georgia DNR
Creating More Fishing Opportunities

I have always had a special connection with the natural world around me. I attribute that connection to the values instilled in me during my formative years, as well as being fortunate enough to live in a place with such abundant and beautiful natural resources. Over time, I developed a fierce passion for hunting, fishing, and all things outdoors, and that is why, as Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, I feel incredibly blessed to be in such a position that allows me to connect with so many like-minded individuals, and to play a role in passing these traditions down to the next generation of sportsmen and women.

Considering that Georgia is home to well over a million anglers, I know I am not alone in my appreciation and passion for this amazing sport. Here at DNR, we are so thankful to have such an ardent and unwavering community of supporters who do so much for wildlife conservation efforts.

At DNR, conserving and protecting our natural resources is a huge part of our mission. We are constantly looking for new ways to safeguard these resources while searching for new ways to accommodate greater access and better fishing opportunities for the public. One way we do this is by stocking our waters with catchable fish. For instance, every year we stock 1 million catchable trout in streams, rivers and small lakes across Georgia. Trout stocking begins in March and continues through October. Currently we’re targeting a larger sized trout as part of this effort to keep our rivers and streams full of fish and fun to fish.

Your continuous support through your fishing license purchases, and your numerous trips to our lands, keep us thriving and allows us to continue our efforts of conservation. We are working on new ways to enjoy the outdoors, such as the first ever full-service campground that will be opening at the Evans PFA this fall. I hope you are able to enjoy these amenities while you fish and enjoy the fishing opportunities across our state. We are so thankful for your continued support and appreciate you allowing us to fulfill DNR’s mission. I’m excited to see you all out on the water!

Mark Williams
Commissioner, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

When you purchase a fishing license, 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.

Better fishing, boating, hunting & wildlife-associated recreation.
Anglers, hunters, boaters purchase fishing/hunting equipment & motor boat fuels.
Manufacturers pay excise tax on that equipment and boaters pay fuel taxes.
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service allocates funds to state fish & wildlife agencies.

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

About This Guide

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

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

If you have any feedback or are interested in advertising, please contact us at 413.884.1001 or at www.JFGriffin.com

Graphic Design:
Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, John Corey, Evelyn Haddad, Chris Sobolowski

This guide is also available online at eRegulations.com
WHAT WILL YOUR GATOR™ EQUIP YOU TO DO?

You work hard. You play harder. So does the John Deere Gator™ – the perfect companion for a fishing, hunting or off-roading trip. With more than a thousand ways to customize, you’ll be equipped for anything. Get to Ag-Pro, where you’ll also find the financing options surprisingly accommodating, too.

Strong on Service

ATHENS .............. 2950 Atlanta Hwy • (706) 354-0037
BAINBRIDGE ........ 1931 Dothan Rd • (229) 246-4370
BRUNSWICK .......... 3314 Cypress Mill Rd • (912) 275-8960
CAIRO ................ 2025 U.S. Hwy 84 E • (229) 377-3383
CARNESVILLE ......... 10963 CA Hwy 106 • (706) 384-5555
CARTERSVILLE ....... 1534 Highway 411 N • (770) 387-0340
CONYERS ............. 1377 Dogwood St SW • (770) 760-0010
DACULA ............... 2173 Winder Hwy • (678) 376-3240
DALTON ............... 2404 E Morris St • (706) 226-3097
DIXIE .................. 4281 US Hwy 84 W • (229) 263-4133
GAINESVILLE ....... 2801 Browns Bridge Rd • (678) 971-5740
GRAYSON ............. 1721 Athens Hwy • (706) 979-2201
JASPER ............... 280 Shelby Lane • (678) 454-3100
MACON ................ 4951 Sheraton Dr • (478) 405-7900
MADISON ............ 1350 Lions Club Rd • (706) 342-2332
MCDONOUGH ......... 192 Industrial Blvd • (678) 673-3680
MERSHON ............ 2477 Hwy 32 • (912) 647-2022
MILLEDGEVILLE ...... 2661 North Columbia St (Hwy 441 N) • (478) 387-4205
NEWNAN ............. 81 Millard Farmer Industrial Blvd • (770) 254-0383
ROME ................ 867 Cedar Ave SW • (888) 404-0137
THOMASVILLE ...... 12793 U.S. 19 S • (229) 226-4881
VALDOSTA .......... 4506 North Valdosta Rd • (229) 257-0000

SHOP ONLINE AT
AgProCo.com
STATEWIDE OR GENERAL OFFICES

1 Wildlife Resources Division State Headquarters
2067 US Highway 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025
Main Number ........................................... 706-557-3333
Toll Free ..................................................... 833-557-3303
Game Management ..................................... 706-557-3350
Fisheries Management ............................... 706-557-3305
Law Enforcement ...................................... 770-918-6408
Wildlife Conservation ............................... 706-557-3213

Wildlife Resources Conservation Center
2065 US Highway 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025
Boating Registration ................................. 800-366-2661
Hunting & Fishing Licenses .......................... 800-366-2661
Boating Education ..................................... 770-918-6408
Hunter Education ..................................... 706-557-3355
Special Permits Unit ................................. 770-918-6408
Wildlife Conservation ....................... 706-557-3305

2 Coastal Resources Division Headquarters
One Conservation Way, Brunswick, GA 31520
Main Number ........................................... 912-264-7218
Coastal Law Enforcement .......................... 912-264-7237
Report a Fish Kill ........................................ 800-241-4113
Ranger Hotline ............................................ 800-241-4113

WRD FISHERIES REGIONAL OFFICES AND FACILITIES

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

Buford Trout Hatchery

Burton Hatchery

4 Northwest District Office
2650 Floyd Springs Road, Armuchee, GA 30105
Armuchee .................................................. 706-295-6102
Law Enforcement (Acworth) .......................... 770-529-2424
Law Enforcement (Atlanta) ........................... 770-769-9680

Rocky Mountain PFA & Recreation Area

Summerville Hatchery

5 West Central Office
1014 MLK Blvd., Fort Valley, GA 31030
Fort Valley .................................................. 478-825-6151

Marben PFA/Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center ........ 478-825-6151 or 770-784-3059

Big Lazer Creek PFA

West Point District Office

Flat Creek PFA

6 East Central Office
2065 US Highway 278, SE Social Circle, GA 30025
Atlanta number ......................................... 706-557-3305

Walton Fish Hatchery

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

Silver Lake PFA

Steve Cocke Hatchery

Cordele Hatchery

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

Ocmulgee PFA

Bowens Mill Hatchery

Hugh M. Gillis PFA

Dodge County PFA

Paradise PFA

9 Coastal Office
130 Hatchery Drive, Richmond Hill, GA 31324
Richmond Hill ............................................. 912-727-2112
Coastal Law Enforcement ............................ 912-264-7237

Evans County PFA

Richmond Hill Fish Hatchery

See pages 19-21 for Public Fishing Area Information.
Unforgettable Adventures.

Feel-Good Savings.

Heed the call of adventure with great insurance coverage. Boat insurance serviced by the boating experts. Get a fast, free quote today.

geico.com | 1-800-865-4846 | Local Office
**Artificial Lure**
Any lure 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.

**Nongame Fish**
Any fish not designated as game fish under Daily Limits (see pages 13 and 43).

**Public Fishing Area**
Designated areas owned and/or operated by the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Fisheries Section for the primary purpose of fishing and are open to the public. These are listed on pages 19–21.

**Resident**
Resident means any person who has been domiciled within the State of Georgia (declared Georgia the only state of legal residence) for a period of at least three months. A valid Georgia driver’s license or Georgia ID is required to show residency. Nonresident full time Georgia college students with a valid college ID living in Georgia, and nonresident active duty military personnel with a valid U.S. DOD Common Access Card with Uniformed Services affiliation and the dependents of such military personnel may obtain resident hunting and fishing licenses other than resident lifetime, disability and honorary licenses. Nonresident landowners must purchase a nonresident license.

---

**What’s New**
- New camping reservation system available at GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com
- Reservations can be made up to 13 months in advance, online or by calling 1-800-366-2661.
- RV camping now available at Evans County PFA, and McDuffie PFA
- PFAs are open 365/24/7 to fit any work or sleep schedule
- Hold your special occasions at the new event center at Evans County PFA

---

**Protected Species May Be Encountered While Fishing**
It is unlawful to capture, kill, or harm any protected species. If you accidentally capture a protected species while fishing or collecting bait, please release it unharmed immediately.

There are 58 fish, 10 salamanders, one frog, one snail, 27 mussels, 20 crayfish and 14 turtles under protection in Georgia.

Exception: all native crayfish, including state protected species, can be used as bait as long as they are not harvested from burrows. Bait species should never be transferred between water ways.

For more information contact DNR’s Wildlife Conservation Section at (706) 557-3213.

Search the rare species data portal for a list of protected species in your watershed at our website.

---

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

**REDHORSE SUCKER**
There are several protected species of redhorse suckers that can easily be confused with common carp while bow fishing. For more information on sport fish and carp identification, please visit georgiawildlife.com/fishing/identification.

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

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

**ALTAMAHA SHINER**
A state protected minnow that is common in rocky sections of large rivers and streams in the Oconee and Ocmulgee river systems.
Evans County PFA now Offering RV Camping and Space at New Event Center

Hold events, Go Fish and RV camp at Evans County PFA!
Make reservations at www.GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com

Make it a family fishing trip on Lake Chatuge... You won’t be disappointed!
Lake Chatuge
Where Georgia Meets North Carolina
Home of the 2018 Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Tournament
www.golakechatuge.com • 1-800-984-1543
GoLakeChatuge.com • 1 (800) 984-1543

WE OFFER 23 PLASTIC LURES!
The Boogie Buzz Buzzbait in 1/4, 3/8 and 1/2 oz.
Weedless Tube Jig in 1/8 and 1/4 oz.
7 New Plastic Lures Coming in 2020!
We offer multiple custom scents for our plastic
Some specially-designed for Mud Puppy Custom Lures LLC to be launched in 2020!

Like Mud Puppy Custom Lures LLC on Facebook to see products and videos! 804-895-1489

COASTAL RIVER CHARTERS
A Premier Inshore Fishing & Sight Seeing Company
Savannah, GA • Tybee Island, GA 912.441.9930
Capt. Jack McGowan
www.coastalrivercharters.com

AGRI SUPPLY
Shop a Variety of Brands for All your OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
www.AgriSupply.com
RESIDENTS
- Proof of residence is a Georgia driver’s license or official State of Georgia ID card and is required to purchase a resident fishing license.
- Georgia resident military veterans that were on active duty for 90 or more consecutive days and who were honorably discharged on or after July 1, 2005 may obtain one annual Honorary Hunting and Fishing License free of charge. Such veterans may obtain this license by providing a copy of their DD Form 214 and a completed DNR application.
- Senior Citizens: Georgia residents born on or before June 30, 1952 may obtain a Lifetime Sportsman’s License free of charge. An optional Lifetime Sportsman’s Plastic Card may be purchased for $10. Reduced cost licenses are available for residents age 65 and older (see page 10).
- Discount Disability License: Georgia residents who are permanently and totally disabled may obtain a discounted Disability License. A qualifying disability is an impairment of a permanent and total nature and is certified as such by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration, Medicaid, Medicare or Railroad Retirement System.
- 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.

Lands Pass
Any person age 16 and older, entering a WMA or PFA must have a valid license that allows fishing or hunting or a Lands Pass (exclusions apply, visit georgiawildlife.com/LandAccess). Designated fee areas are marked with a sign at the site or area entrance.

Reciprocal Agreements for Bordering States
Georgia DNR has Agreements with Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina allowing holders of Georgia fishing licenses to fish in the waters covered without obtaining a fishing license from the bordering state. See 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 mountain trout waters and to fish for or to possess trout. See page 23 for Waters Creek special regulations.
- All nonresident anglers, 16 or older, regardless of physical condition, must possess a nonresident fishing license and nonresident trout license to fish for or possess trout or to fish in designated trout waters.
- Lifetime Sportsman’s, Sportsman’s, Honorary (free), and Discount Disability licenses include the trout fishing privilege.
- Landowners and their immediate families may fish on their premises without a trout license.
- 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 mountain trout will need to have a trout license in their possession.
- See Public Fishing Areas on pages 19–21.
WARNING

REPORT SIGHTINGS OF COGONGRASS TO THE GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION TO PREVENT LOSS OF FOREST LANDS.

Cogongrass is considered to be the “seventh worst weed in the world” and can grow so dense in forests that many ground-dwelling animals such as quail, turkey, and deer find it nearly impossible to travel through.

If Cogongrass is allowed to go unchecked, it will choke out all native vegetation.

The Georgia Forestry Commission has an eradication program to control Cogongrass, but we need your help. Please report sightings of Cogongrass online at GaTrees.org, contact your local GFC Management Forester or call 229-430-5122.

Remember: The loss of Cogongrass is your gain.
**Georgia’s Public Boat Ramps**

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

**YOU HAVE THE POWER TO PROTECT YOUR RAMPS!**

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

Don’t let others take away your recreational opportunities.

---

**2020 RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE FEES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LICENSE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>RESIDENT</th>
<th>NON-RESIDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combo Hunting &amp; Fishing License</td>
<td></td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One-Day</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+ Additional Day</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apprentice Hunting &amp; Fishing License</td>
<td></td>
<td>One-Day</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fishing Licenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LICENSE</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>RESIDENT</th>
<th>NON-RESIDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing License (Resident: 16–64, Nonresident: 16+)</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One-Day</td>
<td>see combo</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Additional Day</td>
<td>see combo</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional Youth Fishing License (&lt;16)</td>
<td>Multi-Year¹</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Sportsman’s License (65+)</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One-Day</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Additional Day</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIP Permit</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Fishing License</td>
<td>Seasonal</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Fishing License</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Three-Year</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public Land Access**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LICENSE</th>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>RESIDENT</th>
<th>NON-RESIDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Lands Pass</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 - Privileges for the multi-year Youth License are valid until the person’s 17th birthday.
+ Additional Day - days can be added for up to 11 consecutive days

---

**Transaction fee applies: $2.50 online; $3 at a retail outlet; $5 by telephone**

* Privileges for the multi-year Youth License are valid until the person’s 17th birthday.
+ Additional Day – days can be added for up to 11 consecutive days

* It is illegal to sell any freshwater or saltwater fish harvested with a recreational license.
YOUR PASSION.
OUR EXPERTISE.

We offer degree programs in fisheries, water resources management, and more. Turn your love for the outdoors into a career!

LEARN MORE:
warnell.uga.edu

THE NEW HAVALON® TALON™ QUIK-CHANGE II™ MULTI-BLADE CUTLERY SYSTEM BRINGS TOGETHER NEARLY 40 YEARS OF EXPERTISE IN THE SURGICAL FIELD AND DECADES OF QUALITY TIME SPENT OUT IN OPEN WATERS.

THIS INNOVATIVE PLATFORM FEATURES A VARIETY OF RELIABLE ADD-ON BLADES DESIGNED TO MAKE CLEAN WORK OF THE DIRTY WORK ALL THE WAY FROM SHIP TO SHORE.

*SOLD SEPARATELY

FROM SHIP TO SHORE
AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN.
FRESHWATER
GENERAL REGULATIONS

Freshwater Game Species Daily Limits

• It is unlawful to take in one day or to possess at any one time, except at a residence or commercial storage facility, more than the daily limit for each species. It is unlawful to possess more than a total of 50 individuals of all the game fish listed in this section, except channel and flathead catfish. New: See page 13 for actual creel limits.

• Once the daily limit for a particular species is taken, it is unlawful to continue to fish for that species.

Exception: Daily limits differ on certain waters shared by Georgia and South Carolina. See Agreements with Bordering States (pages 16–17).

Seasons

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

• Trout Seasons: All designated trout waters are now open year round.

• Flint, Chattahoochee, and Spring Creeks: The Flint River and its tributaries from the Georgia Power Co. dams at Albany to the US Hwy 84 bridge; the Chattahoochee River and its tributaries from the Columbia Lock and Dam to the GA Hwy 91 bridge; and Spring Creek and its tributaries downstream to GA Hwy 253 are CLOSED to striped bass fishing and spear fishing from May 1–October 31 each year.

• Lakes Seminole: All fishing, including spear fishing, for any species in the marked areas around five fish refuges in Lake Seminole is prohibited from May 1–October 31 each year.

• Coosa River: The season for taking lake sturgeon from the Coosa River and its tributaries is CLOSED. See www.gofishgeorgia.com for more information on this closure and how to identify this fish.

• Noodling or Grabbling: The season is open March 1–July 15 statewide in freshwater.

Length Limits

Note: There are no minimum length limits on freshwater game fish unless they are listed below. All lengths are Total Length (see “How to Measure Fish,” page 43). You must release all fish shorter than the minimum length indicated for that species.

LARGEMOUTH BASS
12 inches statewide except:
• Lake Blackshear: 14 inches
• Lake Blue Ridge: no minimum (0 inches)
• Lake Burton: no minimum (0 inches)
• Lake Juliette: no minimum (0 inches)
• Lake Lanier: 14 inches
• Lake Oconee: 14 inches
• Lake Lindsay 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

STRIPE 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.

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 one time. 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: https://georgiawildlife.com/species#reptiles). For more information www.georgiawildlife.com/turtling.

Fishing on Wildlife Management Areas

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

Fishing Without Permission

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

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

Download the Go Outdoors GA App

Gain Access to Great Tools While on the Water

• Ability to access a copy of your current license
• Store multiple licenses on one phone
• Purchase fishing license through app
• Access to Georgia rules and regulations
• Use maps and tools to enhance your recreational experience
• Determine sunset/sunrise times based on GPS location

Visit georgiawildlife.com/outdoors-ga-app

Visit georgiawildlife.com/outdoors-ga-app

Visit georgiawildlife.com/outdoors-ga-app

Visit georgiawildlife.com/outdoors-ga-app

Visit georgiawildlife.com/outdoors-ga-app

Visit georgiawildlife.com/outdoors-ga-app

Visit georgiawildlife.com/outdoors-ga-app
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>DAILY LIMIT</th>
<th>EXCEPTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bass</td>
<td>Largemouth, Redeye (Coosa), Shoal, Smallmouth, Spotted, and/or Suwannee bass</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lake Lindsay Grace (Wayne Co.) — Only one bass may be greater than 22 inches.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish</td>
<td>Channel and/or Flathead</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crappie</td>
<td>Black and/or White</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickerel</td>
<td>Chain, Grass and/or Redfin</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad</td>
<td>American and/or Hickory</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass, White Bass and/or Hybrid White-Striped Bass</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>15, only two of which can be 22 inches or longer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Limit 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, Occonee 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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Limit 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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See the Fishing Regulations for shared waters for Georgia and South Carolina on page 16.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish or Bream</td>
<td>Bluegill, Flier, Redbreast, Redear, Rock bass, Spotted sunfish, Warmouth and/or Shadow bass</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bream: See South Carolina Agreement on page 16.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout</td>
<td>Brook, Rainbow, and/or Brown trout</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>8</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 any lock or dam.
- Only catfish and nongame fish (year-round) and American and Hickory shad during shad season may be taken with trotlines.
- Trotlines are not permitted on Lake Toho 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 Toho or any State Park Lake.
- A sport fishing license is required to fish with set hooks and jugs in Georgia.
- There are no other restrictions on the use of set hooks and jugs (number of, dimensions, materials, etc.)
- DNR encourages anglers using these methods to check them regularly, remove them at the end of the fishing day, and avoid areas popular with recreational boaters.

Spear Fishing
- “Spearing” is the use of a handheld spear or similar device and the use of a weapon, other than a firearm, which propels the spear to which a wire, rope, line, etc. is attached and secured to the weapon or the person using the weapon.
- Only nongame fish, and catfish as described below, may be speared in freshwater and are not to be sold or used for commercial purposes.
- The taking of flathead and channel catfish by spear may be done any time day or at night by light in the Savannah River and its tributaries and impoundments in the Savannah River Basin only.
- All spears must have barbs or other devices to recover fish and must be attached to a line secured to the person using the weapon.
- A sport fishing license is required to spear fish in Georgia.
- The person spear fishing 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 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.
- Know your target - the take of protected species is unlawful (see pg. 6).

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 Tohooseskke dam on Tohooseskke 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 Rabun). For maps of restricted waters go to www.gofishgeorgia.com and see “Freshwater Regulations” section.
- It is unlawful to possess and fish with live blueback herring in Alabama waters.
- Fish for game fish, except American shad, hickory shad, channel catfish, blue catfish, or flathead catfish, by any means other than pole and line.
- Take any fish from public freshwater by any method other than the methods listed on this page. Snagging fish is illegal.
- Use electronic devices, explosives, poisons, or firearms to take fish.
- Stock or release fish or bait into any public waters except the water from which it was taken.
- Discard fish caught in public waters.
- Take protected species (see pg. 6).
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.
- You may register or renew online at www.goboatgeorgia.com.
- A Boat Registration Application by mail can be obtained from 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.
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.

**LICENCES**
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.

**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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or combination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped bass or hybrid bass</td>
<td>Lake Russell</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>only 1 may be over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or combination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>34 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped bass, hybrid bass,</td>
<td>Savannah River downstream of Clarks Hill dam</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27-inch minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white bass or combination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>length limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White bass</td>
<td>All border waters covered except for Savannah</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>no size limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>River downstream of Clarks Hill dam (see above for size limit).</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>Bass (largemouth, spotted,</td>
<td>All border waters covered</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12-inch minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>redeye, smallmouth or</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>length for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>combination)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>largemouth bass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye or Sauger or</td>
<td>All border waters covered</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>no size limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>combination)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></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**
On the banks and in the waters of all channels of the Savannah River from its mouth to the junction of the Tugalo (Toogalo) and Seneca Rivers; the Tugalo River from its mouth to the junction of the Tugalo 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 (Toogalo) 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.

**LICENCES**
- 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.

---

**Stop the Spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species**

Non-native or introduced species can be an issue in Georgia, often presenting problems for many of our native fish and plant populations. You can help by practicing the 4 Rs:

- **REFRAIN** from relocating fish or aquatic plants to areas in which they are not native
- **REMOVE** any non-native species you catch while fishing
- **REPORT** any non-native species you encounter to your local fisheries office
- **REMEMBER** to practice CLEAN, DRAIN AND DRY after returning to the boat ramp
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, trot lines, or other set hooks 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 No. 271; on the south by the Jim Woodruff Dam; on the east by the line immediately east of the Chattahoochee Marina (also known as the Booster Club) running northwest across the reservoir to the tip of land at the junction of the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers, west of Spring Creek; and on the north by the Herman Talmadge Bridge across the Chattahoochee River (please see map at www.gofishgeorgia.com).

LICENSES
- Any person who has a valid fishing license and properly issued permits or licenses, or both, required by Georgia or Florida in their possession may sport fish for freshwater fish in the waters covered.
- Georgia Honorary Disability License is not recognized by Florida under this agreement.
- A nonresident fishing license is required to fish, castnet, seine, crab, gig, sport bait trawl, or harvest shell fish in saltwater in Georgia.
- A Florida saltwater fishing license is required to fish for or to possess saltwater fish on the Florida side of the St. Mary’s River.

CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS
- The limit for striped bass, white bass, and hybrid white-striped bass on the St. Mary’s River is two fish which must be 22 inches or longer.
- For all other species in the waters covered, Georgia’s statewide creel and possession limits (page 13) apply.
- All other fishing regulations of the State of Georgia apply on the Georgia side of the St. Mary’s River and the Georgia portion of Lake Seminole. Florida laws and regulations apply on the Florida side of the St. Mary’s River and the Florida portion of Lake Seminole.

North Carolina

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

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

Did You Know?
The Wildlife Resources Division fisheries staff maintain 10 Public Fishing Areas all across Georgia. Fish one today! georgiawildlife.com/allpfas
Go Fish Georgia 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!
(Night fishing is not permitted at Rocky Mtn. PFA)

Call 1-800-241-4113
Report Fish Kills
Help protect our valuable fish resources. Report fish kills as quickly as possible.

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

RangerHotline@dnr.ga.gov
1-800-241-4113
WE ARE AVAILABLE 24–7–365

INJURED or HURT?
Contact James E. “Jay” Lee II
Trial Lawyer for Sportsmen

Call Jay TODAY! 1-888-403-9351
Free Initial Consultation · Statewide Lawyer
www.jaylee-law.com · 870 College Street · Macon, GA

MISS JUDY CHARTERS
Kirkling Fish Trail Since 1956

INSHORE up to 4 passengers
OFFSHORE 6 and 10 passengers
www.MissJudyCharters.com · Email: fishjudy2@aol.com

Savannah, GA Office 912.897.4921 Fax 912.897.3460

PFA Night Fishing!

18 | GEORGIA SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS
WWW.GOFISHGEORGIA.COM
PUBLIC FISHING AREAS

PUBLIC FISHING AREAS 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.
- To enter a PFA, visitors 16 years of age and older must have a valid license that allows fishing or hunting or a Lands Pass (see page 8).
- Not all PFAs have the ability to sell licenses on site. Please call each PFA for details. Licenses can also be obtained online or by phone.

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

LENGTH LIMIT:
Largemouth bass: 14 inches minimum unless otherwise posted.

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

Grass carp must be released immediately.

HOURS OF OPERATION
Public Fishing Areas hours of operation are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day, unless otherwise indicated in the following PFA listing or posted at the site.

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.

BIG LAZER CREEK
Talbot County, 478-825-6151
Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill and Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, Black crappie. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait.
Water: 195 acre lake.
Facilities: Concrete two-lane boat ramp, fishing piers, fish cleaning station, shooting range, rest rooms, picnic tables, primitive camping, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

Directions from Eastman: South on US Hwy 23/341 for 3 mi.; left on Marben Farm Rd. Follow signs.

DODGE COUNTY
478-374-6765 or 912-285-6094
Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, Black crappie. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait.

Note: There is no minimum size on largemouth bass, but each angler is only allowed 1 bass over 16 inches.
Water: 104 acre lake.
Facilities: Concrete boat ramps, fishing piers, fish cleaning station, 3-D archery range, rest rooms, picnic tables, nature trail, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. Primitive camping is allowed.

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

EVANS COUNTY
912-727-2112
Fish Species: Hybrid striped bass, Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, Black crappie, Brown bullhead. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait.

Water: Three ponds encompassing 122 acres (8, 30, 94 acres).
Facilities: Concrete boat ramps, picnic pavilion, event center (visit gooutdoorsgeorgia.com for pricing and reservations), static and 3D archery ranges, fishing piers, fish cleaning station, rest rooms, picnic tables, tent and RV camping in designated areas (visit gooutdoorsgeorgia.com)

Continued on page 20…
for pricing and reservations), 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, Black 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, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, bank fishing, archery range, fishing pier 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, Black crappie, Brown bullhead.

**Note:** Largemouth bass between 16 and 24 inches must be released immediately. Bass up to 16 inches and over 24 inches can be kept (limit 5 per person).

**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, primitive camping, picnic tables, open-air covered pavilion (first come, first serve), some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

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

**MCDUFFIE**  
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 (102 total acres).

**Facilities:** Concrete boat ramps, courtesy docks, fish cleaning station, 2 fishing piers, restrooms, picnic tables, concrete boat ramps, archery range, primitive camping, (visit www.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com for pricing and reservations), fishing piers, boat dock, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

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

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN RECREATION & PUBLIC FISHING AREA**  
Floyd County, 706-802-5087  
Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, Black crappie, Wall-eye. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait.
Public Fishing Areas Unlawful Activities

- Operate boats on ponds or lakes posted as closed to boats.
- Operate gas outboard motors unless lake is posted as being open to the use of outboard motors. NOTE: Gas motors, if allowed, must be operated at idle speed only.
- Fish in a pond or lake that has been posted “closed.”
- Fish with any gear other than pole and line.
- Fish with more than two poles and lines.
- Use or possess live fish (minnows) for bait, unless otherwise posted.
- Consume alcoholic beverages except at campsites on the area. No alcoholic beverages are allowed anywhere on Rocky Mountain PFA.
- Operate personal watercraft (jet skis), sailboats, or sailboards.
- Allow children under 14 years of age to be on PFA without adult supervision.
- Fish at night at Rocky Mountain PFA.
- 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.
- 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.

SILVER LAKE
Decatur County
(229) 430-4256

Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Red-ear sunfish, Channel catfish, Black crappie, Brown bullhead. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait except in Panic Pond.

Note: The harvest for largemouth bass in Panic Pond is one fish greater than 24 inches per day. Panic Pond is open to fishing Saturday – Monday and is closed to all fishing during July and August.

Water: Thirty ponds totaling more than 480 acres.

Facilities: Five ponds with concrete boat ramps with accompanying service piers, restrooms and primitive camping in designated areas. Some facilities are accessible to persons with Disabilities.

Direction from Bainbridge: South on Hwy 253 (Spring Creek Rd.) to Hwy 310 (Yates Spring Rd.): left for 2.5 mi; right on Silver Lake Rd. for 0.8 mi.

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).

Restrictions:
- It is illegal to possess alcoholic beverages.
- Day fishing only.

**LAWN CLEANUP**
the Easy, DR® Way!

Perfect for SPRING CLEAN-UP!

DR® Leaf and Lawn VACUUMS
- Rated #1 in Vacuum Power
- Huge Capacity!
- Stores Flat in Minutes
- Walk-Behind models for smaller properties available!

ALL NEW DR® Leaf BLOWERS
- 200 mph air speed, 2000 CFM
- Up to 5X the power of handheld or backpack blowers
- Easy on your back and arms
- Self-Propelled available

Go Online or Call for FREE Info Kit!

DRleafmachines.com
888-212-1307

*Assembled in the USA using domestic & foreign parts.

1 YEAR TRIAL
1 YEAR TRAIL
Some Limitations Apply

FREE SHIPPING
Georgians can be good trout managers by evaluating waters with a minimum size limit, regardless of where the fish was caught. If the fish is less than the specified minimum size it is unlawful to possess a trout which is less than the specified minimum size. The trout must be released immediately.

Trout need clean, cold water to survive. 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.

TROUT FISHING REGULATIONS

Anglers can fish for fish 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.

**Artificial Lures Only**

All trout less than the specified minimum size is unlawful to possess a trout which is less than the specified minimum size regardless of where the fish was caught.

**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.
• 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.

Size and possession limits:
• Size limits: 22 inches for brown and rainbow trout and 18 inches for brook trout. It is a violation to possess a trout smaller than these limits while fishing on Waters creek.
• Possession limit: One (1) trout may be possessed daily. No person may take more than three (3) trout from January 1 to December 31 each year.

Trout Stocking Information Online
For a weekly list of trout stocked during stocking season, please visit georgiawildlife.com/Fishing/Trouth for our Weekly Stocking Report. You can also sign up for email updates to get the latest on local fishing hot spots and much more.
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., Hood's 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; Connesena Cr. watershed; Dykes Cr. watershed; Pine Log Cr. watershed; Pyle Cr. watershed; Salacoa Cr. watershed; Spring Cr. watershed; Stamp Cr. watershed upstream from Bartow Cr Rd 269; Toms Cr. watershed upstream from Bartow Cr Rd 82; Two Run Cr. watershed; Ward Cr. watershed.

**CARROLL COUNTY**

Tallapoosa R. watershed north of I-70, not including Little Tallapoosa R. watershed.

**CABOSA COUNTY**

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

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY**

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

**CHEROKEE COUNTY**

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

**COBB COUNTY**

Chattahoochee Cr. 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; Wiliscot Cr. watershed; and all other streams or parts of streams not listed above except: Toccoa R. watershed below the mouth of Stanely Cr. to Blue Ridge Reservoir and tributaries of Blue Ridge Reservoir not listed above.

**FLOYD COUNTY**

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

**FORSYTH COUNTY**

Chattahoochee R.

**FULTON COUNTY**

Chattahoochee R. upstream from the mouth of Peachtree Cr.

**GILMER COUNTY**

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

**GORDON COUNTY**

Johns Cr. watershed upstream from Floyd Co Rd. 212; Pin Hook Cr. watershed upstream from Gordon Co Rd. 275; Pine Log Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 53; Rocky Cr. watershed upstream from Gordon Co Rd. 210; Salacoa Cr. watershed upstream from US Hwy 411; Snake Cr. watershed.

**GWINNETT COUNTY**

Chattahoochee R.

**HABERSHAM COUNTY**

Amy's Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 17; Chattahoochee R. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 255 crossing of the Chattahoochee R.; Liberty Cr. watershed; Middle Fork Broad R. watershed; Nantahal Cr. watershed upstream from Nantycook 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; Covender Cr. watershed; Chestatee R. watershed upstream from the mouth of Tennessee Cr.; Dockley Lake; Etowah R. watershed upstream from Castleberry Bridge; Shoal Cr. watershed; Yahoola Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 52.

**MURRAY COUNTY**

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

**PAULDING COUNTY**

Possum Cr. watershed upstream from Paulding Co Rd. 64; Powder Cr. (Powder Springs Cr.) watershed; Pyle Cr. watershed; Pumpkintwine 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**

Amicaitoa Cr. watershed; Ball Cr. watershed; Bluff Cr. watershed; Cartecay R. watershed; Cove Cr. watershed upstream from Pickens Co Rd. 294; Fausett Cr. watershed; Fisher Cr. watershed; Hobson Cr. watershed; Little Searcocom 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; Searcocom 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.

**HALF OR MORE OF A STREAM TO THE END OF THE END OF THE WATER YEAR**

Abbreviations used throughout this section:

\*Abbreviations used throughout this section:

**Abbreviations used throughout this section:**

 brasileira

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

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

UNION COUNTY
Butternut Cr. watershed; Hiwassee R. watershed upstream from Polk Co Rd. 107; Toccoa Falls Cr. watershed upstream of Polk Co Rd. 107; 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; Bugscuffle 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.

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY
Little Toccoa Cr. watershed; Little Chickamauga Cr. watershed; Little Toccoa Cr. watershed; Middle Fork Broad R. watershed; North Fork Broad R. watershed upstream from Polk Co Rd. 441; Panther Cr. watershed; Toccoa Falls Cr. watershed upstream from Polk Co Rd. 107; Silver Cr. watershed; Spring Cr. watershed; and all other streams or parts of streams not listed above, except: Tallulah R. downstream from Lake Burton Dam, Chattooga R. below Warwoman Cr., and tributaries to Burton, Seed, Rabun, Tallulah Falls, Tugaloo and Yonah reservoirs not listed above.

WHITEFIELD 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.
**LARGEMOUTH BASS**
- Upper jaw extends beyond eye
- Spiny and soft dorsal fin separate or nearly so
- Tongue normally smooth, tooth patch rare
- **State Record 7 lb. 2 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 less the length of 3rd anal spine
- **State Record 5 lb. 1 oz.**

**WHITE-STRIPED BASS**
- Back arched, body deep
- Stripes distinct and usually broken
- Tongue with two tooth patches
- 2nd anal spine ⅗ or more the length of 3rd anal spine
- **State Record 25 lb. 8 oz.**

**HYBRID WHITE-STRIPED BASS**
- Back arched, body deep
- Stripes distinct and usually broken
- Tongue with two tooth patches
- 2nd anal spine ⅗ 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 ⅗ or more the length of 3rd anal spine
- **State Record 63 lb.**

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

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

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

**Fish identification pictures:** Duane Raver or © Joseph Tomelleri
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.

AMERICAN SHAD
- Bluish or green above with a silvery side
- Deeply forked tail
- State Record 8 lb. 3 oz.

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

Fish identification pictures: Duane Raver or © Joseph Tomelleri
# FRESHWATER FISH RECORDS

<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>93 lb. 0 oz.</td>
<td>Richard Barrett</td>
<td>Altamaha River</td>
<td>Oct 2017</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>Acree’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>38 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>Shadow Bass</td>
<td>0 lb. 10 oz.</td>
<td>Kristen Brown</td>
<td>Flint River</td>
<td>June 2016</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>11 oz.</td>
<td>Jacob Hornady</td>
<td>Sumter Co. Pond</td>
<td>April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish, Warmouth</td>
<td>2 lb.</td>
<td>Carlton Robbins</td>
<td>Private Pond</td>
<td>May 1974</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>
<tr>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>14 lb. 2 oz.</td>
<td>Wes Carlton</td>
<td>Lake Rabun</td>
<td>Feb 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RED indicates new record!
Blue type denotes a World Record Fish (either IGFA or NFFHF)
The year round Blackhawk can hunt as hard as it can fish. Find the Blackhawk model for you with available side or center console layouts on 17’, 19’ and 21’ models.
Visit the Go Fish Education Center to explore Georgia’s aquatic life & outdoors like never before!

Admission
$5 Kids (2 & under: free)
$6 Seniors (65+) & Active Military
$7 Adults (ages 13-64)
(plus tax)

Hours
September 1 - May 31
Friday & Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

June 1 - August 31
Wednesday - Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

• See over 200,000 gallons of aquariums/exhibits
• Explore Georgia’s underwater habitats, from mountain streams to blackwater swamps
• Enjoy virtual fishing & hunting simulators
• See how fish are raised in a state-of-the-art hatchery
• Catch & release fish in the stocked outdoor fishing pond (poles & bait provided)

For field trip information, other educational opportunities & general information, please visit our website
GoFishEducationCenter.com

It’s time to

Take exit 134 on I-75
Head east
Entrance on left

① 32.43340
② 83.74360

(478) 988-6701
With over 500,000 acres of lakes and 16,000 miles of streams in Georgia, there are numerous opportunities to get kids hooked on fishing.

KIDS FISHING EVENTS
Kids Fishing Events are held monthly during the spring and summer at DNR Public Fishing Areas. Kids are able to fish for free in stocked ponds with the help of experienced volunteers. For more information on:
• Kids Fishing Event locations and dates
• Places to take kids fishing
• Tips for fishing with kids
• To download “My First Fish” Certificate
Visit www.gofishgeorgia.com/kidsfishing

YOUTH FISHING PROGRAMS
Want to get your child hooked on fishing but not sure how or where. Try one of our Summer Fishing Day Camps at the Go Fish Education Center (https://gofisheducationcenter.com/education-gfec). Try one of our weekend long Fish-n-Learn Education Programs (https://georgiawildlife.com/FishAndLearn) for youth ages 8-15. A weekend isn’t long enough? Try one of our week-long Gone Fishing Overnight Camps at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center in Mansfield (georgiawildlife.com/CharlieElliott).

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
Plan a school trip to one of our seven regional wildlife education centers in Georgia. Each center offers hands-on, nature based programming around fishing and wildlife conservation. The GoFish Center in Perry, GA offers interactive, hands-on lessons, live fish and wildlife exhibits, fishing simulators and so much more! Visit gofishgeorgia.com/AllEducationCenters for more information.

SUMMER CAMPS
Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center (hour east of Atlanta) offers a variety of day and overnight summer camps programs around the topics of backyard nature, shooting sports, wildlife conservation, and outdoor skills for ages 7-15. Activities include fishing, canoeing, hiking, pond studies, orienteering and more. Visit georgiawildlife.com/CharlieElliott for more information.

GIVE THE GIFT OF FISHING!
Got a young angler in the house? Buy a lifetime license for a child and save hundreds. It’s never too early!
Since the addition of the new angler award categories, Georgia anglers have been trying hard to catch that prize-winning fish. Some of them succeeded but all are winners because they chose to Go Fish Georgia! This year we want to take some time and tell you more about the Trophy Largemouth Bass Category.

Categories and incentives for the Trophy Bass Category will be:

- 10–12.99 lb on private or public water in Georgia:
  » Certificate
  » T-shirt and hat
  » Entry in a drawing for an end of year reward package
  » Photo published on WRD Social Media
  » Two passes to the Go Fish Education Center

- Bass equal to or greater than 13 lb on private or public water in Georgia:
  » Same as above, plus replica mount of the fish

Don't Miss Your Opportunity to Win an Award!

Full program details are available at any Fisheries office as well as GoFishGeorgia.com/fishing/anglerawards.
GEORGIA'S BLACK BASS SLAM

Altamaha  Bartram's  Chattahoochee  Largemouth
Redeye  Shoal  Smallmouth  Spotted
Suwannee  Tallapoosa

BE A SUCCESSFUL "SLAM" ANGLER:
1. Catch 5 of the 10 species
2. Make sure it’s a legal catch & hit the length limits
3. Take several photos

For complete details visit www.GaBassSlam.com
THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF EATING FISH
Sport fish caught in Georgia are generally good quality and safe to eat. Fish provide a high protein, low fat diet which is low in saturated fats. Fish may have substantial health benefits when they replace a high fat source of protein in the diet.

WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES?
Georgia DNR samples fish from water bodies each year to test for contaminants such as PCBs, chlordane, and mercury. Many of the fish tested have few or no contaminants and are safe to eat. Waters where fish have been tested and found to be clean are listed to the right.

FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES: GEORGIA WATERS

Guidelines are non-binding recommendations EPD determines based on the body of water a fish comes from, the species of fish and contaminants. EPD is not responsible for the level of contaminants so you should restrict the amount of fish you eat from these waters. Recommendations are made to limit how often you eat a meal of fish from these sources to either once per week or month. A meal of fish is about 4 to 8 ounces. These guidelines are based on eating fish from a listed area for at least 30 years. That is because it would take months or years of regularly eating contaminated food to accumulate levels in your body that would affect your health.

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

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

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

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

Trim away these fatty areas.

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.

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

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

Call for a copy or more information:
Environmental Protection Division: 404-656-4713 | Coastal Resources Division: 912-264-7218 | Wildlife Resources Division: 770-918-6406
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRESHWATER</th>
<th>FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES: RIVERS &amp; CREEKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NO RESTRICTIONS</strong></td>
<td>Bass, Largemouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bass, Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bass, Spotted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bass, White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bluegill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bowfin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bullhead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catfish, Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catfish, Channel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catfish, Flathead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catfish, White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crappie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mullet, Striped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perch, Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pickerel, Chain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Redhorse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Redear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sucker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunfish, Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunfish, Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trout, Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trout, Rainbow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **ONE MEAL PER WEEK** | Bass, Largemouth  |
|                       | Bass, Other  |
|                       | Bass, Spotted  |
|                       | Bass, White  |
|                       | Bluegill  |
|                       | Bowfin  |
|                       | Bullhead  |
|                       | Carp  |
|                       | Catfish, Blue  |
|                       | Catfish, Channel  |
|                       | Catfish, Flathead  |
|                       | Catfish, White  |
|                       | Crappie  |
|                       | Mullet, Striped  |
|                       | Perch, Yellow  |
|                       | Pickerel, Chain  |
|                       | Redhorse  |
|                       | Redear  |
|                       | Sucker  |
|                       | Sunfish, Green  |
|                       | Sunfish, Other  |
|                       | Trout, Brown  |
|                       | Trout, Rainbow  |

| **ONE MEAL PER MONTH** | Bass, Largemouth  |
|                       | Bass, Other  |
|                       | Bass, Spotted  |
|                       | Bass, White  |
|                       | Bluegill  |
|                       | Bowfin  |
|                       | Bullhead  |
|                       | Carp  |
|                       | Catfish, Blue  |
|                       | Catfish, Channel  |
|                       | Catfish, Flathead  |
|                       | Catfish, White  |
|                       | Crappie  |
|                       | Mullet, Striped  |
|                       | Perch, Yellow  |
|                       | Pickerel, Chain  |
|                       | Redhorse  |
|                       | Redear  |
|                       | Sucker  |
|                       | Sunfish, Green  |
|                       | Sunfish, Other  |
|                       | Trout, Brown  |
|                       | Trout, Rainbow  |

| **DO NOT EAT** | Bass, Largemouth  |
|                | Bass, Other  |
|                | Bass, Spotted  |
|                | Bass, White  |
|                | Bluegill  |
|                | Bowfin  |
|                | Bullhead  |
|                | Carp  |
|                | Catfish, Blue  |
|                | Catfish, Channel  |
|                | Catfish, Flathead  |
|                | Catfish, White  |
|                | Crappie  |
|                | Mullet, Striped  |
|                | Perch, Yellow  |
|                | Pickerel, Chain  |
|                | Redhorse  |
|                | Redear  |
|                | Sucker  |
|                | Sunfish, Green  |
|                | Sunfish, Other  |
|                | Trout, Brown  |
|                | Trout, Rainbow  |

| **DO NOT EAT** | Bass, Largemouth  |
|                | Bass, Other  |
|                | Bass, Spotted  |
|                | Bass, White  |
|                | Bluegill  |
|                | Bowfin  |
|                | Bullhead  |
|                | Carp  |
|                | Catfish, Blue  |
|                | Catfish, Channel  |
|                | Catfish, Flathead  |
|                | Catfish, White  |
|                | Crappie  |
|                | Mullet, Striped  |
|                | Perch, Yellow  |
|                | Pickerel, Chain  |
|                | Redhorse  |
|                | Redear  |
|                | Sucker  |
|                | Sunfish, Green  |
|                | Sunfish, Other  |
|                | Trout, Brown  |
|                | Trout, Rainbow  |

* 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.
# FRESHWATER FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES: LAKES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Bass, Hybrid</th>
<th>Bass, Largemouth</th>
<th>Bass, Spotted</th>
<th>Bass, Striped</th>
<th>Bass, Other</th>
<th>Bluegill</th>
<th>Bullhead</th>
<th>Carp</th>
<th>Crappie</th>
<th>Catfish, Blue</th>
<th>Catfish, Channel</th>
<th>Catfish, Flathead</th>
<th>Catfish, Other</th>
<th>Suckers</th>
<th>Sunfish, Redear</th>
<th>Walleye</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A H Stephens State Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany By-Pass Pond</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acworth</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allatoona</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrews</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartlett’s Ferry</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Crk. Reservoir</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Shoals (Rand Poynter)</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackshear</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Lazer PFA</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Ridge</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burton</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pond N. Bush Field (Augusta)</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carters Lake</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatuge</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarks Hill</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evans County PFA</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat Creek PFA (Lonice Barrett Lake)</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat Rock</td>
<td>&lt;12”</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamburg</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartwell (Tugaloo Arm)</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartwell (main body of lake)</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugh M. Gillis PFA</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliette</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Gardens</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolomoki Mounds S.P. – Kolomoki L.</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolomoki Mounds S.P. – Yohola L.</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanier</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Ocmulgee S. P.</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marben PFA</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayers (Baxley)</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDuffie PFA, West</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notley</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabun</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed Bingham S.P.</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard B. Russell</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminole</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So. Slappy Blvd. Off-ramp (Albany)</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Mountain</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toccoa</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tugalo</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribble Mill Pk. Pond (Gwinnett Co.)</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varner</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Point</td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worth (Chehaw Reservoir)</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worth (Flint Reservoir)</td>
<td>&gt;12”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yonah</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;16”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NO RESTRICTIONS**

**ONE MEAL PER WEEK**

**ONE MEAL PER MONTH**

**DO NOT EAT**

**NO DATA**

---

[WWW.GOFISHGEORGIA.COM](http://WWW.GOFISHGEORGIA.COM)

Purchase a license online at www.gofishgeorgia.com or by phone 1-800-366-2661
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>1 meal per week for other adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 meal per week for other adults</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Saltwater Advisory

Harmful toxins called PCBs are stored in the hepatopancreas (“the green gland” also known as the mustard, tomalley, or liver) found in the body section of blue crabs. Recent studies have shown that crabs in the Middle Turtle River and Purvis and Gibson Creeks contain high levels of PCBs. While the crab meat may still be eaten in recommended amounts, the hepatopancreas should not be eaten because of the high PCB levels.

If crabs are cooked whole, the juice should not be consumed. Because PCBs are transferred to cooking liquid, crab cooking liquid should also be discarded.

Cleaning crabs before you cook them (“backing” the crabs and rinsing out the guts and the gills) reduces the risk of consuming PCBs.
Book your private cabin, yurt or campsite today in Georgia’s State Parks!

Book your adventure at GaStateParks.org.

Gift cards available online and at your favorite state park.

800-864-7275

Room with a View

Book your private cabin, yurt or campsite today in Georgia’s State Parks!

FISHING

CANOEING

HIKING

COZY CABINS

FAMILY TIME

STAR GAZING

ROASTING MARSHMALLOWS

SPECTACULAR SCENERY

Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites
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.

**Five things you can do to be a responsible saltwater angler**

1. Buy a fishing license and the free SIP permit. Funds from the license support fisheries management, building and repairing boating and fishing access projects, and conservation law enforcement. Your SIP permit helps us identify you as a Georgia saltwater angler.
2. Use the right tools for the job when releasing fish. Using proper tackle for the fish you are targeting and proper handling techniques improves the chances that a released fish will survive. For more information visit TakeMeFishing.org/FishSmart.
3. Be courteous to your fellow anglers.
4. Take a kid fishing.
5. Buy a Marine Habitat License Plate (see below)

**Buy a Marine Habitat License Plate – It’s Easy!**

**BUY THE TAG AT YOUR COUNTY TAG OFFICE**

Ask for the Marine Habitat License Plate for your vehicle or trailer, it is only $25 plus your usual county tag fees. (If your county does not have them in stock, you will receive a temporary tag and in about a week you will receive your tag in the mail.)

**WHAT WILL THE MONEY BE USED FOR?**

80% of the funds from sales of this license plate will be used in combination with Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration as well as donations from businesses, private individuals, and conservation groups to enhance habitats used by a variety of marine species. Learn More at CoastalGaDNR.org/LicensePlate

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

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

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

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

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

**Artificial Reefs**
Georgia maintains 15 inshore and 22 offshore artificial reefs located from inside the estuary to 80 miles offshore. 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 CoastalGaDNR.org/ArtificialReefsMarineHabitat.

**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. A commercial license is required to sell any seafood.

**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 that a person can legally have at one time.

**Bushel:** 9.3 gallons or approximately 37 quarts.

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

- The point at which U.S. Highway 17 crosses the following bodies of water and their tributaries shall be the line of demarcation for them: St. Mary's River, Satilla River, South Altamaha River, Champney River, Butler River, Darien River, Little Ogeechee System (except Salt Creek), North Newport River, Medway River, Big Ogeechee River, and the point at which Georgia Highway 25/South Carolina 170 crosses the Savannah River and its tributaries. All water seaward of these points shall be considered saltwater.

- The following streams and their tributaries are designated as salt water for their entire length: Crooked River, Little Satilla River, South Brunswick River, Turtle River, Sapelo River, South Newport River, Salt Creek (Little Ogeechee System), and all other rivers, streams, and tributaries in the six coastal counties which are not enumerated in this subsection.

- For purposes of crabbing, that portion of the St. Mary’s River and the Satilla River System (including the Satilla River and White Oak Creek) which is seaward of the points at which the Seaboard Coastline Railroad crosses such streams and that portion of the Altamaha River System which is seaward of the points at which I-95 crosses the streams of that system shall be considered salt water. It shall be unlawful to place any crab trap in the waters of this state other than that described as salt water in Code Section 27-4-1 or by this subsection.
**SPECIES** | **MEN'S RECORD** | **FEMALE ANGLER (year)** | **WOMEN'S RECORD** | **FEMALE ANGLER (year)**  
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---  
Snapper, Yellowtail | 5 lb. | Eddie N. Jiran (2014) | — | —  
Weakfish (Summer Trout) | 6 lb. | Frank Taylor (1976) | Minimum weight: 3 lb.  

* 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.

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

RED indicates new record!
## Tagged Fish

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

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

---

### How to Measure a Fish

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

---

### SEASONS, LIMITS, SIZES

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>OPEN SEASON</th>
<th>DAILY LIMIT AND POSSESSION LIMIT</th>
<th>MINIMUM SIZE (inches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amberjack*</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28 FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Eel</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9 TL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic croaker</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic sturgeon</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>No Harvest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billfish (Blue marlin, White marlin, Sailfish)*</td>
<td>Catch and Release Only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black drum</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14 TL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black sea bass*</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12 TL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12 FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>Mar. 1 - Oct. 31</td>
<td>1 per angler, max 6 per boat.</td>
<td>36 FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphin*</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20 FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flounder</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12 TL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gag grouper*</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24 TL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King mackerel*</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24 FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red drum (Channel bass, Spottail bass, Redfish)</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14 TL (23 TL maximum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red porgy*</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14 TL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red snapper*</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20 TL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks (other than Hammerheads, SSC and Prohibited Sharks)*</td>
<td>All Year</td>
<td>1 per angler or boat, whichever is less</td>
<td>54 FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks: Hammerheads (Great, Scalloped, and Smooth)</td>
<td>All Year</td>
<td>1 per angler or boat, whichever is less</td>
<td>78 FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small shark composite (SSC)* (Atlantic sharpnose, Bonnethead, Spiny dogfish)</td>
<td>All Year</td>
<td>1 per angler</td>
<td>30 FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prohibited Sharks (NO HARVEST)</td>
<td>Sand tiger, Sandbar, Silky, Bigeye sand tiger, Whale, Basking, White, Dusky, Bignose, Galapagos, Night, Reef, Narrowtooth, Caribbean sharpnose, Smalntail, Atlantic angel, Longfin mako, Bigeye thresher, Sharpnose sevenigill, Bluntnose sixgill, and Bigeye sixgill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheephead</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10 FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish mackerel*</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12 FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spot</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted seatrout</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14 TL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped bass (Saltwater)</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22 TL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped bass (Savannah River)</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27 TL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarpon</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>68 FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripletail</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18 TL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13 TL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These species are also federally managed from 3 to 200 miles offshore. Go to www.safmc.net for federal regulations.
SALTWATER
GEORGIA SALTWATER FISH

ATLANTIC CROAKER
- Dorsal fin spotted
- Tiny barbels

BLACK SEA BASS
- Notch
- Short white tabs on tail

BLACK DRUM (Young)
- Loses vertical bars with age
- Barbels
- 2 Spines

SOUTHERN KINGFISH (WHITING)
- 7–8 diagonal dusky bands
- Barbels

SHEEPSHEAD
- Keeps vertical bars throughout life
- No barbels
- Large flat incisor teeth
- 3 Spines

TRIPLETAIL
- Dark spot or spots
- No spots on fins

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

RED DRUM
- Distinct dark spots on upper body
- Spots on fins

SPOTTED SEATROUT
- Spots on fins

SPOT
- Brownish spot on the shoulder
- Distinctly forked tail fin

DORSAL FINS SPOTTED

www.gofishgeorgia.com
**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.

**Fish identification pictures by:** Duane Raver

**SHARK ANATOMY**
(view from above)

- First dorsal fin
- Second dorsal fin
- Pectoral fins
- Interdorsal ridge: raised line on the dorsal (top) midline between the two dorsal fins of some sharks.

**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

**BONNETHEAD**
- Shovel or bonnet-shaped head
- Evenly rounded edge with no indentations

**SPINY DOGFISH**
- Offshore in winter
- White spots
- No anal fin

**ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE**
- White on rear edge
- Second dorsal fin begins above middle of anal fin

**BLACKTIP**
- Color dark to bluish-grey with a Z-shaped pattern
- Pointed snout
- Sharp, pointed irregular teeth

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

**SAND TIGER**
- Harvest prohibited
- Interdorsal ridge
- Similar in size

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

SHRIMP, CRAB, SHELLFISH & BAIT MINNOWS

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

**Shrimp**

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

**SHRIMP “BAITING” PROHIBITED**

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

**SHRIMPING SEASON**

Unless otherwise designated, there is no closed season for the harvest of bait shrimp, regardless of the approved gear used. The season for the recreational harvest of food shrimp is the same as that established for commercial shrimping. The Commissioner of DNR may open the season from May 15 through the end of February; however, it is generally opened mid-June through mid-January. The opening and closing of the food shrimp season is announced via coastal media outlets, posted on board the boat at any time; no more than one or more persons occupy the same boat, there may be no more than four (4) quarts of shrimp on board the boat at any time; no more than one pint of which may be dead, and no more than eight (8) quarts of shrimp may be taken within a 24-hour period.

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

**SEINES**

Gear and Areas: Seines equal to or smaller than 12 feet long, with a maximum depth of four feet, and a maximum stretch mesh of one (1) inch may be used throughout Georgia’s saltwaters. The use of seines over 12 feet long in any inlet or tidal slough is prohibited. Seines less than 100 feet long and with a minimum stretch mesh of 1 ¼ inches may be used on sand beaches of any barrier island in Georgia. Seines from 100 to 300 feet long and with a minimum mesh size of 2 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.

**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 ⅔ inch. Bait shrimp cast nets cannot be used to take shrimp for personal

---

**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.
consumption; however, food shrimp cast nets may be used to take bait. There are no length restrictions on either net and cast nets can be modified with the addition of duct tape or other materials to enhance performance.

Areas and Hours: During the open season and unless designated otherwise, cast nets may be used to harvest bait or food shrimp at any time of day in all of Georgia’s saltwaters.

Harvest Limits: Recreational cast netters collecting bait shrimp are limited to two quarts per person at any time, provided that person may take a maximum of four quarts of bait shrimp per day. When two or more persons occupy the same boat, there may be no more than four quarts of bait onboard the boat at any time, and the persons occupying the boat may take no more than eight quarts of bait shrimp per day. Bait shrimp may be alive or dead when caught with a cast. No person taking food shrimp with a cast net may possess more than 48 quarts of heads-on shrimp or 30 quarts of shrimp tails in any day. When one or more persons occupy the same boat, there may be no more than 48 quarts of heads-on shrimp or 30 quarts of shrimp tails on board at any time. No vessel owner shall allow the vessel to be used to take more than the allowable catch limits in any day.

Stone Crabs

Georgia does not regulate the harvest of stone crab; however, the harvest of the whole crab is discouraged. It is recommended that only one claw measuring at least 2 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 escape 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 crabbbers 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.

Shellfish

Season and Hours

Saltwaters may be opened for taking shellfish between January 1 and December 31. Prior to harvesting any shellfish, check with the DNR-Coastal Resources Division (www.CoastalGADNR.org) for any seasonal closures that may be in effect during the calendar year. Shellfish must be harvested between the hours of ½ hour before official sunrise and ½ hour after official sunset.

Gear

Shellfish may only be taken with handheld implements.

Areas

Updated charts of approved public picking areas for shellfish should be obtained from Coastal Resources Division’s Ecological Services Section or at CoastalGaDNR.org/ApprovedRecHarvestAreas. 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.
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 TakeMeFishing.org/FishSmart). 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 the hook can be removed with less damage to the fish.

- **Don’t Exhaust Fish.** Use gear and line strength to minimize playing time, landing fish as quickly as possible. If possible leave the fish in the water rather than bringing them on board.

- **Handling the Fish.** If you must handle the fish, use knot-less 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.

- **Keep horizontal and support the body of the fish.** The lower jaw is not meant to support the full weight of any fish.

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

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

**Recompression Tools**

- Fish Descender
- Sequalizer
- Recompression Tool
- Weighted Milk Crate

**Wildlife Violator Compact**

Georgia, along with 46 other states, is a member of the Wildlife Violator Compact (WVC). This allows Wildlife Officers to treat non-residents hunting in WVC member states 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.
There’s a reason they say, Curse like a sailor.
That’s why we offer basic plans starting at $100 a year with
options that won’t depreciate your watercraft and accessories.

1.800.PROGRESSIVE | PROGRESSIVE.COM
For a Great Vacation, visit the Great Lakes of Georgia

For More Information Visit:
Savannah District: www.sas.usace.army.mil
Mobile District: www.sam.usace.army.mil
For Reservations Visit: www.recreation.gov