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1,924 SF Under Roof

$260,400
Cartecay
4+ Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath
3,613 SF Under Roof

$206,500
Columbus
3 Bedrooms, 2 Bath
2,376 SF Under Roof

$124,500
Frontier
3 Bedrooms, 2 Bath
1,242 SF Under Roof

$329,100
Country Colonial II
4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath
4,309 SF Under Roof

$181,600
Jasper Split
3 Bedrooms, 2 Bath
2,294 SF Under Roof

$321,100
Gatlinburg
4+ Bedrooms, 3.5 Bath
4,197 SF Under Roof

$162,400
Oakridge
3 Bedrooms, 2 Bath
1,542 SF Under Roof

$234,100
Dawson Creek
3 Bedrooms, 2 Bath
2,761 SF Under Roof

$175,900
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3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath
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$208,700
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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.
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Note: The Wildlife Resources & Coastal Resources Divisions designed this guide to help you quickly find and understand regulations for fishing in Georgia. The Game & Fish Code and rules of the Department of Natural Resources are the final authority on questions on law. This publication was partially paid for by the sale of advertising. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources does not necessarily endorse products or services listed.

Editor: John W. Bowers, Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
Assistant Editor: Aubrey Pawlikowski, Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
Advertising: J.F. Griffin Publishing
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Cover Photo provided by David Cannon of David Cannon Photography
Table of Contents Photo provided by Neal McEwen/GNPA
As a Georgia native, I was afforded the incredible opportunity to live in one of the most beautiful states with an abundance of natural resources and wildlife. I have always felt connected to nature with a passion for all outdoor recreation, whether it’s hunting, fishing, or simply taking a hike and exploring all that nature has to offer. Serving as the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources has blessed me with a chance to be in such a position to connect with and advocate for individuals who share the same passion for our natural resources.

Wetting a line is one of my favorite outdoor sports and one of the most popular outdoor sports for many fellow Georgians. With over 1 million anglers in Georgia, I am pleased that the love for fishing is vast and growing across our great state. DNR is working hard every day to accommodate and provide more access to fish and fishing opportunities for Georgia’s sportsmen and sportswomen. DNR’s expert biologists and technicians conduct a variety of regularly scheduled surveys to gather biological, distribution, habitat, and catch data that guides our efforts to grow populations of Georgia’s recreationally important species. The information gathered from our projects gives DNR the knowledge we need to make the best decisions on managing access and habitat. We stock our waters with more than five million sport fish annually from black bass to trout to walleye, which allows us to keep our lakes, rivers, and streams full of fish even as fishing demand increases.

However, none of this is possible without DNR’s unwavering community of supporters who push conservation and wildlife management efforts and help protect our wildlife; for them we are forever grateful. Your continuous support by simply buying a fishing license each year generates the large source of funds that allows us to continue conserving our natural resources and growing Georgia’s fishery. We appreciate every way you support us to fulfill DNR’s mission. I am excited to get on the water and hope to see you out there!

Mark Williams
Commissioner, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Your dollars make a difference. The Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program creates a direct link among anglers and industries needed to expand and enhance opportunities for saltwater and freshwater resources.
When it comes to caring for your piece of Georgia, you need the ultimate productivity partner. That’s our 1023E Sub-Compact Tractor Package. The loader attaches in minutes so that you can get to work faster and have more time to do what you love.
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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.

Mountain Trout
Rainbow, brook, and brown trout. Referred to in this Guide as “Trout.”

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.

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.

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

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

Up to 29” in length, 11–20” typical

REDCROSBY 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!

ALTAMAHA SHINER
A state protected minnow that is common in rocky sections of large rivers and streams in the Oconee and Ocmulgee river systems.

EASTERN HELLBENDER
Large, harmless salamander found in clear, rocky mountain streams such as trout streams.
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Find more adventures in Troup County, Georgia at: DestinationTroup.com
FRESHWATER & SALTWATER
LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Buying Licenses
You can purchase a Georgia fishing license:
• Online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at GoFishGeorgia.com or GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com.
• Using the Go Outdoors GA App, see page 12.
• In person at license dealers statewide including most WRD/CRD regional offices; state parks; marinas; major retailers; and sporting goods, bait and tackle, and hardware stores. A complete list of license agents can be found at GoFishGeorgia.com.
• By telephone at 800-366-2661, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. M–F, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. S–S.

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

Who Needs a Fishing License
Anglers age 16 and older must have a current Georgia fishing license in their possession while fishing in fresh or salt water in Georgia. Additionally, a free SIP is required to fish in saltwater. A temporary authorization number obtained by telephone or internet sale may be used for seven days until the paper copy is received or printed. Game Wardens may require photo identification when checking fishing licenses.

Exception: A fishing license is not required to fish in private ponds (does not include ponds owned by governments—city, county, state, or federal) nor by a resident and their immediate family when fishing on their land. See definition of immediate family on page 6.

RESIDENTS
• Proof of residency 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 born after June 30, 1952 (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). A Lands Pass is available as an alternative and allows access only, but is the more expensive option. 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.

Trout Licenses
• All resident anglers ages 16 and older must have a trout license and Georgia fishing license to fish in designated trout waters and to fish for or to possess trout. 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 (see definition on page 6) 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 trout will need to have a trout license in their possession.
• See Public Fishing Areas on pages 19–21.
The target shooting and hunting community prides itself on being safe and responsible with firearms in all situations—from using them outdoors to storing them safely at home. Sometimes, however, unusual conditions such as extremely dry environments require an extra level of awareness and safety on the part of shooters.

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

Shooters & Hunters: Help Prevent Wildfires.

• Make it a point to know the regulations and rules related to shooting in areas experiencing dry and hot conditions, whether on public or private land or at shooting ranges. Many national forests, for example, do not allow recreational shooting when fire restrictions are in effect.

• Consider the type of ammunition and targets you are using. Minimize the risk of fires by not using steel-jacketed ammunition, ammunition with steel-core components, tracer rounds or exploding targets in fire-prone areas.

• Remember that equipment, such as cars and ATVs, can have extremely hot exhaust systems that could ignite dry vegetation, so park only in designated areas.

• Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials safely.

• Follow guidelines to extinguish campfires.

• Warn others of potential dangers and behaviors for starting wildfires.

• Report any wildfire you see to authorities.

• Spread this message to other target shooters, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.
# Recreational Fishing License Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LICENSE</th>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>RESIDENT</th>
<th>NON-RESIDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Combo Hunting &amp; Fishing Licenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-Day</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+Additional Day</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apprentice Hunting &amp; Fishing License</td>
<td>One-Day</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fishing Licenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-Day</td>
<td>see combo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+Additional Day</td>
<td>see combo</td>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Sportsman’s License (65+)</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout License (must additionally have a Fishing License)</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One-Day</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+Additional Day</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saltwater Information Program (SIP) Permit</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Fishing License</td>
<td>Seasonal</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Fishing License</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Three-Year</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Land Access</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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

# Lifetime Licenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LICENSE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>RESIDENT</th>
<th>NON-RESIDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant Lifetime Sportsman’s License</td>
<td>Under 2</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Lifetime Sportsman’s License</td>
<td>2-15</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Lifetime Sportsman’s License</td>
<td>16-49</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Adult Lifetime Sportsman’s License</td>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$375.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Discount Lifetime Sportsman’s License</td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$315.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Lifetime Sportsman’s License</td>
<td>65+</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Lifetime Hunting License</td>
<td>65+</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Lifetime Fishing License</td>
<td>65+</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Senior Lifetime Sportsman’s License (born on or before June 30, 1952)</td>
<td>see page 8</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military and Veterans Lifetime Sportsman’s License</td>
<td>16-49</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
<td>Not Offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident Grandchild Lifetime Sportsman’s License</td>
<td>2-15</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting Preserve Lifetime License</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transaction fee applies: $2.50 online; $3 at a retail outlet; $5 by telephone
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
* It is illegal to sell any freshwater or saltwater fish harvested with a recreational license.

# Make a Difference

The Trout Unlimited license plate provides vital funding for Georgia’s trout conservation and management programs. For only $25 more than the standard plate, you can help fund stocking trucks, trout feed, equipment, raceway enclosures, habitat improvement and more.

# Commercial Fishing Licenses

Most commercial fishing licenses may be purchased by mail. Applications are online.

Freshwater [georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes/commercial](http://georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes/commercial)
Saltwater [coastalgadnr.org/CommercialFishing](http://coastalgadnr.org/CommercialFishing)

Licenses may also be purchased from these DNR offices:
- One Conservation Way
  - Brunswick, GA 31520
  - (912) 264-7237
- 2065 Hwy. 278 S.E.
  - Social Circle, GA 30025
  - (800) 366-2661

# 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.

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**FRESHWATER GAME FISH LENGTH 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.**

**Note:** There are no minimum length limits on freshwater in Georgia except for the following:

- **Freshwater Game Fish Length Limits** (pages 16–17).

- **Exception:** Daily limits differ on certain waters shared by Georgia and South Carolina. See **Agreements with Bordering States**.

**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 Columbus 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 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

**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; Occoneege 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 Game Wardens 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**

Individuals may not possess more than 10 freshwater turtles (any combination of species) without a valid permit. 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: GeorgiaWildlife.com/species#reptiles). For more information on turtling regulations see 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. Game Wardens 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.

---

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---

**FRESHWATER**

**GENERAL REGULATIONS**

---

**GEORGIA SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS**

WWW.GOFISHGEORGIA.COM
### SPECIES DAILY LIMITS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>DAILY LIMIT</th>
<th>EXCEPTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bass</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth, Redeye (Coosa), Shoal, Smallmouth, Spotted, and/or Suwannee bass</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lake Lindsay Grace (Wayne Co.) — Only one bass may be greater than 22 inches.</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>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>Trout</td>
<td>Brook, Rainbow, and/or Brown trout</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See table on page 43 for other species that may be found in freshwater.

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

---

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- Decks up to 34” wide
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FRESHWATER FISHING METHODS

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

Sport Trotlines
• A sport trotline is one line or a combination of lines using less than 51 hooks. Sport trotlines must be:
  1. Marked with the owner’s name and address and with visible buoys, and
  2. Submerged at least three feet below the surface of the water, and
  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 Tobesofkee 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 Tobesofkee 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.

Seines, Cast Nets, Bow Nets
• Only nongame fish 5 inches in length or less 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.

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 person or weapon 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 spearing fish must be completely submerged.

Note: See Seasons on page 12.

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 Tobesofkee dam on Tobesofkee Creek, Lake Sinclair dam on the Oconee River; and watersheds of all other streams that flow directly into the Atlantic Ocean (this drainage includes Lakes Hartwell, Russell, Clarks Hill, Burton, Tugaloo, and Rabun). For maps of restricted waters go to www.GoFishGeorgia.com and see “Freshwater Regulations” section.
• It is unlawful to possess and fish with live blueback herring in Alabama waters.
• Fish for game fish, except American shad, hickory shad, channel catfish, blue catfish, or flathead catfish, by any means other than pole and line.
• Take any fish from public freshwater by any method other than the methods listed on this page. Snagging fish is illegal.
• Use electronic devices, explosives, poisons, or firearms to take fish.
• Stock or release fish or bait into any public waters except the water from which it was taken.
• Discard fish caught in public waters.
• Take protected species (see pg. 6).

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.
**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 GoBoatGeorgia.com.
- A Boat Registration Application by mail can be obtained from 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 occupant. 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 GoBoatGeorgia.com or obtain the Handbook of Georgia Boating Laws from any DNR Law Enforcement Office.
- To learn about boating safety course please visit GoBoatGeorgia.com or contact the Boating Education Coordinator at 770-918-6414 or any DNR Law Enforcement Office (see page 4).

See GoBoatGeorgia.com for complete boating regulations.

---

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

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

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

**CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS**
All creel and possession limits on waters covered by this agreement are the same as Georgia’s statewide limits.

**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 or combination</td>
<td>Lakes Hartwell and Clarks Hill</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>only 3 may be over 26 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped bass or hybrid bass or combination</td>
<td>Lake Russell</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>only 1 may be over 34 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped bass, hybrid bass, white bass or combination</td>
<td>Savannah River downstream of Clarks Hill dam</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27-inch minimum length limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White bass</td>
<td>All border waters covered except for Savannah River downstream of Clarks Hill dam (see above for size limit)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>no size limit</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, redeye, smallmouth or combination)</td>
<td>All border waters covered</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12-inch minimum length for largemouth bass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye or Sauger or combination</td>
<td>All border waters covered</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>no size limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aggregate of all game fish (does not include catfish)*</td>
<td>All border waters covered</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* List of Game Fish in South Carolina differs from Georgia.
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 (Toogaloo) 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, Tugalo (Toogaloo) Lake, the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam, and Stevens Creek Lake (except that portion on the Stevens Creek arm upstream of South Carolina Hwy 53). The agreement does not apply to any flowing portions of tributary streams to these impoundments nor to tributary streams of the Savannah, Tugaloo and Chattooga Rivers.

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

**STOP THE SPREAD!**
Help keep Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) out of Georgia. Non-native or introduced species present 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

Visit georgiawildlife.com/ans to learn more.

**FRESHWATER AGREEMENTS WITH BORDERING STATES**

**STOP THE SPREAD!**
Help keep Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) out of Georgia. Non-native or introduced species present 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

Visit georgiawildlife.com/ans to learn more.
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 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 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, gill, 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 11 Public Fishing Areas all across Georgia. Fish one today!
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(Night fishing is not permitted at Rocky Mtn. PFA)

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• Poachers steal everyone’s wildlife.
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WE ARE AVAILABLE 24–7–365
Public Fishing Areas (PFAs) are great places for family outings! You can fish from the bank or a boat, picnic, hike, watch wildlife, and enjoy the outdoors. Good bank fishing opportunities are available at all PFAs and many of them have special kids fishing areas for young anglers.

Please Read Before Fishing a PFA

LICENSES:
• Anglers 16 years of age and older must possess a valid fishing license.
• 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 GoHuntGeorgia.com.

BIG LAZER CREEK
Talbot County, 229-430-4256
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, restrooms, picnic tables, primitive camping, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

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

MARBEN PFA (CHARLIE ELLIOTT WILDLIFE CENTER)
Jasper/Newton Counties, 478-825-6151 or 770-784-3059
Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Black crappie, Channel catfish. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait.

Water: 20 ponds, totaling 293 acres, ranging in size from 1 to 95 acres.
Facilities: Kids only ponds, concrete boat ramps (6 lakes), boat docks, restrooms, fishing piers, fish cleaning station, picnic areas, primitive camping, (visit GoFishGeorgia.com for pricing and reservations) shooting and archery ranges, and some fishing areas accessible to persons with disabilities.

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

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

DODGE COUNTY
478-374-6765 or 912-285-6094
Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Redear sunfish, Channel catfish, 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, restrooms, picnic tables, nature trail, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. Primitive camping is allowed.

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

EVANS COUNTY
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, 84 acres).
Facilities: Concrete boat ramps, picnic pavilion, event center (visit GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com for pricing and reservations), static and 3-D archery ranges, fishing piers, fish cleaning station, restrooms, 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, Red-ear 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, fishing cleaning station, restroom, primitive camping, fishing pier and some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Directions from I-75:** Take I-75 to exit 134 East on US Hwy 280 for 10 mi.; left on Keens Crossing Rd. for 1.4 mi., PFA entrance on right.

**MCDUFFIE**
McDuffie County, 706-595-1684 or 706-595-1619
Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Red-ear sunfish, Channel catfish.

Water: 7 ponds varying in size from 5 to 37 acres (102 total acres).

**Facilities:** Concrete two-lane boat ramp, fish cleaning, restroom, primitive camping, picnic tables, pavilion, bank fishing, archery range, fishing pier and some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Directions from 1-75:** 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, Red-ear sunfish, Channel catfish, Black crappie, Brown bullhead.

**Facilities:** Concrete boat ramps, fishing pier, fishing 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.

**OCMULGEE**
Bleckley/Pulaski Counties
478-783-2557 (PFA) or 912-285-6094 (Waycross)
Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, White crappie, Redear sunfish, yellow bullhead

Note: Largemouth bass are catch-and-release.

Water: 106 acre lake and Kids only Special Event Pond. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait.

**Facilities:** 2 Lane Concrete Boat ramp, courtesy dock, fish cleaning station, 2 fishing piers, restrooms, picnic tables, bank fishing, fishing pier and some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. Primitive (tent only) camping is allowed in designated area near WMA.

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

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

**PARADISE**
Berrien County, 229-533-4792 or 912-285-6094
Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Red-ear sunfish, Channel catfish, Black crappie, Brown bullhead. Live fish (minnows) are allowed for bait.

Water: 68 lakes encompassing 525 acres of water.

**Facilities:** Restrooms, fishing cleaning station, picnic area, concrete boat ramps, archery range, primitive camping, (visit GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com for pricing and reservations), fishing piers, boat dock, some facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

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

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN RECREATION & PUBLIC FISHING AREA**
Floyd County, 706-802-5087
Fish Species: Largemouth bass, Bluegill, Red-ear sunfish, Channel catfish, Black crappie, Walleye. 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.
- 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.

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

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

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

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

**Trout Season**

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

**Trout Fishing Hours**

- Fishing 24 hours a day is allowed on all trout streams and all impoundments on Trout Streams except those in the next paragraph.
- Fishing hours on Dockery Lake, Rock Creek Lake, the Chattahoochee River from Buford Dam to Peachtree Creek, the Conasauga River watershed upstream of the Georgia-Tennessee state line and Smith Creek downstream of Unicoi dam are 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. Night fishing is not allowed.
- See page 23 for fishing hours of Waters Creek.

**Trout Fishing Rules**

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

**Impoundments On Trout Streams**

Anglers can:

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

**Impoundment Notes**

- If you fish for or possess trout, you must possess a trout license. If you catch a trout and do not possess a trout license you must release the trout immediately.
- State park visitors are not required to have a trout license to fish in the impounded waters of the Park. However, those visitors wishing to harvest trout will need to have a trout license in their possession.

**Delayed Harvest Streams**

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

- Amicalola Creek from County Road 192 (Steele Bridge Road) downstream to GA Hwy 53.
- Chattahoochee River from Sope Creek (off Columns Drive) downstream to US Hwy 41 (Cobb Parkway).
- Chattahoochee River from GA Hwy 28 bridge upstream to the mouth of Reed Creek.
- Smith Creek on Unicoi State Park from Unicoi Dam downstream to the Unicoi State Park property boundary.
- Toccoa River on U.S. Forest Service land from 0.4 miles above the Shallowford Bridge upstream to a point 450 feet upstream of the Sandy Bottom Canoe Access. Visit GoFishGeorgia.com to see maps of Delayed Harvest Streams and learn more about this program.

**Artificial Lures Only**

In streams listed here only artificial lures may be used. It is unlawful to possess any other type bait on an “artificial lures only” stream (see definitions on page 6).

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

**Other Trout Stream Regulations**

**Moccasin Creek**

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

**Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area**

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

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

WATERS CREEK
Waters Creek, located on the Chestatee WMA, is managed for trophy trout. Waters Creek and its tributaries are open on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (7:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time) with the following restrictions:
• Artificial lures with a single barbless hook no larger than a #6 must be used. Only one lure can be used at a time. You cannot possess lures that do not meet these criteria while on the area.
• Landing nets may not exceed two (2) feet in length.
• Possession of any bait, lure, landing nets or gear not legal for use on the stream is unlawful.
• No night fishing.

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.

Sign up for weekly trout stocking reports
For a weekly list of trout stocked during stocking season, please visit georgiawildlife.com/fishing/trout for our comprehensive Weekly Stocking Report. 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., Hoods Cr., Jones Cr., Moccasin Cr., Mountainview Cr., Noontootla Cr., Smithgall Woods-Dukes Cr., Smith Cr., Stanley Cr., Toccoa R., Willow Fork Cr., and Waters Cr.

### BARTOW COUNTY

Boston Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 20; Connesena Cr. watershed; Dykes Cr. watershed; Pine Log Cr. watershed; Pyle Cr. watershed; Salacoa Cr. watershed; Spring Cr. watershed; Stamp Cr. watershed upstream from Bartow Co Rd. 269; Toms Cr. watershed upstream from Bartow Co Rd. 82; Two Run Cr. watershed; Ward Cr. watershed.

### CARROLL COUNTY

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

### CATOOSA COUNTY

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

### CHATTOOGA COUNTY

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

### CHEROKEE COUNTY

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

### COBB COUNTY

Chattahoochee R. upstream from the mouth of Peachtree Cr.

### 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 Stanley Cr. to Blue Ridge Reservoir and tributaries of Blue Ridge Reservoir not listed above.

### FLOYD COUNTY

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

### FORSYTH COUNTY

Chattahoochee R.

### FULTON COUNTY

Chattahoochee R. upstream from the mouth of Peachtree Cr.

### GILMER COUNTY

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

### GORDON COUNTY

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

### GWINNETT COUNTY

Chattahoochee R.

### HABERSHAM COUNTY

Amy’s Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 17; Chattahoochee R. watershed; Chattahoochee Cr. watershed; Georgia Cr. watershed; Middle Fork Broad R. watershed; Nanceytown Cr. watershed upstream from Nancynary 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.

### HARRALSON COUNTY

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

### PAULDING COUNTY

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

### PICKENS COUNTY

Amicalola Cr. watershed; Ball Cr. watershed; Bluff Cr. watershed; Cartecay R. watershed; Cove Cr. watershed upstream from Pickens Co Rd. 294; Fausett Cr. watershed; Fisher Cr. watershed; Hobson Cr. watershed; Little Searceon Cr. watershed; Long Swam Cr. watershed, including Darnell Cr. watershed, upstream from Cove Cr.; Mud Cr. watershed; Pin Hook Cr. watershed; Rock Cr. watershed; Salacoa Cr. watershed; Searceon Cr. watershed upstream from GA Hwy 53; Sevenmile Cr. watershed; Sharp Mountain Cr. watershed; Soap Cr. watershed; Talking Rock Cr. watershed upstream from S1011 (GA Hwy 136); Town Cr. watershed; Wildcat Cr. watershed.
POLK COUNTY
Cedar Cr. watershed upstream from Polk Co Rd. 121; Little Cedar Cr. watershed; Pumpkinpile Cr. watershed upstream from Polk Co Rd. 437; Silver Cr. watershed; Spring Cr. watershed; Tallapooza 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, Tugalo and Yonah reservoirs not listed above.

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

TOWNS COUNTY
Bearmeat Cr. watershed; Bell Cr. watershed; 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.

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

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

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

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

Sale of Fish & Aquaculture

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

Domestic Fish
- Aquaculturists (fish farmers) must register with the Department of Natural Resources in order to sell domestic fish.
- Registration applications are available from any Fisheries Section office, at GoFishGeorgia.com, or by calling 770-918-6408. Find Aquaculture information under the Fishing Regulation section of the WRD website.
- Domestic fish are lawfully obtained farmed fish which are held in confinement in private ponds, but only if they are fish species which are either indigenous to Georgia or have been recognized prior to 1992 as having an established population in public waters in Georgia. White perch is not recognized as a domestic fish. Persons in possession of domestic fish from registered aquaculturists must have an authentic bill of sale or lading which identifies the seller, the date of transaction and at least two of the following for each fish species: number, weight, or average length.
**LARGEMOUTH BASS**
- Upper jaw extends beyond eye
- Spiny and soft dorsal fin separate or nearly so
- Tongue normally smooth, tooth patch rare
- **World Record 22 lb. 4 oz.**

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

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

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

**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.

**HYBRID WHITE-STRIPED BASS**
- Back arched, body deep
- Stripes distinct and usually broken
- Tongue with two tooth patches
- 2nd anal spine ½ or more the length of 3rd anal spine
- State Record 25 lb. 8 oz.

**WHITE BASS**
- Seldom exceeds 3 pounds
- Tongue with one tooth patch
- Stripes often faint
- 2nd anal spine ½ or more the length of 3rd anal spine
- State Record 5 lb. 1 oz.

**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.

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

**WHITE BASS**
- Stripes distinct, occasionally broken
- Tongue with two tooth patches
- 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.

**STRIPEd BASS**
- Body slender
- Stripes distinct, occasionally broken
- Tongue with two tooth patches
- 2nd anal spine ½ or less the length of 3rd anal spine
- State Record 8 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.

**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.

**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.

**WHITE BASS**
- Stripes distinct, occasionally broken
- Tongue with two tooth patches
- State Record 63 lb.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS**
- Upper jaw extends beyond eye
- Spiny and soft dorsal fin separate or nearly so
- Tongue normally smooth, tooth patch rare
- **World Record 22 lb. 4 oz.**
**CHAIN PICKEREL (JACKFISH)**
- Elongated body with chain-like markings
- Sharp needle-like teeth
- World Record 9 lb. 6 oz.

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

**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.

**REDREAR SUNFISH (SHELLCRACKER)**
- Red edge on operculum ear flap
- Spotted body
- State Record 4 lb. 2 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.

**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.

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

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

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

---

Fish identification pictures: Duane Raver or © Joseph Tomelleri
**SPECIES** | **WEIGHT** | **ANGLER** | **LOCATION** | **DATE**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Bass, Hybrid | 25 lb. 8 oz. | David Hobby | Lake Chatuge | May 1995
Bass, Largemouth | 22 lb. 4 oz | George Perry | Montgomery Lake | June 1932
Bass, Redeye | 3 lb. 7 oz. | Steve Williams | Lake Hartwell | April 2004
Bass, Shool | 8 lb. 3 oz. | David Hubbard | Flint River | Oct 1977
Bass, Smallmouth | 7 lb. 2 oz. | Jack Hall | Lake Chatuge | March 1973
Bass, Spotted | 8 lb. 2 oz. | Wayne Holland | Lake Burton | Feb 2005
Bass, Striped (tie) | 63 lb. | Terry McConnell | Lake Richard B. Russell | April 2009
Bass, Suwanee | 3 lb. 9 oz. | Laverne Norton | Ochlocknee River | Oct 1984
Bass, White | 5 lb. 1 oz. | J.M. Hobbins | Lake Lanier | June 1971
Bowfin | 16 lb. 3 oz. | Jimmy Tucker | Suwannee River | June 2014
Bullhead, Brown | 5 lb. 8 oz. | James Andrews | O.F. Veal Pond | May 1978
Bullhead, Yellow | 4 lb. 15 oz. | Glenn Settles | Ogeechee River | Oct 2003
Carp, Common | 35 lb. 12 oz. | Rev. Donald Clark | Lake Jackson | 1972
Catfish, Blue | 110 lb. 6 oz. | Tim Trone | Chattahoochee River | Oct 2020
Catfish, Channel | 44 lb. 12 oz. | Bobby Smithwick | Altamaha River | May 1972
Catfish, Flathead | 83 lb. | Carl Sawyer | Altamaha River | June 2006
Catfish, White | 8 lb. 10 oz. | James Sanders | Savannah River | June 1996
Crappie, Black (tie) | 4 lb. 4 oz. | Shirley Lavender | Acree’s Lake | June 1971
Crappie, White | 5 lb. | Theresa Kemp | Bibb Co. Pond | April 1984
Gar, Longnose | 30 lb. 13 oz. | Gerald Kennedy | Lake Lanier | Sept 2013
Muskellunge | 38 lb. | Rube Golden | Blue Ridge Lake | June 1957
Perch, Yellow | 2 lb. 9 oz. | Thomas Lewis | Savannah River | Feb 2013
Pickerel, Chain | 9 lb. 6 oz. | Baxley McQuaig Jr. | Homerville | Feb 1961
Pickerel, Redfin | 2 lb. 10 oz. | Gene Brantley | Lewis’ Pond | July 1982
Pike, Northern | 18 lb. 2 oz. | Keith Gragg | Lake Rabun | June 1982
Sauger | 4 lb. 3 oz. | Stuart Bowers | Clarks Hill Reservoir | April 1986
Shad, American | 8 lb. 3 oz. | Henry Baxley | Savannah River | April 1986
Shad, Hickory | 1 lb. 15 oz. | Mark Bowers | Ogeechee River | April 1995
Shadow Bass | 0 lb. 10 oz. | Kristen Brown | Flint River | June 2016
Sunfish, Bluegill | 3 lb. 5 oz. | P.F. Gumm | Shamrock Lake | July 1977
Sunfish, Flier | 1 lb. 4 oz. | Curt Brooks | Lowndes Co. Pond | Feb 1996
Sunfish, Green | 1 lb. 7 oz. | Jeff Sumner | Private Pond | Feb 2006
Sunfish, Redbreast | 1 lb. 11 oz. | Emory Walden | Coweta Co. Pond | April 1998
Sunfish, Redear | 4 lb. 2 oz. | Pat Lawrence | Richmond Co. Pond | June 1995
Sunfish, Spotted | 11 oz. | Jacob Hornady | Sumter Co. Pond | April 2019
Sunfish, Warmouth | 2 lb. | Carlton Robbins | Private Pond | May 1974
Trout, Brook | 5 lb. 10 oz. | Russell Braden | Waters Creek | March 1986
Trout, Brown | 20 lb. 14 oz. | Chad Doughty | Chattahoochee River | July 2014
Trout, Rainbow | 17 lb. 8 oz. | Mark Cochran | Soque River | May 2004
Walleye | 14 lb. 2 oz. | Wes Carlton | Lake Rabun | Feb 2016

**RED** indicates new record!  
Blue type denotes a World Record Fish (either IGFA or NFFHF)
Crocodile Bay Resort
Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

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visit us online at www.crocodilebay.com  CST# 2049694-10
Visit the Go Fish Education Center to explore Georgia’s aquatic life & outdoors like never before!

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- $6 Seniors & Active Military
- $7 Adults

*(plus tax)*

**Hours**
- Fri–Sat 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Sun 1 p.m.–5 p.m.
- Memorial Day–Labor Day open Wed–Sun

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

For field trip information, other educational opportunities & general information, please visit our website [GoFishEducationCenter.com](http://GoFishEducationCenter.com)

It’s time to

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

N 32.43340
W 83.74360
(478) 988-6701
Get Kids Hooked!

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 [GoFishGeorgia.com/kidsfishing](http://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 ([GoFishEducationCenter.com/education-gfec](http://GoFishEducationCenter.com/education-gfec)). Try one of our weekend long Fish-n-Learn Education Programs ([GeorgiaWildlife.com/FishAndLearn](http://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/charlie-elliott-wildlife-center](http://GeorgiaWildlife.com/charlie-elliott-wildlife-center)).

**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](http://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/charlie-elliott-wildlife-center](http://GeorgiaWildlife.com/charlie-elliott-wildlife-center) 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!
Get Rewarded for Fishing!

Nothing beats a great day of fishing, except when you get rewarded for doing it! Georgia offers multiple categories for anglers to earn awards, including Adult and Youth Angler Awards, Public Fishing Area Awards and Trophy Bass Awards.

And don’t worry if that fish you caught today doesn’t qualify, because with so many great places to go, there is always a chance to Go Fish Georgia and try again! This year, we want to tell you more about the Youth Angler Award Category.

Youth (under age 16) Are Eligible for a Youth Angler Award if they catch a fish that meets or beats a specific weight or length. Weights and lengths are adjusted to match skill levels of this younger age category (as compared to the Adult category). What will they win?

• Certificate
• Hat
• T-Shirt

Full program details available at any Fisheries office or at gofishgeorgia.com/fishing/anglerawards.

Lunker Catches Earns Rewards!

Angler Orville Newlin III caught this 10 lb, 10 oz largemouth bass from Ocmulgee Public Fishing Area. This catch qualifies him for a Trophy Bass Award. As part of that program, he earns a certificate, hat, t-shirt, an entry into a drawing for a reward package, and 2 passes to the Go Fish Education Center. Catch a largemouth bass over 13 pounds, and get a replica mount of your catch!

Looking for a certified scale? Whether applying for an angler award (by weight) or a state record—fish must be weighed on a scale that has been certified accurate to the nearest ounce, or lesser weight, by the GA Department of Agriculture within the last year. Find a list of certificated scales by scanning the QR code.
GEORGIA'S BLACK BASS SLAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Fish have been tested from the following water bodies and no restrictions on consumption are recommended.

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

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

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

Call for a copy or more information:
Environmental Protection Division: 404-656-4713 | Coastal Resources Division: 912-264-7218 | Wildlife Resources Division: 770-918-6406
# Fish Consumption Guidelines: Rivers & Creeks

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<th>NO RESTRICTIONS</th>
<th>ONE MEAL PER WEEK</th>
<th>ONE MEAL PER MONTH</th>
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<td>Pickerel, Rainbow</td>
<td>Trout, Brown</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**FRESHWATER**

**Fish Consumption Guidelines: Rivers & Creeks**

**Alapaha River**

**Alapahoochee River**

**Allatoona Crk. (Cobb Co.)**

**Altamaha River**

**Altamaha River (below US Route 25)**

**Apalachee River**

**Beaver Crk. (Taylor Co.)**

**Brier Crk. (Burke Co.)**

**Canoocchee River (Hwy 192 to Ogeechee River)**

**Chattooga River (Helen to Lk. Lanier)**

**Chattooga River (Buford Dam to Morgan Falls Dam)**

**Chattooga River (Morgan Falls Dam to Peachtree Crk.)**

**Chattooga River (Peachtree Crk. to Pea Crk.)**

**Chattooga River (Pea Crk. to West Point Lk., below Franklin)**

**Chattooga River (West Point Dam to I-85)**

**Chattooga River (Oliver Dam to Upatoi Crk.)**

**Chattooga River (NE Georgia, Rabun County)**

**Chesutee River (below Tesnatee Riv.)**

**Coosa River (River Mile Zero to Hwy 100, Floyd Co.)**

**Coosa River (Hwy 100 to Stateline, Floyd Co.)**

**Coosa River (Coosa, Etowah below Thompson-Weinman dam, Oostanaula)**

**Coosawattee River (below Carters)**

**Etowah River (Dawson Co.)**

**Etowah River (above Lake Allatoona)**

**Etowah River (below Lake Allatoona dam)**

**Flint River (Spalding/Fayette Cos.)**

**Flint River (Meriwether/Upson/Pike Cos.)**

**Flint River (Taylor Co.)**

**Flint River (Macon/Dooly/Worth/Lee Cos.)**

**Flint River (Dougherty/Baker Mitchell Cos.)**

**Gum Crk. (Crisp Co.)**

**Holly Crk. (Murray Co.)**

**Ichawaynochaway Crk.**

**Kinchafoonee Crk. (above Albany)**

**Little River (above Clarks Hill Lake)**

**Little River (above Ga. Hwy 133, Valdosta)**

**Mill Crk. (Murray Co.)**

**Muckalee Crk. (above Albany)**

**Ochlocknee River (Moultrie to Thomasville)**

**Ochlocknee River (Thomasville to state line)**

**Ocmulgee River (below Macon, Bibb Co.)**

**Ocmulgee River (Houston/Twiggs Co.)**

Purchase a license online at www.GoFishGeorgia.com or by phone 1-800-366-2661
**FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES: RIVERS & CREEKS**

### FRESHWATER

| NO RESTRICTIONS | Bass, Largemouth | Bass, Other | Bass, Spotted | Bass, White | Bluegill | Buford | Bullhead | Carp | Catfish, Blue | Catfish, Channel | Catfish, White | Carp | Crappie | Mullet, Striped | Perch, Yellow | Redbreast | Redhorse | Redear | Sucker | Sunfish, Green | Sunfish, Other | Trout | Brown | Trout | Rainbow |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------|--------|----------|------|-------------|---------------|--------------|------|---------|----------------|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|-------------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| **ONE MEAL PER WEEK** |                 |             |               |             |          |        |          |      |             |                |              |      |         |                |                |           |         |         |        |        |             |              |       |       |       |         |
| **ONE MEAL PER MONTH** |                 |             |               |             |          |        |          |      |             |                |              |      |         |                |                |           |         |         |        |        |             |              |       |       |       |         |
| **DO NOT EAT** |                 |             |               |             |          |        |          |      |             |                |              |      |         |                |                |           |         |         |        |        |             |              |       |       |       |         |

- Ocmulgee River (Telfair/Wheeler Cos.)
- Oconee River (above Barnett Shoals)
- Oconee River (Milledgeville to I-16)
- Ogeechee River (all to Ft. McAllister)
- Ohoopee River (Emanuel/Toombs Cos.)
- Okefenokee Swamp (Billy's Lake)
- Oostanaula River (Floyd/Gordon Cos.)
- Patsiliga Crk. (upstream of Beaver Crk., Taylor Co.)
- Patsiliga Crk. (downstream of Beaver Crk.)
- Pipemaker Canal
- Proctor Crk. (near Atlanta Fulton Co.)
- Satilla River (Waycross, Ware/Pierce Cos.)
- Satilla River (near Folkston, Camden Co.)
- Savannah River (above & below New Sav. Bluff Lock & Dam)
- Savannah River (Chatham/Screven Cos.)
- Savannah River (Effingham)
- Savannah River (Pt. Howard)
- Savannah River (Tidal Gate)
- Savannah River (New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam to Savannah Estuary) ≥27”††
- Short Crk. (Warren Co.)
- South River (Panola Shoals, Rockdale Co.)
- South River (Henry Co., Snapping Shoals)
- Spring Crk. (Seminole/Decatur/Miller Cos.)
- St. Marys River (Camden Co.)
- St. Marys River (Charlton Co.)
- Sugar Crk. (Murray Co.)
- Sumac Crk. (Murray Co.)
- Suwannee River
- Swamp Crk. (Redwine Cove Road)
- Talking Rock Crk.
- Tallapoosa River (US Hwy 127)
- Tallapoosa River (GA Hwy 100)
- Trib. To Hudson River (Alto, Banks Co.)
- Withlacoochee River (Berrien/Lowndes Cos.)

* This striped bass population migrates annually between West Point Lake and Morgan Falls Dam.
†† Women who are pregnant or nursing and young children may wish to further restrict their consumption due to the variable mercury levels in these fish.
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| Bear Creek Reservoir       | >16"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Black Shoals (Randy Poynter) | >12"                  | <12"                | >12"    |
| Blackshear                 | 12-16"                  | >12"                | 12-16"  |
| Big Lazer PFA              | >16"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Blue Ridge                 | 12-16"                  | >16"                | 12-16"  |
| Burton                     | >12"                    | >16"                | 12-16"  |
| Pond N. Bush Field (Augusta) | 12-16"                |                     | >16"    |
| Carters Lake               | >16"                    | >12"                | >12"    |
| Chatuge                    | >12"                    | >16"                | >12"    |
| Clarks Hill                | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Evans County PFA           | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Flat Creek PFA (Lonice Barrett Lake) | 12-16" | >12"                |
| Goat Rock                  | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Hamburg                    | 12-16"                  | >16"                | >16"    |
| Hartwell (Tugaloo Arm)     | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Hartwell (main body of lake) |                      |                     | >16"    |
| High Falls                 | <12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Hugh M. Gillis PFA         | 12-16"                  | >12"                | >16"    |
| Jackson                    | 12-16"                  | >16"                | >16"    |
| Juliette                   | >16"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Ken Gardens                | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Kolomoki Mounds S.P.       | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Lanier                     | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Little Ocmulgee S. P.      | 12-16"                  | >16"                | >16"    |
| Marben PFA                 | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Mayers (Baxley)            | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| McDuffie PFA               | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Nottely                    | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Oliver                     | <12"                    | >12"                | >16"    |
| Rabun                      | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Reed Bingham S.P.          | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Richard B. Russell         | >16"                    | <16"                | >16"    |
| Seminole                   | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Stone Mountain             | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Tobesofkee                 | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Tugalo                     | 12-16"                  | >16"                | >16"    |
| Tribble Mill Pk. Pond (Gwinnett Co.) | 12-16" | >16"    |
| Varner                     | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| West Point                 | <12"                    | 12-16"              | >16"    |
| Worth (Chehaw Reservoir)   | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
| Worth (Flint Reservoir)    | 12-16"                  | >16"                | >16"    |
| Yonah                      | >12"                    | >16"                | >16"    |
### 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.

### 2020 Forestry for Wildlife Partners

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Resources Division proudly honors the 2020 Forestry for Wildlife Partners for their outstanding accomplishments in incorporating fish and wildlife conservation practices as an integral part of their overall land-management goals.

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### FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES: COASTAL RIVERS & CREEKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO RESTRICTIONS</th>
<th>Atlantic Croaker</th>
<th>Bass-Striped</th>
<th>Blueline</th>
<th>Drum Black</th>
<th>Drum Red</th>
<th>Flounder</th>
<th>Sheephead</th>
<th>Silver Hake</th>
<th>Southern Kingfish (Whiting)</th>
<th>Speckled Trout</th>
<th>Spotted Seatrout</th>
<th>Striped Mullet</th>
<th>Shrimp</th>
<th>Tripletail</th>
<th>Yellowtail (Silver Perch)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turtle River System (Purvis, Gibson Crks.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Turtle &amp; Buffalo Rivers (upriver Hwy 303)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turtle River (Hwy 303 to Channel Marker 9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turtle River (C. Marker 9 &amp; So. Brunswick River to Dubignons &amp; Parsons Crks.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Crk. (South of Torras Causeway to Lanier Basin)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry &amp; Bigree Crks. (North of Torras Causeway to Confluence w/ Back River)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back River (1 mi. above Terry Crk. to Confluence with Torras Causeway to St. Simons Sound)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academy Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Savannah Estuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wassaw Sound</td>
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<td>Ossabaw Sound</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Catherine’s Sound</td>
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<td>Sapelo Sound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Altamaha Sound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Simons Sound</td>
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<td>St. Andrew Sound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumberland Sound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlantic Ocean</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 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>Do Not Eat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### 2021 | GEORGIA SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

WWW.GOISHGEORGIA.COM
The only thing missing is you.

GaStateParks.org   #GaStateParks
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 with the free Saltwater Information Program (SIP) permit. Funds from the license support fisheries management, boating and fishing access projects, and conservation law enforcement. Your SIP permit helps identify you as a Georgia saltwater angler, which aids in management decisions and the allocation of federal funds.

2. Handle the fish as little as possible. Leaving a fish in the water is the best option when releasing it, but if you must remove it from the water, wet your hands first to avoid removing its protective slime.

3. When taking a photograph with the fish, be sure to support its weight by holding the fish horizontally and support its weight with your hands.

4. If a fish looks lethargic, gently force water through the mouth and over the gills by holding it in the current, or slowly moving the fish in a figure-eight motion.

5. Use non-stainless steel non-offset circle hooks when possible. It is believed that these hooks reduce the rate of gut hooking in fish and helps increase their chance of survival after release. Non-stainless steel hooks also rust quicker than stainless if it is left in the fish.

DNR’s Coastal Resources Division places fish aggregation devices like reef balls in inshore environments to provide essential habitat for fish and recreational opportunities for anglers. This program is partially funded by the sale of our Support Fish Habitat license plate.

**Drive Georgia Wild**

Help “Drive Georgia Wild” with a specialty tag from Georgia DNR, available at your local county tag office.

www.DriveGeorgiaWild.com
RECREATIONAL FISHING

Fishing Licenses: See page 8 for information on license requirements.
• Licenses are required for hook and line fishing, castnetting, seining, crabbing, gigging, sport bait trawling, and harvesting shellfish.
• A Georgia Fishing license is required for anglers returning to Georgia ports or transiting Georgia waters with recreational catches from federal waters beyond the state’s 3-mile territorial sea.
• Reciprocal agreements with Alabama, South Carolina, and Florida currently do not apply to saltwaters.
• A FREE Saltwater Information Program (SIP) permit is required for anyone age 16 and over who fishes in saltwater. SIP permits expire one year from date of issuance.
• Georgia saltwater fishing guides have the option of purchasing a blanket fishing license to cover their customers. Anglers booking a trip with a Georgia saltwater fishing guide should inquire if they will need a Georgia fishing license or whether they will be covered by the guide’s license.

Persons interested in purchasing a Saltwater Guide’s License should call the DNR Coastal Regional License Office at 912-264-7237.

Saltwater Fishing Information

GEORGIA SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS

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

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

Coastal Resources Division Marine Fisheries Section
One Conservation Way,
Brunswick, GA 31520-8687
912-264-7218 or fax 912-262-3143

www.CoastalGaDNR.org

FEDERAL SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS

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

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Dr., Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405
843-571-4366 or 866-SAFMC-10
www.safmc.net

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

National Marine Fisheries Service
HMS Management Division
1315 East-West Hwy
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-713-2347
www.nmfspermits.com

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

Gray’s Reef Sanctuary Program
10 Ocean Science Circle
Savannah, GA 31411
912-598-2345
www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov

WANTON WASTE

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

ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Georgia maintains 15 inshore and 22 offshore artificial reefs located from inside the estuary to 80 miles offshore. The 19 reefs beyond 3 miles offshore are designated as federal Special Management Zones and as such, only allow hand-held 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). See pg. 46 for ‘seine’ details.

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: 8 gallons.

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.

WWW.GO FISH GEORGIA.COM
Purchase a license online at www.GoFishGeorgia.com or by phone 1-800-366-2661
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>MEN’S RECORD</th>
<th>WOMEN’S RECORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WEIGHT</td>
<td>MALE ANGLER (year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark, Mako</td>
<td>440 lb.</td>
<td>Tyler Gary (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper, Yellowtail</td>
<td>5 lb.</td>
<td>Eddie N. Vannmeter (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weakfish (Summer Trout)</td>
<td>6 lb.</td>
<td>Frank Taylor (1976)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

* 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.
### 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.

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### SEASONS, LIMITS, SIZES

All limits per person unless specified. FL = fork length, TL = total length (see "How to Measure a Fish" 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>No Harvest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billfish (Blue marlin, White marlin, Sailerfish)*</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 (Not to exceed 60 per boat, except for headboats which are allowed 10 per paying customer.)</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 (83 FL (Shortfin Mako))</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>
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<tr>
<td>Prohibited Sharks (NO HARVEST)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheepshead</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>
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</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.

A These species are also federally managed. Go to www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-minimum-sizes-and-bag-limits for federal regulations.

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### 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:

![Fork Length](image1)

**Fork Length**

![Total Length](image2)

**Total Length**

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*www.gofishgeorgia.com*

Purchase a license online at www.GoFishGeorgia.com or by phone 1-800-366-2661
**SALTWATER GEORGIA SALTWATER FISH**

**ATLANTIC CROAKER**
- Tiny barbels
- Dorsal fin spotted

**BLACK SEA BASS**
- Short white tabs on tail

**BLACK DRUM (Young)**
- Loses vertical bars with age

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

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

**SHEEPSHEAD**
- Keeps vertical bars throughout life
- Large flat incisor teeth
- 3 Spines

**TRIPLETAIL**
- Dark spot or spots

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

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

**SPOTTED SEATROUT**
- No barbels
- 2 Spines

**Graded by the Department of Natural Resources**
**SHARKS FOUND IN GEORGIA WATERS THAT CAN BE HARVESTED**

(not including small shark composite above)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blacknose</td>
<td>Blacktip</td>
</tr>
<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.

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**Fish identification pictures by:** Duane Raver
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 at marinas, and at www.CCfGADNR.org.

**Trawl Nets (Sport Bait Shrimping)**

**Gear:** Power-drawn trawl nets 10 feet or smaller may be used in saltwaters to harvest shrimp for bait. Information on the specific net dimensions for bait trawls is available from DNR offices in Brunswick.  
**Areas:** Unless designated otherwise, a 10-foot sport bait trawl may be used at any season to take shrimp only in rivers and creeks or portions thereof that have been opened to bait shrimping by DNR. Charts of established “Bait Zones” are also available at GeorgiaOutdoorMap.com.  
**Harvest Limits:** Recreational seiners collecting bait shrimp are limited to two quarts per person at any time and no more than four quarts per person per day, or a maximum of four quarts per group at any time or eight quarts per day. No one person taking food shrimp solely by means of a seine, whether such person is acting alone or in a group of persons, may possess more than 24 quarts of shrimp with heads on or 15 quarts of tails taken by such seine in any 24-hour period. If any person or group of persons occupying the same boat is in possession of a cast net and a seine, such person or persons shall be subject to the limits imposed for shrimp taken by cast net.

**Cast Nets**

**Gear:** A cast net is a cone-shaped net with a weighted circumference thrown and retrieved by hand without mechanical assistance. Two types of cast nets are defined: a “Bait shrimp cast net” having a minimum bar mesh of 3/8 inch and a “Food shrimp cast net” having a minimum bar mesh of 1/2 inch. Bait shrimp cast nets cannot be used to take shrimp for personal consumption; however, food shrimp cast nets may be used to take bait. There are no length restrictions on either net and cast nets can be modified with the addition of duct tape or other materials to enhance performance.  
**Areas and Hours:** During the open season and unless designated otherwise, cast nets may be used to harvest bait or food shrimp at any time of day in all of Georgia’s saltwaters.  
**Harvest Limits:** Recreational cast netters collecting bait shrimp are limited to two quarts per person at any time, provided that person may

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**Guidelines for Sea Turtle Protection**

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

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

If you cannot reach Georgia DNR, cut the line as short as possible and release the turtle.
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 ¼ inches from the elbow to the tip of the lower, immovable finger be removed. A properly removed claw should not have meat from the body attached.

**Blue Crabs**

**AREAS, SEASONS, HOURS**

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

**GEAR**

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

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

**SIZE AND HARVEST LIMITS**

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

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

**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 shellfish picking areas can be obtained from the Coastal Resources Division or at [www.CoastalGaDNR.org/ApprovedRecHarvestAreas](http://www.CoastalGaDNR.org/ApprovedRecHarvestAreas). It is illegal to harvest shellfish except in areas designated for such purpose.

**SIZE AND HARVEST LIMITS**

Oysters must measure no less than three inches from hinge to mouth, unless the oyster cannot be removed from a legal-sized oyster without destroying it. For clams, the maximum depth from one shell half to the other must be at least ¾ inch thick. Recreational quantity limits are up to two bushels of oysters and one bushel of clams per person per day, with a maximum limit of six bushels of oysters and one bushel of clams per boat per day.

**Whelk (conch)**

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

**Bait Minnows**

**SEASON, HOURS AND AREAS**

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

**GEAR**

No more than two traps may be used recreationally, except that a licensed saltwater fishing guide may use a maximum of four traps. Maximum dimensions for rectangular traps may not exceed 24 x 8 x 9 inches. Cylindrical traps may not exceed 24 inches in length and 30 inches in circumference. Recreational bait minnow traps shall have a mesh size of no smaller than ¼ inch bar mesh. The throat opening of the funnel shall not exceed ¾ inch in diameter. Each trap must have attached a tag or float bearing the name and address of the person using the trap. Subject to specific gear design criteria, sizes, time of day, and area restrictions outlined in these regulations, bait minnows may also be taken recreationally year-round in seines and cast nets.

**POSSESSION LIMITS**

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

GENERAL GUIDELINES

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

- **Recompression.** The best and first choice for release should be to return fish to the depth from which they are caught, a technique known as recompression. A variety of recompression tools are on the market, including descender devices, release weights, and release baskets (see 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 regulations, 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.

**Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact Member States**

**Ranger Hotline**

**TO REPORT VIOLATIONS**

Please refer to call out box on page 2.

**TO REPORT VIOLATIONS IN FEDERAL WATERS**

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

Mobile District – www.sam.usace.army.mil
Savannah District – www.sas.usace.army.mil