2019 HUNTING AND FISHING GUIDE

Featuring hunting tips, preparation, safety, products, season dates and more!
September 28, 2019 is National Hunting and Fishing Day and there are FREE Events happening statewide!

Each day, millions of Americans work to conserve and improve our natural resources—they are America’s hunters and anglers. The U.S. Congress and President Nixon established National Hunting and Fishing Day in 1972 to recognize these generations of hunters and anglers for the time and money, more than a billion dollars each year, they donate to wildlife conservation programs. More on the history of this event.

Conserving the states natural and wildlife resources is one of the most important responsibilities for this and future generations and the conservation programs supported and financed by Georgia hunters and anglers have benefited hundreds of wildlife species, including deer, wild turkeys, bald eagles and songbirds for all Georgians to enjoy.

One of the best ways all of us can create a better public understanding of hunting and fishing is to create a better public awareness of the important role that hunters and anglers have played in conservation and improving our natural resources. Together with hunting and fishing license fees, federal aid programs have funded game animals and sport fish conservation, habitat acquisition and outdoor recreation opportunities both in Georgia and throughout the country.

NHF Day events provide opportunities for outdoor-oriented people and urbanites alike to learn more about outdoor skills and activities. So, in celebration of this special day be sure to take someone (especially young people) outside and introduce them to a whole new world of enjoyment at one of the many scheduled events, or through hunting, hiking, birdwatching, fishing or another outdoor activity.

In addition to special events, Georgia offers a Free Fishing Day in honor of National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 28, 2019. On this day, residents do NOT need a fishing license or a trout license to fish on any public waters in the state including lakes, streams, ponds and public fishing areas.

To hunt deer with dogs, each hunter 16 years of age or older must possess a hunting license. Deer may be hunted with dogs only during authorized seasons and areas.

Hunting deer with dogs is allowed on leased properties of at least 1,000 contiguous acres or privately-owned properties of at least 250 acres that are permitted by DNR. Permits are specific to only one piece of property and only one permit application per property should be submitted. Applications for a permit must be received at least 30 days prior to hunting deer with dogs. Applicants wishing to hunt on opening day must submit an application by September 20, 2018. Applications are available at gadnrle.org/special-permits. The permit number must be clearly marked on all dogs and all vehicles being used during the hunt.
The Douglas Lions Club presents the 20th Annual
BIG BUCK CONTEST
Oct. 19, 2019
Coffee High Gymnasium

LOTS OF GUNS!

VARIETY OF RAFFLE PRIZES

HUNTER PRIZE $$
PLUS OVERALL WINNER $$

$10,000.00 Grand Prize!

Early Bird Drawing 6:00 pm
Supper Served 7:30 pm
Main Event 8:45 pm

BIG BUCK TICKETS ON SALE AT EVENT!

For official rules and more info find us on Facebook at “Douglas Lions Club”
Ask a member how you can become a Lion too!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LICENSE</th>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>RESIDENT</th>
<th>NON-RESIDENT</th>
</tr>
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### HUNTING LICENSES

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### FISHING LICENSES

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### PUBLIC LAND ACCESS

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<tr>
<td>Georgia Lands Pass</td>
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1. Free Quota Alligator Harvest Permit is available for all Lifetime Sportsman’s License, Disability Sportsman’s License, Disability Hunting License, Honorary License, and Optional Youth Sportsman’s License holders selected for an Alligator Quota hunt.
2. Non-resident trapping license requires a forfeiture bond. Please refer to application for specific details at gohuntgeorgia.com
3. Free Georgia Migratory Bird Stamp is available for all resident Landowners who hunt their own property and any hunter with a valid Sportsman’s License, Optional Youth Sportsman’s License, Disability Sportsman’s License, Disability Hunting License, Honorary License or Lifetime Sportsman’s License.
4. Privileges for the multi-year Youth License are valid until the person’s 17th birthday.
5. Additional Day - days can be added for up to 11 consecutive days.
BAITING

Bait: Corn, wheat, other grains, salts, apples and other feed that has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement to game animals or game birds.

NEW EXCEPTIONS FOR DEER: Deer may be hunted over or near any bait on private lands in all counties, provided the hunter has written permission from the landowner. It is unlawful to hunt deer over bait or place bait on any state or federally managed lands.
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 Toccoee dam on Toccoee Creek, Lake Sinclair dam on the Oconee River; and watersheds of all other streams that flow directly into the Atlantic Ocean (the 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).

WHERE TO BUY YOUR LICENSE

Online: gooutdoorsgeorgia.com
Phone: 1-800-366-2661
In Person: License vendors are statewide. Check gohuntgeorgia.com for complete list.
Federal Duck Stamp: gooutdoorsgeorgia.com, usps.com, 1-800-STAMP24 or a local US Post Office

TOP FIVE REASONS TO BUY A HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE

1. 100% of your purchase is going to fund wildlife conservation in Georgia.
2. Your license purchase is an investment bringing $50 back to Georgia wildlife in federal dollars.
3. You’ll join a group of people that have funded conservation for the past 100 years.
4. It’s a great value - a $15 annual hunting or fishing license allows you to hunt or fish for 4 cents a day - 24/7/365.
5. It lets you do more than just hunt or fish - every hunting or fishing license also gives you access to all of Georgia’s Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Public Fishing Areas (PFAs) and shooting ranges.
Hunting is spelled s-a-f-e-t-y

Hunting is an enjoyable, safe activity as long as some basic guidelines are followed. Here are a few safety recommendations from the experts.

When hunting
• Respect all safety standards and guidelines applying to the use of a firearm.
• Always handle firearms as if they were loaded. Never use alcohol or drugs while handling a firearm.
• Control the muzzle of your firearm at all times.
• Be doubly careful when setting up or inspecting a hunting blind or tree stand. When climbing up and down, take extra care with your firearm. Use the safety straps and check the reliability of the fasteners.
• Clearly identify your game before you shoot. Always be certain of the target.
• Ensure that the line of fire is safe. Be certain of what is in front of and beyond your target.
• Don’t put your finger on the trigger until you’re ready to fire.

Never rely solely on the gun’s “safety” mechanism.
• Self control: It’s not uncommon for hunters to become excited while on the hunt. Remember that this excitement can cause you to make careless mistakes, so you need to keep control of your emotions while on the hunt. If you become anxious or overly excited, then slow down. If that means temporarily stopping the hunt, then you need to err on the side of caution. A calm shooter is always a better and more accurate shooter.

When you return to your hunting camp or home
• Ensure that your firearms are unloaded and transport them in a safe manner. Lock them up at home or ensure that they are under your control at all times.
• Always handle firearms as if they were loaded.
• Allow yourself to appreciate the usefulness of hunting rules and safety guidelines, even if you think they cramp your style. The few hunting accidents that do occur are almost always attributed to the unsafe use of firearms and reckless use of hunting blinds. While some hunting regulations are aimed at protecting wildlife, many others are for the protection of hunters.

Tree Stand Safety
Tree stands can be deadly. The International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) has stated that on average, over 20 hunters die every year from tree stand falls, and that “dozens more see their lives changed forever due to permanent disability.”

According to the IHEA, nearly all tree stand accidents could be prevented if two basic safety rules are followed:
1. Wear a full-body harness.
2. Stay connected to the tree from the time your feet leave the ground. It doesn’t matter if your tree stand is in Georgia or in Arkansas; safety should be your top priority.

More tree stand safety tips include:
• Check the specifications and guidelines on your harness and the expiration date stamp.
• Wear the harness properly and wear the lineman’s belt.
• Attach suspension trauma relief straps to your harness. They will prevent serious injury or death in case of a fall.
• Use a well-designed and sturdy built tree stand approved by manufacturers.
• Carefully inspect your tree stand for wear, rust, metal fatigue and cracks, loose or missing nuts or bolts, and rot and deterioration before and after each use.
• Frequent practice using your tree stand and harness.
• Always use a haul line for gear.
• Unload your gun or bow before climbing or descending the stand.
• Let hunters in your party know where your stand is located. Leave a map on your dashboard and state the time you will return.
• Don’t use tree stands if you’re tired, sick or on medication.
Hunters and Shooters Help Prevent Forest Fires

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

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

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

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

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

• Extinguish and dispose of smoking materials safely.

• Follow guidelines to extinguish campfires.

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

• Report any wildfire you see to authorities.

• Spread this message to other target shooters, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.
DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS

ARCHERY
- Archery Only Counties: Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb and Fulton (north of GA Hwy 92) Counties in accordance with statewide bag limits and other regulations.
- Extended Archery Season: Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Rockdale Counties only; in accordance with statewide bag limits and other regulations.
- Chattahoochee-Oconee NF: During firearms deer season, archers must follow firearms either-sex dates on the National Forest.

Archery hunting is allowed during primitive weapon and firearm deer seasons. Deer of either sex may be taken, except as otherwise specified on WMAs and on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. Archery hunters must wear at least 500 square inches of hunter orange during primitive weapons and firearms deer seasons, except in Archery-Only Counties or WMAs. Archers may not possess any firearms while hunting during archery deer season, unless the person possesses a valid Weapons Carry License in this state (pursuant to OCGA §§16-11-126(f) or 16-11-129), subject to limitations (OCGA §§ 16-11-126 and 16-11-127).

PRIMITIVE WEAPONS
Statewide, excluding archery-only counties. Scopes are legal. During the statewide primitive weapon deer season and WMA primitive weapons hunts, youth under 16 years of age may hunt deer with any legal deer firearm. Primitive weapons hunters may not possess any centerfire or rimfire firearm while hunting during the primitive weapons season, unless the person possesses a valid Weapons Carry License in this state (pursuant to OCGA §§16-11-126(f) or 16-11-129), subject to the limitations (OCGA §§ 16-11-126 and 16-11-127).

SEASON LIMIT
10 antlerless deer and 2 antlered deer. One of the two antlered deer must have a minimum of 4 points, 1 inch or longer, on one side of the antlers. (Special county antler restrictions noted below and on pages 22-23)

COUNTY-WIDE ANTLER RESTRICTIONS
Dooley & Macon: antlered bucks must have a minimum outside antler spread of 15 in. Hancock, Harris, Meriwether, Montgomery, Randolph, Talbot & Trup: antlered bucks must have a minimum of 4 points, 1 inch or longer, on one side of the antlers.

CHECKING YOUR DEER
All deer hunters are required to have a Harvest Record for the current season. Additionally, all harvest must be reported within 72 hours through Georgia Game Check or before leaving the deer with a processor.

CELL PHONE HANDY?
If you have a cell phone, enter the harvest date and county on the Harvest Record through the GA Outdoors App, online at gooutdoorsgeorgia.com or by calling 1-800-366-2661 before moving the deer from the site of the kill.

You can now report your harvest through the GA Outdoors App when your phone has no service. Enter your harvest date and county on the Harvest Record through the App. When you get to a location with service, access the App
and sync to receive your confirmation number.

NO PHONE? NO PROBLEM!
- Log It—Enter the harvest date and county on your paper Harvest Record before moving the deer from the site of the kill.
- Report It—Within 72 hours of the kill or before taking your deer to the processor, report your harvest by going online to gooutdoorsgeorgia.com or calling 1-800-366-2661.
- Record It—Copy the confirmation number received onto your paper Harvest Record.

ANTLERS
Antlerless deer are those having no visible antlers above the hairline (including “button bucks”) and may only be taken during eithersex or antlerless seasons or hunts. During “buck-only” hunts or seasons, a deer must have antlers visible above the hairline to be legal for harvest.

HEAD OF DEER
It is unlawful to remove the head of a deer until the deer is processed or surrendered to a storage facility for storage or processing.

TRANSPORTING DEER HARVESTED BY ANOTHER HUNTER
Persons transporting deer harvested by another hunter must possess, in writing, the complete name, address, telephone and hunting license number of the person who harvested the deer, and the Game Check confirmation number.

COOLER LOCKERS
Whole or field-dressed deer received by a coldstorage or meat processing facility must be marked with the hunter’s name, date, county of harvest and sex of deer. A list of processors is available at gohuntngeorgia.com.

LAKES, STREAMS AND PONDS
It is unlawful to take a deer by any means while it is in a lake, stream, or pond.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY/TRANSMISSION TOWERS
Hunting from a stand or platform attached to a transmission tower is trespassing and is prohibited. Written permission must be obtained from the landowner to hunt on power line, gas line, railroad, or other rights-of-way.

HUNTING OUT OF STATE?
If you harvest a white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose or caribou in a state having a documented case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), you may bring back only the following carcass parts:
- 1 – boned-out meat;
- 2 – processed cuts of meat;
- 3 – clean skull plates with antlers attached (not the entire skull);
- 4 – clean antlers;
- 5 – finished taxidermy mounts; and
- 6 – clean upper canine teeth (aka buglers, ivories, whistlers).

To protect Georgia’s deer herd, the importation of whole carcasses or parts not listed above is prohibited from any CWD-positive state or Canadian province. For an up-to-date list of positive states and other information about CWD, please visit www.cwd-info.org.

DEER URINE AND CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE
While Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) prions are known to be present in urine of infected deer, there has been no documented spread of the disease through the use of natural urine deer attractants. However, to minimize the potential risk through use of these products hunters are strongly encouraged to use only those natural urine products
bearing the Archery Trade Association (ATA) Deer Protection Program Checkmark, or use synthetic urine products.
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.
FISHING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Buying Licenses
You can purchase a Georgia fishing license:
• Online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.gofishgeorgia.com or www.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com.
• In person at license dealers statewide including most WRD/CRD regional offices; state parks; marinas; major retailers; and sporting goods, bait and tackle, and hardware stores. A complete list of license agents can be found at gofishgeorgia.com.
• By telephone at 800-366-2661, 8 a.m. – 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. Conservation Rangers may require photo identification when checking fishing licenses. Exception: A fishing license is not required to fish in private ponds (does not include ponds owned by governments—city, county, state, or federal) nor by a resident and their immediate family when fishing on their land.

RESIDENTS
• Proof of residence, such as a Georgia driver’s license, is required to purchase a resident fishing license.
• For purposes of buying a fishing license, RESIDENT means any person who has been domiciled within the State of Georgia (declared Georgia the only state of legal residence) for a period of at least three months. A valid Georgia driver’s license or Georgia ID is required to show residency. Nonresident full time Georgia college students with a valid college ID living in Georgia, and active duty military personnel with a valid U.S. DOD Common Access Card with Uniformed Services affiliation and the dependents of such military personnel may obtain resident hunting and fishing licenses other than resident lifetime, disability and honorary licenses. Nonresident landowners must purchase a nonresident license.
• 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.
• Discount Disability License: Georgia residents who are permanently and totally disabled may obtain a Discount 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 to hunt or fish or a Lands Pass (exclusions apply, visit georgiawildlife.com/LandAccess). Designated fee areas are marked with a sign at the site or area entrance.

Reciprocal Agreements for Bordering States
Georgia DNR has Agreements with Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina allowing holders of Georgia fishing licenses to fish in the waters covered without obtaining a fishing license from the bordering state.

Mountain Trout Licenses
• All resident anglers ages 16 and older must have a trout license and Georgia fishing license to fish in designated mountain trout waters and to fish for or to possess trout.
• Lifetime Sportsman’s, Sportman’s, Honorary (free), and Discount Disability licenses include the trout fishing privilege.
• Landowners and their immediate families may fish on their premises without a trout license.
• All nonresident anglers, 16 or older, regardless of physical condition, must possess a nonresident fishing license and nonresident trout license to fish for or possess trout or to fish in designated trout waters.
• State park visitors are not required to have a trout license to fish in the impounded waters of the Park. However, those visitors wishing to harvest mountain trout will need to have a trout license in their possession.
GEORGIA FRESHWATER FISH

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

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

WHITE BASS
- Seldom exceeds 3 pounds
- Tongue with one tooth patch
- Stripes often faint
- 2nd anal spine \( \frac{3}{4} \) or more the length of 3rd anal spine
- State Record 5 lb. 1 oz.

HYBRID WHITE-STRIPED BASS
- Back arched, body deep
- Stripes distinct and usually broken
- Tongue with two tooth patches
- 2nd anal spine \( \frac{3}{4} \) or more the length of 3rd anal spine
- State Record 25 lb. 8 oz.

STRIPED BASS
- Body slender
- Stripes distinct, occasionally broken
- Tongue with two tooth patches
- 2nd anal spine \( \frac{1}{4} \) or less the length of 3rd anal spine
- State Record 63 lb.

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

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.

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

CHAIN PICKEREL (JACKFISH)
- Elongated body with chain-like markings
- Sharp needle-like teeth
- World Record 9 lb. 6 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.

Fish identification pictures: Duane Raver or © Joseph Tomelleri
BLACK CRAPPIE
- 7–8 dorsal spines
- Body color pattern irregular arranged spots
- State Record: 4 lb. 4 oz.

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.

REDEAR SUNFISH (SHELLCRACKER)
- Red edge on operculum ear flap
- Spotted body
- State Record: 4 lb. 2 oz.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
Coastal Georgia is a place blessed with abundant and diverse natural resources and awe inspiring beauty. Yes, there are no-see-ums, horseflies, and mosquitos at certain times of the year, but anyone willing to endure a bit of discomfort finds a paradise of golden green marshes, lush maritime oaks, rolling sand dunes, winding tidal creeks, and the vast expanse of the open Atlantic Ocean.

Anglers in particular find coastal Georgia an exciting and welcoming destination. Red drum, spotted seatrout, flounder, tripletail, tarpon, and whiting are abundant and accessible to inshore anglers. Those willing to venture into the Atlantic Ocean find mackerel, barracuda, amberjack, grouper, snapper, sailfish and even marlin. Each species presents a different challenge to the angler. Some are excellent table fare while others are valued most for their fight and released when caught.

Twice-a-day tides of 6 to 9 feet make coastal Georgia a challenging environment for the boater and angler. Fortunately, tides are predictable and savvy boating anglers never take to the water without knowing the timing of high and low tide. Tidal rivers and creeks easily traversed during high tide are waiting to snare the careless boater at lower tide stages leaving them stranded on a sandbar. Experienced coastal anglers have a mental list of fishing spots that are accessible and productive at high tide and those that can be safely reached and effectively fished at low tide. The Coastal Resources Division has maps of productive inshore fishing spots in each coastal county and tide prediction tables available upon request. Public fishing piers and public boat ramps are found in all Georgia estuaries offering everyone a place to wet a line. The location and features of these sites can be found at www.coastalgadnr.org.

In addition to knowing the tides and productive fishing spots there are six more things that will make you a responsible and successful saltwater angler:

1) Buy a fishing license. Funds from this license support fish management, boating and fishing access projects, and conservation law enforcement; 2) buy a marine habitat license plate for your vehicle or trailer. Funds from this purchase will increase fish habitat in coastal Georgia. Visit www.coastalgadnr.org/LicensePlate for details; 3) practice catch and release (take a camera); 4) use the right tools for the job (properly tackle for the fish you’re after, wet gloves, rubber landing net, hook removal devices and descending device if you’re fishing in deep water); 5) be courteous to your fellow anglers; and 6) take a kid fishing!

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

Generally, fish caught deeper than 30 feet will suffer some effects of barotrauma.

- Recompression. The best and first choice for release should be to return fish to the depth from which they are caught, a technique known as recompression. A variety of recompression tools are on the market, including descender devices, release weights, and release baskets (see www.fishsmart.org). Fish should be returned to the depth of capture when practical. If catching fish at great depth, returning them to at least 60 to 100 feet will dramatically improve survival.

- Venting. If recompression is not possible, venting is a second option. Venting helps the gas escape and allows the fish to descend. A simple venting tool can be made by mounting a sharpened football needle in a 1” x 3” dowel rod with a hole drilled lengthwise through the rod to allow gas to pass. Hold the fish gently on its side. Insert a needle through the thin lower body wall below the rear end of the pectoral fin. Insert the needle only as far as needed to allow the gas to escape. Squeeze gently to help push the gas out.

- Do not puncture a protruding stomach or try to push the stomach back into the throat. Remember a knife is not a proper venting tool! By developing a few simple habits, anglers can greatly increase the chances that the fish they release will survive. Try these tips the next time you go fishing.

- Plan Ahead. Before you go, decide whether you might release fish on your trip and prepare the equipment necessary to do so.

- Avoid Encounter. If catching fish that you don’t want or cannot keep due to regulation, change your fishing depth, move to a different area, or use different bait.

- Use Appropriate Gear. Use non-stainless steel hooks that dissolve quickly. Use non-offset circle hooks when fishing with natural bait to avoid gut-hooking. Flatten barbs so they can be removed with less damage to a fish.

- Don’t Exhaust the Fish. Use gear and line strength to minimize playing time, landing fish as quickly as possible. If possible, leave fish in the water rather than bringing them on board. If you must handle, use knotless rubberized landing nets, rubberized gloves, or wet towels or wet hands to avoid removing the slime layer. Make sure to wet your measuring board or boat deck. Don’t put your fingers in the gills.

- Support the Body When Lifting Large Fish. The lower jaw is not meant to support the full weight of any fish.

- 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.
**KING MACKEREL**
- Up to 60 lbs.
- Lacks black patch in young fish
- Dull gold spots in young fish
- Lateral line drops sharply

**SPANISH MACKEREL**
- Averages 2-4 lbs.
- Bright gold spots
- Gradually sloping lateral line

**SMALL SHARK COMPOSITE**

**SPINY DOGFISH**
- Offshore in winter
- Scattered white spots on the body
- White on rear edge
- Second dorsal fin begins above middle of anal fin

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

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

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

**SAND TIGER**
- Harvest prohibited
- Interdorsal ridge
- Similar in size
- White anal fin

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

**SHARK ANATOMY**
(view from above)
- First dorsal fin
- Second dorsal fin
- Interdorsal ridge: raised line on the dorsal (top) midline between the two dorsal fins of some sharks.

**SHARKS FOUND IN GEORGIA WATERS THAT CAN BE HARVESTED**
(not including small shark composite above)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shark Type</th>
<th>Species</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.

*Fish identification pictures by: Duane Raver*
STATEWIDE OR GENERAL OFFICES

1. Wildlife Resources Division State Headquarters
   2067 US Highway 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025
   Main Number: 770-918-6400
   Fisheries Management: 770-918-6406
   Law Enforcement: 770-918-6408
   Game Management: 770-918-6404
   Nongame Conservation: 770-761-3035

2. Wildlife Resources Conservation Center
   2065 US Highway 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025
   Boating Registration: 800-366-2661
   License Unit: 800-366-2661
   Hunter Education: 770-761-3010

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

WRD FISHERIES REGIONAL OFFICES AND FACILITIES

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

4. Northwest District Office
   2592 Floyd Springs Road, Armuchee, GA 30105
   Armuchee: 706-295-6102
   Law Enforcement (Acworth): 770-529-2424
   Law Enforcement (Atlanta): 770-769-9680

5. Rocky Mountain Recreation & Public Fishing Area
   Summerville Hatchery

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

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

7. Big Lazer Creek Public Fishing Area
   West Point District Office

8. West Creek PFA

6. East Central Office
   2065 US Highway 278, SE Social Circle, GA 30025
   Atlanta number: 770-918-6418

7. Walton Fish Hatchery

8. Goldenrod Hatchery

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

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

7. Southwest Office
   2024 Newton Road, Albany, GA 31701
   Albany: 229-430-4256
   Albany Law Enforcement: 229-430-4253

8. Steve Cocke Hatchery

9. Cordele Hatchery

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

9. Ocmulgee PFA

9. Bowens Mill Hatchery

9. Hugh M. Gillis PFA

9. Dodge County PFA

9. Paradise PFA

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

9. Evans County PFA

9. Richmond Hill Fish Hatchery
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Each WMA offers unique hunting opportunities based upon factors such as climate, topography, access, wildlife population dynamics and public desires. Therefore, each WMA has specific rules and regulations. You should be familiar with the rules and regulations for a specific WMA before visiting.

Maps: Interactive maps for all WMAs are available at georgiawildlife.com/AllWMAs. Maps may also be found at check stations, kiosks, and region offices.

Land Access: Any person, age 16 and older, entering any WMA or PFA must possess a valid license to hunt or fish or a Lands Pass (exclusions apply). Visit www.georgiawildlife.com/LandAccess for a list of all public properties and access requirements. Areas that require a valid license to hunt or fish or a Lands Pass are marked with the posting of a sign at the site or area entrance. A Lands Pass and all hunting and fishing licenses may be purchased at gooutdoorsgeorgia.com, by calling 1-800-366-2661, or through license vendors. Any individual(s) or organization(s) desiring to sponsor or conduct an event, activity, or series of events or activities involving more than eight individuals on a WMA or PFA may be required to obtain a “Right of Entry” agreement (ROEA) from the Department. Contact the respective Game Management office (see page 4) for more details.

VOLUNTARY PUBLIC ACCESS (VPA) PROPERTIES

Since 2014 through a USDA grant, the DNR Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) has been able to enhance and add to its WMA program through additional temporary agreements with private landowners for public hunting opportunities. Some of these VPA opportunities are listed from pages 46-65, but others could not be included due to deadlines. For an accurate list of properties, please visit gohuntgeorgia.com.

CHECK-IN HUNT VS. SIGN-IN HUNT:

CHECK-IN HUNT

For managed hunts, hunters must check-in prior to hunting. Hunters may check-in starting at noon one day prior to the hunt, anytime during the hunt, or online at gooutdoorsgeorgia.com. Check-in is required once for each check-in period. Two deer of either sex may be harvested during any one check-in hunt, unless otherwise specified, except on Quality Buck WMAs. See specific WMA listing for hunt details. All deer and turkey harvested during a check-in hunt must be checked-out at the check station on the day of the harvest and should not be recorded on your Harvest Record or reported through Georgia Game Check.

SIGN-IN HUNT

All big-game and small-game hunters must sign-in prior to hunting. Sign-in is available beginning at noon one day prior to hunt at check station/kiosk and is also available online at gooutdoorsgeorgia.com. Sign-in is required once per hunt for big-game hunts and once per season for small-game hunts. Two deer may be harvested during any sign-in hunt lasting less than ten days. During a sign-in hunt lasting 10 days or longer, the bag limit is the statewide season. Bag limits for other species are the same as statewide limits, unless otherwise noted under the specific WMA.

All deer and turkey harvested during a sign-in hunt must be checked using GA Game Check. See pages 20 and 30 for details.
FEDERALLY REGULATED MIGRATORY BIRDS

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulates the harvest of migratory birds by establishing framework (opening and closing dates, maximum season length, and maximum bag limits) within which states can set their migratory bird hunting seasons. Georgia annually proposes waterfowl and late-season migratory bird hunting season dates and bag limits that maximize opportunity within the framework adopted by the USFWS.

In addition to State regulations, Federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting, and storage of migratory birds. Each hunter should also consult actual Federal Regulations, which may be found in: Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

View, download and print at: www.gpoaccess.gov or www.GoHuntGeorgia.com

GA WATERFOWL AND MIGRATORY BIRD STAMP

Georgia Migratory Bird Stamp is required for any person age 16 and older and hunts migratory birds (ducks, geese, woodcock, snipe, coots, sora, rails, or gallinules). A free Georgia Migratory Bird Stamp is available for all resident Landowners hunting their own land and a Sportsman’s License, Youth Sportsman’s License, Disability Sportsman’s License, Disability Hunting License, Honorary License or Lifetime Sportsman’s License holder.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP

Federal Duck Stamp is required for all waterfowl (ducks and geese) hunters 16 years of age or older, including resident landowners and their immediate family. The stamp is valid from July 1–June 30 and must be signed in ink across the face. The Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is available at US Post Offices, 1-800-STAMP24, www.GoOutdoorsGeorgia.com, or usps.com.

LEGAL HOURS

Dove: 12 noon until sunset on opening day of September season, and ½ hour before sunrise to sunset for the remainder of the season.

All Other Migratory Birds: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

FEDERAL YOUTH WATERFOWL DAYS

Nov. 16-17, 2019

Only youth 16 years of age or younger may hunt waterfowl or geese on these days. An adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth into the field but may not hunt.

POSSESSION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS HARVESTED BY ANOTHER

Persons possessing migratory birds harvested by another hunter must possess, in writing, the hunter’s signature, address, total number of birds harvested by species and dates of harvest.

NON-TOXIC SHOT

Any 10-gauge or smaller loaded with federally approved nontoxic shot of size “F” or smaller. No lead shot may be in possession while hunting waterfowl.

BANDED BIRDS

Hunters harvesting any banded migratory bird should go to the Bird Banding Laboratory website at www.reportband.gov to report the band number and how, when and where it was recovered.

FALCONRY (for Migratory Birds)

Valid falconry permit and hunting license required.

Dates:

Sept. 7 – 29
Oct. 12 – 27
Nov. 16 – 17
Nov. 23 – Dec. 7
Dec. 12 – Jan. 31

Limits:

3 per day
9 in possession

SPECIES REGULATIONS

CROWS

Electronic calls may be used. Crows may be taken outside of these dates only when causing agricultural damage.

Eurasian collared doves

May be taken at any time; no limit.

CAUTION: More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on Federal Regulations, contact Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 75 Spring Street, S.W. Atlanta, GA 30303 or call 404-679-7057.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

LAKE LANIER RESTRICTIONS:

No hunting allowed within 600 feet of a dock, house, structure, bridge, road, boat ramp, marina or open recreation area. Contact the Game Management Region 2 Office for open dates, closed recreation areas open for hunting and other special rules for waterfowl hunting on Lake Lanier, or visit www.gohuntgeorgia.com/Hunting/Waterfowl.

GEORGIA POWER LAKES (in North Georgia):

No hunting allowed within 300 feet of any dock, house,
boat ramp, marina or open recreation area without permission from the lease or property owner.

Lakes open for duck and goose hunting: Lake Burton, Lake Seed, Lake Rabun, Tallulah Falls Lake, Lake Tugalo and Lake Yonah. Contact the Game Management Region 2 Office for dates and other special rules for waterfowl hunting on Georgia Power Lakes in North Georgia, or visit www.gohuntgeorgia.com/Hunting/Waterfowl.

LAKE WALTER F. GEORGE:
No hunting allowed on the portions of LWFG in Georgia within 600 feet of a dock house structure, bridge, road, boat ramp, marina, or open recreation area. Waterfowl hunting from land is prohibited outside of the specified “Hunting Areas”. A Corps permit is required to hunt waterfowl on all areas of the lake, except the Eufaula NWR. Information on how to purchase a permit (in person or by mail only): www.sam.usace.mil or 229-768-2516.

LAKE BLACKSHEAR, LAKE OCONEE, LAKE SEMINOLE, LAKE SINCLAIR & LAKE OLIVER (South of Standing Boy Creek):
No hunting allowed within 300 feet of a dock house structure, bridge, road, boat ramp, marina or open recreation area.

Continued from page 21
DEER HUNTING

Five Tips To Optimize Your Use Of Bait

Deer hunting: Thinking of using bait to attract deer to your hunting grounds? Here are a few tips to help you maximize your chances of success this season.

1. Whether you’re hunting or approaching your tree stand, always stay downwind. Make sure the path that leads to your stand allows you to get there without the deer catching your scent or seeing you.

2. Choose a bait site that a wary adult male will find difficult to bypass. Do this by making use of natural obstacles like streams and fields. This way, you won’t lose sight of the animal as it tries to maneuver around your site, and you’ll prevent it from passing behind your stand and catching your scent.

3. If possible, maintain more than one bait site so you can adapt your strategy to different wind conditions.

4. Be generous with your bait. The fewer trips you make to your site to restock, the lower your risk of contaminating the area with your scent. And make sure your bait site never runs out of food; you don’t want the deer going elsewhere to feed!

5. If you are using a firearm, locate your tree stand as far as possible from your bait site: a minimum of 100 yards is good so as to avoid spreading your scent in the area. For the same reason, your hunting stand should be as high off the ground as possible.
### 2019-2020 Season Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deer</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery, Statewide</td>
<td>September 14–January 12</td>
<td>12 per season, statewide. No more than 10 may be antlerless and no more than 2 may be antlered. One of the antlered deer must have at least 4 points, one inch or longer, on one side of the antlers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Archery (Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett &amp; Rockdale only)</td>
<td>September 14–January 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primitive Weapons</td>
<td>October 12–January 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms</td>
<td>October 19–January 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bear</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Zone</td>
<td>Archery: Sept. 14–Oct. 11</td>
<td>2 per season; provided, however, that no more than 1 may be taken from the southern/central bear zones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primitive Weapons: Oct. 12–18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Zone</td>
<td>Firearms: Dec. 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turkey</strong></td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>3 gobblers per season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alligator</strong></td>
<td>Zone &amp; Quota Limited</td>
<td>1 per quota permit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 16 (sunset)–October 7 (sunrise)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crows</strong></td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>No limit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dove</strong></td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>15 per day, 45 in possession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 7–30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 23–December 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 6–January 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Falconry</strong></td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 7–29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 12–27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 16–17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 23–December 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 12–January 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fox &amp; Bobcat</strong></td>
<td>December 1–February 29</td>
<td>No limit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grouse</strong></td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>3 per day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 15–February 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sora &amp; Rails</strong></td>
<td>Sept. 27–Nov 1. Nov. 12–Dec. 15</td>
<td>King &amp; Clapper: 15 per day, 45 in possession. Sora &amp; Virginia: 25 per day, 75 in possession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Opossum</strong></td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>No limit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 15–February 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quail</strong></td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>12 per day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 16–February 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rabbit</strong></td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>12 per day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 16–February 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raccoon</strong></td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>3 per day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 15–February 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Snipe</strong></td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>8 per day, 24 in possession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 15–February 28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Squirrel</strong></td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>12 per day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 15–February 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Woodcock</strong></td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>3 per day, 9 in possession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 7–January 20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Georgia Waterfowl regulations can be found at [http://www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting/waterfowl](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting/waterfowl).