



Fishing Tips



Shoal bass inhabit the swift currents and pocket water near rocky shoals, and are strong and acrobatic when hooked. Shoal bass feed on a variety of prey including crayfish, insects, and other fish, and are reputed to feed actively during sunny, midday periods. Popular lures include popping and swimming plugs, plastic baits such as minnows and worms, and flies. Effective natural baits include crickets, worms, and baitfish. Fishing for “shoalies” can be good Spring through Fall. Shoal bass are endemic (native only) to the Flint, Chattahoochee, and Apalachicola rivers systems.



Largemouth bass inhabit the slower moving reaches and backwaters of the river and orient around current deflecting structure such as submerged timber and rocks. Fishing for largemouth improves in March as water temperatures exceed 60 °F and river levels recede. A variety of artificial lures such as swimming plugs and poppers, rubber worms, and spinner-baits work well for largemouth, especially when presented close to cover.



Gulf Striped bass inhabit coastal rivers that drain into the Gulf of Mexico. Adult stripers, like other anadromous fishes, migrate from the sea into freshwater rivers to spawn. Stripers in the Flint River are landlocked, however, their migrations blocked by Woodruff dam. The existence of this coolwater fish depends entirely on the "blue hole" springs that provide thermal refuge from soaring river temperatures during Summer. Striped bass are capable of reaching extremely large sizes (40+ lbs) in the Flint River, although few large fish exist in the population. Fishing is best during the spring (March - April) when spawning urges lead these fish upriver where they congregate below obstructions like the dam in Albany. Striped bass may be caught using artificial lures and jigs that resemble their primary fish forage (eg. threadfin and gizzard shad). Anglers also use live shad as bait. Fishing for striped bass is closed May 1 - October 31 each year.

Redbreast sunfish inhabit areas of moderate to swift current found near shoals. The best redbreast fishing is usually during March-June, as water levels on the Flint recede. A favorite method for catching redbreast involves pitching a small lure such as a spinner or popping bug near shoreline structure. Crickets are a favorite bait fished under a float, and earthworms fished on the bottom with a small sinker may also produce large redbreast.



Bluegill and Redear sunfish (“shellcrackers”) are types of bream commonly found in the Flint River. Bluegills exhibit a dark spot at the rear of the dorsal fin and black border on the gill flap, whereas redear have a red or orange border around their gill flap. The bluegill’s aggressive nature makes them vulnerable to a variety of artificial lures such as small jigs, spinners, and flies. Redear sunfish are particularly fond of snails and clams, but are most frequently caught using natural baits such as crickets and worms. Bluegill and redear sunfish prefer the slower moving sections of the river, and orient to structure such as stumps, roots, logs, and rocks.



Channel catfish are caught on the river bottom with a variety of natural baits including worms, baitfish, chicken liver, and homemade stinkbaits. Channel catfish may be caught Spring-Fall, and during Summer are most active at dusk, dawn, and night near brush in shallow water adjacent to deeper pools.



Flathead catfish (“Appaloosa cat”) are not native to the Flint River, but are now widespread and abundant. Flatheads are capable of reaching large sizes in the Flint River (60+ lbs). Large individuals consume other fish, particularly sunfishes, and can deplete populations of these fish. Flathead catfish prefer live baits such as bream, shad, and worms. Some anglers target these fish by setting limb lines (“bush hooks”) along the bank. Flatheads may be caught Spring-Fall, and are most active at dusk, dawn, and night in shallow water adjacent to deeper pools.

The **Lower Flint River** abounds with natural beauty and cultural significance. Since early times, Native Americans have plied its waters, fishing, hunting, and gathering flint rocks used to make arrowheads, knives, and spear points. Later, the river provided a means to transport goods such as timber and cotton by raft and steamboat from riverside towns like Albany to the Gulf of Mexico. The lower river is characterized by limestone bluffs, blue hole springs, cypress-lined banks, islands and rocky shoals, and abundant fish and wildlife. Although few areas exist where wading the river is practical, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities are plentiful for floaters and boaters.

BE AN ETHICAL OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST

Ethical anglers and boaters recreate responsibly and consider the rights of others. They portray a positive image and help to protect and conserve our natural resources. Be an ethical outdoor enthusiast. The future of outdoor recreation depends on it.

- Show courtesy to others, lend a helping hand whenever possible, and always ask permission before fishing, boating, or accessing private property.
- Know and obey fishing and boating regulations.
- Report violations and pollution.
- Keep only the fish you can use and release all others properly so they will survive. Some fish species are endangered or threatened.
- Appreciate the environment by not littering, dispose of fishing line properly, and leave a place cleaner than when you found it.
- Pass on the tradition! Takemefishing.org
- Don't transfer fish or plant species between bodies of water. Non-native species can adversely affect existing populations.



T.I.P.
Turn in Poachers)
1-800-241-4113



FLOATING THE LOWER FLINT RIVER

-Always wear personal flotation devices (PFD's) while on the river, bring plenty of water, sunscreen, and bug repellent. Alcohol and boating don't mix.

-Do not attempt to swim against river currents. If your boat capsizes, try to remain with the craft, go with the flow and make your way toward the bank.

-Allow plenty of time to complete your float. Your rate of travel will depend on river conditions and the amount of paddling and other activities you undertake. Real-time flow conditions are reported at several USGS gauging stations along the Flint River- <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/rt>



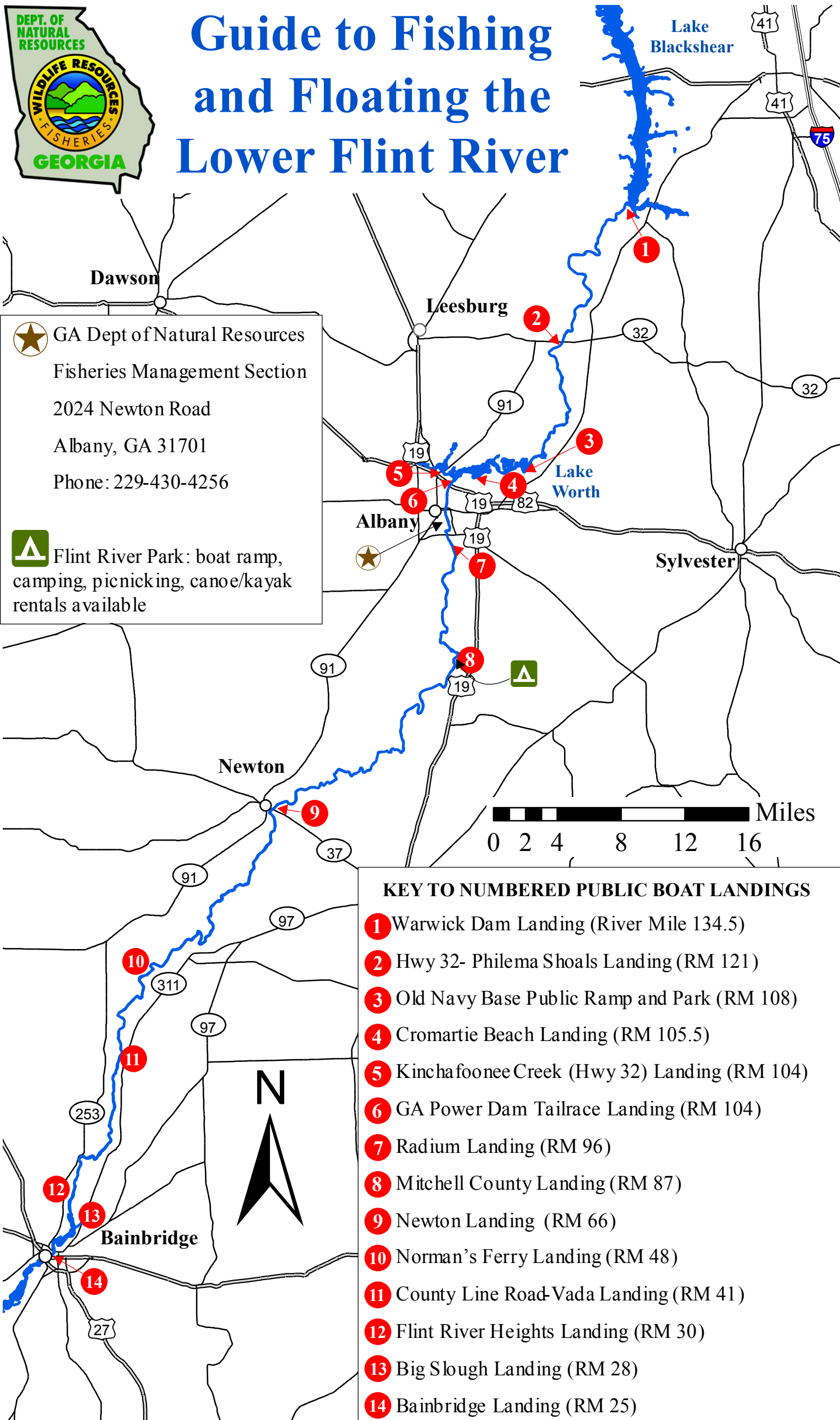
Guide to Fishing and Floating the Lower Flint River



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SECTION
2024 NEWTON ROAD
ALBANY, GEORGIA 31701-3576



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★ GA Dept of Natural Resources
Fisheries Management Section
2024 Newton Road
Albany, GA 31701
Phone: 229-430-4256

▲ Flint River Park: boat ramp,
camping, picnicking, canoe/kayak
rentals available

- ### KEY TO NUMBERED PUBLIC BOAT LANDINGS
- 1 Warwick Dam Landing (River Mile 134.5)
 - 2 Hwy 32- Philema Shoals Landing (RM 121)
 - 3 Old Navy Base Public Ramp and Park (RM 108)
 - 4 Cromartie Beach Landing (RM 105.5)
 - 5 Kinchafoonee Creek (Hwy 32) Landing (RM 104)
 - 6 GA Power Dam Tailrace Landing (RM 104)
 - 7 Radium Landing (RM 96)
 - 8 Mitchell County Landing (RM 87)
 - 9 Newton Landing (RM 66)
 - 10 Norman's Ferry Landing (RM 48)
 - 11 County Line Road-Vada Landing (RM 41)
 - 12 Flint River Heights Landing (RM 30)
 - 13 Big Slough Landing (RM 28)
 - 14 Bainbridge Landing (RM 25)