

Fishing Tips

The **Redbreast Sunfish** is the most fished-for species in the Ogeechee River. Peak fishing for redbreast occurs during April-June and is directly affected by water levels. Preferred habitat is cover in the deep holes located along the outside bends of the main river channel. Live bait and artificial lures are both effective for catching redbreast. Crickets and worms fished under a bobber is a popular live bait technique. Small beetle spins, rooster tails, and popping bugs (on a fly rod) are effective artificial lures for catching redbreasts.

The Ogeechee River supports a healthy population of **catfish**. There are large numbers of bullhead, white, and channel catfish in the Ogeechee. These fish are catchable year round, but are most susceptible during the summer months. All three of these species tend to be concentrated along the outside bends of the river. Fresh cut-bait is one of the most popular methods for catching larger catfish. To target smaller, but much more numerous catfish, try Louisiana pinks or chicken livers. Limb lines and trot lines set overnight using cut-bait or small bream are also popular ways to catch catfish.

Even though the Ogeechee River supports a healthy population of **Largemouth bass**, there are not many anglers that fish the Ogeechee specifically for largemouth. Bass fishing usually begins to pick up as water temperatures approach 60° F. Oxbow lakes and cover (fallen trees, brush piles, and rocks) in the main river channel are the more productive bass fishing areas in the Ogeechee. Jigs, plastic worms, spinner baits, and minnow type lures are effective baits for largemouths. Lures should be presented as close to cover as possible for best results.

Bluegill and **Redear sunfish** (shellcracker) fishing usually begins in late April when these species start bedding and continues throughout the summer. Most of the fishing for these two species is in the still-water off the main river channel. Bluegill and redear sunfish can be caught using the same methods as described for redbreast, but slower moving water is usually more productive for these two species.



BE AN ETHICAL ANGLER

Ethical anglers fish responsibly and consider the rights of others. They portray a positive image and help protect and conserve our natural resources. Be an ethical angler; the future of fishing depends on it.

Ethical anglers:

- know and obey the fishing regulations.
- report violations and pollution.
- keep only the fish they can use and release all others properly so they will survive. Some fish species are threatened or endangered.
- pass on the tradition by taking a child fishing.
- appreciate the environment by not littering, dispose of fishing line properly, and leave a place cleaner than they found it.
- show courtesy to others, lend a helping hand whenever possible, and always ask permission before fishing on private property.
- don't transfer fish or plant species between bodies of water. Non-native species can adversely affect existing populations.

The **Ogeechee River** is one of the south's best kept secrets. The river begins in Greene County, forming one of Georgia's few remaining free flowing streams. The Ogeechee is one of the State's finest opportunities to get off the beaten path and enjoy some great outdoor recreational activities. Its public access points are somewhat limited, but the beautiful scenery and great fishing action makes it well worth the effort. The Ogeechee is home to an abundance of freshwater fish including largemouth bass, redbreast sunfish, bluegill, redear sunfish, crappie, channel catfish, and white catfish (see fishing tips, inside). Good fishing is directly related to water levels in the Ogeechee. The action on the Ogeechee usually picks up in the spring when the USGS gauge at Eden drops below six feet. Good fishing can be found throughout the summer months depending on flow and water temperature. Come see why we consider the Ogeechee River one of Georgia's best kept secrets.

Tip Checklist

- * Each person on board must have a readily accessible U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved type I, II, III, or V (hybrid) Personal Flotation Device (life jacket) in good condition (no rips or tears). Type V (hybrid) devices are acceptable only when worn and securely fastened. Each vessel, except for Class A vessels, canoes, and kayaks, must be equipped with at least one Type IV (throwable) device. Also, any child under age 10 who is on board must wear an appropriately sized USCG approved life jacket at all times while the boat is moving whether it be by drifting, sailing, or mechanical power.
- * Boats with enclosed areas that may trap gas or vapors are required to be equipped with a USCG approved fire extinguisher.
- * Make sure your fishing license and boat registration are current (carry your license and registration card with you). To purchase a fishing license or register a boat, call 1-888-748-6887 or visit our website www.p permit.com
- * Check your boat trailer lights, navigation lights, and fuel before leaving home.
- * Carry a first aid kit, insect repellent, sunscreen, extra clothing, plenty of food, and drinking water.
- * Be aware of and abide by all fishing regulations.
- * Have a float plan (always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back).

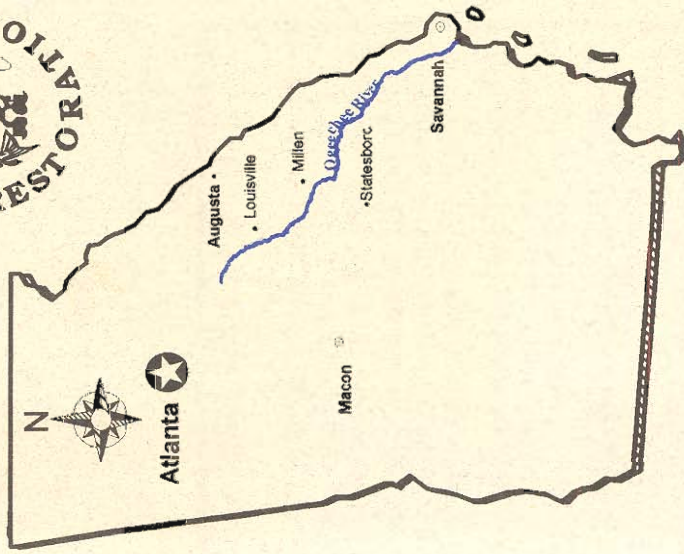
For more information, contact:
Wildlife Resources Division
22814 Hwy. 144
Richmond Hill, GA 31324
(912)-727-2112 or visit the DNR
web site at www.ganet.org/dnr/wild



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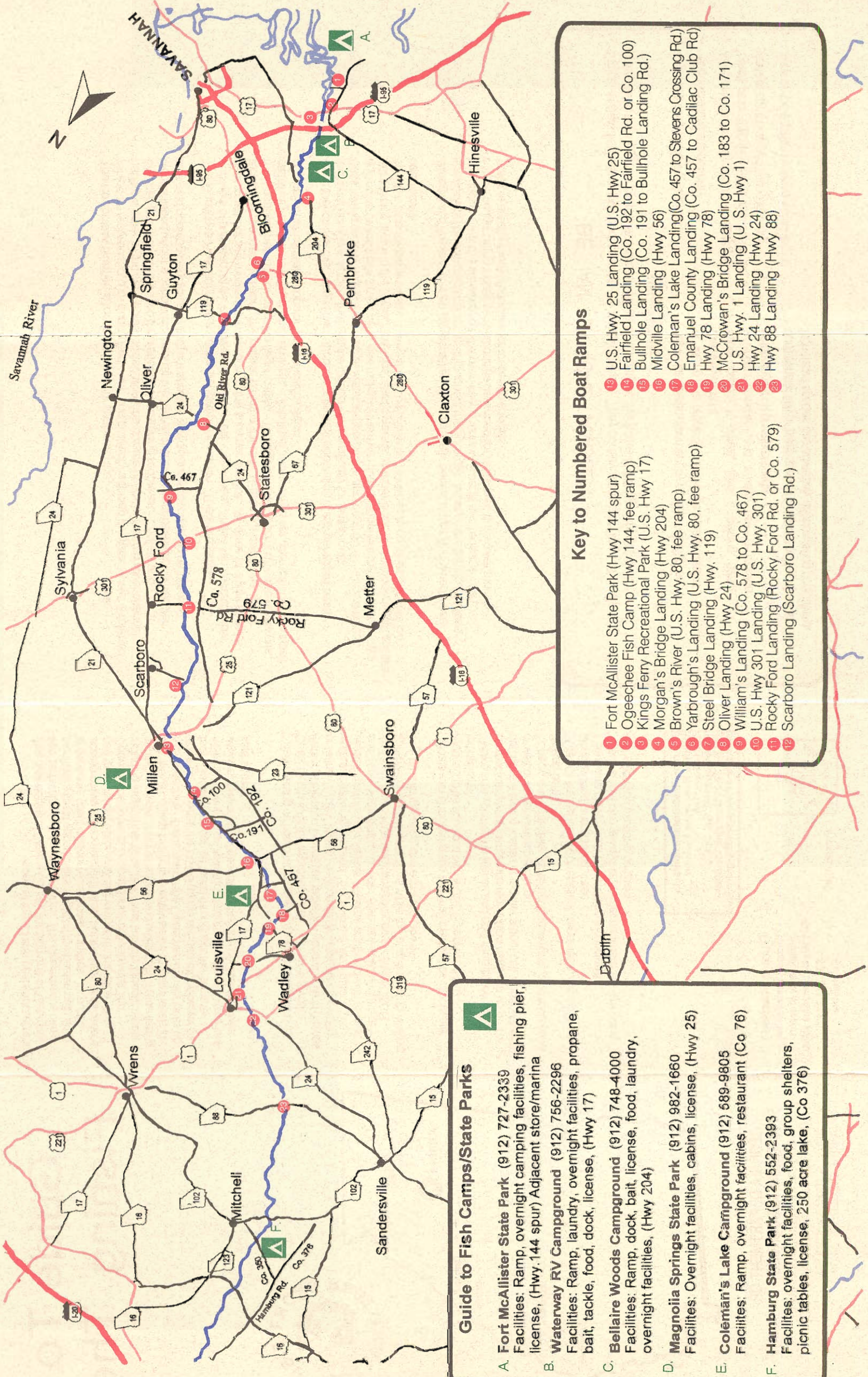
Ogeechee River



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT SECTION
2070 U.S. HIGHWAY 278, S.E.
SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA 30279

T.I.P.

(Turn in Poachers)
To report gamefish law violations or to report fish kills or hazardous spills:
1-800-241-4113
Call toll free



Guide to Fish Camps/State Parks

A. Fort McAllister State Park (912) 727-2339
 Facilities: Ramp, overnight camping facilities, fishing pier, license, (Hwy. 144 spur) Adjacent store/marina

B. Waterway RV Campground (912) 756-2296
 Facilities: Ramp, laundry, overnight facilities, propane, bait, tackle, food, dock, license, (Hwy 17)

C. Bellaire Woods Campground (912) 748-4000
 Facilities: Ramp, dock, bait, license, food, laundry, overnight facilities, (Hwy 204)

D. Magnolia Springs State Park (912) 982-1660
 Facilities: Overnight facilities, cabins, license, (Hwy 25)

E. Coleman's Lake Campground (912) 689-9805
 Facilities: Ramp, overnight facilities, restaurant (Co 76)

F. Hamburg State Park (912) 552-2393
 Facilities: overnight facilities, food, group shelters, picnic tables, license, 250 acre lake, (Co 376)

Key to Numbered Boat Ramps

1 Fort McAllister State Park (Hwy 144 spur)
 2 Ogeechee Fish Camp (Hwy 144, fee ramp)
 3 Kings Ferry Recreational Park (U.S. Hwy 17)
 4 Morgan's Bridge Landing (Hwy 204)
 5 Brown's River (U.S. Hwy. 80, fee ramp)
 6 Yarbrough's Landing (U.S. Hwy. 80, fee ramp)
 7 Steel Bridge Landing (Hwy. 119)
 8 Oliver Landing (Hwy 24)
 9 William's Landing (Co. 578 to Co. 467)
 10 U.S. Hwy 301 Landing (U.S. Hwy. 301)
 11 Rocky Ford Landing (Rocky Ford Rd. or Co. 579)
 12 Scarborough Landing (Scarboro Landing Rd.)
 13 U.S. Hwy. 25 Landing (U.S. Hwy 25)
 14 Fairfield Landing (Co. 192 to Fairfield Rd. or Co. 100)
 15 Bullhole Landing (Co. 191 to Bullhole Landing Rd.)
 16 Midville Landing (Hwy 56)
 17 Coleman's Lake Landing (Co. 457 to Stevens Crossing Rd.)
 18 Emanuel County Landing (Co. 457 to Cadillac Landing Rd.)
 19 Hwy 78 Landing (Hwy 78)
 20 McCrowan's Bridge Landing (Co. 183 to Co. 171)
 21 U.S. Hwy. 1 Landing (U.S. Hwy 1)
 22 Hwy 24 Landing (Hwy 24)
 23 Hwy 88 Landing (Hwy 88)