



Proposed Rules Pertaining to Wild Animals, Subject 391-4-8

Please send comments on the proposed regulations to:

WCScomments@dnr.ga.gov

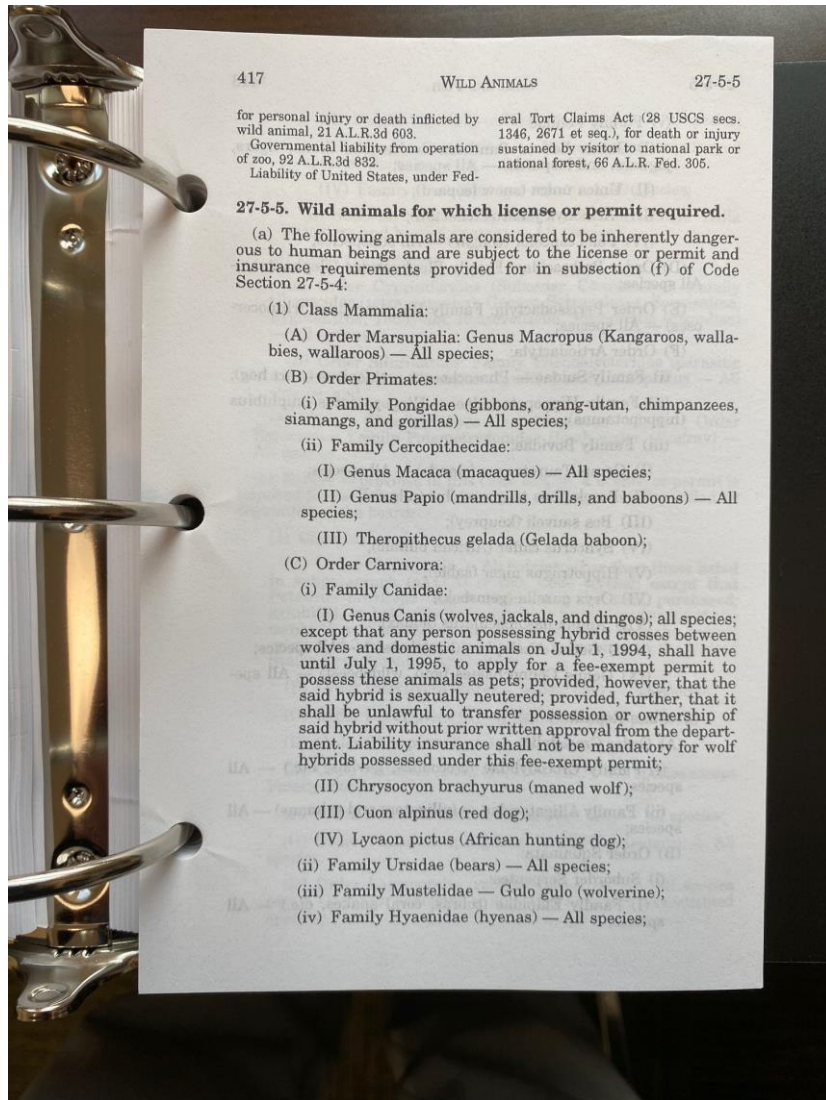
No later than September 30, 2022

Comments posted to Facebook are not official comments

Background

- **27-1-2 (77):** “Wildlife” means any vertebrate or invertebrate animal life indigenous to this state...”
- **27-1-2 (75):** “Wild Animal” means any animal which is not wildlife and is not normally a domestic species in the state.
- **27-5-1.** “ The importation, transportation, sale, transfer, and possession of wild animals are privileges not to be granted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that such actions can be accomplished in a manner that does not pose unnecessary risk to Georgia’s wildlife and other natural resources or the citizens of and visitors to this state”
 - Harmful competition for wildlife
 - The introduction of disease or pests harmful to wildlife
 - Problems of enforcing laws and regulations relative to wildlife
 - Threatening wildlife or other natural resources
 - Endangering the physical safety of human beings

Current Wild Animal List (27-5-5)



- Can view entire Wild Animal Chapter (O.C.G.A. 27-5) on General Assembly website
- 104 groups of species are listed
 - Inherently Dangerous Wild Animals (Requires license and liability insurance)
 - All other Wild Animals (Requires license only)

Department and Board Responsibilities

Department

- LED Issues Wild Animal Licenses and Permits as described in 27-5-4
- License: Wholesale or Retail Wild Animal Business (Not for Pet Owners)
- Permits: Scientific or Educational Purposes
- Facilities are inspected every 2-3 years
- Currently ~ 100 organizations/individuals with licenses/permits

Board of Natural Resources

- **27-5-2. (b)** The board is specifically authorized to **supplement** the list of wild animals set forth in this chapter...
- The board also has the authority to prohibit wild animals

Justification and Approach

- Has not been updated since 1994
- Scientific name changes creating confusion
- Many invasive species groups not covered on Wild Animal List are being introduced and established in Georgia
- Proposed rules supplement the current list of wild animals and lists them all in single subject under authority of the DNR Board
- Developed by species and law enforcement experts from Georgia DNR
 - Observations in Georgia
 - Scientific publications and risk assessments
 - Invasive species issues and regulations in nearby states
 - Recognition as an injurious species under federal law (Lacey Act)

Proposed Rules

- Increases Wild Animal list from 104 to 133 groups of species
- Mammals
 - Prohibited: Mongoose
 - Inherently Dangerous: Expanded to include all non-domestic cat species
- Birds
 - Prohibited: Monk Parakeet and Purple Swamphen
- Reptiles
 - Inherently Dangerous: Mole Vipers
 - License: Added 6 species

Proposed Rules (Reptiles)

(c) **Reptiles:**

1. Order Squamata:

(i) Family Pythonidae - *Python molurus* (Indian rock python);

(ii) Family Pythonidae - *Python bivittatus* (Burmese python);

(iii) Family Teiidae - *Salvator merianae* (Argentine black-and-white tegu);

(iv) Family Varanidae - *Varanus niloticus* (Nile monitor);

2. Order Testudines:

(i) Family Pelomedusidae - *Pelomedusa subrufa* (African helmeted turtle);

(ii) Family Trionychidae (softshell turtles) - *Pelodiscus sinensis* (Chinese softshell turtle);

3. The species listed in subparagraph (c) shall only be licensed for scientific, educational, or public exhibition purposes consistent with O.C.G.A. Sec. 27-5-4; provided, however, that such species possessed on or before the effective date of this rule may be held as a pet without a license or permit provided that the owner tags and registers all individuals with the Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Division within 12 months following the effective date of this rule;

Argentine Black-and-White Tegu (License)



[HUNTING](#) [FISHING](#) [BOATING](#) [BUY A LICENSE](#) [REGISTER A BOAT](#) [PROPERTIES](#) [EDUCATION](#) [BLOG](#)



Argentine Black and White Tegus



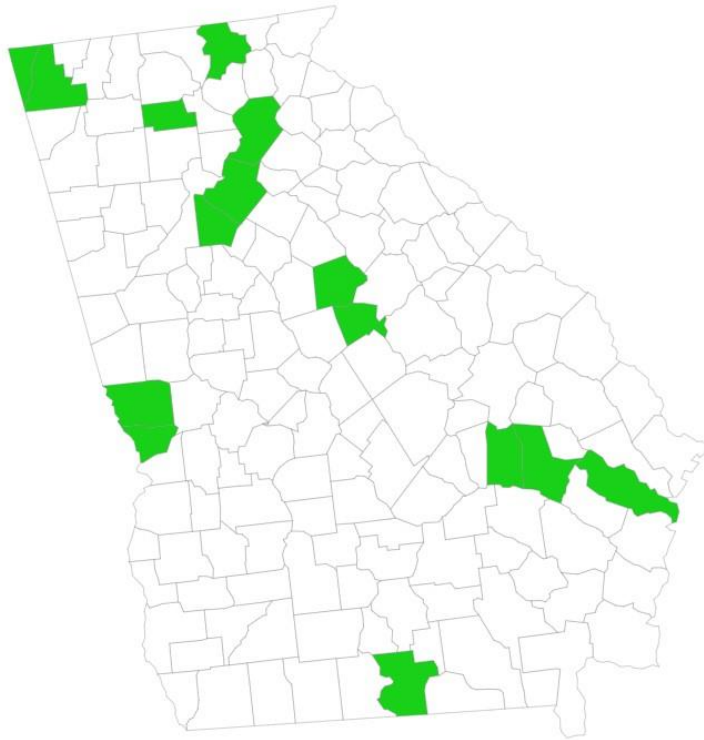
Invasive Lizards Threaten Native Georgia Wildlife

DNR and partners are working to eradicate a wild population of Argentine black and white tegus in Toombs and Tattnall counties in southeast Georgia.

- Tegus already regulated in Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Alabama
- Existing owners can keep their pets by tagging them and registering them with LED within 12 months of the effective date of the rule.
- Animals can be sold, transferred and transported within the 12-month period as long as they are tagged and registered before the end of the 12-month period. Importation or breeding of animals would not be allowed after the effective date of the rule.

Tegu Concerns

Argentine black and white tegu (*Salvator merianae*)



Legend

- No Data
- Species Reported

- Population in Toombs and Tattnall Counties, spreading
- Omnivores that include eggs of tortoises and ground nesting birds in their diets



Gopher Tortoise

- Official State Reptile
- Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative
- Keystone species that provides habitat for hundreds of other species



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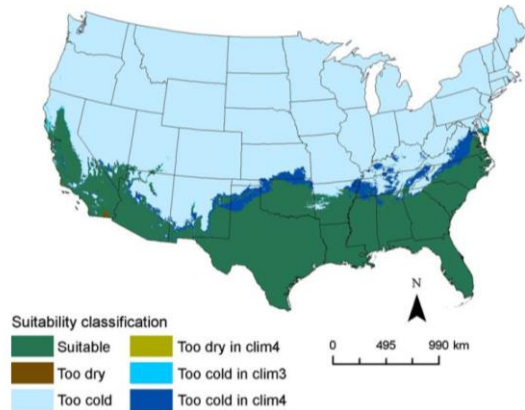
Georgia DNR – Wildlife Resources

Burmese Python

What parts of the US mainland are climatically suitable for invasive alien pythons?

247

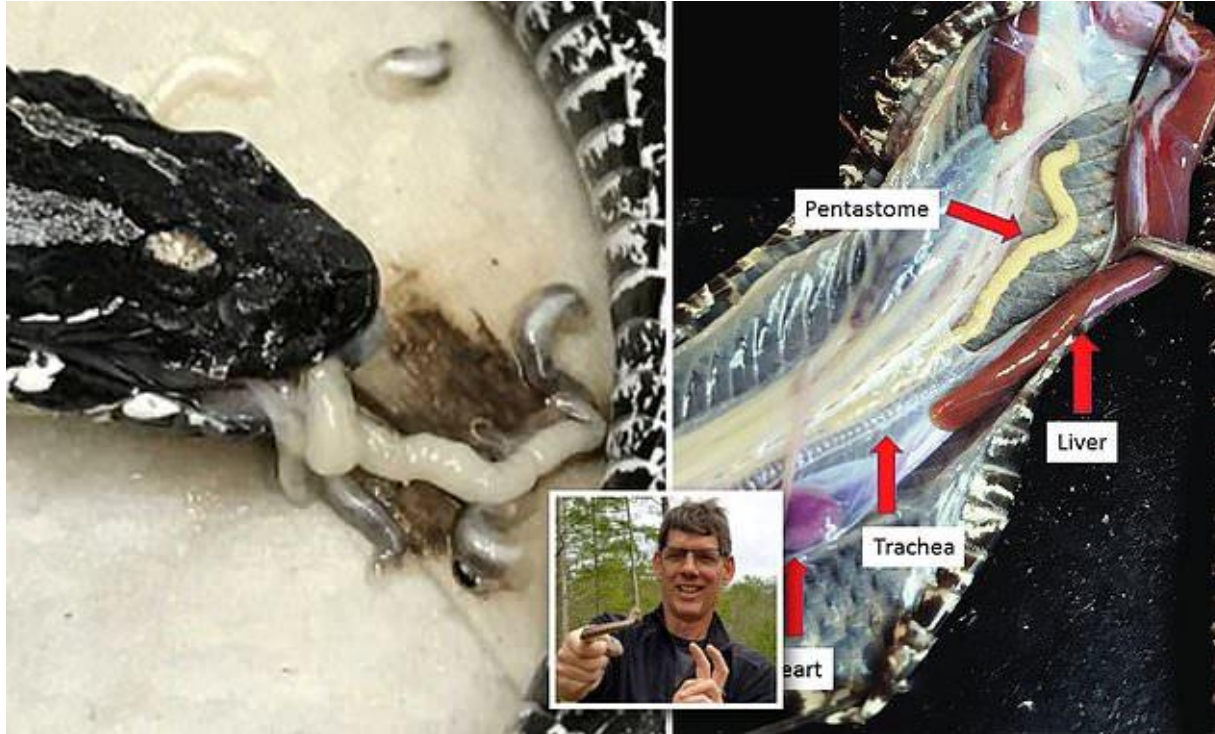
Fig. 4 Areas of the continental United States within the climate envelopes represented in Fig. 2 based on DAYMET climate layers for the United States



Okefenokee Swamp NWR

- Uncertainty
 - Changing climate
 - Cold snaps
 - Behavior

Invasive Lung Parasites



- Burmese Pythons are a host for this non-native parasite
- Native snakes are susceptible to the parasite



Proposed Rules (continued)

- Amphibians—No Changes
- Fishes
 - Prohibited:
 - 3 carp species
 - African Tiger Fish
 - Wels Catfish
 - All species of Snakeheads
 - Nile Perch and Barramundi
 - Inherently Dangerous: Added Stonefishes, Weever Fishes and Electric Eels
 - License:
 - Arapaima
 - Trahiras
 - Goonch Catfishes
 - Swamp Eels

Proposed Rules (continued)

- Invertebrates
 - Prohibited:
 - Dreissenidae (Zebra mussels and relatives)
 - Marbled Crayfish
 - Inherently Dangerous:
 - 5 groups of scorpions (fattail, bark, thicktailed, deathstalker, and yellow-legged creeping scorpion)
 - License:
 - All families of crayfishes (except 3 species in food/aquarium trade)
 - Apple, Assassin, and Asian Mystery Snails
 - Penaeid Shrimps (exception for human consumption)
 - Four families and 2 genera of freshwater mussels
 - All other freshwater and marine invertebrates not held in aquaria or tanks

Marbled Crayfish (Prohibited)

HOME / FRESHWATER CRAYFISH / SELF-CLONING MARMORKREB CRAYFISH JUVENILES - AQUATIC ARTS



SELF-CLONING MARMORKREB CRAYFISH (PROCAMBARUS FALLAX CF. VIRGINALIS) - TANK-BRED!

Sold Out

Choose a Variant:

1 B-GRADE MARMORKREB CRAYFISH JUVENILE

1 MARMORKREB CRAYFISH JUVENILE

3 MARMORKREB CRAYFISH

[Notify me when available](#)

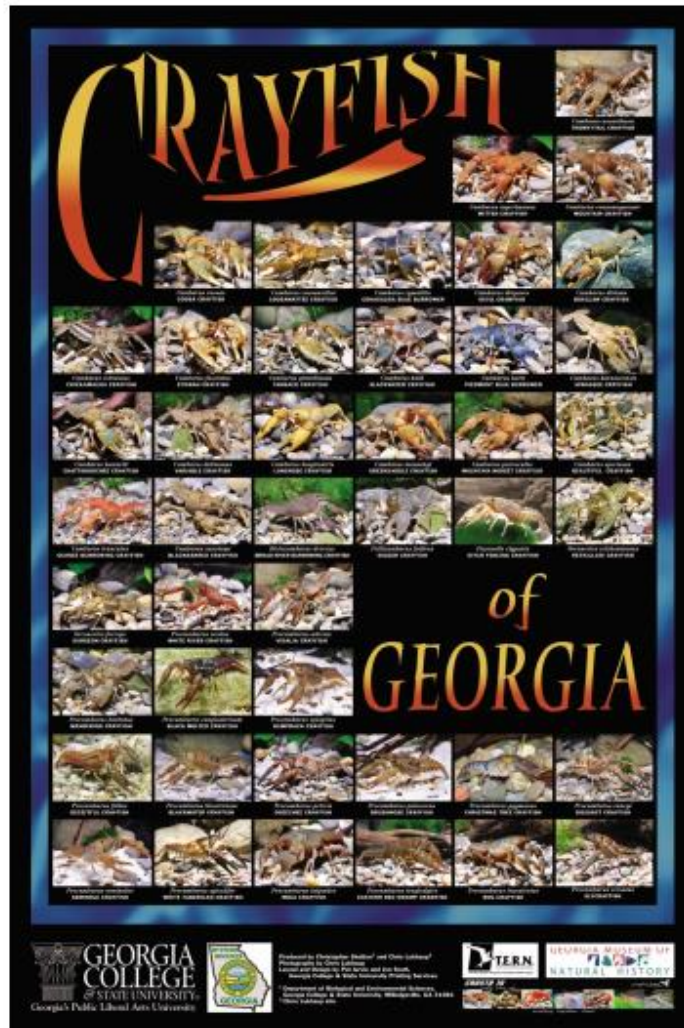
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The Self-Cloning Marmorkreb Crayfish (*Procamburus fallax* cf. *virginalis*, although this is a temporary species name at best) is an incredible anomaly of biology. It is an all-female mutation that continually produces its own fertilized eggs, which develop into exact clones of the mother. In fact, many of our specimens continually reproduce in our tanks at our facility! This crayfish was reportedly discovered in a German pet shop, but little is known about its natural origins. Many people believe it to be some sort of mutation of the true Marbled Crayfish (*Procamburus fallax*) or possibly a mutated hybrid of a *Procamburus* species and another unrelated crayfish.

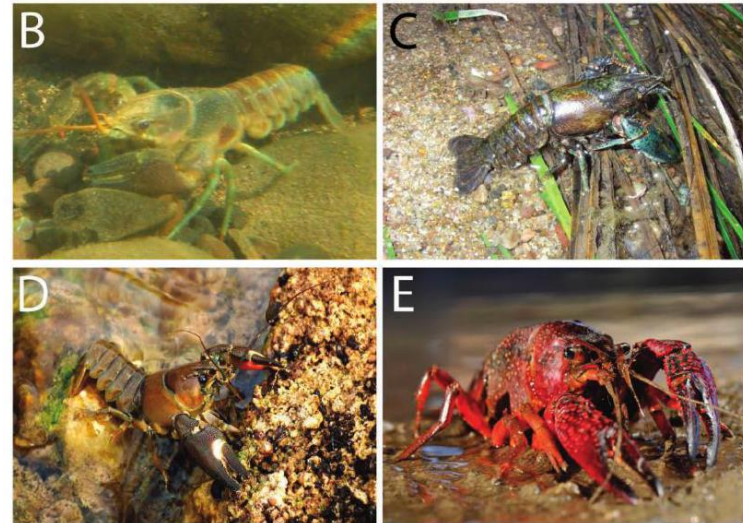
Though most crayfish are often reclusive by nature, this particular crayfish is very active by comparison and spends plenty of time exploring the floor of the aquarium in search of food. The Self-Cloning Marmorkreb Crayfish is an omnivorous scavenger and will eat most any meaty or plant-based foods. This crayfish should not be kept with ornamental live plants as it will eat them at a surprising rate. It is a skilled climber, so extra care must be taken to ensure that it does not escape its enclosure.

Crayfishes

Native

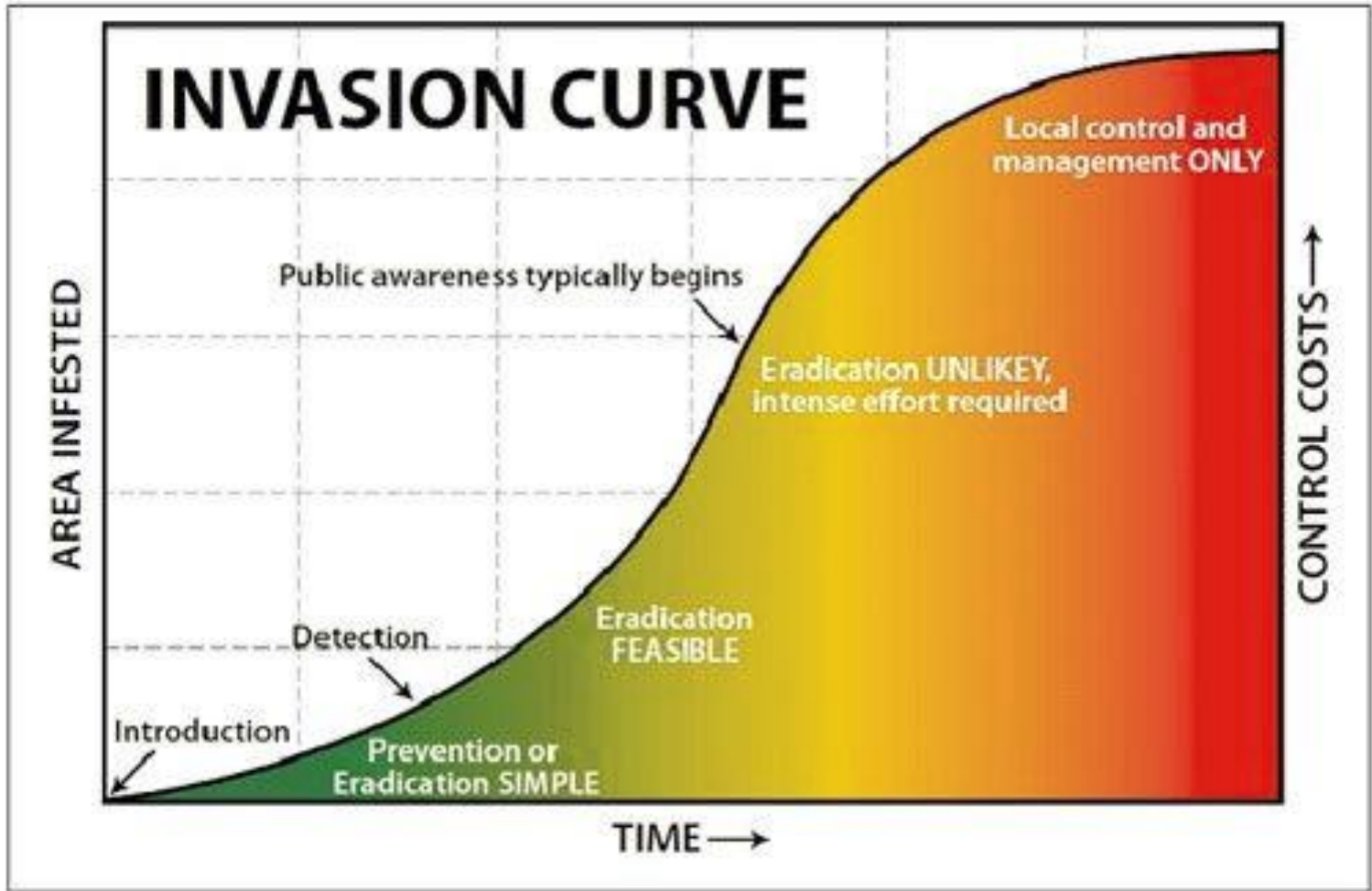


Invasive Crayfishes



- Direct competition with native species
- Habitat and ecosystem level impacts associated with foraging on plants and burrowing activity
- Disease and Parasite risk

Prevention is Key (regulations and education)



Public Input Process

Description of Action	Action Date
Georgia DNR Board Briefing on Proposed Rules	August 23, 2022
Proposed Rules Publicly Noticed on Website	August 26, 2022
Virtual Public Meeting, 7:00 PM-8:00 PM Presentation and documents will be posted on https://georgiawildlife.com	September 13, 2022
Deadline for submitting comments on proposed rules Send official comments to wscscomments@dnr.ga.gov	September 30, 2022
Present public comments and rules to the Board for action Fort McAllister State Park, Group Shelter, 3894 Fort McAllister Road, Richmond Hill, Georgia	October 25, 2022
If passed, rule would go into effect within 30 days	November 2022

Resources on Website

<https://georgiawildlife.com/regulations/proposed>

Wildlife Conservation

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to authority contained in Title 27, Game and Fish (O.C.G.A. Secs. 27-5-2 and 27-5-4), the Board of Natural Resources proposes to promulgate rules updating the taxonomy and appending the list of wild animals for which a license or permit is required in O.C.G.A. Sec. 27-5-5. The proposed rules (copy attached hereto), when adopted, amends Chapter 391-4, Wildlife Resources, by creating a new Subject 391-4-8, Wild Animals.

- [Public Notice and Proposed Rules](#)
- [Proposed Rules with Additions to the Wild Animal List Highlighted](#)
- [Wild Animal Laws in the Official Code of Georgia](#). This includes the existing list of wild animals and other laws relevant to wild animals in Georgia.
- [FAQ Wild Animal Rules](#)
- [Wild Animal Summary Presentation](#)
- [Public Comment Opportunity](#)
- Please send comments and questions on the proposed rules to WCScomments@dnr.ga.gov

Thank You



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