

The **Youth Category** recognizes young anglers (age 15 and under) who catch quality size fish. Qualifying lengths and weights of fish are reduced (see tables for lengths and weights for each species). Like Adult Angler Award recipients, youth anglers who qualify will receive a certificate, t-shirt (limit 1 shirt per angler/per year), and a hat.

Youth Angler Awards are given for kept fish OR for catch-and-release fish.

**Angler Award Program Rules:**

- **Weight and/or Length:** Fish must meet the listed minimum weight or length requirements. See **listing of eligible weights and lengths.**
- **Measurements:** Fish total length (TL) must be measured with a ruler, tape measure, or fish measuring board. To determine TL, measure the fish from the tip of the snout to the back of the tail fin with the fin squeezed together.
- **Certified Scale:** For kept Angler Award submissions, fish must be weighed on a certified scale. See “Certified Scale” under “General Rules And Requirements.”
- **Identification:** WRD Fisheries Management personnel must identify the actual fish or a photo of fish.
- **Catch and Release:** For recognition of catch-and-release fish, include an unobscured, broadside quality photo of the entire fish (for positive fish identification) AND one of the entire fish lying on its side on a flat surface next to a ruler or marked tape. Note—these may be the same photo, provided species and length verifications can be made.

**General Rules & Requirements:**

The Angler Award Program runs from January 1–December 31. Applications must be received no later than January 15 of the year following the catch. Rewards are awarded in February/March of the year following the catch. For example, a fish meeting angler award requirements that is caught in April 2019 will be recognized in early 2020.

*Who Can Apply?*

All properly licensed anglers, resident or non-resident are eligible. Fish must be caught legally using recreational fishing gear and anglers must meet Georgia fishing license requirements at the time of the catch. WRD reserves the right to refuse any questionable entry.

*Application & Photos*

The angler must submit an application form with a clear, side view photo of the fish, and a photo of the angler with the fish. Length based applications must show a side view of the fish on or next to a measuring device or ruler. Submit application in one of the following ways:

- Mail: GA WRD Angler Award Program (2067 US Highway 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025)
- Email: [Melissa.Cummings@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Melissa.Cummings@dnr.ga.gov)

- Deliver to a local [WRD Fisheries Management Office](#)

#### *Legal Season, Sporting Tackle & Other Information*

Fish must be caught in Georgia during the legal angling season for the species taken in accordance with all fishing laws and regulations. Fish must be caught on sporting tackle and be hooked and landed by the entrant. Bush hooks, trot lines, jugs, baskets, nets, etc., are not considered sporting tackle. Fish caught from hatcheries or intensive fish culture facilities are not eligible. Freshwater fish caught from private waters in which adults of the species in question are stocked are not eligible.

#### *Unacceptable Entries*

No frozen fish or mounted fish are eligible.

#### *Certified Scale*

Fish must be weighed on a scale that has been certified accurate to the nearest ounce, or lesser weight, by the Department of Agriculture within the last year. Fish may be weighed in pounds and ounces or in metric; however, metric weights will be converted to pounds and ounces. Estimated weights will not be accepted. The weight of the sling, platform, or rope (if one is used when weighing the fish) must be deducted from the total weight. Only one-ounce graduation will be recognized. Visual fractionizing of graduations is not allowed. Weights that fall between two graduations of the scale must be rounded to the lower of the two. The owner of the scale must provide an address and telephone number.

#### *Publicity*

Names and photos of Angler Award recipients may be posted on the WRD website, and may be used in social media posts, or released to media or other interested parties.