



Georgia's Public Fishing Area Record Program

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division will now recognize record fish from each Public Fishing Area. This will be the largest fish of each species caught and properly documented at each PFA.

To see if your catch qualifies for a **PFA Record Award**, check the official rules. After reviewing, please complete and submit information.

ANGLER INFORMATION

Angler Name: _____

Address/City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Age: _____ Fishing license #: _____

T-Shirt Size: _____

FISH INFORMATION

Fish species: _____

Weight: _____ lb, _____ oz

Length (inches): _____

Date Caught: ____/____/____

Bait Used: _____

Tackle Type: _____

PFA Name: _____

Lake Name on PFA: _____

APPLICANT SIGNATURE and DATE

_____/____/____
 (Applicant's signature) (Date)

GEORGIA WRD INFO

_____/____/____
 (Name and Signature of WRD employee identifying/weighing fish) (Date)

CERTIFIED SCALE INFO

Scale Owner (Business Name): _____; Phone: _____

Name of scale operator/witness (store manager or employee): _____

Fish Species Information Minimum Weights

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>WEIGHT (lb)</u>	<u>LENGTH (in)</u>
Bass, Hybrid	8.0	25
Bass, Largemouth	10.0	25
Bass, Redeye	1.0	13
Bass, Chattahoochee	0.5	10
Bass, Rock	1.0	11
Bass, Shadow	1.0	11
Bass, Shoal	4.0	20
Bass, Smallmouth	3.0	19
Bass, Spotted	5.0	21
Bass, Striped	25.0	36
Bass, Suwannee	2.0	16
Bass, Tallapoosa	0.5	10
Bass, White	2.5	17
Bowfin	10.0	30
Bullhead, Brown	2.0	17
Bullhead, Yellow	2.0	17
Bullhead, Spotted/Flat/Snail	2.0	15
Carp, Common/Grass	15.0	31
Catfish, Channel	12.0	32
Catfish, Blue/Flathead	20.0	33
Catfish, White	2.5	17
Crappie, Black	2.0	15
Crappie, White	2.0	15
Drum (Freshwater)	5.0	22
Gar, Longnose	10.0	43
Gar, Spotted/Florida	5.0	28
Perch, White	1.0	13
Perch, Yellow	1.0	15
Pickrel, Chain	3.5	24
Pickrel, Redfin	1.0	18
Shad, American	4.0	24
Shad, Hickory	1.5	18
Sunfish, Bluegill	1.5	13
Sunfish, Flier	0.5	9
Sunfish, Green	0.5	9
Sunfish, Redbreast	1.0	11
Sunfish, Redear	1.5	14
Sunfish, Spotted	0.5	9
Sunfish, Warmouth	1.0	11
Trout, Brook	0.5	10
Trout, Brown	4.0	20
Trout, Rainbow	4.0	20
Walleye	4.0	23

GENERAL RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

The PFA Record 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 PFA Record 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. Submit application in one of the following ways:

- Mail: GA WRD PFA Record Program (2067 US Highway 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025)
- Email: 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.

OFFICIAL RULES: Public Fishing Area Record Program

PFA Record Awards are awarded for kept fish that are the largest of each species caught and properly documented at each PFA. Review the following information before applying:

Public Fishing Area Record Fish Rules:

Time Frame: Applications must be submitted within 7 days of the catch.

Qualifying Weight: The fish must weigh at least two ounces more than the existing record to be a new record (see next page). If there is no existing record, fish must meet the **Angler Award minimum sizes** to qualify as a PFA record. (see previous page)

Eligible species: PFA records will be recognized for Largemouth Bass, Black or White Crappie, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and Channel Catfish.

Identification: A WRD Fisheries Section biologist or technician must identify the fish either in person, or be able to clearly identify the fish species and where it was caught from photos or video, and sign the application.

Certified Scale: PFA Record Fish must be weighed on a certified scale (see below for more information on certified scales).

Witnesses: Fish must be weighed in the presence of two witnesses, both of whom must be at least 18 years old and not a member of the entrant's immediate family. Both witnesses must provide an address and telephone number on the application. Witnesses are not necessary if the fish is weighed on a certified scale at a WRD office or PFA in the presence of WRD personnel.

NEED MORE FISHING INFORMATION?

Check out our Weekly Fishing Report <https://georgiawildlife.blog/category/fishing/>

Also follow Wildlife Resources Division through:

- Facebook (www.facebook.com/WildlifeResourcesDivisionGADNR)
- Twitter (www.twitter.com/GeorgiaWild)
- Instagram (www.instagram.com/GeorgiaWildlife)
- Blog (www.georgiawildlife.wordpress.com)
- YouTube (www.youtube.com/GeorgiaWildlife)
- Georgia Wild, a free e-newsletter (www.georgiawildlife.com/archive)

CURRENT PFA RECORD FISH

(as of 1/29/2019)

PFA	Species	Fish Weight	Angler	Date Caught	PFA	Species	Fish	Angler	Date Caught
Big Lazer Creek	Largemouth Bass	Open			Hugh M. Gillis	Largemouth Bass	11 lb, 10 oz	Daniel Thompson	1/2/2009
	Bluegill	Open		Bluegill		Open			
	Channel Catfish	Open		Channel Catfish		Open			
	Crappie	Open		Crappie		Open			
	Redear Sunfish	Open		Redear Sunfish		Open			
Marben	Largemouth Bass*	13 lb, 4 oz	Billy Conyers	2/11/2003	McDuffie	Largemouth Bass	12 lb, 6 oz	Mike Mooney	3/3/2011
	Bluegill	Open		Bluegill		Open			
	Channel Catfish	Open		Channel Catfish		Open			
	Crappie	Open		Crappie		Open			
	Redear Sunfish	Open		Redear Sunfish		Open			
Dodge County	Largemouth Bass	15 lb, 8 oz	David Hudson	3/16/2002	Ocmulgee	Largemouth Bass	Open		
	Bluegill	Open		Bluegill		Open			
	Channel Catfish	Open		Channel Catfish		Open			
	Crappie	2 lb, 3 oz	Nick Widener	2/11/2015		Crappie	Open		
	Redear Sunfish	1 lb, 11 oz	Derl Maxwell	8/6/2007		Redear Sunfish	Open		
Evans County	Largemouth Bass	Open			Paradise	Largemouth Bass	13 lb, 13 oz	Jack Chandler	2/25/1995
	Bluegill	Open		Bluegill		Open			
	Channel Catfish	Open		Channel Catfish		15 lb, 8 oz	Scotty Storey	8/22/2017	
	Crappie	Open		Crappie		2 lb, 12 oz	Alton Dawson	11/17/2018	
	Redear Sunfish	Open		Redear Sunfish		2 lb, 2 oz	Joyce William	4/18/2009	
Flat Creek	Largemouth Bass	11 lb, 5 oz	Norman Money Penny	8/10/2018	Rocky Mountain	Largemouth Bass	Open		
	Bluegill	Open		Bluegill		Open			
	Channel Catfish	Open		Channel Catfish		Open			
	Crappie	Open		Crappie		Open			
	Redear Sunfish	Open		Redear Sunfish		Open			
					Silver Lake	Largemouth Bass	Open		
				Bluegill		Open			
				Channel Catfish		Open			
				Crappie		Open			
				Redear Sunfish		Open			

*Ron Petzelt caught an 18 lb, 1 oz bass from Lake Margery (now Marben PFA) when it was privately owned in 1987