

PUBLIC FISHING AREA (PFA) RECORD PROGRAM

The Angler Award Program will now recognize record fish from each **WRD Public Fishing Area**. This will be the largest fish of each species caught and properly documented at each PFA.

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. If there is no existing record, fish must meet the **Angler Award minimum sizes** to qualify as a PFA record.
- **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.

The fish listed in THIS TABLE are currently recognized as records at PFA's.

General Rules & 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 Angler Award 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.