

The **Trophy Bass Category** will provide data on the heaviest largemouth bass caught in Georgia each year. These fish are rare, and genetics and growth information from them is valuable to fisheries managers.

**Categories and incentives for the Trophy Bass category will be:**

- 10 - 12.99 lb on private or public water in Georgia:
  - Certificate
  - T-shirt (limit 1 shirt per angler/per year) and Hat
  - Entry in a drawing for an end of year reward package
  - Photo published on WRD Social Media (**Twitter, Instagram or Facebook**)
  - Two passes to the **Go Fish Education Center**
- Bass  $\geq$  13 lb on private or public water in Georgia:
  - Same as above, plus replica mount of the fish. See program rules below to learn how to qualify to receive a replica of a trophy bass.

Procedures for certifying trophy bass are the same as the procedures for **state record fish**, except that fish from water bodies where adults are stocked will be recognized.

**Trophy Bass Official Rules:**

- **Species:** Only Largemouth Bass are eligible.
- **Time Frame:** Applications must be submitted within 90 days of the catch.
- **Qualifying Weight:** The fish must weigh at least thirteen pounds to qualify for the replica mount. It must weigh at least ten pounds to qualify as a trophy bass.
- **Identification:** A Georgia WRD Fisheries Section biologist or technician must identify the fish and sign the application. To qualify for the replica mount, the fish must be brought to a **WRD office** or examined in person by WRD personnel. After business hours and on weekends, WRD Fisheries personnel can be reached through the DNR Ranger Hotline at 1-800-241-4113.
- **Certified Scale:** Trophy Bass must be weighed on a certified scale. See "**Certified Scale**" information.
- **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.
- **Replica:** Anglers who catch a largemouth bass weighing  $\geq$  13 lb can potentially receive a replica mount of the fish by providing valuable data to WRD about the fish. WRD personnel must certify the fish to be eligible for the free mount. Information about the catch, a DNA sample, measurements, and aging structures (if a harvested fish) must be provided to WRD.

**General Rules & Requirements:**

The Trophy Bass 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 Trophy Bass 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](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.