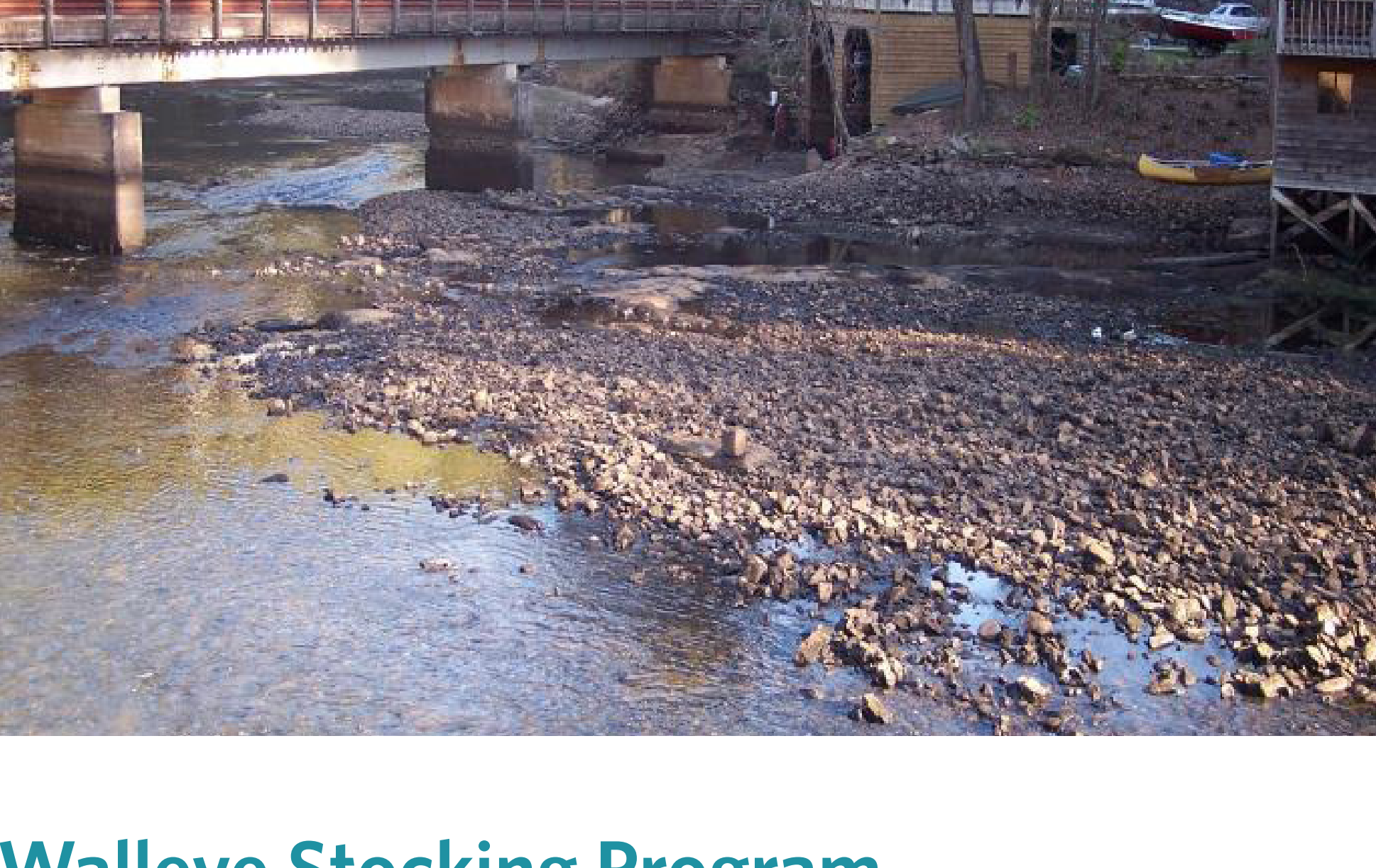


ANGLER'S GUIDE TO WALLEYE FISHING IN GEORGIA

Walleye in Georgia

North Georgia is the southern range of walleye in North America, occurring naturally in some of the large rivers and lakes within the Tennessee Valley. Throughout the 1960s, walleyes were stocked in other North Georgia reservoirs; however, these early stocking efforts were largely unsuccessful in all but a few mountain lakes. Naturalized walleye populations supported a limited seasonal fishery for many years. During the 1990s, declining numbers of walleye coupled with the rapid expansion of illegally introduced blueback herring sparked a renewed interest in re-establishing the Georgia walleye stocking program. In 2002, a fledgling walleye stocking program was reborn in Georgia.



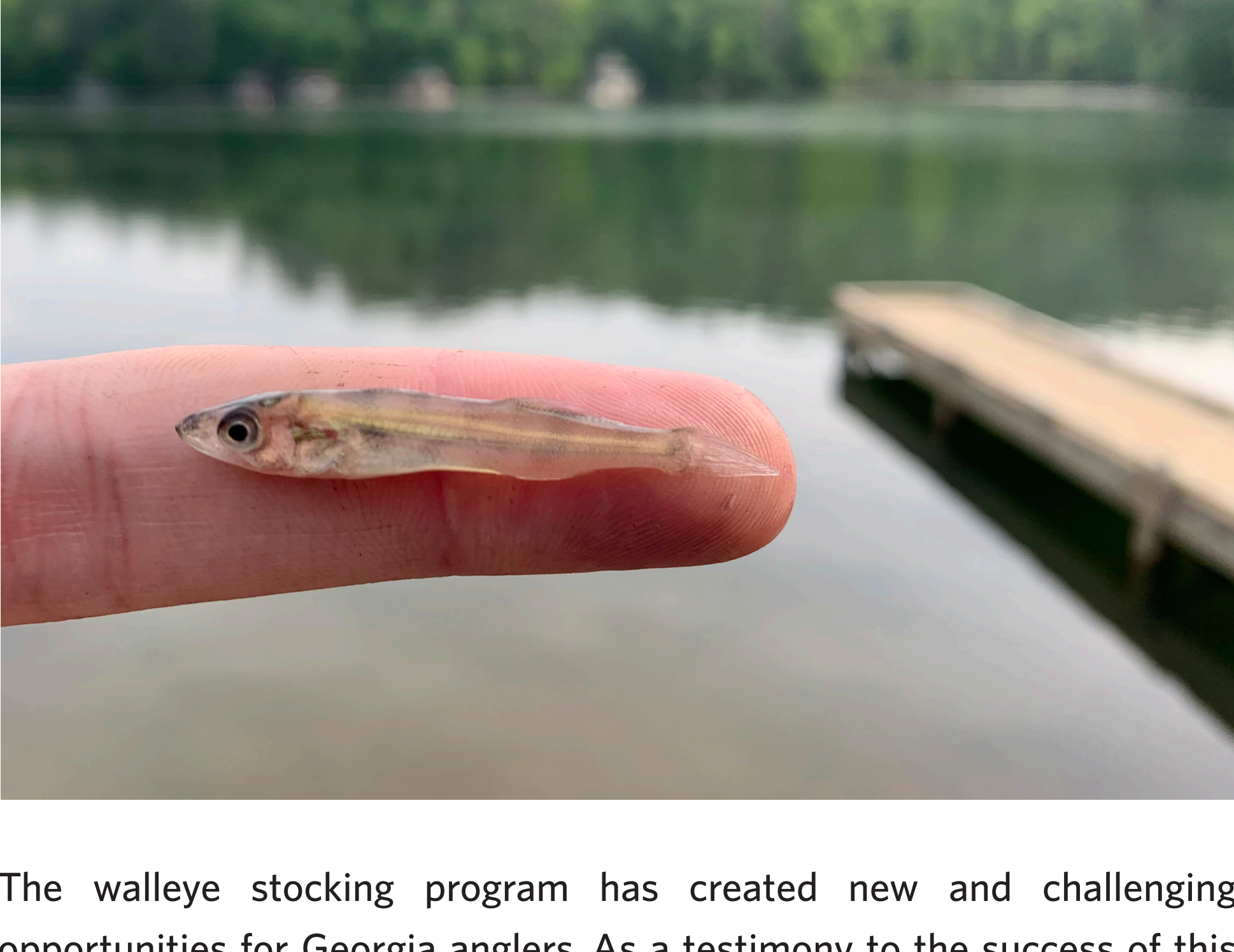
Walleye Stocking Program

Producing walleye for stocking on a large-scale takes a lot of time, effort, and space. The process begins in early March, when fisheries staff from the Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) collect adult male and female walleye from several North Georgia lakes at just the right time when the eggs are ripe for spawning.

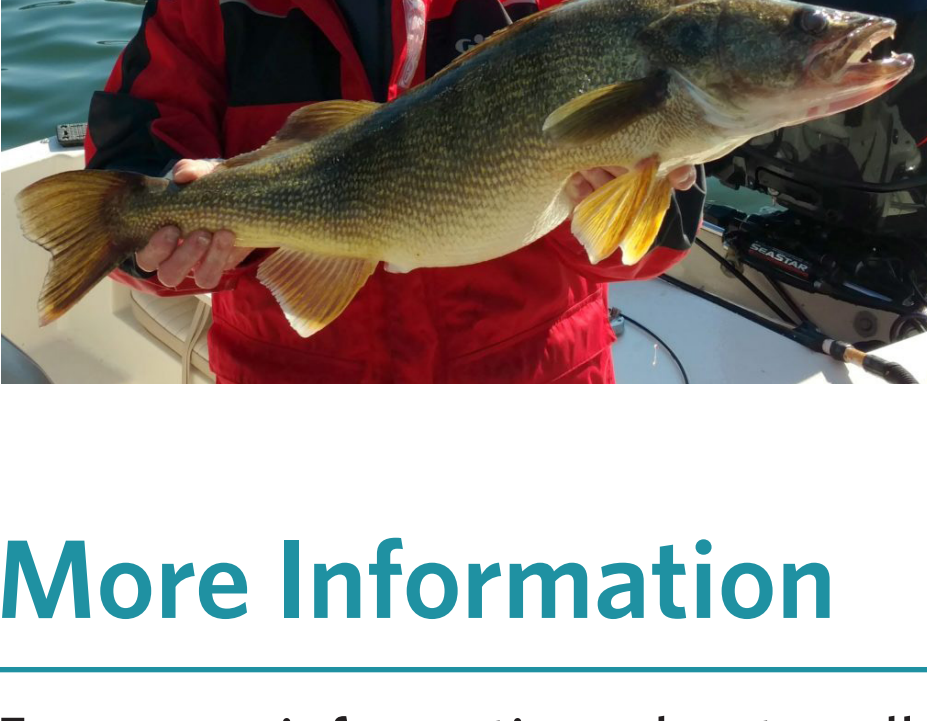
The Go Fish Education Center and Walton Fish Hatchery are the state's two producers of walleye fry!



Fertilized eggs incubate in large jars with gently flowing water for about ten days at which time they hatch. Newly hatched fry are then stocked into grow-out ponds at various hatcheries throughout the state including Cordele, McDuffie, Summerville, and Walton. The young walleye continue growing in these ponds for about one month. If all goes well, nearly 700,000 fingerlings will be produced. At a size of only one-inch in length, walleye "fingerlings" are stocked during the springtime into ten reservoirs across North Georgia. Stocking rates for small lakes typically range from 50 to 100 fish/acre. Stocking rates for large reservoirs range from 1 to 4 fish/acre. Biologists estimate that 10% to 20% of the fingerlings stocked will survive to adulthood.



The walleye stocking program has created new and challenging opportunities for Georgia anglers. As a testimony to the success of this program, walleye has become a "bucket list" species for a growing number of folks who learn about their presence here at the walleye population's southern extent. Another success story of the walleye program was the current state record catch coming from one of those stocked reservoirs.



In February 2016, Wes Carlton caught a 14 lb 2 oz walleye from Lake Rabun, which broke the former record by nearly 3 pounds!

More Information

For more information about walleye fishing opportunities in Georgia, contact Fisheries Biologist Kyle Rempe at the Lake Burton Fish Hatchery via mobile phone at (706) 339-7449 or email at kyle.rempe@dnr.ga.gov.



Seasonal Fishing Tips

WALLEYE FISHING SEASONAL CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

SEASONAL INDEX: ● = Good ● = Fair ● = Low

RESERVOIR	FEB - APR	MAY - SEPT	OCT - JAN
Seed	●	●	●
Rabun	●	●	●
Tugalo	●	●	●
Yonah	●	●	●
Hartwell	●	●	●
Lanier	●	●	●
Blue Ridge	●	●	●
Carters	●	●	●
Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area	●	●	●

SEASONAL TIPS, TACTICS & LOCATIONS BY RESERVOIR

SEASONAL INDEX: ● = Good ● = Fair ● = Low

FEBRUARY - APRIL		
RESERVOIR	SEASONAL INDEX	TIP
Seed	●	Target the headwaters. Fish on shore from the Low Gap Dam downstream to the mouth of Sawmill Creek.
Rabun	●	Target the headwaters. Fish on shore from the Low Gap Bridge upstream to Seed Dam at night. During the day, fish downstream of the bridge with nightcrawlers, jigs or perch-colored crankbaits.
Tugalo	●	Target the headwaters. Go upstream as far as possible by boat on both river arms to fish. Fish on the bottom with jigs or nightcrawlers.
Yonah	●	Target the headwaters at the base of Tugalo Dam and downstream to the first bend. Drift nightcrawlers across the rocky bottom or slowly troll crankbaits along the rocky banks near the campground.
Hartwell	●	Target the headwaters from the Walker Creek boat ramp all the way down to Yonah Dam. Fish with shallow-running crankbaits & floating lures.
Lanier	●	Target the headwaters from upstream from Belton Bridge on the Chattahoochee River around the Highway 400 Bridge on the Chestatee River. Use crankbaits, Rapalas, or nightcrawlers.
Blue Ridge	●	Target the shoal area in the headwaters. Use shallow running crankbaits, floating lures or jigs.
Carters	●	Target the headwaters area from Ridgeway Boat Ramp upstream to the shoals in the Coosawattee River.
Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area	●	Early spring walleye will congregate on shallow rocky bottoms.
MAY - SEPTEMBER		
RESERVOIR	SEASONAL INDEX	TIP
Seed	●	Fishing is best on the bottom near the dam, especially in late summer. Target downed trees.
Rabun	●	Target main lake points and bottom structure in 20-30 feet of water on the lower end of the lake. Live herring, nightcrawlers and shiners work best. At night, cast to shallow points with small crankbaits.
Tugalo	●	Slowly drag nightcrawlers or jigs tipped with a shiner along deepwater points and brush piles in 40-60 ft of water.
Yonah	●	Target bottom structure along the bends in the river channel. Drift nightcrawlers on the bottom or use vertical jigs in 45 ft of water from the Big Rock face at mid-lake downstream to the dam.
Hartwell	●	Because of Hartwell's large size, it is difficult to target walleye in the summer months.
Lanier	●	Target brush piles in 30-50 feet of water on the lower half of the lake. Live herring or jigs tipped with a minnow are the best bait choices.
Blue Ridge	●	Target main lake points and deepwater humps near the river channel on the lower end of the lake. Vertical jigs and flex-it spoons are best bets at a depth around 50-ft.
Carters	●	Gradual main lake points and submerged timber offer good fishing in May and June.
Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area	●	Walleye will concentrate near the bottom in deep water on points and structure.
OCTOBER - JANUARY		
RESERVOIR	SEASONAL INDEX	TIP
Seed	●	Target bottom structure on the outside bends of the river channel.
Rabun	●	Target bottom structure on the outer bends of the river channel on the lower half of the lake. At night, walleye move into shallow water on points and adjacent flats to feed on small sunfish and perch.
Tugalo	●	Fish around downed trees out to the edge of the river channel at depths from 30-50 ft. At night, fish the points with small crankbaits or jigs.
Yonah	●	Walleye will be concentrated around bottom structure in 20-40-feet of water, especially on the edge of the river channel and in the deep bends of the channel. Use night-crawlers, minnows or vertical jigs.
Hartwell	●	Target standing timber in 30-feet of water on main lake points in the Eastanollee Creek area. A live shiner is the best bait choice.
Lanier	●	Target brush piles on the lower half of the lake. Also consider vertical jigging with spoons near the edge of the river channel in the mid and upper-lake.
Blue Ridge	●	Target main lake points on the lower end of the lake. Use shallow running crankbaits or jigs fished near the shore during low light conditions.
Carters	●	Fishing is best between Ridgeway Boat Ramp down to about the middle of the lake.
Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area	●	Fish summer habitat areas. Under low light conditions, fish the shallows.
Antioch Lake	●	
Heath Lake	●	