



# Black Bass Regulation Change

**Virtual Public Hearing  
Fisheries Management Section  
May 21, 2024**

# Proposed Black Bass Regulation Changes

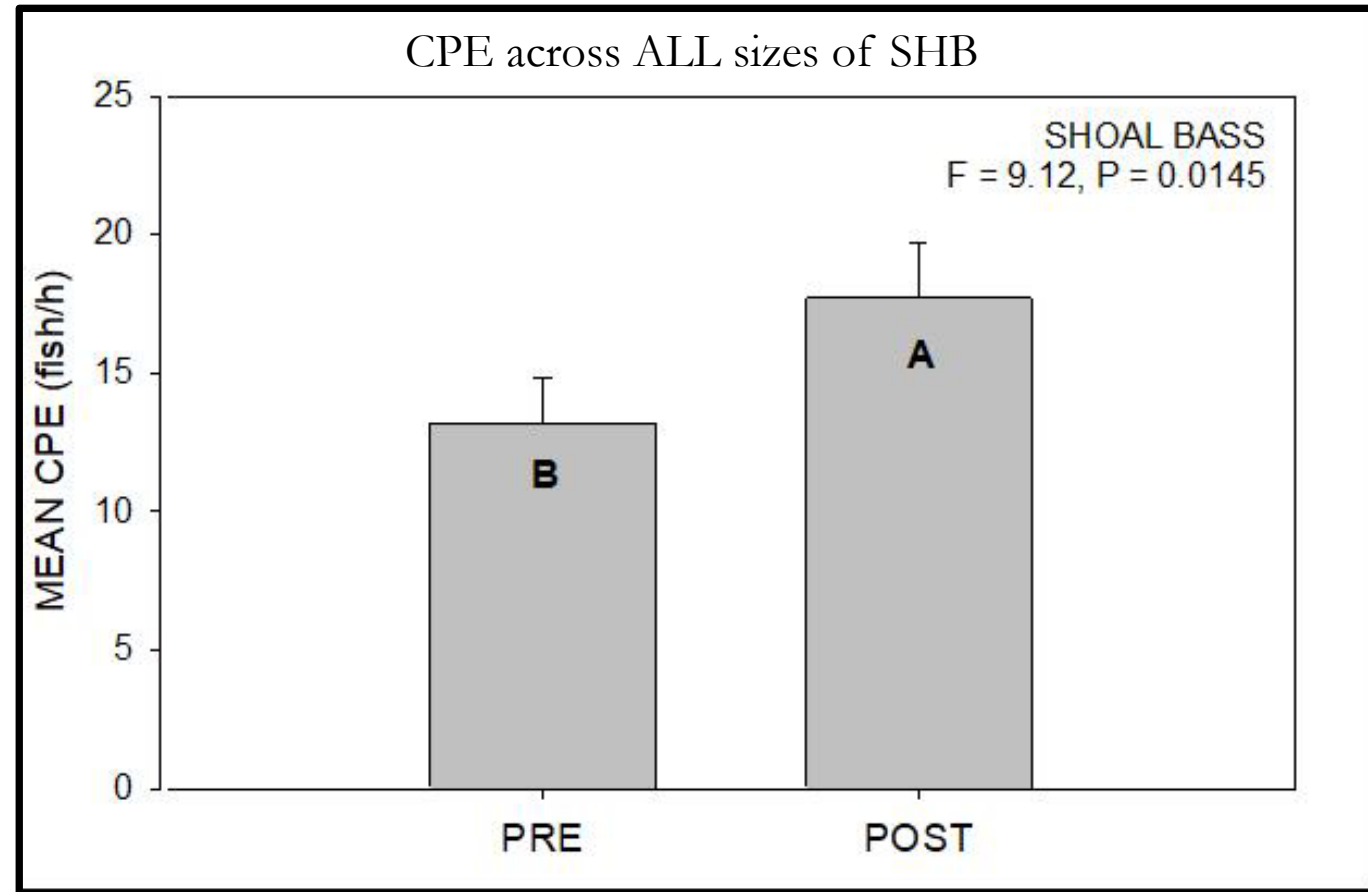
RULE	PROPOSED CHANGE	CURRENT REGULATION	CHANGE	JUSTIFICATION
<b>391-4-3-.06(c) Size Limits</b>				
Size Limits Shoal Bass	Remove Lake Lanier specific size limits for Shoal Bass	Shoal Bass 14-in minimum length limit on Lake Lanier	<b>15-in due to proposed statewide minimum length limit</b>	Will be in conflict with new proposed regulation.
<b>391-4-3-.06(d) Size Limits</b>				
Size Limits Shoal Bass	Modify length limit for Lower Flint River	Shoal Bass 12-in minimum length limit on Flint River and its tributaries downstream of Warwick Dam	<b>Protected Slot - Illegal to possess Shoal Bass between 15-in and 20-in</b>	Manage for trophy potential and protect larger fish from overharvest.
<b>391-4-3-.06(e) Size Limits</b>				
Size Limits Shoal Bass	Apply this limit statewide, except for the Flint River below Warwick Dam	Shoal Bass 15-in minimum length limit on Flint River and its tributaries above Warwick Dam	<b>15 inch minimum length limit statewide</b>	This regulation has proven effective on the Upper Flint River and it will benefit populations across Georgia.

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RULE	PROPOSED CHANGE	CURRENT REGULATION	CHANGE	JUSTIFICATION
<b>391-4-3-.05(1)(a-f) Creel and Possession Limits</b>				
Creel and Possession Limits on Black Bass	10 fish combined limit for black bass but only 5 fish can be Altamaha bass, Bartram's bass, Chattahoochee bass, Redeye bass, Shoal bass, Smallmouth bass, Suwannee bass, Tallapoosa bass.	10 fish combined limit for Largemouth bass, Smallmouth bass, Shoal bass, Suwannee bass, Spotted or Kentucky bass, Redeye or Coosa bass.	<b>Reduce daily creel limits to five fish for select black bass species.</b>	Provides conservation for species with limited range in Georgia to help ensure them for future generations.

# Evaluation of 15 inch min length in Upper Flint

- Comparing Pre vs. Post: 15” MLL
- 15 inch min. length limit implemented in 2014
- Catch of shoal bass was higher in years after 2015 than prior to 2015
- Length limit possibly resulted in more fish



# Expected Results in Lower Flint

<b>Length Limit</b>	<b>Total yield (kg)</b>	<b>Total # Harvested</b>	<b>Mean TL harvested</b>	<b># at 20 in.</b>
15–20in pro. slot	↓ 68%	↑ 8%	12 below 20 above	↑ 77%
12 in	-	-	16	-
15 in	6%	27%	17	23%

\* Developed in model with 15% exploitation rate, 25% natural mortality, & 30% non-reporting

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## Angler Survey Results

- 5,475 responses
- Statewide – 15 inch minimum length limit on Shoal Bass
  - 79% in favor, 16% opposed, 5% no preference
- Statewide – 5 fish creel limit on select species
  - 71% in favor, 17% opposed, 11% no preference
- Lower Flint – 15 to 20 inch protected slot and 5 fish daily creel
  - 76% in favor, 11% opposed, 13% no preference

# Questions?

