Guide to Fishing the Coosa River

The Coosa River forms in Rome where the Oostanaula River meets the Etowah River. From there it flows 30 miles westward before entering Lake Weiss at the Georgia-Alabama state line. There are four public ramps available to provide boat access to the river. Common fish species in the Coosa include: gar, carp, smallmouth buffalo, blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, white bass, yellow bass, striped bass, redbreast sunfish, green sunfish, bluegill, redear sunfish, spotted bass, largemouth bass, black crappie and freshwater drum. Anglers wishing to consume sunfish, bluegill, redear sunfish, spotted bass, largemouth bass, white bass, yellow bass, striped bass, redbreast sunfish, green smallmouth buffalo, blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, river. Common fish species in the Coosa include: gar, carp, smallmouth buffalo, blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, white bass, yellow bass, striped bass, redbreast sunfish, green sunfish, bluegill, redear sunfish, spotted bass, largemouth bass, black crappie and freshwater drum. Anglers wishing to consume their catch should pay attention to the fish consumption guidelines as described in the sport fishing regulations or at www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/environ/.

BE AN ETHICAL ANGLER!

Ethical Anglers fish responsibly, consider the rights of others, portray a positive image, and help to protect and conserve our natural resources. Be an ethical angler, the future depends on it.

Ethical Anglers:
- Know and obey the fishing regulations.
- Keep only the fish they can use and release all others.
- Pass on the tradition by taking a child fishing.
- Leave a place cleaner than it was found.
- Do not transfer fish or plants between bodies of water.
- Report violations and pollution.
- Do not litter!
- Dispose of fishing line properly.
- Do not trespass.
- Are courteous of others.
- Lend a helping hand.

Fishing Tips

Catfish are a favorite Coosa River quarry for many anglers. Blue catfish are the most abundant with the biggest fish (some exceed 40 pounds) generally found in deep holes. Many trophy-fish anglers fish at night using large live fish as bait. Those less interested in trophies can use traditional catfish baits such as worms, chicken livers and stink baits. Anglers fishing for catfish may catch a lake sturgeon but they must be released unharmed immediately after being caught. Lake sturgeons are being reintroduced by the DNR into the Coosa River system and cannot be harvested. Sturgeon can be identified by its rounded snout, a toothless mouth on the bottom of its head, four “whiskers” in front of its mouth; bony plates on the side of its body and its shark-like tail. Anglers can help this reintroduction effort by reporting any sturgeon they see by calling the Calhoun Fisheries office at 706-624-1161. More information on this reintroduction project can be found at www.gofishgeorgia.com

White bass and striped bass are a popular quarry in spring when they leave Weiss Reservoir for their annual spawning run. Although somewhat regulated by water temperature, water level and other factors, white bass generally begin their spawning run in early March. Striped bass run somewhat later with mid April being the peak spawning period.

Bass, bream and crappie inhabit the river year round but fishing is best in spring and fall. The backwater creeks near the state line are favored locations by many bass and bream anglers. The Brushy Branch boat ramp is a great access point to pursue these species.

Tips on using the map

- The map is most useful if viewed in color.
- Maps in this series (Coosa, Oostanaula, Etowah, Coosawattee and Conasauga rivers) are of the same scale so they can be pasted together if desired.
- Actual water near Weiss Lake varies by lake level so the water indicated on map may not be accurate for all conditions.
- River mile designations for the Coosa River represent the miles from the state line. For other rivers the mileage labels represent distance from each river’s mouth.
- Boaters can use a GPS and the following GPS coordinates to estimate their position on the river.

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Units are in degrees and decimal minutes

For more fishing information visit the Georgia DNR website at www.gofishgeorgia.com or call (706) 624-1161.

T.I.P (Turn in Poachers): To report game/fish law violations, fish kills, or hazardous spills: call (800) 241-4113

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