



WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

POND STOCKING INSTRUCTIONS AND STOCKING APPLICATION FORM

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) operates seven warmwater fish hatcheries throughout the state. These hatcheries can provide fingerling largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish and channel catfish on a first-come, first-served basis at a modest fee for stocking sport fishing ponds and lakes.

Fish are provided from state hatcheries at stocking rates proven through research and practical experience to produce good fishing.

PREPARING POND FOR STOCKING

Ensure that pond is free of fish: Bream and bass are approximately one inch in length, and channel catfish are approximately three inches in length when stocked. Therefore, it is important that ponds be free of fish before stocking in order to prevent predation on new fish.

Determine pond acreage: Pond acreage can be determined from county Farm Service Agency (FSA) aerial photos or by contacting your Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agent for assistance. **Do not guess!** Inaccuracy could cause you to stock too few or too many fish and result in poor fish population balance.

Time of Year: Ideally, ponds should be prepared for stocking in late summer, the stocking application form submitted by September, and the fish stocked as soon as they are available.

Major Stocking Errors to Avoid:

Starting, but not maintaining, a fertilization program. In one study, 87 percent of the pond owners contacted did not fertilize properly even though they received fish at a rate that made fertilization necessary for good fishing. Unless you plan to fertilize your pond 5-10 times each season, and also plan to lime your pond once every two-three years (1 ton/acre or more), do not begin a fertilization program.

Stocking ponds with fish already present. Stocking does not improve fishing in such ponds and is a waste of the pond owner's time. If an existing pond is not providing good fishing, visit our website (georgiawildlife.com/pond-management) for information on proper pond management. If you decide to drain and chemically treat the pond to remove existing fish, contact your WRD Fisheries Section office for advice.

STOCKING OPTIONS

Option 1:

The bream, bass and catfish combination is recommended for ponds one-acre or larger. This option provides bream (80% bluegill and 20% redear sunfish) at the rate of 500 per acre, and bass and channel catfish at rates of 50 per acre. **Cost: \$100* per acre.**

Option 2:

Pond owners can choose to receive only bream and bass (at the same stocking rate as Option 1) by selecting this option. **Cost: \$90* per acre.**

Option 3:

The channel catfish-only option is recommended for ponds smaller than one acre. This option provides 500 channel catfish per acre. For larger catfish-only ponds, state hatcheries will provide a maximum of 500 catfish per pond. **Cost: \$30* per 100 catfish.**

Option 4:

Channel catfish fingerlings may be provided to supplement stocked ponds that already contain bass and bluegill. Catfish are provided at the rate of 100 per pond or 50 per acre, whichever is greater and up to 1,000 fish per applicant. The catfish must be reared in cages to 10-inches in order to help them avoid predation after being released. **Cost: \$30* per 100 catfish.**

Special Stockings:

The WRD Fisheries Section may approve other stocking options to help solve special management problems.

**Please note: Local Sales Tax will be added to final cost*

IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW

Application:

Pond Owners must apply for fish **by December 31**. Applications received after December 31 will be filled during the next year's fall fish distribution season.

Distribution:

Bream (bluegill and redear) and catfish are distributed from approximately October until January. Bass are provided the following spring (usually April or May) for those that receive bream in the fall.

PICKUP OF FISH

All fish must be picked up at state hatcheries. Hatchery personnel will notify pond owners when the fish are available and the cost of the fish. A check for this amount must be provided at the time of pickup.

POND STOCKING APPLICATION FORM

1. Complete and mail this form to the correct address (see next page or link below).
2. Applications must be signed.
3. Complete a separate application for each pond.
4. Do NOT send check with application. Check must be presented when fish are picked up.

You will be contacted by WRD Fisheries personnel when fish are available for pickup.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Day Phone ____/____ - ____ Cell Phone ____/____ - ____

County _____

Acres in pond (nearest 1/10 acre) _____

CHECK ONLY ONE OPTION:

___ Option 1: Bream, bass and catfish combination; \$100* per acre of pond (unfertilized rate)

___ Option 2: Bream and bass combination (no catfish); \$90* per acre of pond (unfertilized rate)

___ Option 3: Channel catfish only; \$30* per 100 fish at specified stocking rate

___ Option 4: Channel catfish (supplemental stocking); \$30* per 100 fish at specified stocking rate

**Please Note: Local Sales Tax will be added to final cost.*

The pond owner must agree and sign the following statement in order to receive fish:

If my pond is open to the general public, I will contact the Fisheries Section and obtain a special nondiscrimination statement that I must sign before my application can be processed.

Signature _____

WHERE TO SEND APPLICATION

Send completed application to the office for your county. See list of offices on next page or at www.georgiawildlife.com/pond-management.

GEORGIA DNR WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION: FISHERIES OFFICES

Mail Application to the Office Listed for Your County

NW Georgia (2650 Floyd Springs Rd, NE, Armuchee, GA 30105): Bartow, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Cobb, Dade, Douglas, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker, Whitfield

NE Georgia: (2150 Dawsonville Highway Gainesville, Georgia 30501): Banks, Barrow, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, White

Metro-Atlanta & East: (2123 US Highway 278 SE Social Circle, Georgia 30025-4714): Clarke, Clayton, DeKalb, Elbert, Fulton, Greene, Gwinnett, Hancock, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Rockdale, Taliaferro, Walton

East Central Georgia: (142 Bob Kirk Road, NW Thomson, Georgia 30824-6727): Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Jefferson, Johnson, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Warren, Washington, Wilkes

Central Georgia & South Metro-Atlanta: (1014 Martin Luther King Drive Fort Valley, Georgia 31030-6246): Baldwin, Butts, Henry, Jasper, Jones, Monroe, Putnam, Spalding

West Middle Georgia: (4738 Mooty Bridge Road LaGrange, Georgia 30240-8142): Coweta, Fayette, Harris, Heard, Meriwether, Muscogee, Pike, Talbot, Troup

Middle Georgia: (1014 Martin Luther King Drive Fort Valley, Georgia 31030-6246): Bibb, Bleckley, Crawford, Houston, Lamar, Peach, Pulaski, Taylor, Twiggs, Upson, Wilkinson

SW Georgia (Dawson): (109 Hatchery Access Road Dawson, Georgia 39842-3005): Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Lee, Macon, Marion, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Terrell, Webster

SW Georgia (Albany): (2024 Newton Road Albany, Georgia 31701-3520): Baker, Brooks, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Thomas, Tift, Turner, Worth

South Central Georgia: (1773-A Bowens Mill Highway Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750-9500): Atkinson, Ben Hill, Berrien, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Dodge, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Telfair, Wilcox

SE Georgia: (P.O. Box 2089 Waycross, Georgia 31502-2089): Appling, Bacon, Bulloch, Candler, Charlton, Effingham, Emanuel, Jeff Davis, Jenkins, Laurens, Montgomery, Pierce, Screven, Tattnall, Toombs, Treutlen, Ware, Wheeler

Coastal Georgia: (130 Hatchery Drive, Richmond Hill, GA 31324): Brantley, Bryan, Camden, Chatham, Evans, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Wayne