

Under the Dock

September-October 2026



**Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society**

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the American Fisheries Society and the Georgia Chapter is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

gaafs.org

Mark Your Calendar

SEP. 22-24

State of the
Georgia Coast
Conference



Oct. 26 - 30

SEAFWA 80th
Annual Meeting
Nashville, TN



Nov. 13

GA AFS
Competitive
Award Noms



Dec. 17

GA AFS
Scholarship &
Travel Award



Feb. 2 - 4

Georgia AFS
2027
Annual Meeting



March 4 - 7

SDAFS 2027
Alabama AFS Host
Mobile, AL



Georgia AFS maintains a calendar on its [website](#)

DOCKSIDE

Playing the Long Game: Why Your Work in Fisheries Outlasts the Season

W-H-Y. Three letters come together to form a small word with a big meaning. As kids, we asked it to our teachers and our parents. As adults, we continue to use this 3-letter word daily: Why. Why am I doing this? Why does it matter? In applying this word to our professional lives, it's a word we may wrestle with frequently. In some professions, this wrestling match is short-lived, as the fruits of our labor may provide quick answers, but that's often not the case as a fisheries professional. Much of the fruit we seek in the fisheries profession—healthy fish populations, better management decisions, stronger hatchery programs, improved aquatic habitats, and future opportunities for anglers and communities—takes time to bear. More often than not, these goals are met through thousands of small actions performed consistently over time. And they require patience.

In a world where the Burger King motto “your way, right away” seems to dominate, it's often hard to wait for delayed results and success, but in fisheries work it's often a necessity. The fish you sample today may inform a management decision that improves a fishery years from now. The habitat you work to restore today may not show its full ecological value until another generation of fish occupies it. The data you collect and enter may become part of a multi-decade dataset that reveals environmental trends no single season could ever make clear. The fish you spawn, rear, stock, and monitor can support fisheries that



provide recreational, economic, and community benefits long after today's work is finished. In each of those scenarios, the peak of success wasn't seen in the short-term but rather in the distance of long-term. We just need to be patient and understand that conservation, including fisheries management, isn't a sprint; it's a marathon.

Like any good WWE wrestling match, the best battles often come in pairs. In fisheries, "Impatience" isn't the only opponent we battle, as his partner "Routine" often shows up as well. There's definitely no denying that much of our work in fisheries is repetitive in nature, and sometimes many of the most important things you do can feel routine while you're doing them. Another water-quality sample. Another population survey. Another hatchery raceway checked, another dataset entered, another interagency meeting attended. And just when you think the match can't get any more frustrating, a third opponent, "Uncertainty", climbs into the ring. Funding that falls through, fieldwork lost to weather, a sound recommendation overridden by factors that have nothing to do with science...the list goes on and on. In the heat of the battle, though, we need to do the unusual, perhaps even the unexpected... we need to pause and remember the why.



It's worth remembering why most of us got into this field in the first place—a love of the resource, a pull toward the outdoors, a belief that healthy water and healthy fish populations are worth protecting. That's still the point, even on the days it's hardest to see.



The most meaningful results of today's work may not be fully visible to you this week, this month, or potentially even realized within your career. They may instead be inherited by the next generation of biologists, conservationists, anglers, and communities who depend on healthy aquatic resources. In times when we struggle with impatience, routine, and uncertainty, remember your why. Why did you get in this field? Why is this work important to you? With those answers in mind, use them to fuel your patience to focus on the long-term; use it to keep the routine fresh and not robotic; and pair it with determination when uncertainty threatens. Keep collecting the data with your best foot forward. Keep mentoring the next technician or biologist coming up behind you. Keep routine from becoming mundane by not just showing up but stepping up. And last but not least, don't measure the value of your career by what's visible today. Measure it by what the next generation inherits.



NEWS & UPDATES

Recognizing Excellence: Georgia AFS Awards

Georgia AFS is proud to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions of our members through our Competitive and Service Awards. These awards celebrate individuals and teams who demonstrate excellence in fisheries science, leadership, professional service, outreach, innovation, and contributions to Georgia's aquatic resources.

"Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well."

Our awards provide an opportunity to recognize the people who go above and beyond to support the fisheries profession and strengthen Georgia AFS. Whether through exceptional professional accomplishments, dedicated volunteer service, or innovative efforts to advance fisheries conservation, these individuals make a lasting difference.

Excellence deserves recognition. If someone on your team is making an exceptional contribution to fisheries, conservation, or our profession, nominate them for a Georgia AFS award.

How to nominate someone for a Georgia AFS award?

Georgia AFS Competitive Awards

1. Review the descriptions of each Competitive Award.
2. Consider people you know who should be nominated for one of those awards.
3. Complete the nomination form by **November 13. (Only the name and email of your nominee are needed.)**
4. Nominees and their supervisors will be notified of their nomination.
5. Nominees need to complete the award application by December 4.

Link: [Georgia AFS Competitive Awards](#)

Georgia AFS Service Awards

1. Review the descriptions of each Georgia AFS Service Award.
2. Think about a colleague who should be considered for one of those awards.
3. Complete the nomination form by **December 31.**
 - a. Examples of Career Contribution and Hidden Hero awards are posted on the website.
 - b. Past award winners are listed on the website.

Link: [Georgia AFS Service Awards](#)

Georgia AFS Receives Its Fourth AFS Outstanding Small Chapter Award

Georgia AFS is proud to announce that the Georgia Chapter has been recognized with the American Fisheries Society (AFS) Outstanding Small Chapter Award for the fourth time! This national recognition honors chapters that demonstrate exceptional leadership, member engagement, professional development, student support, and service to fisheries and aquatic resources.

This award reflects the dedication of our members and volunteers who work throughout the year to strengthen Georgia AFS and advance our mission to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. From educational workshops and student scholarships to professional development, outreach programs, and our annual meeting, Georgia AFS continues to create opportunities for fisheries professionals, students, and partners to learn, connect, and make a difference.

Thank you to every member, volunteer, committee chair, sponsor, partner, and supporter who contributes to our chapter's success. This achievement belongs to all of us!



Help Us Build Our Annual Fundraiser!



Georgia AFS is looking for donations and unique items to help make our 2027 Annual Meeting fundraiser a success! We are seeking fishing gear, outdoor equipment, artwork, experiences, gift certificates, merchandise, and other items that would appeal to fisheries professionals and outdoor enthusiasts.

Do you have a business connection, favorite outdoor retailer, guide service, artist, or other organization that might be willing to donate an item or experience? Your connections can make a difference!

If you know of a potential donor or have an item to contribute, please contact Rebecca Brown (GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com). Together, we can make this year's fundraiser our best yet!

Trash2Art Contest: A New Twist This Year!

This year, the Georgia AFS Trash2Art Contest is taking a slightly different approach. In previous years, we asked artists to create their artwork using trash they personally collected during a cleanup of a waterway, park, or other outdoor area. While we loved seeing the creative ways members transformed litter into art, we are changing the rules this year to make the contest more accessible.

This year, artists can use any discarded or unwanted materials to create their artwork. Materials do not have to come from a cleanup event or even from outdoors. Old household items, packaging, broken equipment, scrap materials, discarded fishing gear, and other items that might otherwise end up in the trash can all become art.

The key is upcycling—turning something unwanted or discarded into something new, useful, interesting, or beautiful.

So, start looking at your "junk" a little differently. Before you throw it away, ask yourself: Could this become art?

This Aquatic Upcycling Challenge encourages participants to demonstrate how discarded materials can be transformed into creative works that celebrate Georgia's diverse aquatic resources. Artwork must be constructed primarily from discarded, broken, reclaimed, recycled, repurposed, or unwanted materials.



Turning Castoffs into Art

Trash2Art Contest
Rules and Guidelines

[Click Here](#)

5 Categories = 5 Winners



State of the Georgia Coast Conference

The State of the Georgia Coast is a conference dedicated to the future of our coast. Hosted by UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant and partners, this three-day event will take place September 22 – 24, 2026 at the Richmond Hill City Center. The conference brings together coastal residents, community leaders, and industry professionals with leading experts in marine science, policy, and resource management. The collective mission is to identify pressing challenges, share innovative research and solutions, and foster collaborative partnerships essential for building a thriving, resilient coast.

Organized around the theme “Partnerships and Problem Solving for Georgia’s Coast,” the event will spotlight Georgia-specific case studies, build partnerships across public, private, and academic sectors, and engage participants in interactive conversations designed to foster collaboration.



Georgia AFS Website Gets a Makeover!

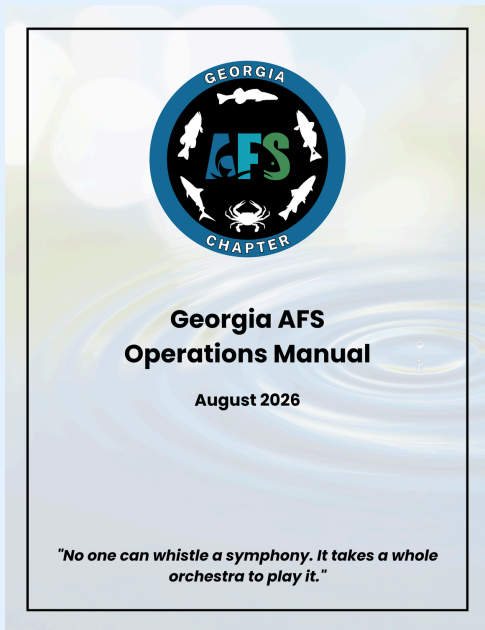
The Georgia AFS website is getting a fresh new look! We’ve been working behind the scenes to make gaafs.org more useful, easier to navigate, and more valuable to our members, students, and anyone interested in Georgia’s fisheries and aquatic resources.

Our new homepage design provides a cleaner, more modern introduction to Georgia AFS and makes it easier to find the information you need. We’ve also added a new Student Resources dropdown menu to the navigation bar, bringing scholarships, awards, career resources, professional development opportunities, and other student-focused information together in one convenient location.

And that’s just the beginning! We’re continuing to add new resources, improve existing pages, and expand the website’s role as a hub for fisheries professionals, students, educators, and aquatic-resource enthusiasts.

Take a look at the new website and explore what’s new at gaafs.org.

Georgia AFS Operations Manual Updated



Link: [Georgia AFS OP Manual](#)

Georgia AFS has completed a comprehensive revision of its Operations Manual, an important resource designed to provide consistency, clarity, and continuity in the management of our chapter. The updated manual brings together policies, procedures, leadership responsibilities, committee information, and other guidance needed to effectively operate the chapter.

The revision also helps ensure that important institutional knowledge is preserved as chapter leaders and volunteers change from year to year. By documenting our processes and expectations, the manual provides current and future leaders with a practical reference for carrying out their responsibilities and supporting the chapter's mission.

The Georgia AFS Operations Manual is now available on the Georgia AFS website and can be accessed through the Leadership Resources section. We encourage all Executive Committee members, committee chairs, and volunteers to review the manual and use it as a resource throughout the year.

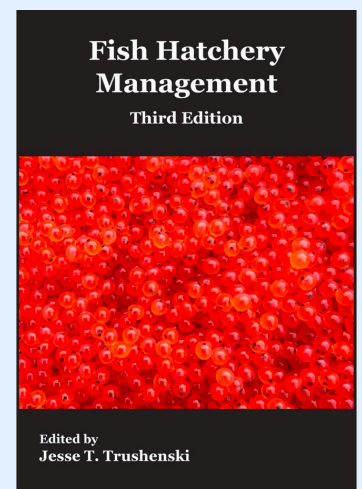
Thank you to everyone who contributed to this important effort to strengthen Georgia AFS and support effective chapter leadership.



Written by Fish Culturists for Fish Culturists

Fish Hatchery Management, 3rd Edition is now available in the [AFS Bookstore](#)!

For more than 40 years, *Fish Hatchery Management* has been the trusted, go-to resource for fish culturists and fisheries professionals. This fully updated third edition delivers practical, hands-on guidance covering hatchery operations, water quality, fish health, species-specific culture, and more. Intended for entry-level fish culturists and seasoned professionals alike, *Fish Hatchery Management* is a practical manual for one's entire career in fish culture.



Building the Future Fisheries Workforce: Please Share Your Perspective (10-minute survey)

The University of Missouri Multistate Conservation Grant Program team recently received funding to develop training resources for undergraduate students preparing to enter the fisheries workforce. They are seeking input from fisheries-related professionals, university faculty/staff/researchers, and students to help strengthen workforce preparation for the next generation of fisheries professionals. Your experience will help them identify the skills that undergraduate students need as they transition from the classroom to the workplace. Results from this survey will inform the development of publicly available training modules to support students participating in fisheries internship programs funded through the Multistate Conservation Grant Program, which is jointly managed by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Thank you for sharing your expertise and helping build a stronger fisheries workforce!

Questions? Contact Kristin Gibson at kristingibson@missouri.edu.



Take the Survey: Building the Future Fisheries Workforce



Input Needed: Revision of “Use of Fishes in Research”

A committee (Dr. Cory Suski, Dr. Jacqueline Webb, co-chairs), comprised of members of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) is revising the *2014 Guide for Use of Fishes in Research*. This effort was motivated by the upcoming revision of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (8th ed., National Academies Press), the guidelines for use of all vertebrates in research. We would like to receive input from members of AFS to learn how you use (or do not use) the current (2014) guide, if there are any sections that are particularly important to you in your work (or not important), and if there are any new developments that you feel need to be included in a revision of the guide. The survey below should only take a few moments, and your thoughts would be a great help to the committee.



Take the Survey: Revision of Use of Fishes in Research

Relative Weight Survey for Georgia Fisheries Professionals

The research team of Kim Tugend Bonvechio, Tim Bonvechio, Chelsey Crandall, Kenneth Gerow, Brian Murphy, and David Stewart is conducting a survey of fisheries professionals across North America on their use of and perspectives on the fish condition index, relative weight (Wr). This is part of a broader study aimed at developing recommendations and informing the future direction of Wr within fisheries science and management.

Georgia fisheries professionals can access the survey at the link below. It is important to hear from people who do and don't use Wr to make sure they are capturing the full range of experiences and perspectives.

Survey Link for fisheries professionals in Georgia: [Wr Survey](#)

The survey takes approximately 8–10 minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary, and responses are anonymous.



South Atlantic Sea Grant Marine Fisheries Extension Fellowship

South Atlantic Sea Grant programs (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida) and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) are now accepting applications for the 2026 South Atlantic Sea Grant Marine Fisheries Extension Fellowship. One fellowship is available.

The fellowship provides on-the-job education and training opportunities in fisheries extension and communication for an early-career professional in the Southeast region.

Specifically, the fellow will focus on recreational and commercial fishing industry engagement with emphasis on activities such as, but not limited to, tackle shop / commercial dock visits, outreach events/seminars, and educational resource development.

The fellow also will work closely with SAFMC staff to support activities of the existing Citizen Science Program and Best Fishing Practices.

Applications are due September 25th.

A great early-career opportunity for someone interested in fisheries extension and outreach.



Link for Marine Fisheries Fellowship Info & Application

Student Awards

Ronnie J. Gilbert Scholarship

Undergraduate and
Graduate students
attending school in
Georgia

Due: Dec. 17

Robert E. Reinert Travel Award

Undergraduate
students attending
school in Georgia

Due: Dec. 17

Georgia AFS Student Awards



Georgia AFS Travel Grant

Graduate students
attending school in
Georgia

Due: Jan. 4

Gift of AFS Membership

Undergraduate and
Graduate students
whom live in Georgia

Due: Nov. 6

Membership Dues

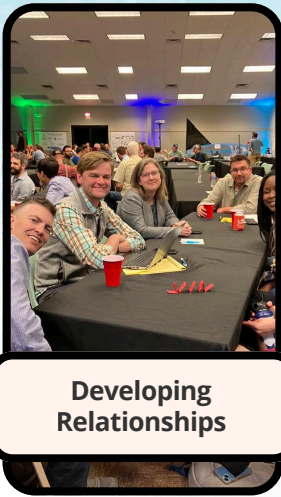
The Georgia AFS mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. Your paid membership helps us achieve that mission.

Georgia AFS
Annual Membership Dues

\$ 10

JOIN NOW

What are some benefits of becoming a member of Georgia AFS?



**Developing
Relationships**



**Leadership
Opportunities**



**Supporting Aquatic
Conservation**



**Enhancing Your
Resume**



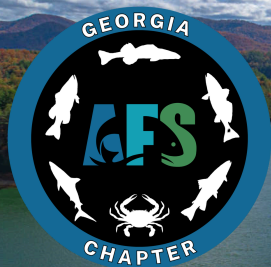
To vote on Chapter business/elections you must be a member of AFS.

AFS Membership Information

Membership in an AFS Chapter does not automatically make someone a member of the American Fisheries Society. To serve as an officer of Georgia AFS you need to be a member of AFS.

Consider joining the American Fisheries Society (AFS), the world's largest professional organization for fisheries scientists.





Mountains to Marshes: Conserving Georgia's Aquatic Resources

Helpful Links

[Registration](#)

[Abstract Submission](#)

[Lightning Talks](#)

[Hotel Reservations](#)

[Award Nominations](#)

[Student Information](#)

[Presenter Resources](#)



Additional Links

[Annual Fundraiser](#)

[Sponsorship](#)

[Have Questions](#)

GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com

Georgia AFS invites you to join us at the Rainwater Conference Center in Valdosta for our 41st annual meeting.

Georgia AFS 2027

Georgia's remarkable aquatic ecosystems are connected by water—from the cool mountain trout streams of North Georgia to the rivers, reservoirs, floodplains, estuaries, and coastal marshes that define our state. The 2027 Georgia AFS Annual Meeting theme, "Mountains to Marshes: Conserving Georgia's Aquatic Resources," celebrates this connectivity and emphasizes the importance of science-based conservation across the entire landscape. The meeting will highlight innovative research, fisheries management, habitat restoration, aquatic biodiversity, water quality, and collaborative partnerships that protect Georgia's fish and aquatic ecosystems for future generations. By bringing together students, researchers, managers, educators, policymakers, and conservation professionals, the conference will foster the exchange of ideas and practical solutions needed to conserve Georgia's diverse aquatic resources from the mountains to the marshes.

GEORGIA AFS 2027 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

WORKING TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S FISHERIES



Our fundraiser helps us invest in the future of fisheries by:

**Supporting aquatic
restoration projects**

**Developing the next wave of
fisheries scientists**



**Cultivating the next
generation of anglers**

**Creating future champions for
aquatic conservation**

**FEBRUARY 2ND AND 3RD
RAINWATER CONFERENCE CENTER
VALDOSTA, GA**

Support the future of fisheries by making a tax-
deductible donation to our annual fundraiser.

(EIN: 52-1457100)

Contact
Rebecca Brown
GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com

Georgia AFS Photo Contest

2027 Theme: Human-Water Connection

This theme celebrates the deep, diverse, and often complex relationships between people and aquatic environments. Whether through work, tradition, recreation, or stewardship, humans have long depended on water for survival, culture, and identity. This theme invites images that capture those connections in compelling and authentic ways.



A Hard Day's Work: First Place 2026 Georgia AFS Photo Contest (Bryan Fluech)

Prizes

Each category winner will receive 10 GA AFS Raffle Tickets. You may submit no more than two photographs in total.

There are four distinct categories, each accompanied by a brief description. Examples of each category are available on the website.

- Guardians of the Fishery Award: Recognizes photographs of people whose work contributes to the management, conservation, study, or stewardship of aquatic resources.
- Working the Water Award: Recognizes photographs of individuals whose livelihoods depend directly on aquatic resources.
- Water and Wellness Award: Recognizes photographs that capture the positive impact of aquatic environments on human health, well-being, and quality of life.
- The Volunteer Spirit Award: Recognizes photographs highlighting conservation, volunteerism, and responsible care of aquatic resources, such as cleanups, habitat restoration, and citizen science.

Click here for rules and guidelines: [2027 Photo Contest](#)

Plugged In

Some of our favorite podcasts.



[Atlantic Tripletail: Buoy Bombshell](#)

Katrina and Guy are joined by Trevor Moncrief and Eric Gigli with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. Topics include where to find this fish, what's known about its behavior and preferences, fishing strategies, how it's managed, and how anglers can help contribute to a growing body of knowledge and appreciation for this fish.



[Perching with Powell](#)

Biologist Powell Wheeler joins the podcast to discuss Yellow Perch and how to target them in the western part of North Carolina. Corey and Ben also share their Lake Appalachia fishing adventure, with tips and techniques that can be applied to mountain reservoirs and waters across the state.



[From Streams to Rivers with Ryan Skowronski](#)

Ru sits down and chats with Ryan Skowronski, a PhD. student at Southern Illinois University. They chat about Ryan's path and his current project- looking at the spatial ecology of American Paddlefish! They also dive deep into the importance of fun, to keep challenging yourself, and future plans.



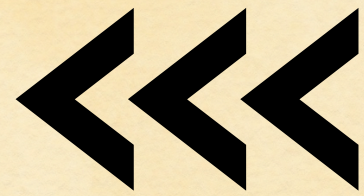
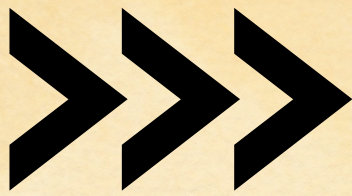
[Your National Wildlife Refuge System](#)

Your National Wildlife Refuge System, traces the origins, growth, and evolving purpose of an important part of America's public lands, from President Theodore Roosevelt's 1903 protection of Pelican Island to today's network of more than 570 refuges.



[Trout Fishing In The Peach State With Tad Murdock](#)

According to Tad Murdock of Georgia Wild Trout, Georgia is an excellent place to learn how to trout fish. He joins The Field Notes Podcast to share his passion for fishing and, more specifically, the species that is only found in the northern part of the state.



The benefits of being a member of the American Fisheries Society:

- **Build your professional network support:** you have access to more contacts, more resources, and more information; chances are, someone in AFS has “been there/done that”; you can participate in one of the AFS Sections to connect with others who are likeminded and/or working in the same niche you are
- **Demonstrate your professionalism:** your membership demonstrates a commitment and dedication to your profession; you serve as a role model for those entering the field as well as have an opportunity to share your own insights and expertise with peers and colleagues
- **Build your own skills:** AFS has opportunities for you to take on a leadership role that might not yet be available at work; participate in AFS workshops and webinars; present at conferences; write a newsletter article; become a mentor
- **Have a voice:** one of the important roles AFS is advocacy - that is, helping decision makers understand what members do in the workplace and why it is important; a larger group has a louder voice
- **Give yourself an advantage:** build your professional reputation and boost your credibility; build your resume; connect with more experienced professionals



MORE ABOUT AFS



**AFS PUBLISHES
JOURNALS**



**AFS ADVISES
POLICY**



**AFS HAS A VARIETY
OF SECTIONS YOU
CAN JOIN
DEPENDING ON
YOUR INTERESTS**



**AFS SUPPORTS THE
HUTTON JUNIOR
FISHERIES BIOLOGY
PROGRAM**

Learn More





What's Cooking?

CRISPY FRIED CATFISH NUGGETS AND HUSHPUPPIES



Two popular recipes frequently used for Friday cookouts at the fish lab.

Making the Catfish Nuggets

Catfish

- 2 lb catfish fillets, cut into 1½–2-inch nuggets
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 large eggs

Coating

- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

For frying

- Peanut or canola oil
- Oil depth: about 2 - 3 inches

Note: A deep fryer works best for both recipes, but is not necessary.

1. Prepare the catfish: Cut the fillets into bite-sized nuggets. Pat them dry with paper towels.
 2. Make the buttermilk mixture: Whisk together the buttermilk and eggs in a large bowl. Add the catfish and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for 30–60 minutes.
 3. Make the coating: In a gallon-size Ziploc bag, combine the cornmeal, flour, salt, pepper, and any optional seasonings.
 4. Heat the oil: Heat the oil to 350°F. Maintaining the temperature is important—if the oil is too cool, the nuggets become greasy; too hot, and the coating burns before the fish is cooked.
 5. Coat the nuggets: Remove a few pieces of catfish from the buttermilk mixture at a time, allowing excess to drip off. Place in the bag of coating mix, close the bag, and toss thoroughly.
 6. Fry: Carefully place the nuggets into the hot oil without overcrowding the pan. Fry for approximately 3–4 minutes per side, depending on size, until golden brown and the fish reaches 145°F internally.
- Drain: Transfer to a wire rack over a baking sheet. Stacking them on paper towels can trap steam and soften the crust.

Making the Hushpuppies

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| • ¾ cup plain flour | • 2 eggs | • 1 tablespoon salt |
| • ¾ cup plain cornmeal | • 1 tablespoon sugar | • 1 quart buttermilk |
| • 1 large onion (finely chopped) | • 1 tablespoon baking soda | • 2 - 3 inches oil |

First, mix all dry ingredients in a large bowl. Add buttermilk slowly to achieve proper texture (barely drops off a spoon). Heat oil to 350°F to 375°F. Place ½ tablespoon portions of hushpuppy mixture into the oil. Keep a glass of water handy and occasionally dip the spoon in water to allow the mixture to drop easily from the spoon into hot oil.

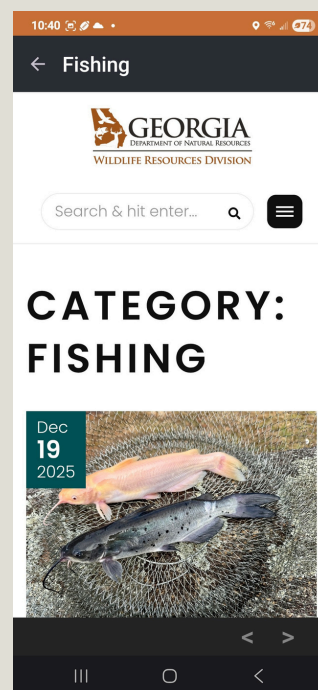
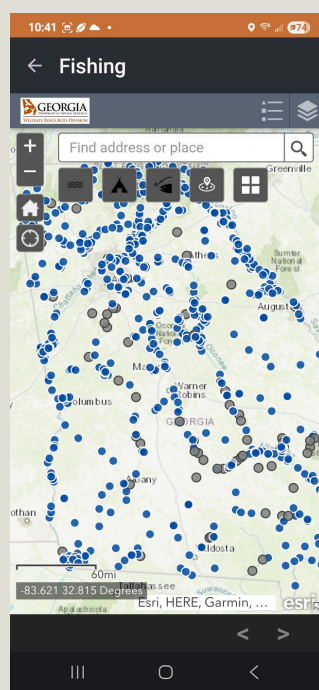
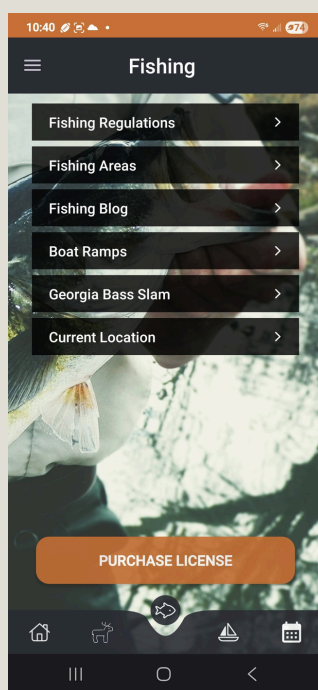
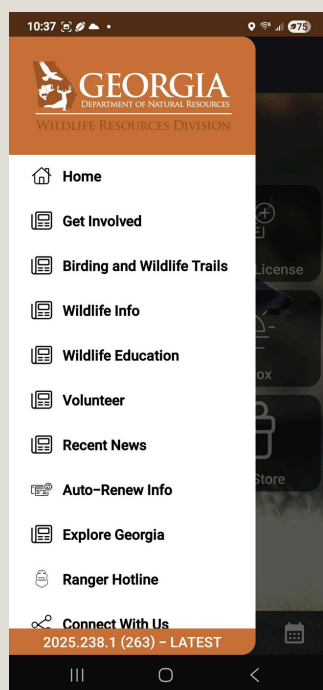
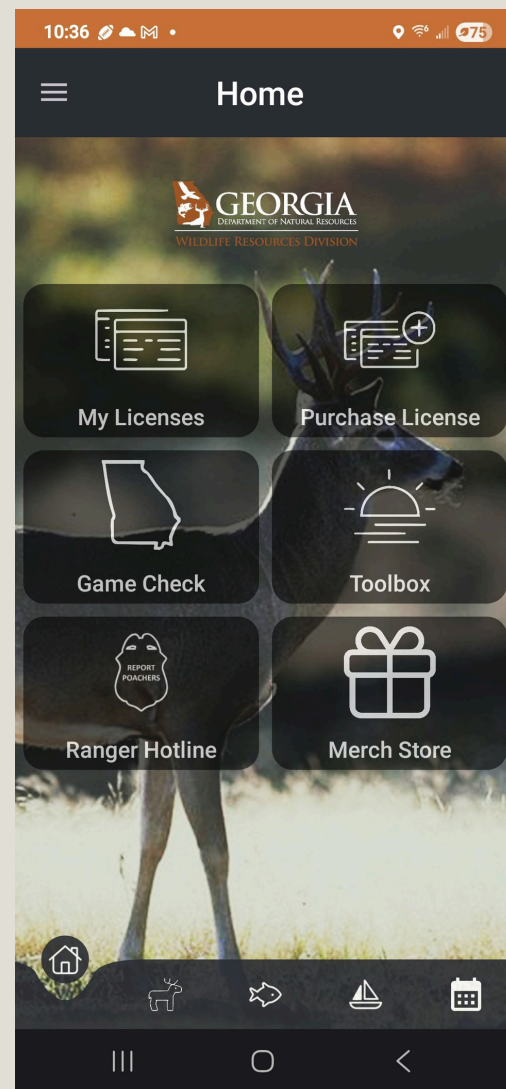
Each recipe serves 4 - 6

Have you tried the Go Outdoors GA app?

The Outdoors GA app, free in [Google Play](#) or [Apple store](#), has multiple uses.

- Fishing regulations - some rules change each year
- Boating rules - know before you go
- Fishing locations
- Boat ramps - plan your next kayaking adventure
- Tide information
- Purchase your fishing license (don't forget your SIP)
- Store your fishing license - avoid awkward moments
- Event calendar - find a KFE near you
- [Georgia DNR Fisheries Blog](#)
- And it has hunting stuff too

DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY!

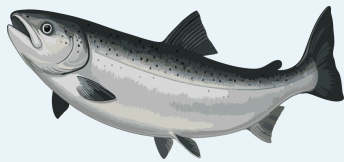


DID YOU KNOW?

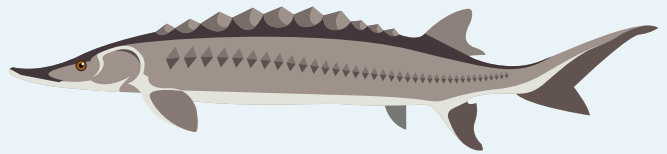
Fish Symbolism

Fish have carried rich symbolic meanings across cultures and throughout history. Because fish live beneath the surface of the water, they are often associated with mysteries of the unknown, intuition, or hidden knowledge. Their ability to move freely through water also makes them symbols of adaptability, resilience, and freedom.

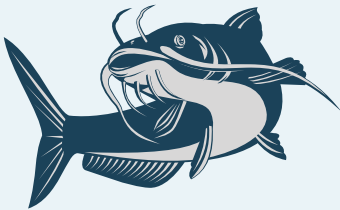
Different fish species have developed distinctive symbolism because of their appearance, behavior, cultural history, or ecological role.



King Salmon: Symbolize bravery, wisdom, and the drive to lead a group through difficult challenges.



Sturgeon: Symbolize resilience, ancient wisdom, and sustenance.



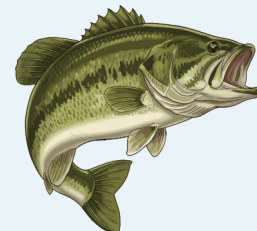
Catfish: Symbolize adaptability, survival, and resourcefulness



Pufferfish: Symbolize transformation, defense, and creativity.



Koi Fish: Symbolizes ambition, perseverance, and transforming obstacles into success through steady effort.



Black Bass: Symbolizes strategic patience, adaptability, deep intuition, and the hidden or shadow aspects of the subconscious mind.

Fishy News

Around the World

Click on title to access article

TRANSMISSIBLE CANCER DISCOVERED IN FISH IN US AND CANADA

Vermont scientists stunned to find melanoma that moves from catfish to catfish like a parasite—first-ever transmissible cancer in a freshwater animal.

MULBERRY BRANCH BIOCHAR OFFERS A GREENER FEED STRATEGY FOR HEALTHIER LARGEMOUTH BASS AQUACULTURE

A research team has found that adding mulberry branch-derived biochar to feed can improve intestinal health and water quality in largemouth bass aquaculture without significantly changing fish growth performance.

SMARTER FISH FARMS COULD CUT ELECTRICITY USE AND CO₂ WHILE KEEPING FISH SAFE

“Our results show that aerators in aquaculture facilities should not be treated simply as fixed electricity loads,” says Assistant Professor Akito Nakadomari of Saitama University.

TOWARDS ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN AN ECONOMICALLY CONSTRAINED CONTEXT: GIVING MORE CONSIDERATION TO THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Fascinated by fish traits, Professor Kohei Ohta shares insights into the fascinating aspects of fish reproduction, the potential of aquaculture technologies, and the outlook for sustainable food production.

COMPARING THE BEHAVIORAL IMPACTS OF DIFFERENT ANGLING TOURNAMENT FORMATS ON LARGEMOUTH BASS

Angling tournaments with immediate release are an alternative to those with weigh-ins.

USING A TEMPORARY EMIGRATION MODEL TO ESTIMATE ABUNDANCE OF STREAM FISHES FROM HYBRID REMOVAL SURVEYS WITH AND WITHOUT BLOCK NETS

Hybrid sampling designs with flexible statistical models like temporary emigration can provide robust population estimates.



Bubba Bass

Video Picks

Leadership

What makes a leader great?
(3 minutes)



Simon Sinek



Communication

How to Calm Angry People Fast



Joe Navarro Behavior Expert

Conservation

Trojan Y Chromosome Strategy in Brook Trout - Idaho Fish & Game (8 minutes)

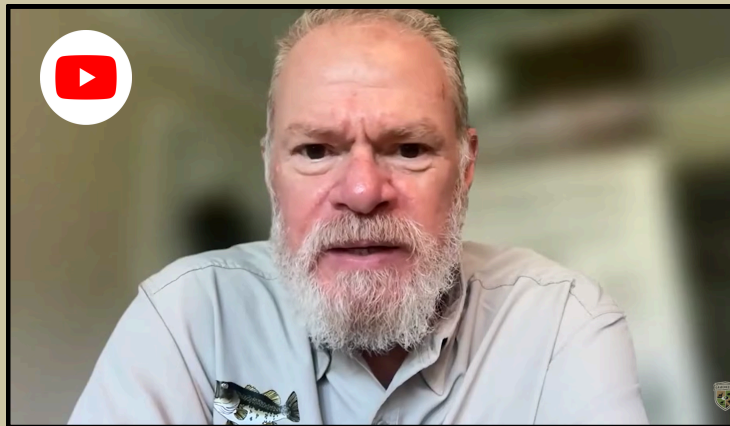


PBS Terra



Fisheries

Aquatic Weed Management with Dr. Jay Shelton (1 hr 42 minutes)



Mossy Oak Gamekeepers

BUBBA BASS SAFETY TIP

Safety Concerns When Working Alone

Don't let a minor incident become a major emergency when no one is nearby to notice or help.



Have a check-in system

Tell someone where you are going, what you are doing, and when you expect to return



Watch for people

Have a plan if you come across intoxicated, aggressive, or confrontational individuals or people engaged in illegal activities.



Be cautious around water

Wet ramps and rocks can be slippery



Check cell service

Carry a backup communication method when working in areas with poor reception.



Watch the weather

Check the weather report before leaving. Have a plan if you are trapped outdoors during a thunderstorm.



Think about wildlife

Know where snakes, alligators, yellowjackets, and wasps like to hide or build their nests.



Bubba's Friends: Mantis Shrimp (Order Stomatopoda)

Mantis shrimp are remarkable marine crustaceans known for their vibrant colors, complex eyes, and extraordinary hunting abilities. Despite their name, they are neither mantises nor shrimp. Some species use powerful, club-like appendages to strike prey with incredible speed, while others spear prey with sharp, spiny appendages.

- Grow 1 - 12 inches
- Use club-like limbs to [strike with the force](#) of a .22-caliber bullet, shattering crab and snail shells.
- Strikes move so fast they boil water and create microscopic shockwave bubbles.
- Humans have 3 color-sensing receptors, but mantis shrimp have 12 to 16.
- They see ultraviolet light and circularly polarized light—a unique trait in nature.



Link: [Dr. Krystal Toney talks about mantis shrimp](#)

Fin and Games

Fish Fact or Fishy?

Set One

Which of these five statements is fishy?

- ① Some fish can climb trees to avoid predation. [Answer](#)
- ② Some fish can survive being frozen. [Answer](#)
- ③ Some fish can change their sex. [Answer](#)
- ④ Some fish have two stomachs. [Answer](#)
- ⑤ Some fish can detect the heartbeat of their prey. [Answer](#)

Set Two

Which of these five statements is fishy?

- A Some fish can shoot water at terrestrial prey. [Answer](#)
- B Some fish live in highly acidic sulfuric waters. [Answer](#)
- C Some fish use tools when foraging for food. [Answer](#)
- D Some fish can get sunburned. [Answer](#)
- E Some fish use their vocal cords to make grunting sounds. [Answer](#)



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HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA



AFS/SDAFS MEETINGS

Future AFS Annual Meetings



American Fisheries Society

- 2027 Pittsburgh, PA: September 26 – 30
- 2028 Honolulu, HI: May 14 – 19

Volunteer to Serve on an AFS Committee

Any active member of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) is welcome to serve on AFS Committees.

MORE INFO



The Southern Division
of the American Fisheries Society

sd.fisheries.org/

Future SDAFS Meetings

- 2027 Mobile, Alabama (March 4 – 7)
- 2028 Mississippi (Location and date TBD)
- 2029 Florida (Location and date TBD)
- 2030 Georgia (Location and date TBD)

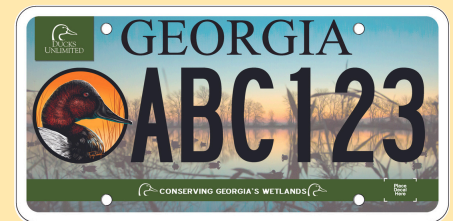
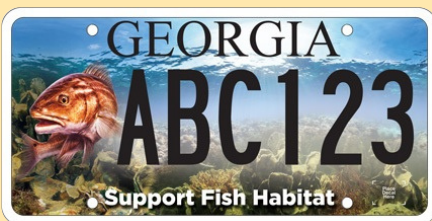
General Information

Support for Fisheries Conservation and Sustainability

Do you have a specialty license plate that supports the conservation of Georgia's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems?



Click on the license plate for more information



It is only \$25 more than the standard plate! (\$20 is a standard charge applied to all plates.) 80 percent of that \$25 fee goes directly to wildlife programs (\$19 the first year, \$20 with every renewal). Only \$5 goes to the State of Georgia General Fund. For more information:

<https://gadnr.org/licenseplates>

Certified Fisheries Professional

There are many reasons for seeking professional certification. For some it represents achievement of a career goal while for others it represents a credential necessary to perform their job.

[Frequently Asked Questions about certification](#)

[AFS Application Process and due dates](#)

Pesticide Applicator License

If you wish to purchase or use a restricted use pesticide (RUP), you or your supervisor must have a pesticide applicator's license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

[UGA Extension Pesticide Safety Education](#)

[Pesticide License Exam Study Videos](#)

Job Hunting

AFS maintains an excellent Career Center page on its website. AFS provides several resources to help you find that fisheries job you want.

[AFS Career Center](#)

Do you want to improve your chances of getting that dream fisheries job?

[Georgia AFS Interviewing Tips](#)

Internships

Internships are a great way to gain valuable work experience employers look for in potential new hires.

Georgia AFS maintains a list of internships for fisheries students on its webpage.

[GAAFS Internship listing page](#)

Science Worth Sharing. Stories Worth Telling.

The Chapter newsletter aims to highlight the exciting work of fisheries professionals and students, share details about upcoming meetings and events, and offer other valuable information relevant to the fisheries community. We encourage a wide variety of submissions related to research, ideas, and developments in marine and freshwater finfish and shellfish, along with their respective fisheries and environments. Contributions can range from a short paragraph to three pages in length. If you have an idea for an article but are unsure whether it's a good fit, feel free to reach out, we're happy to discuss it. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to, the areas listed below.

- Fisheries science research updates or innovative ideas
- Articles with advice for students and young professionals
- Accomplishments such as recently publishing a research paper, giving a talk at a community event, being interviewed for a podcast series, and anything in the realm of communications and outreach
- Environmental concerns related to fisheries and aquatic ecosystems
- Safety tips for fisheries professionals and students

Send your submissions to Rebecca Brown at GeorgiaAFS@gmail.com.

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