Under the Dock

November-December 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

Nov. 13

GA AFS Competitive Award Noms

LEARN MORE

Dec. 17

GA AFS Scholarship & Travel Award

LEARN MORE

Dec. 30

GA AFS Service Award Nominations

LEARN MORE

Jan. 9

GA AFS 2027 Abstract Submission

LEARN MORE

Feb. 2 - 4

Georgia AFS 2027 Annual Meeting

LEARN MORE

March 4 - 7

SDAFS 2027
Alabama AFS Host
Mobile, AL

LEARN MORE

Georgia AFS maintains a calendar on its website

Message from the Chapter President



Bridging Generations in Fisheries

During my year serving as President of the Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, I have had the opportunity to learn more about how our Chapter operates, the people who make it successful, and the many contributions our members have made to fisheries in Georgia. One thing that has stood out to me throughout this experience is the importance of the connections we make within our profession. Fisheries science is constantly changing. New technologies, new analytical approaches, and new challenges are continually shaping the way we understand and manage Georgia's aquatic resources. However, as much as our profession changes, there is something that remains just as important as ever: the knowledge and experience gained by those who came before us.

Much of what we know about Georgia's fisheries was built through decades of work by biologists, technicians, researchers, educators, managers, and others who dedicated their careers to understanding and conserving our aquatic resources. That knowledge is not always found in a report or a database. Sometimes it comes from knowing a particular river, remembering how a fishery responded to a management action 20 years ago, understanding why a sampling protocol was developed, or simply knowing what worked—and what did not. That institutional knowledge is an incredibly valuable resource, and I believe Georgia AFS has an important role to play in making sure it is not lost.

At the same time, our profession depends on bringing new people into fisheries. Students and early-career professionals bring new ideas, new perspectives, and new technologies that will help shape the future of fisheries science and management. As a Chapter, we should continue to provide them with opportunities to learn, present their work, develop professional relationships, and find mentors who can help them navigate their careers.

I would also encourage our retired and more experienced members to remain active in Georgia AFS. Retirement may mark the end of a career, but it does not have to mark the



end of a career, but it does not have to mark the end of your contribution to the fisheries profession. Your experience, stories, knowledge, and perspective are things that cannot simply be taught in a classroom. There is tremendous value in having generations of fisheries professionals in the same room, learning from one another and building relationships.



Bridging that gap between experience and new ideas is something I hope we can emphasize throughout the coming year. I would like to see our students and early-career professionals actively seeking out the people who have helped shape fisheries in Georgia, while encouraging our more experienced and retired members to continue sharing their knowledge and staying involved in the Chapter. Whether that happens through mentoring, workshops, presentations, committee involvement, or simply conversations at our annual meeting, these connections strengthen all of us.

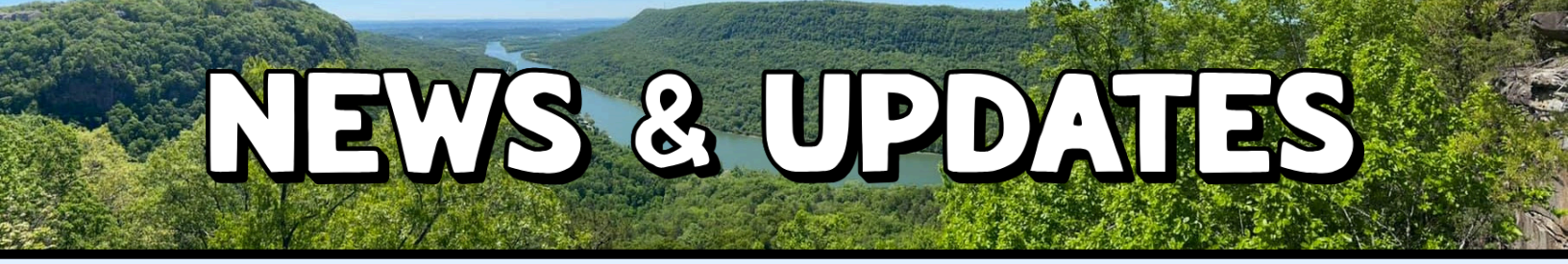
Our annual meeting is one of the best opportunities we have to make those connections. I encourage our students and early-career professionals to introduce themselves to people they may not know, ask questions, and take advantage of the experience gathered in the room. I also encourage our more experienced members to seek out those who are just beginning their careers and share your experiences with them.

The future of fisheries in Georgia will be shaped by the people entering the profession today, but they do not have to build that future alone. We have an opportunity to connect the knowledge of previous generations with the ideas and energy of the next. If we can continue to build those relationships, support our students and early-career professionals, and keep our retired members engaged, Georgia AFS will remain a strong professional community for generations to come.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events and, most importantly, to seeing different generations of fisheries professionals learning from one another and working together to support the fisheries resources we all care about.

Thank you for everything you do for Georgia AFS and for the fisheries profession.

Jonathon



Call for Abstracts

Georgia AFS 2027 Annual Meeting

Mountains to Marshes: Conserving Georgia's Aquatic Resources

February 2 - 4 | Rainwater Conference Center | Valdosta, GA

The Georgia Chapter of the American Fisheries Society invites fisheries professionals, students, researchers, educators, resource managers, and conservation partners to share their work at the 2027 Georgia AFS Annual Meeting. Under the theme "Mountains to Marshes: Conserving Georgia's Aquatic Resources," this year's meeting will highlight the breadth and interconnectedness of Georgia's aquatic ecosystems—from mountain streams and rivers to coastal marshes—and the science, management, and conservation efforts that sustain them.

We welcome abstracts that showcase research, management, conservation, education, outreach, and emerging issues affecting Georgia's fisheries and aquatic resources. Presentations may address topics ranging from fisheries biology and habitat management to aquatic conservation, water resources, invasive species, technology, climate and environmental change, science communication, and innovative approaches to fisheries management.

DEADLINE



The annual meeting provides an opportunity to share new knowledge, exchange ideas, connect with colleagues, and support the next generation of fisheries professionals. We especially encourage students and early-career professionals to participate and share their research, projects, and experiences with the Georgia AFS community.

Abstract Submission Guidelines	Presenter Resources: Tips, Guidelines, and Student Evaluation Forms	Abstract Submission Form
CLICK HERE	CLICK HERE	CLICK HERE

How to Nominate a Colleague for a Georgia AFS Competitive or Service Award

Georgia AFS is proud to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions of fisheries professionals 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.

Georgia AFS Competitive Awards

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

Fisheries Professional Team of the Year	**Professional of the Year in Science & Research**	**Professional of the Year in Fisheries Management**	**Fisheries Conservationist of the Year**

Link: Georgia AFS Competitive Award Nomination

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 these 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.

Career Contribution Recognition	**Distinguished Service Award**	**Hidden Hero Award**	**Certificate of Appreciation**

Link: Georgia AFS Recognition Award Nomination Form

American Fisheries Society Book of Poetry

Ichthyologia Poetica – The American Fisheries Society's First Book of Poetry

Drs. Tom Keevin and Jan Hoover are curating a selection of poetry to be published by the American Fisheries Society as a special volume. All biologists, ichthyologists, anglers, naturalists, and other folks with a fascination for fish are welcome to submit their existing fish poetry for publication or to channel their inner artist and write original poetry related to the fish they interact with or the people who work with them. The goal of this project is to create poems that can be quoted in classrooms and in scientific and popular publications. Didactic poems (poetry that describes and educates readers about fishes or a topic like fishes) would be best as quotable poetry in scientific papers. However, we are interested in any topic related to fish, so if you have a great sense of humor, show it to the world! We will accept any form of poetry—rhyme, free verse, limerick, haiku, and so forth. Although we would like to see the poetry interface with fishery science, we are also open to poems that inspire laughter or thoughtful reflection.



The submission period will be open through March 31, 2027. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Keevin at keevintm@yahoo.com or (314) 845-8213.

Although there are a few poems about fish (mostly fishing) written by famous poets, there is not much in the literature. Who better to write a poem about a particular fish species or a pressing environmental fishery issue than you? You are the expert! Remember, the most widely known and read fish poem is probably Dr. Seuss' One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. We can create something with much more substance. So, if you are working on Silver Carp, write a poem about Silver Carp. Anglerfish? Archerfish? Shiners? Sunfishes? Sturgeons? Give it a go. If you are studying Alligator Gar, your poem would likely be garrific! If you are a climate scientist working on fish, we need to hear from you. If you were a graduate student with colorful, charismatic classmates or professors, honor them. Give it a try!

Visit the AFS Bookstore for more information on how to submit your poem(s)
fisheries.org/bookstore

2027 Georgia Fish Art Contest

The Georgia Fish Art Contest is open to kids in grades K - 12. Hosted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD), the contest encourages students to explore the world of fish through art and creative writing while learning about aquatic conservation.



The Georgia Fish Art Contest is part of the international Wildlife Forever Fish Art Contest, a worldwide conservation education program that invites young artists to express their appreciation for fish and aquatic habitats. Students can showcase their artistic talents by illustrating a fish species and learning about its habitat, behavior, and conservation needs.

Georgia DNR WRD Announcement

CLICK HERE

The contest provides an exciting opportunity for students to combine art, science, and environmental stewardship while discovering the importance of protecting Georgia's diverse aquatic ecosystems.

Entry Guidelines

CLICK HERE

Winners will be selected in five age categories Kindergarten (ages 5-6), 1st to 3rd grade (ages 6-8), 4th to 6th grade (ages 9-11), 7th to 9th grade (ages 12-14), and 10th-12 grade (ages 15-18).

Questions? Contact Chrystal Sherwood at Go Fish Education Center

Proposed Standard Weight Equation and Length Standards for Florida Bass

A new study published in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management, titled "Proposed Standard Weight Equation and Length Standards for Florida Bass," presents species-specific tools for evaluating Florida Bass body condition and population size structure. Coauthored by Georgia AFS member Tim Bonvechio, along with Kim Bonvechio, Drew Dutterer, Brandon Barthel, and Bryant Bowen, the research uses genetically verified Florida Bass data to develop a standard weight equation and length standards. These tools can help fisheries professionals assess fish populations more consistently and inform management decisions to support the conservation and management of Florida Bass throughout their native and introduced ranges.

Our AFS Officers



FDA Approves Eugenol as a Sedative for Field Use in Freshwater Finfish

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved AQUI-S E10% (eugenol immersion solution) for the sedation of freshwater finfish to a handleable condition. AQUI-S E10% is approved for **field-use only**, which means it is for use in wild fish populations, **not** in aquaculture or hatchery settings. The product is intended to sedate fish for safe handling during resource management activities such as spawning, tagging, weighing, and measuring.

Source: [FDA Approves Eugenol Sedative for Field Use in Freshwater Finfish]

New AFS Unit and Student Subunit Resources Library

AFS is pleased to announce the launch of its new **AFS Unit and Student Subunit Leaders Resources Library**! Designed to support effective unit management and leadership transitions, this page provides practical tools, templates, and guidance to help units operate successfully year after year.

You'll find examples of essential business documents, many based on **Robert's Rules of Order**, and organizational best practices, along with real-world examples from AFS units. These resources are intended to simplify administrative tasks and support the annual activities required of AFS units.

The link to the "Resources Library" is available now; however, we will continue to expand and enhance its content with additional resources and tools over time.

Questions can be directed to Kelly Kotche at kkotche@fisheries.org.

FishAge.org User & Needs Survey

FishAge (**www.fishage.org**) is a publicly available repository of digital imagery from known-age fish structures that serves as an archive of valuable known-age references and is a conduit for education and training for aspiring and experienced fisheries biologists. The FishAge.org team is looking to expand and improve our resources for the fisheries community. We invite fisheries professionals, educators and students to complete our FishAge Website User & Needs Survey. Your feedback will help us better understand user needs and prioritize future additions, training resources, and website features. Please help us shape the future of FishAge!

FISHAGE

Take Survey

Winter 2026-2027 WID Training Announcement

Register today for virtual watercraft inspection and decontamination (WID) classes this winter! There is no cost to attend but registration is required. Click the dates below to sign up. Once registered, more information will be sent to you via email.

VIRTUAL TRAINING DATE OPTIONS

Level 1 (Inspection Only)	Level 1 & 2 (Inspection and Decontamination) Classes
November 10, 2026	November 10 & 12, 2026
December 7, 2026	December 7 & 8, 2026
January 19-20, 2027	January 19-21, 2027
February 9-10, 2027	February 9-11, 2027

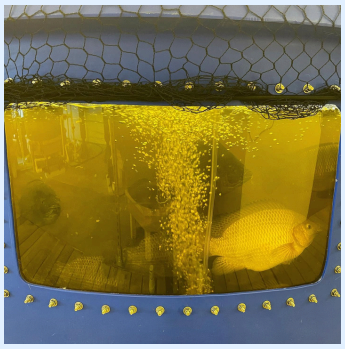
For more information, please visit the **WID Training Website**.

PBS: A Fork in the Road
Farming Inside & Out

From the Field to the Greenhouse to the Sea, farming can be conducted in a variety of environments...and it's the science of farming and fishing that sets things apart as well as geography. Featured locations include BrightFarms, Alo Farms, and City Market Seafood.

Streaming Link: Farming Inside & Out







SUPPORT THE UGA SUBUNIT OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

RAFFLE!

SILENT AUCTION!

DESSERT COMPETITION!

PRESALE TICKETS

NOV 2nd, 3rd, AND 9th FROM 11-2
FORESTRY RESOURCES
BLDG 2 LOBBY

SUBUNIT MEMBERS: $8

NON MEMBERS: $10

TICKETS AT THE DOOR

FLAT FEE: $12

ANNUAL AFS FISH FRY

FRIDAY, NOV 13
6 PM
FLINCHUM'S PHOENIX

650 Phoenix Rd, Athens, GA 30605

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources

AFS American Fisheries Society

Use this link for presale price: https://square.link/u/EdHGMY4G?src=sheet



THE JOURNEY TO YOUR DESIRED JOB NEEDS A STRATEGIC APPROACH

Georgia AFS Resume Writing and Interviewing Tips

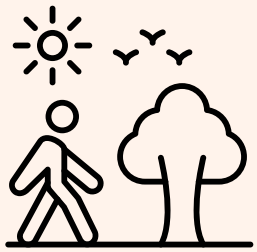
CAMPUS CORNER

Managing Academic Stress

Time Management & Organization

- Keep a calendar
- Break large assignments into smaller, manageable steps
- Prioritize tasks based on the importance of deadlines
- Use to-do lists or task management tools
- Create a realistic weekly study schedule
- Build extra time into your schedule for unexpected problems
- Carve out time to recharge

Physical Health & Self-Care



- Get adequate, consistent sleep
- Exercise or stay physically active
- Eat regular, nutritious meals
- Drink enough water
- Take breaks during long study sessions
- Make time for hobbies, enjoyable activities, friends, and family
- Avoid relying on excessive caffeine

Mindfulness & Mental Reframing

- Reframe setbacks as opportunities to learn
- Focus on what you can control
- Avoid perfectionism and unrealistic expectations
- Practice mindfulness and stay focused on the present
- Practice positive but realistic talk
- Use breathing or relaxation techniques when feeling overwhelmed

American Fisheries Society

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 opportuinities 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

Learn More



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



AFS SUPPORTS THE HUTTON JUNIOR FISHERIES BIOLOGY PROGRAM



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 Student Opportunities

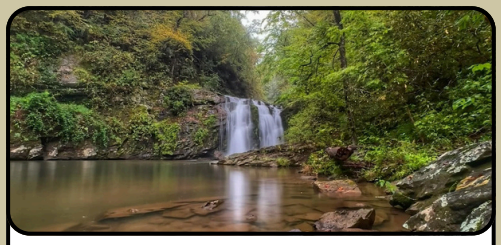
Visit the Student Awards webpage for full details about each award.



Ronnie J. Gilbert Scholarship

$500 Scholarship
Open to undergraduate and graduate students.

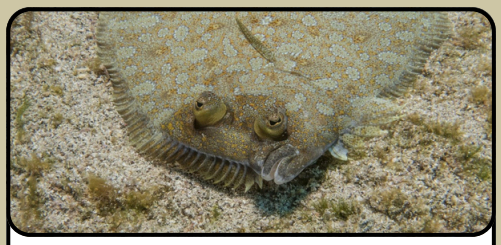
MORE DETAILS



Robert E. Reinert Travel Award

Covers accommodations and GA AFS Annual Meeting registration for undergraduate students.

MORE DETAILS



Georgia AFS Travel Grant

Provides financial assistance for graduate students to attend the GA AFS Annual Meeting

MORE DETAILS

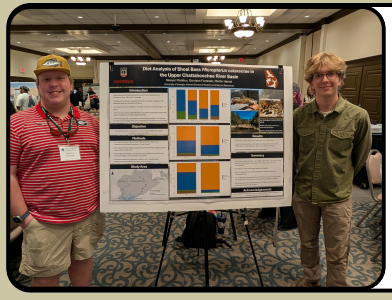


Gift of AFS Membership

Covers AFS student membership and Georgia Chapter AFS membership. Open to undergraduate and graduate students.

MORE DETAILS

And...



Student Presentation Awards

The top three student poster and oral presenters at the GA AFS Annual Meeting will be recognized with a certificate and a monetary prize.

MORE DETAILS

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 on 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

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
RebeccaBrown@gaafs.org

Trash2Art Contest

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.

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?



Artist: Laura Wenk (GA DNR)

Prizes

Each category winner will receive 20 GA AFS Raffle Tickets.

- Best Overall Aquatic Upcycling Entry
- Best Fisheries Conservation Message
- Best Use of Reclaimed Fishing Equipment
- Best College Student Entry
- People's Choice Award

Rules

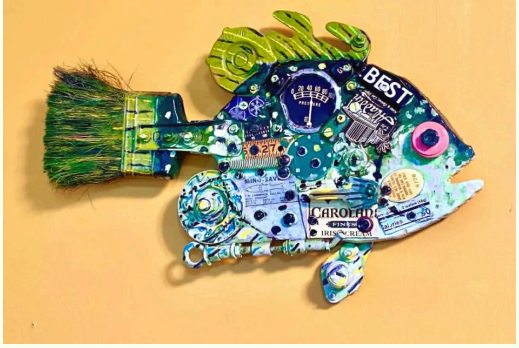
- One entry per participant
- Artwork must be primarily constructed from "trash"
- No hazardous waste or unsafe materials
- Artwork may be any art medium

Visit website for all guidelines

Georgia AFS Art and Photo Contest

Examples found on the Internet

Combination of old items from the garage



Combination of color pencil drawing and trash



Using old fishing equipment



From Space to the Water: How NASA Satellite Imagery Benefits Fisheries Scientists

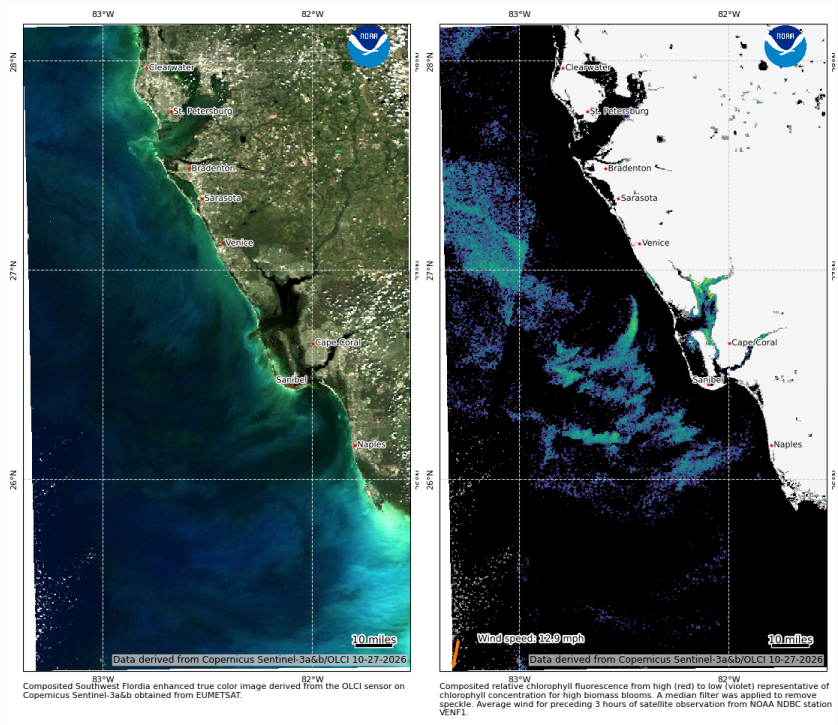


NASA provides a vast repository of **FREE** satellite imagery and environmental data that provides freshwater and marine fisheries scientists with powerful tools to monitor aquatic ecosystems, evaluate habitat conditions, and investigate environmental changes affecting fish populations. By observing lakes, rivers, reservoirs, estuaries, and oceans from space, researchers can collect information across large geographic areas and examine environmental trends over decades.

Monitoring Water Quality and Harmful Algal Blooms

Satellite observations can help scientists estimate chlorophyll-a concentrations, identify patterns associated with turbidity, and monitor changes in surface-water temperature. These measurements provide valuable information about aquatic productivity and environmental conditions that influence fish growth, reproduction, and survival.

Satellite imagery can also help detect and track some harmful algal blooms (HABs). Researchers can identify areas requiring additional sampling and investigate relationships among blooms, temperature, and watershed conditions. However, field testing remains necessary to identify harmful organisms, measure toxins, and assess dissolved oxygen.



Composited Southwest Flordia enhanced true color image derived from the OLCI sensor on Copernicus Sentinel-3a&b obtained from EUMETSAT.

Composited relative chlorophyll fluorescence from high (red) to low (violet) representative of chlorophyll concentration for high biomass blooms. A median filter was applied to remove speckle. Average wind for preceding 3 hours of satellite observation from NOAA NDBC station VENF1.

Algal Blooms from Satellite for Southwest Florida (10/27/26)

Karenia brevis is either not present or at background levels in water samples, so blooms are unlikely to be a red tide (caused by Karenia brevis).

The images to the left compare an enhanced true color image with a composite relative chorlorophyll fluorescence image.

Source: National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NOAA)

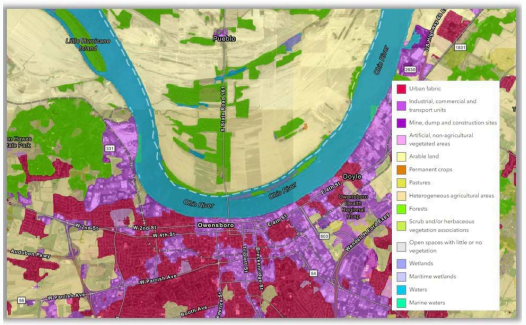
Assessing Aquatic Habitat

Satellite imagery can document changes in aquatic vegetation, shorelines, wetlands, and floodplains. Fisheries scientists can use these observations to investigate habitat loss, monitor extensive infestations of floating invasive plants, and evaluate environmental changes affecting spawning, feeding, and nursery habitat.

For example, researchers studying largemouth bass populations could compare changes in observable aquatic vegetation with electrofishing results, prey-fish abundance, and juvenile recruitment.

Understanding Watershed Impacts

Agriculture, urban development, erosion, and other land-use changes can affect water quality and aquatic habitat. Satellite imagery helps scientists monitor watershed development, vegetation loss, sediment plumes, and flooding.



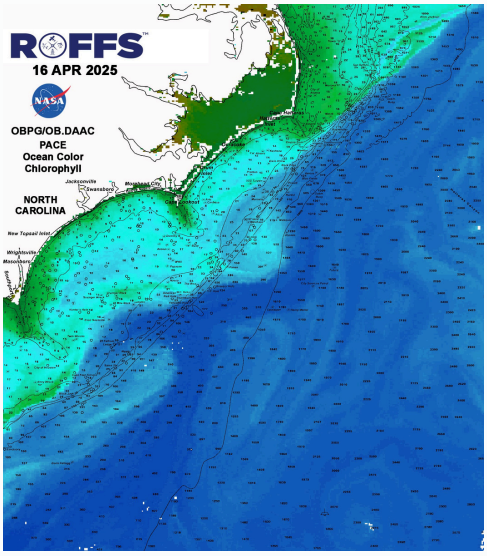
Understanding land cover change using Sentinel-2 imagery

Combining these observations with water-quality measurements and fisheries surveys can help researchers investigate potential connections between watershed changes and fish population trends.

Investigating Temperature and Marine Productivity

Satellite-derived surface temperatures help scientists examine thermal habitat, seasonal warming, and climate-related changes in fish distribution. In marine environments, ocean-color observations can help researchers investigate phytoplankton productivity, oceanographic fronts, and conditions associated with productive feeding habitat.

NASA's Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission provides advanced ocean-color observations that support research into phytoplankton communities and marine ecosystem dynamics.



Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service predicts where algae will draw the small fish that bring in the big fish anglers like to pursue.

Source: [Forecasting Fish from Space]

Integrating Satellite Data with Fisheries Research

Satellite observations are most valuable when combined with conventional fisheries methods, including electrofishing, acoustic surveys, biological sampling, environmental DNA, and water-quality measurements.

NASA's Landsat program provides a historical record extending back to 1972, allowing researchers to investigate long-term changes in aquatic habitats and watersheds. NASA Earthdata and the NASA Ocean Color Data portal provide access to relevant datasets.

References

- **NASA:** Landsat Data Overview.
- **NASA:** PACE Mission.
- **NASA Earthdata:** Earthdata Search.
- **U.S. Geological Survey:** Landsat Provisional Aquatic Reflectance.
- **NASA Spinoff:** Forecasting Fish from Space

Additional Resources

NASA Resources

- **NASA:** Dig Into Earth Science
- **NASA:** Earth Observation Systems Reference Sheet
- **NASA:** Understanding Earth's Biodiversity and Ecological Conservation
- **NASA:** Which Data Tool is Right for You

Other

- A Clearer View of the Seas: Mapping the Fishing the World Can't See
- Application of Remote Sensing and GIS to Identifying Marine Fisheries off the Coasts of Kenya and Tanzania
- Satellite imagery as a management tool for monitoring water clarity across freshwater ponds on Cape Cod, Massachusetts
- **Video:** How a new satellite-based tool tracks river temperatures in hard-to-reach places where salmon run
- Satellite and Airborne Remote Sensing Applications for Freshwater Fisheries

Plugged In

Some of our favorite podcasts.



Yellowfin Shiner

Learn all about the color-popping spawning habits of Yellowfins and other species in the *Hydrophlox* genus, their association with nest-building species like Bluehead Chubs and stonerollers, and where to spot them. Guests are Michael Wolfe with the North American Native Fishes Association and Bryson Hilburn from the University of Georgia



Tybee Oyster Company's Laura Solomon on Oyster Mariculture, Restoration, and Eco Georgia

Jessica Leigh Lebos hosts the Tybee Island Marine Science Center podcast and interviews Laura Solomon, co-founder of Tybee Oyster Company, about their floating oyster farm in the Bull River near Wilmington Island and how it produces salty, consistent oysters for Tybee, Savannah and other restaurants in the region.



Why Everything You Know About Black Bass Management is Likely Wrong

Dr. David Philipp, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Fisheries Conservation Foundation, joins Raegan to talk about black bass spawning sanctuaries in eastern Ontario. Tune in to learn about black bass life history, management, and innovative solutions proposed by Dr. David Philipps teams to turn things around.



Why Bass Crush Some Lures and Ignore Yours with Mark Sexton

Mark Sexton, Director of Fish Science and Product Testing at Pure Fishing, has spent nearly 30 years studying bass behavior and testing lures in the lab and on the water. He shares what their testing says anglers tend to overthink, what bass notice far more than we realize, and how to use that information to catch more fish.



Telling Big Fish Stories

This episode was recorded more than a year ago, at time of publication, but it's still a fascinating deep-dive into one of the Tennessee Aquarium's most impressive collection of huge, HUGE fish.

Membership Dues

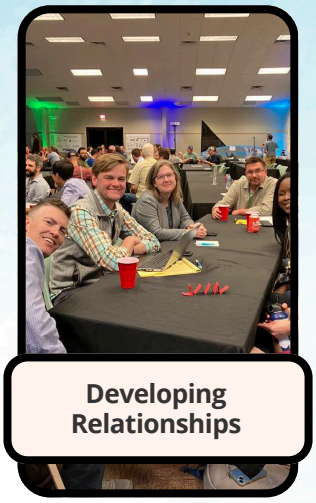
The Georgia AFS mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. Your paid membership helps us achieve that mission.

Georgia AFS
Annual Membership Dues

$ 10

JOIN NOW

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









LEARN MORE

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.

AFS
American Fisheries Society



JAMBALAYA TAILGATE SHRIMP & GRITS

Recipe from Jamie Roberts

INGREDIENTS

Serves 30

1. 4 Tbsp olive oil
2. 2 large onions, finely chopped
3. 2 bell peppers, finely chopped
4. 3 stalks celery, finely chopped
5. 5 cloves garlic, minced
6. 24-32 oz Andouille sausage, cut into bite-sized pieces
7. 24-32 oz diced ham
8. 2-3 lbs of small (36-40 ct) raw, peeled shrimp
9. 1 ½ Tbsp kosher salt
10. ½ tsp black pepper
11. ½ Tbsp cayenne pepper
12. 1 Tbsp Tony Chachere's seasoning
13. 14 oz can diced tomatoes
14. 1 ½ gallon whole milk
15. 6 cups instant or "quick" grits
16. ¾ cup green onions, finely chopped
17. 16 oz grated sharp white cheddar
18. Chopped parsley, as a garnish (optional)
19. Chopped cooked bacon or real bacon bits, as a garnish (optional)

You can scale this recipe up or down for the size of your crowd. I usually brown all the meat beforehand, in a separate saucepan. Brown the sausage and ham, then brown the shrimp in the grease left behind in the pan. Make sure you get all those tasty brown bits out of the pan!

Take your milk out of the refrigerator 2 hours before you start, or it will take forever to boil.

In a large, heavy pot, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add onions, peppers, and celery. Cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are soft and golden, around 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook 2 more minutes. Add ingredients 6-12 (seasonings and meat), stir well, and cook another 2 minutes. Add tomatoes and milk and stir well. Keep a close eye on the pot so the milk doesn't boil over.

Once mixture begins to boil, reduce heat to medium and stir in the grits. Stir frequently over the next 10 minutes or so, making sure to scrape the bottom of the pot so nothing burns. Once the grits are creamy and almost to the right consistency, stir in the green onions and cheese. Continue cooking for a few more minutes as needed to get the consistency how you want it. I usually reserve a little of the milk in case I need to add more because the grits are getting too thick.

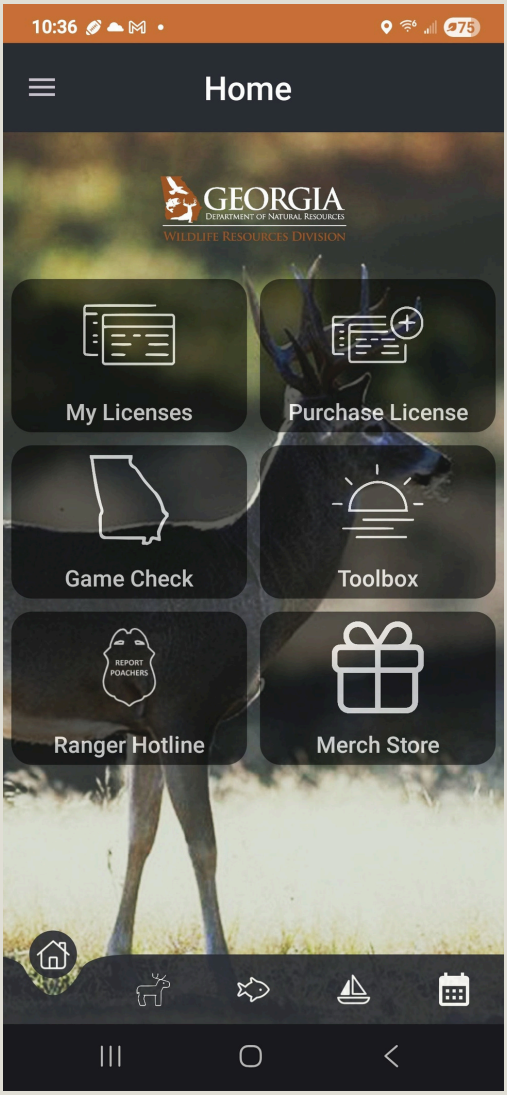
Once the consistency is perfect, serve into bowls right from the pot, offering chopped parsley and bacon pieces as a garnish.

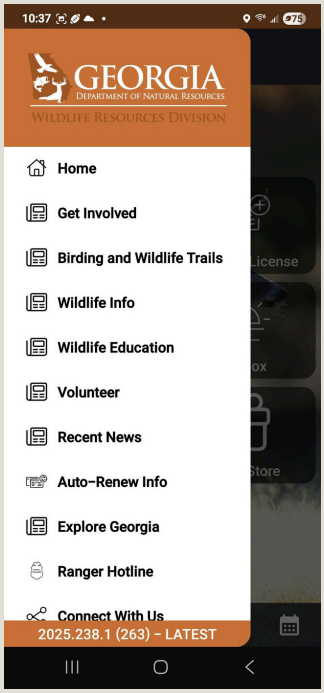
Have you tried the Go Outdoors GA app?

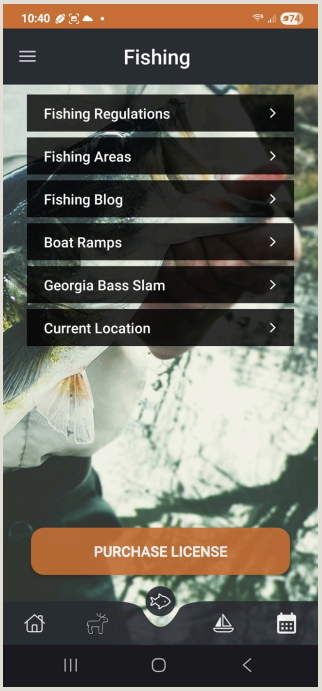
The Outdoors GA app, free in Google Play or Apple store, has multiple uses.

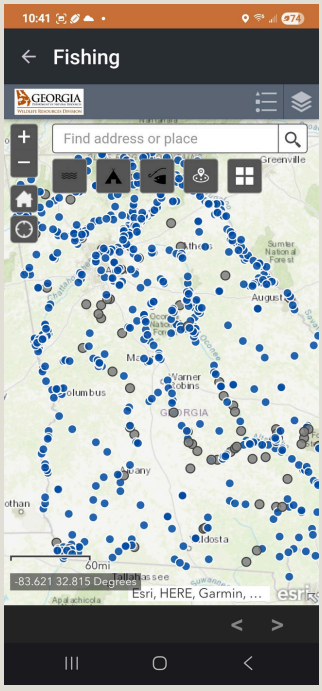
- Fishing regulations - some rules change each year
- Boating rules - know before you go
- Fishing locations
- Boat ramps - plan your next kayaking adventure
- Tide information
- Purchase your fishing license (don't forget your SIP)
- Store your fishing license - avoid awkward moments
- Event calendar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

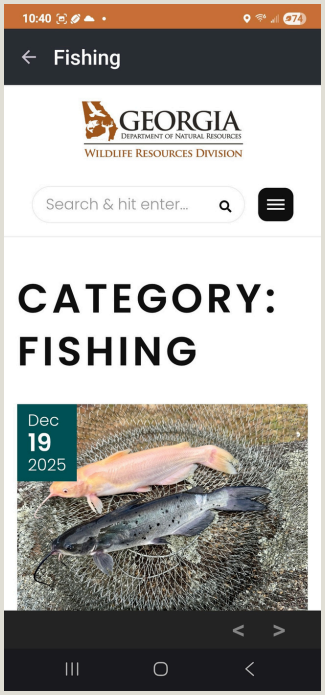
DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY!











DID YOU KNOW?

Fish are Part of Our Shared Human Heritage

From prehistoric fishing tools to sacred symbols, from ancient mosaics to contemporary scientific illustrations, fish have remained deeply woven into human life.

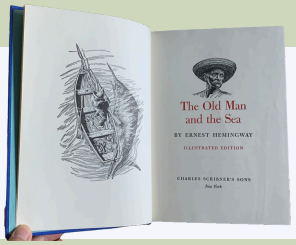
Fish helped sustain human populations and shaped where communities lived, how they developed, and how they interacted with their environments.





Fish became symbols through which people expressed beliefs about life, death, renewal, abundance, wisdom, and the unknown.

Fish inspired artists, storytellers, philosophers, and scientists. The same extraordinary diversity that fascinated ancient observers continues to inspire modern research and creativity.





Fishing traditions, local economies, spiritual beliefs, and community identities have often developed around particular species and aquatic habitats.

As human societies gained greater power to alter aquatic environments and harvest fish, the need to understand ecological limits and conserve biodiversity became increasingly important.



Conserving fish and their ecosystems transcends biological and economic goals; it also preserves cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, recreational opportunities, and the rich diversity of life that has fascinated humanity for centuries.

Fishy News Around the World

Click on title to access article/report

TNC REPORT: AMAZON FORGOTTEN FISHES

This report shows how initiatives centered on Indigenous stewardship, protected areas and basin-scale collaboration are already delivering results that, while they still need to be strengthened and further amplified, represent a blueprint for the future of freshwater conservation not only in the Amazon but worldwide."

Download Full Report: Nature.org

AI INNOVATION MEASURES TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE IN FISH

Researchers have developed an AI-based system that automatically and objectively detects the moment when fish experience loss of equilibrium (LOE) due to temperature stress.

FIERCE FISH: HOW HORMONE POLLUTION TURNED MALE FISH INTO FIERCER RIVALS AND POORER PARENTS

A team of researchers has found that a common wastewater pollutant turned male fathead minnows into worse fathers and fiercer rivals, revealing ecological impacts that laboratory studies missed.

CITYUHK TEAM INVENTS NOVEL EDNA MEMBRANE TO ADVANCE UNDERSTANDING OF INSHORE FISH DIVERSITY

A research team from City University of Hong Kong, alongside other universities, has developed an innovative functionalized membrane that enhances the efficiency of collecting and detecting marine organisms' environmental DNA (eDNA), offering a more sensitive and reliable tool for monitoring marine biodiversity.

STUDY CHALLENGES ESTIMATES USED TO GUIDE ATLANTIC MENHADEN FISHING

The research, published in the journal *Fisheries Research*, examines how historical records and assumptions about tag recovery influence estimates used to guide fisheries management.

JAPAN'S 2011 TSUNAMI TURNED NEARLY 4 IN 10 STICKLEBACKS INTO HYBRIDS, BUT THEIR MIXED DNA DID NOT LAST

The 2011 Tohoku tsunami did more than reshape Japan's coastline. It brought two closely related fish species together in newly formed ponds, where they interbred extensively, and scientists have now documented how one species' DNA was almost completely removed from the mixed population within about a decade.



Bubba Bass
Video Picks

Leadership

The 4 Domains of Emotional Intelligence



Daniel Coleman
(8 minutes)

Conservation

Yia Vang Catches the Fish Taking Over America's Rivers — Then Cooks It Over Fire



Food is Life
(20 minutes)

Communication

Confessions of a scientist: Science education needs communication training



TEDx: Aimee Bernard
(15 minutes)

Fisheries

Aquatic Vegetation, Biosecurity, and Habitat Work



NC Wildlife Resources Commission: Better Fishing with Two Bald Biologists
(59 minutes)

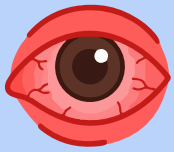
Bubba Bass Safety Tip

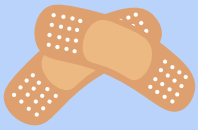
Fish Handling and Biological Hazards

Handle fish carefully to avoid injuries from teeth, spines, opercular edges, and sharp fin rays.



Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or face while handling fish or biological samples.



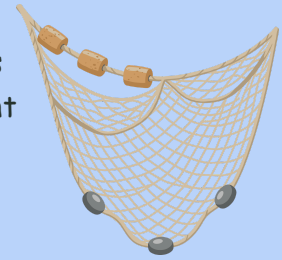


Cover cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings before fieldwork.



Wash hands after handling fish, water, sediment, and equipment, especially before eating or drinking.

Disinfect sampling equipment between sites when necessary to prevent the spread of aquatic pathogens and invasive species.



Be alert for zoonotic pathogens and follow established procedures for specimen preservation and disposal.



Fatlips Minnow (*Phenacobius crassilabrum*)

This small, slender benthic minnow is distinguished by its unique sucker-like mouth, featuring fleshy lips and robust jaw plates. It utilizes these adaptations to forage along the rocky substrate of cool, clear upland streams. Recognized as a state-protected endangered species in Georgia, it thrives in swift riffles and runs found within the upper Tennessee and extreme upper Savannah River drainages.



- Grow up to 11.2 cm
- Spawns during the spring months (April to June)
- Relies on the stone nests constructed by river chubs to deposit its eggs
- Feeds on benthic macroinvertebrates
- State Endangered Species - threats include municipal urbanization, siltation, and road-building near headwater streams



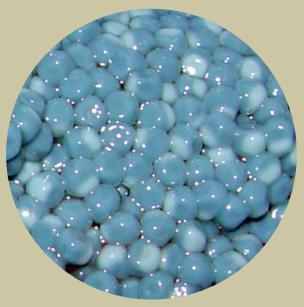
More information: [Georgia DNR WRD Biodiversity Portal]

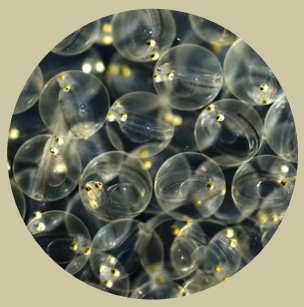
Fin and Games
What is that?

There are three images and four choices.

Whose eggs/larvae? Striped Bass, Rainbow Trout, American Shad, Shortnose Gar

① 

② 

③ 

Name the macroinvertebrate: Mayfly, Stonefly, Alderfly, Dragonfly

④ 

⑤ 

⑥ 

Name the fish: Tarpon, Gulper Shark, Walleye, Longnose Gar

⑦ 

⑧ 

⑨ 

Answers on back page

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AFS/SDAFS MEETINGS

Future AFS Annual Meetings

American Fisheries Society

- 2027 Pittsburgh, PA: September 26 – 30
- 2028 Honolulu, HI: May 14 – 19
- 2029 Atlantic City, NJ: August 19 – 23
- 2030 Grand Rapids, MI: September 15 – 20
- 2031 San Juan, PR: August 17 – 21

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

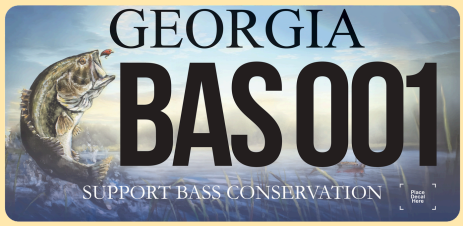
Do you have a specialty license plate that supports the conservation of Georgia's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems?

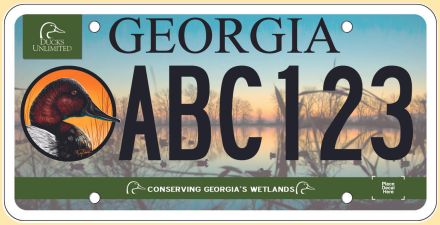


Click on the license plate for more information









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.

Stay Connected

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Rebecca Brown
Jamie Roberts
Marion Baker
Kevin Cavallaro
Jim Page
Brent Hess
Dawn Franco
Camm Swift

Answers to Fin and Games

1. Rainbow Trout
2. Shortnose Gar
3. American Shad
4. Dragonfly
5. Mayfly
6. Stonefly
7. Longnose Gar
8. Gulper Shark
9. Walleye