



## Georgia's Public Fishing Area Record Program

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division recognizes record fish from each state Public Fishing Area. This will be the largest fish of each species caught and properly documented at each PFA. To see if your catch qualifies for a **PFA Record Award**, check the official rules found on the reverse of this page. After reviewing, please complete and submit application.

### ANGLER INFORMATION

Angler Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fishing license #: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_

### FISH INFORMATION

Fish species: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight: \_\_\_\_ lb, \_\_\_\_ oz

Length (inches): \_\_\_\_

Date Caught: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Bait Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Tackle Type: \_\_\_\_\_

PFA Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Name on PFA: \_\_\_\_\_

### APPLICANT SIGNATURE and DATE

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 (Applicant's signature) (Date)

### GEORGIA WRD INFO

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 (Name and Signature of WRD employee identifying/weighing fish) (Date)

### CERTIFIED SCALE INFO

Scale Owner (Business Name): \_\_\_\_\_; Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of scale operator/witness (store manager or employee): \_\_\_\_\_

### WITNESSES

*Fish must be weighed in presence of 2 witnesses (18 yrs. Old/not a member of entrant's immediate family).  
 Witnesses not necessary if fish weighed on certified scale at a WRD Office.*

Witness #1 (Name/Address/Phone No) \_\_\_\_\_

Witness #2 (Name/Address/Phone No) \_\_\_\_\_

## Fish Species Information Minimum Weights/Lengths

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>WEIGHT (lb)</u>	<u>LENGTH (in)</u>
Bass, Hybrid	8.0	25
Bass, Largemouth	10.0	25
Bass, Redeye	1.0	13
Bass, Chattahoochee	0.5	10
Bass, Rock	1.0	11
Bass, Shadow	1.0	11
Bass, Shoal	4.0	20
Bass, Smallmouth	3.0	19
Bass, Spotted	5.0	21
Bass, Striped	25.0	36
Bass, Suwannee	2.0	16
Bass, Tallapoosa	0.5	10
Bass, White	2.5	17
Bowfin	10.0	30
Bullhead, Brown	2.0	17
Bullhead, Yellow	2.0	17
Bullhead, Spotted/Flat/Snail	2.0	15
Carp, Common/Grass	15.0	31
Catfish, Channel	12.0	32
Catfish, Blue/Flathead	20.0	33
Catfish, White	2.5	17
Crappie, Black	2.0	15
Crappie, White	2.0	15
Drum (Freshwater)	5.0	22
Gar, Longnose	10.0	43
Gar, Spotted/Florida	5.0	28
Perch, White	1.0	13
Perch, Yellow	1.0	15
Pickereel, Chain	3.5	24
Pickereel, Redfin	1.0	18
Shad, American	4.0	24
Shad, Hickory	1.5	18
Sunfish, Bluegill	1.5	13
Sunfish, Flier	0.5	9
Sunfish, Green	0.5	9
Sunfish, Redbreast	1.0	11
Sunfish, Redear	1.5	14
Sunfish, Spotted	0.5	9
Sunfish, Warmouth	1.0	11
Trout, Brook	0.5	10
Trout, Brown	4.0	20
Trout, Rainbow	4.0	20
Walleye	4.0	23

## GENERAL RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

The PFA Record Program runs from January 1–December 31. Applications must be received no later than January 15 of the year following the catch.

**RECOGNITION & REWARDS:** Awards are annual for the appropriate year: a certificate (for each qualifying fish), a t-shirt (limit—1), personalized ball cap (limit—1 per qualifying catch; no more than 3 caps total regardless of number of qualifying catches. Angler can choose fish for hats or WRD will select if no preference given). Rewards are sent at end of the calendar year (or closely after). Names and photos of Award recipients may be posted on the WRD website, and may be used in social media posts, or released to media or other interested parties.

**Who Can Apply?** All properly licensed anglers, resident or non-resident are eligible. WRD reserves the right to refuse any questionable entry.

**Legal Season, Sporting Tackle & Other Information:** Fish must be caught in Georgia during the legal angling season for the species taken in accordance with all fishing laws and regulations. Fish must be caught on sporting tackle and be hooked and landed by the entrant. Bush hooks, trot lines, jugs, baskets, nets, etc., are not considered sporting tackle. Fish caught from hatcheries or intensive fish culture facilities are not eligible. Freshwater fish caught from private waters in which adults of the species in question are stocked are not eligible. No frozen or mounted fish are eligible.

**Certified Scale:** Fish must be weighed on a scale that has been certified accurate to the nearest ounce, or lesser weight, by the Department of Agriculture within the last year. Fish may be weighed in pounds and ounces or in metric; however, metric weights will be converted to pounds and ounces. Estimated weights will not be accepted. The weight of the sling, platform, or rope (if one is used when weighing the fish) must be deducted from the total weight. Only one-ounce graduation will be recognized. Visual fractionizing of graduations is not allowed. Weights that fall between two graduations of the scale must be rounded to the lower of the two. The owner of the scale must provide an address and telephone number.

**Application & Photos:** The angler must submit an application form with a clear, side view photo of the fish, and a photo of the angler with the fish. Submit application in one of the following ways:

- Mail: GA WRD PFA Record Program (2067 US Highway 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025)
- Email: [Melissa.Cummings@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Melissa.Cummings@dnr.ga.gov)
- Deliver to a local WRD Fisheries Management Office (Office Locations Found at: [georgiawildlife.com/about/contact](http://georgiawildlife.com/about/contact)).

## OFFICIAL RULES: Public Fishing Area Record Program

PFA Record Awards are awarded for kept fish that are the largest of each species caught and properly documented at each PFA. Review the following information before applying:

### PUBLIC FISHING AREA RECORD FISH RULES:

**Time Frame:** Applications must be submitted within 7 days of the catch.

**Qualifying Weight:** The fish must weigh at least two ounces more than the existing record to be a new record (see next page). If there is no existing record, fish must meet the **Angler Award minimum size** to qualify as a PFA record. (see previous page)

**Eligible species:** PFA records will be recognized for Largemouth Bass, Black or White Crappie, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and Channel Catfish.

**Identification:** A WRD Fisheries Section biologist or technician must identify the fish either in person, or be able to clearly identify the fish species and where it was caught from photos or video, and sign the application.

**Certified Scale:** PFA Record Fish must be weighed on a certified scale (see info to left for more information on certified scales).

**Witnesses:** Fish must be weighed in the presence of two witnesses, both of whom must be at least 18 years old and not a member of the entrant's immediate family. Both witnesses must provide an address and telephone number on the application. Witnesses are not necessary if the fish is weighed on a certified scale at a WRD office or PFA in the presence of WRD personnel.

### NEED MORE FISHING INFORMATION?

Check out our Weekly Fishing Report at [georgiawildlife.blog](http://georgiawildlife.blog) and follow Wildlife Resources Division through:

- Facebook ([www.facebook.com/WildlifeResourcesDivisionGADNR](http://www.facebook.com/WildlifeResourcesDivisionGADNR))
- Twitter ([www.twitter.com/GeorgiaWild](http://www.twitter.com/GeorgiaWild))
- Instagram ([www.instagram.com/GeorgiaWildlife](http://www.instagram.com/GeorgiaWildlife))
- Blog ([www.georgiawildlife.blog](http://www.georgiawildlife.blog))
- YouTube ([www.youtube.com/GeorgiaWildlife](http://www.youtube.com/GeorgiaWildlife))
- Georgia Wild, a free e-newsletter ([www.georgiawildlife.com/archive](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/archive))

## CURRENT PFA RECORD FISH

(as of 3/13/2024)

PFA	Species	Fish Weight	Angler	Date Caught	PFA	Species	Fish Weight	Angler	Date Caught
Big Lazer Creek	Largemouth Bass	Open			Hugh M. Gillis	Largemouth Bass	11 lb, 10 oz	Daniel Thompson	1/2/2009
	Bluegill	Open				Bluegill	Open		
	Channel Catfish	Open				Channel Catfish	10 lb, 15 oz	Leon Morris	3/3/2020
	Crappie	Open				Crappie	2 lb, 4 oz	Marshall Hartley	11/29/2020
	Redear Sunfish	Open				Redear Sunfish	1 lb, 13 oz	Bill Walden	3/30/2023
Marben	Largemouth Bass*	13 lb, 4 oz	Billy Turner	2/11/2013	McDuffie	Largemouth Bass	12 lb, 6 oz	Mike Mooney	3/3/2011
	Bluegill	Open				Bluegill	Open		
	Channel Catfish	Open				Channel Catfish	Open		
	Crappie	Open				Redear Sunfish	Open		
	Redear Sunfish	Open							
Dodge County	Largemouth Bass	15 lb, 8 oz	David Hudson	3/16/2002	Ocmulgee	Largemouth Bass	10 lb, 10 oz	Orville Newlin	5/29/2020
	Bluegill	Open				Bluegill	Open		
	Channel Catfish	13 lb, 7 oz	Thomas Muncher	1/5/2021		Yellow Bullhead	Open		
	Crappie	2 lb, 6 oz	Joseph Hartley	3/7/2024		Crappie	2 lb, 9 oz	Walter Bray	11/2/2022
	Redear Sunfish	1 lb, 11 oz	Derl Maxwell	8/6/2007		Redear Sunfish	1 lb, 1 oz	Andrew Laney	12/26/2021
Evans County	Largemouth Bass	Open			Paradise	Largemouth Bass	13 lb, 13 oz	Jack Chandler	2/25/1995
	Bluegill	Open				Bluegill	Open		
	Channel Catfish	Open				Channel Catfish	15 lb, 8 oz	Scotty Storey	8/22/2017
	Crappie	Open				Crappie	2 lb, 15 oz	James Overstreet	1/25/2021
	Redear Sunfish	Open				Redear Sunfish	2 lb, 2 oz	Joyce William	4/18/2009
Flat Creek	Largemouth Bass	11 lb, 5 oz	Norman Moneyppenny	8/10/2018	Rocky Mountain	Largemouth Bass	Open		
	Bluegill	Open				Bluegill	Open		
	Channel Catfish	Open				Channel Catfish	20 lb, 5 oz	Chad Teems	5/1/2021
	Crappie	2 lb, 3 oz	Michael Turk	2/23/2022		Crappie**	2 lb, 14 oz	Chris Myrick	2/8/2023
	Redear Sunfish	Open				Crappie**	2 lb, 14 oz	John Watwood	2/10/2023
					Crappie**	2 lb, 15 oz	Brandon Glass	1/3/2024	
<p>*Ron Petzelt caught an 18 lb, 1 oz bass from Lake Margery (now Marben PFA) when it was privately owned in 1987.</p> <p>**Tie: To be considered a new PFA "record," fish must weigh 2 ounces more than previous record.</p>					Silver Lake	Largemouth Bass	Open		
						Bluegill	Open		
						Channel Catfish	Open		
						Crappie	Open		
						Redear Sunfish	Open		

