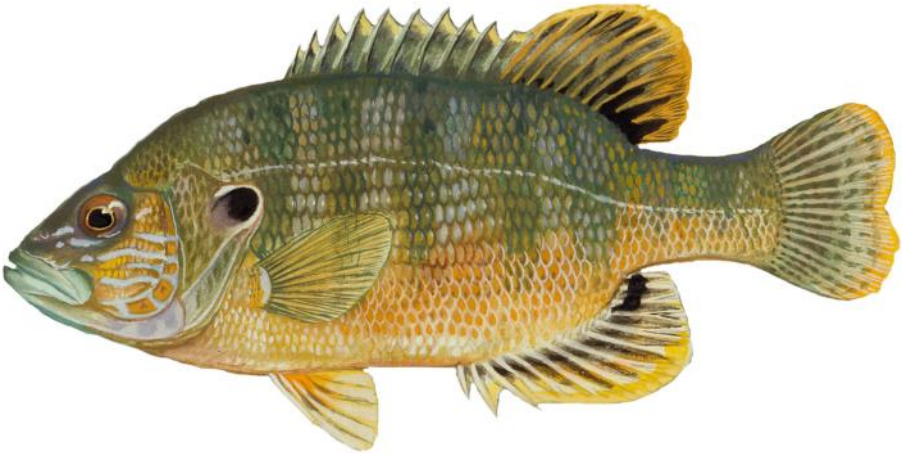
Guidelines For Eating Fish

From

Georgia Waters



2021

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E., Suite 1252
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

For more information on fish consumption in Georgia, contact the

Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

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Watershed Protection Branch
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Coastal Resources Division
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 264-7218

Check the DNR Web Site at: http://www.gadnr.org

- For this booklet: Go to Environmental Protection Division at www.gaepd.org, choose publications, then fish consumption guidelines.
- For the current Georgia 2020 Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations, Click on Wildlife Resources Division. Click on Fishing. Choose Fishing Regulations. Or, go to http://www.gofishgeorgia.com
- For more information on Coastal Fisheries and 2015 Regulations, Click on Coastal Resources Division, or go to http://CoastalGaDNR.org
- For information on Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) source reduction, reuse options, proper disposal or recycling, go to Georgia Department of Public Health at https://dph.georgia.gov/environmental-health/chemical-hazards/chemical-hazards-community-outreach/household-hazardous-waste

Call the DNR Toll Free Tip Line at 1-800-241-4113 to report fish kills, spills, sewer overflows, dumping or poaching (24 hours a day, seven days a week).
Also, report Poaching, via e-mail using rangerhotline@dnr.ga.gov

Check USEPA and USFDA for Federal Guidance on Fish Consumption
USEPA: http://www.epa.gov//fish-tech
USFDA: http://www.fda.gov/food/resources-you-food/seafood

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Introduction

Fishing is a popular pastime in Georgia. Whether you go alone to relax and enjoy nature, with your friends to enjoy camaraderie and "fish tales" or with your family to pass on a sport you learned as a child, fishing is a fun and rewarding sport enjoyed by many people.

Not only does fishing give people an excuse to get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life, but it can also put a healthy, satisfying meal on the table. Fish are low in saturated fat, high in protein, and can have substantial health benefits when eaten in place of other high-fat foods. The quality of sport fish caught in Georgia is very good; however, arsenic, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury, thallium, chlordane, toxaphene (and related compounds), and dieldrin have been found in some fish. In most cases, the levels of these chemicals are low. However, to help ensure the good health of Georgians, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has developed guidelines for how often certain species of fish can be safely eaten. These guidelines are based on the best scientific information and procedures available. As more advanced procedures are developed, these guidelines may change.

It is important to keep in mind that the consumption recommendations are based on health-risk calculations for someone eating fish with similar contamination over a period of 30 years or more.

These guidelines are not intended to discourage people from eating fish, but should be used as a guide for choosing which type (species) and size of fish to eat from Georgia waters.

The guidelines are non-binding recommendations EPD determines based on the body of water a fish comes from, the species of fish and the amount of fish a person consumes. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide detailed information in an understandable format for people who eat fish. Waters listed in the fish consumption guidelines are not necessarily assessed as impaired using USEPA guidelines for Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

The river basin where tested sites are located has been identified in the tables. The fourteen major river basins in Georgia are shown on the map provided, preceding the consumption guidance tables. The listings for lakes have been divided into those with a surface area of 500 acres or more, and small lakes and ponds less than 500 acres in size. Georgia rivers have also been divided into freshwater rivers and creeks, and estuarine systems. An index is provided at the back of the booklet for quick page reference to lake, river and estuarine locations that have been tested.

Are Georgia's Fish Safe to Eat?

Yes. The quality of fish in Georgia is good. Fish and seafood are nutritious and can play a role in maintaining a healthy well-balanced diet. This booklet provides you with the guidance and recommendations to use in eating fish in a healthy and informed manner. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has one of the most progressive fish testing programs in the southeast. A variety of different fish species were tested for 43 separate contaminants, including metals, organic chemicals and pesticides. Many of these contaminants did not appear in any fish. However, four contaminants, arsenic, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury, and thallium, were frequently detected in significant amounts in a few species from some bodies of water in Georgia. Three additional contaminants, chlordane, toxaphene-like compounds, and dieldrin were also detected infrequently. This publication provides you with information on those six contaminants: arsenic, PCBs, mercury, thallium, chlordane, toxaphene and dieldrin.

In some areas, fish are contaminated with low concentrations of PCBs. It is now illegal to manufacture PCBs; however, in the past, these synthetic oils were used regularly as fluids for electrical transformers, cutting oils, and carbonless paper. Although they were banned in 1976, they do not break down easily and remain in aquatic sediments for years. Over time, levels of PCBs are decreasing.

Mercury is a naturally occurring metal that does not break down as it cycles between land, water, and air. As mercury cycles through the environment it is absorbed and ingested by plants and animals. Nearly all of the mercury found in fish flesh is an organic form, called methylmercury. Most of the mercury absorbed or ingested will be returned to the environment but some will remain in the plant and animal tissues. It is not known where the mercury in Georgia's fish originated. Mercury may be present in fish because of the mercury content of soils and rocks in the southeast, from municipal and industrial sources, or from fossil fuel use. Scientific evidence is growing that mercury is transported long distances through the upper atmosphere, making its control a global environmental issue. Although mercury has always been present, scientific research shows that the amount of mercury cycling through the environment has increased significantly following the dawn of the Industrial Revolution in the late 1800s.

Chlordane is a man-made pesticide used in the U.S. from the late 1940s to the early 1980s. Historically, chlordane was used as an agricultural pesticide, but in 1978 it was restricted to termite control use only. It is now banned for all uses. Chlordane is persistent in the environment and may remain in aquatic sediments for years.

Fish in Proctor Creek had enough dieldrin to recommend a restriction in consumption. Dieldrin is another chlorinated pesticide like chlordane and DDT, and has been restricted from use in the United States. It was used to control corn and citrus pests, termites, and in moth proofing. Dieldrin is persistent in the environment because of the slow breakdown rate.

Toxaphene was a chlorinated camphene pesticide used extensively on cotton. In 1982 registration for all uses were cancelled, and a ban on all uses went into effect in 1990. One estuarine area (Terry and Dupree Creeks, and the Back River, page 52), adjacent to a site where toxaphene was once manufactured has remaining residues of toxaphene-like compounds present in some fish. Toxaphene is also persistent in the environment.

Like PCBs, the chlorinated pesticides do not break down easily and remain in aquatic sediments for years. These organic contaminants tend to concentrate in fat and fatty tissues of fish such as the liver and other organs. Over time levels of PCBs and chlorinated pesticides are decreasing.

Some fish in the Savannah River below Augusta contain the radioactive elements cesium-137 and strontium-90. Exposure to large amounts of these elements may increase the risk of developing cancer.

How Do Fish Become Contaminated?

Contaminants get into water as a result of storm water runoff, industrial and municipal discharges, agricultural practices, nonpoint source pollution and other factors. When it rains, chemicals from the land and in the air are washed into the water.

Contaminants are carried downstream by rivers and creeks into lakes, reservoirs, and estuaries. Contaminants can get into fish in a variety of ways. Fish absorb PCBs, chlordane and other pesticides from water, suspended sediments, or their food. These organic chemicals concentrate in the fat of fish tissue and in fatty fish such as catfish. Cleaning and cooking a fish to remove fat will lower the amount of PCBs, chlordane or other pesticides in a fish meal.

Larger, older fish and fish which eat other fish may accumulate more contaminants than smaller, younger fish. Once in the water, mercury is converted to methylmercury by bacteria and other processes. Fish absorb methylmercury from their food and from water as it passes over their gills. Mercury is bound to proteins in fish tissue, including muscle.

Benefits of Eating Fish

Fish has long been recognized as a nutritious "protein food". It's nutritional value as a protein source is greater than that for beef, pork, chicken or milk. Additionally, the types and amounts of dietary fats are generally more "heart healthy" than the fats found in other protein foods. Fish is also an important source of the fatty acids that are critical for the development of the brain and nervous system. Fish is an excellent source of several vitamins, and also contributes appreciable amounts of dietary calcium, iron and zinc. These minerals are essential nutrients that tend to be low in people's diets. Many studies suggest that eating fish regularly may help protect against heart and inflammatory diseases.

These guidelines are based on a range in fish meal size from 4 to 8 ounces (1/4 to 1/2 pound). Where the guidelines recommend only 1 meal per week or month, you may prefer to have two smaller meals over that period.

Risks of Contaminated Fish

These guidelines were designed to protect you from experiencing health problems associated with eating contaminated fish. The consumption advice provided in this booklet is developed in a conservative manner. It is intended to protect both children and adults from cancer and the other potential toxic effects of these chemicals.

PCBs, methylmercury, chlordane, toxaphene and dieldrin build up in your body over time. It may take months or years of regularly eating contaminated fish to accumulate levels that would affect your health. Keep in mind that these guidelines are based on eating fish with similar contamination over a period of 30 years or more. Current statistics indicate that cancer will affect about one in every four people nationally, primarily due to smoking, diet and hereditary risk factors. If you follow Georgia's consumption guidelines, the contaminants in the fish you eat may not increase your cancer risk at all. At worst, using the USEPA estimates of contaminant potency, your cancer risk from fish consumption should be less than 1 in 10,000.

PCBs, chlordane, toxaphene and dieldrin can cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to large amounts, and may cause cancer in humans. Effects other than cancer from these chemicals may include developmental problems in children whose mothers were exposed to them before or during pregnancy. Studies of people who have been exposed to very large quantities of these chemicals (pesticide workers, etc.), have indicated a relationship between high exposures and health effects on the nervous system, digestive system, and the immune system.

Exposure to methylmercury has not been linked to cancer. Methylmercury is a concern because of it's potential to damage the nervous system, especially in the developing fetus and young child. This could affect your child's brain and how your child learns, moves, and behaves.

Special Notice for Pregnant Women, Nursing Mothers and Children

If you are pregnant or a nursing mother, or plan to become pregnant soon, you and children under 6 years of age are sensitive to the effects of contaminants such as mercury. DNR's guidelines are designed to be protective for these sensitive groups. In early 2001 the USEPA issued a national advisory recommending that these sensitive groups limit consumption of all freshwater fish to one meal per week due to mercury. People may wish to follow USEPA's recommendation, especially in areas where DNR has not tested fish and offered detailed guidelines. For most other healthy adults, DNR's recommendations may actually be overly conservative.

Ways to Reduce Risk

- **Keep smaller fish for eating**. Generally, larger, older fish may be more contaminated than younger, smaller fish. You can minimize your health risk by eating smaller fish (within legal size limits) and releasing the larger fish.

- **Vary the kinds of fish you eat**. Contaminants build up in large predators and bottom-feeding fish, like bass and catfish, more rapidly than in other species. By substituting a few meals of panfish, such as bream (e.g. bluegill, redear), and crappie, you can reduce your risk.

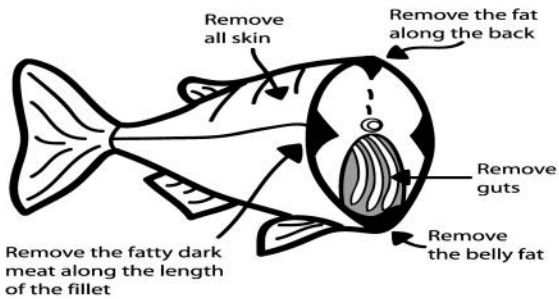
- **Eat smaller meals when you eat big fish and eat them less often**. If you catch a big fish, freeze part of the catch (mark container or wrapping with species and location), and space the meals from this fish over a period of time.

- **Clean and cook your fish properly**. How you clean and cook your fish can reduce the level of contaminants by as much as half in some fish. Some chemicals have a tendency to concentrate in the fatty tissues of fish. By removing the fish's skin and trimming fillets according to the following diagram, you can reduce the level of chemicals substantially. Mercury is bound to the meat of the fish, so these precautions will not help reduce this contaminant.

- **Remove the skin from fillets or steaks**. The internal organs (intestines, liver, roe, and so forth), and skin are often high in fat and contaminants.

- **Trim off the fatty areas shown in black on the drawing**. These include the belly fat, side or body fat, and the flesh along the top of the back. Careful trimming can reduce some contaminants by 25 to 50%.

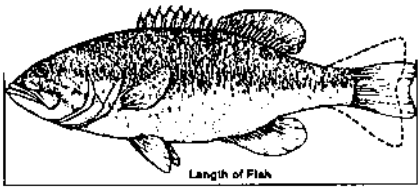
- **Cook fish so fat drips away**. Broil, bake or grill fish and do not use the drippings. Deep-fat frying removes some contaminants, but you should discard and not reuse the oil for cooking. Pan frying removes few, if any, contaminants.



Using These Guidelines

Check the following pages (or *Index*), for the area where you fish. The lakes and rivers on the list are arranged in alphabetical order. If your fish or fishing location is NOT in this booklet, follow the suggestions in *Ways to Reduce Risk.* If your fish or fishing location is in the booklet, it does not necessarily mean that there are contaminants present, but only that the fish have been tested. Meal advice will depend on what contaminant(s) were found and how much was found in different species and sizes of fish. Follow these instructions carefully.

The current *Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations* should be consulted for the legal sizes and creel limits for different species in a water body. Some legal size limit information is provided in the following tables. The regulations also provide detailed information on how to measure fish length, other seafood size measures, and color pictures for identification.



- Measure fish from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail fin.

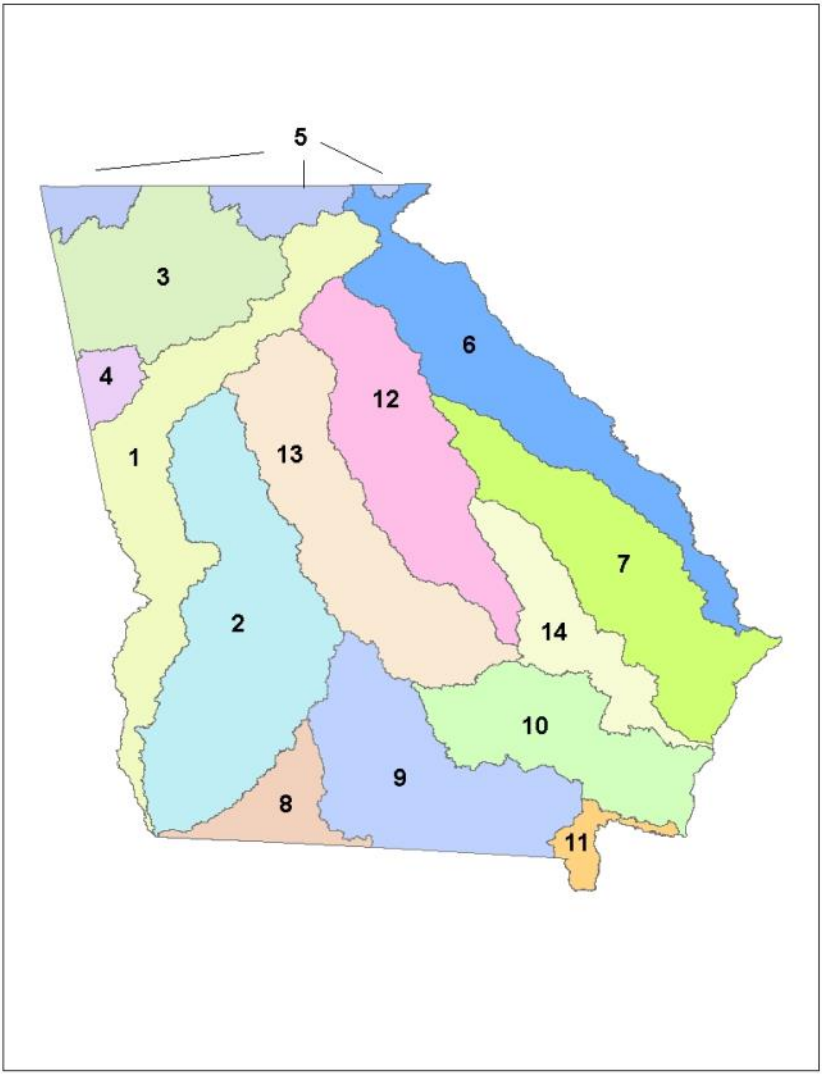
- In the tables find your lake or river and the species and size of fish you caught. If there is no meal frequency listed for a particular size fish, that size has not been tested or is illegal to keep. For rivers, the size that was tested was the common creel size for that species.

- Listed below are the four different recommended meal frequencies that are possible for different species and sizes of fish.

  No Restriction
  1 meal per week
  1 meal per month
  Do Not Eat

- For the purposes of these guidelines, one meal is assumed to range from 1/4 to 1/2 pound of fish (4-8 ounces) for a 150 pound person. Subtract or add 1 ounce of fish to the range for every 20 pounds of body weight. For example, one meal is assumed to be 3 – 7 ounces for a 130 pound person and 5 – 9 ounces for a 170 pound person.

RIVER BASINS OF GEORGIA



1. Chattahoochee River Basin
2. Flint River Basin
3. Coosa River Basin
4. Tallapoosa River Basin
5. Tennessee River Basin
6. Savannah River Basin
7. Ogeechee River Basin
8. Ochlockonee River Basin
9. Suwannee River Basin
10. Satilla River Basin
11. St. Marys River Basin
12. Oconee River Basin
13. Ocmulgee River Basin
14. Altamaha River Basin

FRESHWATER AND SALT WATER FISH OF GEORGIA

Largemouth Bass
Black Bass Spp.

Redeye Bass
Black Bass Spp.

Shoal Bass
Black Bass Spp.

Spotted Bass
Black Bass Spp.

Hybrid Bass

Striped Bass

White Bass

Brown Bullhead
Catfish

Bullhead Catfish

Flat Bullhead Catfish

Snail Bullhead Catfish

Spotted Bullhead
Catfish

Yellow Bullhead
Catfish

Blue Catfish

Channel Catfish

Flathead Catfish

White Catfish

Brook Trout

Brown Trout

Rainbow Trout

Bluegill Sunfish

Green Sunfish

Redbreast Sunfish

Redear Sunfish

Bowfin

Carp

Chain Pickerel

Sucker

Yellow Perch

Walleye

Atlantic Croaker

Black Drum

Red Drum

Sheepshead

Southern Flounder

Southern Kingfish

Spot

Spotted Seatrout

Striped Mullet

Blue Crab/Shrimp

Fish Consumption Guidelines

The tables for public lakes have been separated into two categories based on size. The first set of lakes is those with a surface area of 500 or more acres. The second listing of public lakes includes those having less than 500 acres in surface area. These include Georgia DNR Public Fishing Areas (PFAs) and State Parks with small lakes and ponds, and municipal or other public fishing impoundments.

These guidelines are based on a range in fish meal size from 4 to 8 ounces (1/4 to 1/2 pound). Where the guidelines recommend only 1 meal per week or month, you may prefer to have two smaller meals over that period.

Typically Carp, Redhorse Spp., and Sucker Spp. are not game fish and/or targeted for table fair and therefore are not included.

Georgia Public Lakes 500 Acres or Larger

Lake Allatoona ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Less than 12”	12” – 16”	Over 16”	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions			
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Hybrid Bass		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
White Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week		Mercury

Lake Andrews ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Catfish Spp.			No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury

Banks Lake ***Suwannee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12” - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/week	1 meal/month		Mercury

Bear Creek Reservoir ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12” - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	1 meal/week			Mercury
Channel Catfish		1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/week	1 meal/week		Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	1 meal/week			Mercury
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			

Lake Blackshear ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	1 meal/week		Mercury
Flathead Catfish			No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass*		1 meal/week	No Restrictions	Mercury
*Only Largemouth Bass greater than 14 inches may be kept.				

Black Shoals Lake (Randy Poynter Lake) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Black Crappie	1 meal/week			Mercury
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			

Lake Blue Ridge ***Tennessee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week	1 meal/month	Mercury
Spotted Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week		Mercury
White Bass		1 meal/week		Mercury

Lake Burton ***Tennessee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	1 meal/month			Thallium
Brown Trout			1 meal/week	Mercury
Catfish Spp.	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Walleye			No Restrictions	

Carters Lake ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Catfish Spp.		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Hybrid Bass			No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Spotted Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Striped Bass			No Restrictions	
Walleye		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury

Lake Chatuge ***Tennessee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Catfish Spp.		1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
Hybrid Bass			1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass		1 meal/week	No Restrictions	Mercury

Clarks Hill Lake (J. Strom Thurmond) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Brown Bullhead		No Restrictions		
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Hybrid Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Striped Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
White Perch	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Yellow Bullhead		No Restrictions		

Goat Rock Lake ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12”	12” – 16”	Over 16”	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish		1 meal/week	1 meal/month	Mercury, PCBs
Hybrid Bass		1 meal/month	1 meal/month	PCBs
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions	1 meal/month	Mercury, PCBs
White Bass	1 meal/month	1 meal/month		PCBs

Lake Harding (Bartletts Ferry) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12”	12” – 16”	Over 16”	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	1 meal/week		PCBs
Channel Catfish	1 meal/week	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	PCBs
Hybrid Bass	No Restrictions		1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions	1 meal/month	Mercury
Spotted Bass		1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Striped Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
White Bass			1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs

Lake Hartwell: Tugaloo Arm ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12”	12” – 16”	Over 16”	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Hybrid & Striped Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	Mercury, PCBs
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Spotted Bass		No Restrictions		
Walleye			1 meal/week	Mercury

Lake Hartwell:
Main Body, D.S. Andersonville IS. GA/SC Listing ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Channel Catfish	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	PCBs
Hybrid/Strip Bass	Do Not Eat	Do Not Eat	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	PCBs
Spotted Bass	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	PCBs
Striped Bass	Do Not Eat	Do Not Eat	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Main Body. Guidance issued with South Carolina DHEC (https//scdhec.gov/lake-hartwell-fish-conumption-advisory)				

High Falls Lake ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Channel Catfish		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Hybrid Bass	No Restrictions		No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Redear Sunfish	1 meal/month			Thallium

Jackson Lake ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/week	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Snail Bullhead		No Restrictions		
White Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		

Lake Juliette ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Catfish Spp.		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass*	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Striped Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

Lake Sydney Lanier ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions			
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Catfish Spp.	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week *	1 meal/month	Mercury
Spotted Bass		1 meal/week *	1 meal/week	Mercury
Striped Bass		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Walleye			1 meal/week	Mercury
White Bass		1 meal/week		Mercury
*Only Largemouth, Spotted, and Shoal Bass greater than 14 inches may be kept.				

Lake Nottely ***Tennessee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions			
Catfish Spp.		1 meal/week	No Restrictions	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Striped Bass			1 meal/week	Mercury

Lake Oconee ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Blue Catfish	No Restrictions		No Restrictions	
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Hybrid Bass	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass*	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	No Restrictions	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	No Restrictions			
White Catfish	No Restrictions			
*Only Largemouth Bass greater than 14 inches may be kept.				

Lake Oliver ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	1 meal/week			Antimony
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/month	Chromium, PCBs
Hybrid Bass	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury,
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			

Lake Rabun ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	1 meal/week			Selenium
Catfish Spp.	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass		1 meal/week	1 meal/month	
Walleye		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury

Lake Richard B. Russell ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Flat Bullhead	1 meal/week			Mercury
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/month	Mercury

Lake Richard B. Russell ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Sunfish Spp.	No Restrictions			
Spotted Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
White Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury

Lake Seminole ***Chattahoochee/Flint River Basin (Apalachicola)***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Channel Catfish		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Sucker		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Sunfish Spp.	No Restrictions			
Yellow Bullhead	No Restrictions	1 meal/week		Mercury

Lake Sinclair ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Hybrid Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Yellow Bullhead		1 meal/month		Mercury

Lake Tobesofkee ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury

Lake Tugalo ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish		1 meal/week		Selenium
Catfish Spp.		No Restrictions		
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	1 meal/month	Mercury
Walleye		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass	1 meal/week	1 meal/week		Mercury

Lake Varner (Cornish Creek Reservoir, Newton County) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Channel Catfish			No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	1 meal/week			Cadmium

Lake Walter F. George (Eufaula) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16"	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Hybrid Bass		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass *		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
* Only Largemouth Bass greater than 14 inches may be kept.				

West Point Lake ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16"	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	PCBs
Hybrid Bass	1 meal/week	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	PCBs
Largemouth Bass *		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week		Mercury
Striped Bass			No Restrictions	
*Only Largemouth Bass greater than 14 inches may be kept.				

Lake Worth/Lake Chehaw (Flint River Reservoir) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16"	Chemical
Channel Catfish			1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week		Mercury

Lake Worth/Lake Chehaw (Old Lake Worth Reservoir) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16"	Chemical
Flathead Catfish		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			

Georgia Public Lakes and Ponds Less Than 500 Acres

§§Please note that the minimum size for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches for all of Georgia's Public Fishing Areas operated by the Department of Natural Resources, unless posted otherwise.

Lake Acworth ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

Allen Creek Wildlife Management Area, Ponds A and B ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/week		1 meal/week	PCBs

Antioch Lake, East & West (Rocky Mountain PFA)§§ ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

Lake Bennett (Marben PFA, Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center) §§ ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Channel Catfish			No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			

Big Lazer PFA (Gum Creek Impoundment)§§ ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Channel Catfish			No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury

Lake Buncombe (A.H Stephens State Park)§§ ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		

Bush Field Airport, Augusta: Unnamed Pond ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week		Mercury

Cedar Creek Reservoir ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Catfish Spp.	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week		Mercury

Clayton County Water Authority: Blalock Reservoir ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions		

Clayton County Water Authority: Shamrock Reservoir ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		

Dodge County PFA (Steve Bell Lake)[§§] ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12 - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

Evans County PFA[§§] ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Channel Catfish			No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury

Fort Yargo State Park Lake (Marburg Cr. Watershed Proj.) ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

Hamburg Millpond (Hamburg State Park) ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week		Mercury
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			

Heath Lake (Rocky Mountain PFA) §§ ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish			1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

Hugh M. Gillis PFA §§ ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week		Mercury

Ken Gardens Lake (Albany, Georgia) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Brown Bullhead	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury

Kolomoki Lake (Kolomoki Mounds State Park) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			

Laura S Walker Lake ***Suwannee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	Mercury
Sunfish Spp.	1 meal/week			Mercury

Little Ocmulgee State Park Lake (Gum Creek Swamp) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Brown Bullhead		1 meal/week		Mercury
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/week		1 meal/month	Mercury

Lonice C. Barrett Lake (Flat Creek PFA) §§ ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish			1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			

Margery Lake (Marben PFA, Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center)[§§] ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass		No Restriction	No Restrictions	

Lake Mayers (City of Baxley) ***Altamaha River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions			
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury

McDuffie PFA (East Watershed Ponds)[§§] ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Channel Catfish		No Restrictions		
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions		

McDuffie PFA (West Watershed Ponds)[§§] ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Channel Catfish		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury

Lake Olmstead (Richmond County) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	Less than 12"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week		Mercury

Lake Bobben (Paradise PFA)[§§] ***Suwannee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions			

Horseshoe 4 (Paradise PFA)[§§] ***Suwannee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Channel Catfish			No Restrictions	

Lake Patrick (Paradise PFA)[§§] ***Suwannee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill	No Restrictions			
Catfish Spp.		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

Reed Bingham State Park Lake ***Suwannee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Sunfish Spp.	1 meal/week			Mercury
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	Mercury
White Catfish			1 meal/month	Mercury

Lake Rutledge (Hard Labor Creek State Park) ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		

Lake Seed ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	12" - 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			

Shepherd Lake (Marben PFA, Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center)[§§] ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	12" - 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass *		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

Silver Lake PFA ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

Stone Mountain Lake ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/month	1 meal/week	1 meal/week	Mercury

Tribble Mill Lake (Gwinnett County) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Black Crappie	No Restrictions			
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/week		Mercury

Yohola Lake (Kolomoki Mounds State Park) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	1 meal/week	1 meal/week		Mercury

Yonah Lake ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Walleye			1meal/month	Mercury

Georgia freshwater rivers and creeks

Please note that the consumption guidelines for Georgia rivers are presented in a different format from the lake tables. Due to the flow of rivers, the site tested is important to the consumption guidelines. Consumption guidelines may vary from one stretch of river to another. Typically Bowfin, Smallmouth Buffalo, Carp, Chain Pickerel, Chub, Chubsuckers, Redhorse Spp., and Stonerollers, Striped Jumprock, and Sucker Spp. are not game fish and/or targeted for table fair. Freshwater rivers and creeks are tabulated first, followed by listings for Georgia tidal estuarine systems.

Altamaha River
Near Baxley, Ga. (U.S. Hwy 1) ***Altamaha River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	U.S. Hwy 1	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	U.S. Hwy 1	1 meal/week	Mercury
Flathead Catfish	U.S. Hwy 1	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 1	1 meal/week	Mercury

Altamaha River
Near Jesup, Ga. (U.S. Hwy 25/84) ***Altamaha River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	U.S. Hwy 25/84	No Restrictions	
Flathead Catfish	U.S. Hwy 25/84	1 meal/week	Mercury
Hybrid Bass	U.S. Hwy 25/84	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 25/84	1 meal/month	Mercury
Striped Mullet	Altamaha Park	No Restrictions	

Ohoopee River (Near Reidsville, Ga., Tattnall County) ***Altamaha River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Catfish Spp.	Ga. Hwy 280 to 56	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 280 to 56	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	Ga. Hwy 280 to 56	1 meal/week	Mercury

Chattahoochee River (Near Helen) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redeye Bass	Ga. Hwy 75, Helen	1 meal/week	Mercury
Snail Bullhead	Ga. Hwy 75, Helen	1 meal/week	Mercury

Chattahoochee River (Above Lake Lanier) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Bass Spp.	Belton Bridge Road	1 meal/week	Mercury

Chattahoochee River
(Buford Dam to Morgan Falls Dam) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	at Buford Hatchery	1 meal/week	PCBs
Trout Spp.	at Buford Hatchery	No Restrictions	
Yellow Perch	Above Morgan Falls	No Restrictions	

Chattahoochee River
(Morgan Falls Dam to Peachtree Creek) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Bass Spp.	Below Morgan Falls	No Restrictions	
Bluegill Sunfish	Below Morgan Falls	No Restrictions	
Trout Spp.	Below Morgan Falls	No Restrictions	

Chattahoochee River
(Peachtree Creek to Pea Creek) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	SR 166 (DNR boat ramp)	1 meal/week	PCBs
Channel Catfish	SR 166 (DNR boat ramp)	No Restrictions	

Chattahoochee River
Special Advisory for Striped Bass
(Morgan Falls Dam to West Point Lake, below Franklin) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Bass Sp. (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Shoal, Spotted)	Morgan Falls Dam to I-285	1 meal/week	Mercury
Striped Bass	Morgan Falls Dam to I-285	1 meal/month	Mercury, PCBs
NOTE: One population of striped bass migrates annually between West Point Lake and Morgan Falls Dam. Sampled population represents this stretch of river and lake.			

Chattahoochee River/Centralhatchee Creek
(Pea Creek to West Point Lake, below Franklin) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	U.S. 27/SR16	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	U.S. 27/SR16	1 meal/week	Mercury
Shoal Bass	U.S. 27/SR16	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass	U.S. 27/SR16	No Restrictions	

Chattahoochee River
(West Point Dam to Interstate 85) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Flat Bullhead Catfish	Below Dam	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Below Dam	No Restrictions	
Spotted Bass	Below Dam	1 meal/week	Antimony, Mercury

Chattahoochee River
(Oliver Dam to Upatoi Creek, Muscogee County) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Catfish Spp.	Oliver Dam to Eagle Phoenix Dam	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Oliver Dam to Eagle Phoenix Dam	1 meal/month	PCBs
Spotted Bass	u/s From North Highland Dam	1 meal/week	Mercury

Chattahoochee River
(Chattahoochee Co. to Stewart Co.;Upatoi Ck to Omaha) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Crappie	Oswichee Creek	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	Oswichee Creek	1 meal/month	PCBs
Largemouth Bass	Oswichee Creek	1 meal/week	Mercury

Chestatee River (Headwaters, Turners Corner) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redeye Bass	Hwy 19	No Restrictions	

Chestatee River (Tesnatee River to Lake Lanier) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Catfish Spp.	Downstream Ga. 400	No Restrictions	
Spotted Bass	Downstream Ga. 400	1 meal/week	Mercury
Sunfish Spp.	Downstream Ga. 400	No Restrictions	

Mud Creek (Near Lula, Hall County) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	Pea Ridge Rd nr Lula	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Pea Ridge Rd nr Lula	1 meal/month	Mercury

Mud Creek (Near Powder Springs, Cobb County) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Ga. Hwy 360	No Restrictions	

Nickajack Creek (Cobb County) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Cooper Lake Road	No Restrictions	

Olley Creek (Near Austell, Cobb County) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redbreast Sunfish	Clay Road	No Restrictions	

Proctor Creek (near Atlanta, Ga., Fulton County) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redbreast & Green Sunfish	N. Ave/James Jackson Pkwy	1 meal/month	PCBs, Dieldrin, Heptachlor Epoxide
Yellow & Brown Bullhead	N. Ave/James Jackson Pkwy	1 meal/week	PCBs, Dieldrin, Heptachlor Epoxide

Sewell Mill Creek (Cobb County) ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Ga. Hwy 120	No Restrictions	

Upatoi Creek ***Chattahoochee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Above Mouth	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass	Above Mouth	1 meal/week	Mercury

Allatoona Creek (Cobb County) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redbreast Sunfish	Ga. Hwy 176	No Restrictions	
Spotted Bass	Ga. Hwy 176	1 meal/week	Mercury

Chattooga River (Northwest Georgia) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Chattoogaville	No Restrictions	
Black Crappie	Chattoogaville	No Restrictions	

Conasauga River (Headwaters in Cohutta Nat'l Forest) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Rainbow Trout	Upstream Rough Cr.	No Restrictions	

Conasauga River:
State Line to Hwy 286 (Hwy 2) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Crappie	Ga. Hwy 2	No Restrictions	
Spotted Bass	Ga. Hwy 2	1 meal/week	Mercury

Conasauga River:
Hwy 286 to Calhoun (Old Tilton Bridge) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	Old Titon Bridge	1 meal/week	PCBs
Spotted Bass	Old Titon Bridge	No Restrictions	
White Bass	Old Tilton Bridge	1 meal/month	PCBs

Coosa River (River Mile Zero to Hwy 100) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Crappie	River Mile 2, Rome	No Restrictions	
Blue Catfish <32”	River Mile 2 & Hwy 100	No Restrictions	
Blue Catfish >32”	River Mile 2 & Hwy 100	1 meal/month	Mercury, PCBs
Largemouth Bass	River Mile 2, Rome	1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Spotted Bass	River Mile 2, Rome	1 meal/week	Mercury
White Bass	Below May’s Bar	No Restrictions	

Coosa River (Hwy 100 to Stateline) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Crappie	Foster Bend	1 meal/week	PCBs
Blue Catfish <32”	Hwy 100	1 meal/week	Mercury
Blue Catfish >32”	Hwy 100	1 meal/week	Mercury,
Channel Catfish	Below Hwy 100 and at Brushy Branch	1 meal/month	PCBs
Largemouth Bass	Below Hwy 100 and at Brushy Branch	1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Spotted Bass	Below Hwy 100 and at Brushy Branch	No Restrictions	

Coosa River: Special Striped Bass
(River mile Zero in Rome to Stateline/Lake Weiss) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Striped Bass <22”	Multiple sites on Coosa	1 meal/month	PCBs
Striped Bass >22"	Multiple sites on Coosa	1 meal/month	PCBs
Note: One population of striped bass migrates annually between Lake Weiss and locations on the Coosa, Etowah (below Thompson-Weinman Dam) and Oostanaula Rivers. Sampled population represents these stretches of river.			

Coosawattee River (Below Carters Lake Dam) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Owens Gin Road	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	At US Hwy 441	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redeye Bass	Owens Gin Road	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass	At US Hwy 441	No Restrictions	

Etowah River (Above Lake Allatoona, Cherokee County) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Spotted Bass	SR 5 Spur	1 meal/week	Mercury
White Bass	SR 5 Spur	1 meal/week	Mercury

Etowah River (Below Lake Allatoona, Bartow/Floyd Counties) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Below Allatoona Dam	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	U.S. Hwy 411	No Restrictions	
Spotted Bass	Below Allatoona Dam	1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Striped Bass *	Below Allatoona Dam *	No Restrictions	
*See also "Coosa River: Special Striped Bass"			

Jones Creek (U.S. Forest Service Rd. 28-1) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Brown Trout	Lumpkin County	No Restrictions	

Little Dry Creek (Floyd County) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Near Rome	1 meal/month	Antimony, Thallium

Mill Creek (Whitfield County) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redbreast Sunfish	Near Dalton	No Restrictions	

Noonday Creek ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redbreast Sunfish	Cobb County	No Restrictions	

Oostanaula River (Floyd/Gordon Counties) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Ga. Hwy 156, Calhoun, GA. Hwy 140	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	Ga. Hwy 140	No Restrictions	
Spotted Bass	Ga. Hwy 140	1 meal/week	Mercury
See also "Coosa River: Special Striped Bass"			

Proctor Creek (Near Acworth, Cobb County) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Green Sunfish	Ga. Hwy 293, Old US 41	No Restrictions	

Swamp Creek (Whitfield County) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redeye Bass	Redwine Cove Road	1 meal/week	Mercury

Talking Rock Creek (Downtown Talking Rock, Pickens County) ***Coosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redeye Bass	Near Fire Department	1 meal/week	Mercury

Beaver Creek (Tributary to Patsiliga Creek) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Yellow Bullhead	Taylor County	1 meal/month	Mercury, Thallium

Flint River (Spalding/Fayette Counties) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 92	1 meal/week	Mercury
Shoal Bass	Ga. Hwy 92	No Restrictions	

Flint River (Meriwether/Pike/Upson Counties) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Bass Spp.	Ga. Hwy 18	1 meal/week	Mercury
Catfish Spp.	Ga. Hwy 18	No Restrictions	
Sunfish Spp.	Ga. Hwy 18	No Restrictions	

Flint River (Taylor County) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Catfish Spp.	U.S. Hwy 80	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 80	1 meal/week	Mercury
Shoal Bass	U.S. Hwy 80	No Restrictions	
Stripped Bass	U.S. Hwy 80	No Restrictions	

Flint River (Above Lake Blackshear, Macon/Dooly Counties) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Bass Spp.	Oglethorpe, Ga. Hwy 49	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	Oglethorpe, Ga. Hwy 49	No Restrictions	

Flint River (Below Lake Blackshear, Worth/Lee Counties) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Bass Spp.	No. Albany, Ga. Hwy 32	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	No. Albany, Ga. Hwy 32	No Restrictions	

Flint River (Dougherty/Baker/Mitchell Counties) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Flathead Catfish <16”	-	No Restrictions	
Flathead Catfish 16-30”	Above Newton, GA	1 meal/week	Mercury
Flathead Catfish >30”	-	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Below Albany & Merck	No Restrictions	

Flint River (Decatur County) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Bass Spp.	East Bank near Bainbridge	No Restrictions	

Gum Creek ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Crisp County	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ichawaynochaway Creek ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Cordays Millpond	1 meal/week	Mercury

Kinchafoonee Creek (Sumter/Lee Counties) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Bass Spp.	Ga. Hwy 49 to 118	1 meal/week	Mercury

Muckalee Creek (Sumter/Lee Counties) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Bass Spp.	McLittle Bridge Rd. to Ga. Hwy 118	1 meal/week	Mercury

Patsiliga Creek (Upstream of Beaver Creek, Taylor County) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Chain Pickerel	McCants Millpond to Ga. Hwy 208	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	McCants Millpond to Ga. Hwy 208	No Restrictions	

Patsiliga Creek (Downstream of Beaver Creek) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bass Spp. *	Taylor County	1 meal/month	Mercury
*Bass: Largemouth & Shoal			

Spring Creek (Seminole/Decatur/Miller Counties) ***Flint River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 84	1 meal/week	Mercury
Sunfish Spp.	Ga. Hwy 84	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ochlockonee River (Moultrie to Thomasville) ***Ochlockonee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Catfish Spp.	Hwy 19	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Hwy 19	1 meal/month	Mercury
Sunfish Spp.	Hwy 19	1 meal/week	Mercury
Warmouth	Hwy 19	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ochlockonee River (Thomasville to State Line) ***Ochlockonee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 93	1 meal/month	Mercury
Sunfish Spp.	Ga. Hwy 93	No Restrictions	

Ocmulgee River (Butts/Monroe Counties) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Catfish Spp.	Below Lake Jackson	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Below Lake Jackson	No Restrictions	

Ocmulgee River (Jones/Monroe Counties) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	Popes Ferry	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Popes Ferry	No Restrictions	
Shoal Bass	Popes Ferry	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ocmulgee River (Bibb County) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Crappie	6 Miles Downstream of Tobesofkee Creek	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	6 Miles Downstream of Tobesofkee Creek	No Restrictions	
Flathead Catfish	6 Miles Downstream of Tobesofkee Creek	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	6 Miles Downstream of Tobesofkee Creek	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ocmulgee River (Houston/Twiggs Counties) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	Ga. Hwy 96	No Restrictions	
Flathead Catfish	Ga. Hwy 96	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 96	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ocmulgee River (Pulaski County) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	Hawkinsville	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Hawkinsville	No Restrictions	

Ocmulgee River (Wilcox/Dodge/Ben Hill/Telfair Counties) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	U.S. Hwy 280	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	U.S. Hwy 280	No Restrictions	
Flathead Catfish	U.S. Hwy 280	1 meal/month	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 441	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ocmulgee River (Telfair/Coffee/Jeff Davis Counties) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Flathead Catfish	US Hwy 341/ Flat Tub Rd	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	US Hwy 341	1 meal/week	Mercury

South River (DeKalb/Rockdale County) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Hwy 155, Panola Shoals	1 meal/week	PCBs
Largemouth Bass	Hwy 155, Panola Shoals	No Restrictions	
Snail Bullhead	Hwy 155, Panola Shoals	1 meal/week	PCBs

South River (Henry County) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Crappie	Snapping Shoals	1 meal/week	PCBs
Channel Catfish	Below Snapping Shoals	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Snapping Shoals	No Restrictions	
Redear Sunfish	Snapping Shoals	No Restrictions	
Spotted Bass	Snapping Shoals	No Restrictions	

South River (Butts County) ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Crappie	Ga. Hwy 36	No Restrictions	
Brown Bullhead	Ga. Hwy 36	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	Ga. Hwy 36	1 meal/week	PCBs
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 36	No Restrictions	
Redear Sunfish	Ga. Hwy 36	No Restrictions	
Snail Bullhead	Ga. Hwy 36	No Restrictions	
White Catfish	Ga. Hwy 36	No Restrictions	

Yellow River ***Ocmulgee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	Hwy 36	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Hwy 36	No Restrictions	

Apalachee River ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Blue Catfish	Apalachee Beach	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	Apalachee Beach	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Apalachee Beach	No Restrictions	

Middle Oconee River (Above & Below Athens) ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redbreast Sunfish	U.S. Hwy 29 (Above)	No Restrictions	

North Oconee River (Above and Below Athens, Clarke County) ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Flat Bullhead	Whitehall Rd. (Below)	No Restrictions	
Redbreast Sunfish	Newton Bridge Road Whitehall Rd. (Below)	No Restrictions	

Oconee River (Clarke/Oconee/Greene Counties)/Cedar Creek
Barnett Shoals Dam to Lake Oconee ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Barnett Shoals Drive	No Restrictions	
Catfish Spp.	Ga. Hwy 15	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Barnett Shoals Drive	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass	Barnett Shoals Drive	No Restrictions	

Oconee River (Baldwin/Wilkinson Counties) ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	Milledgeville to Dublin	No Restrictions	
Flathead Catfish	Milledgeville to Dublin	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Bear Dam WMA	1 meal/week	Mercury

Oconee River (Laurens County) ***Oconee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	I-16	No Restrictions	
Flathead Catfish	I-16	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	I-16	No Restrictions	
Redbreast Sunfish	I-16	No Restrictions	

Canoochee River (Hwy 192 to Ogeechee River) ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Catfish Spp.	Daisy Nevils Rd. nr Daisy	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Daisy Nevils Rd. nr Daisy	1 meal/month	Mercury
Sunfish Spp.	Daisy Nevils Rd. nr Daisy	1 meal/month	Mercury
Snail Bullhead	Daisy Nevils Rd. nr Daisy	1 meal/month	Mercury

Ogeechee River (Jefferson County, Louisville) ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bullhead	U.S. Hwy 1	1 meal/month	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 1	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	U.S. Hwy 1	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ogeechee River (Burke County, Midville) ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 56	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	Ga. Hwy 56	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ogeechee River (Jenkins County, Millen) ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Catfish Spp.	Scarboro Road	1 meal/week	Mercury
Hybrid Bass	U.S. Hwy 25	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Scarboro Road	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	Scarboro Road	1 meal/week	Mercury
Striped Bass	U.S. Hwy 25	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ogeechee River (Bulloch County, near Statesboro) ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	Ga. Hwy 24 (so. bridge)	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 24 (so. bridge)	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	U.S. Hwy 301	1 meal/week	Mercury
Snail Bullhead	U.S. Hwy 301	1 meal/week	Mercury
Yellow Bullhead	U.S. Hwy 301	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ogeechee River (Bulloch/Effingham Counties) ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Hwy 119	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Hwy 119	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	Hwy 119	1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs

Ogeechee River (Bryan County, Black Ck near Ellabelle) ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	Ga. Hwy 204	1 meal/month	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 204	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	Ga. Hwy 204	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ogeechee River (Near Ft. McAllister) ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Striped Mullet	Fort McAllister	No Restrictions	

Short Creek (Warren County) ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Sunfish	Warren County	1 meal/week	Mercury

Satilla River (Near Waycross, Ware/Brantley Counties) ***Satilla River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bullhead	U.S. Hwy 84	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 84	1 meal/month	Mercury

Satilla River (Folkston, Burnt Fort, Charlton/Camden Counties) ***Satilla River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bullhead-Catfish Spp.	Ga. Hwy 252	1 meal/week	Mercury
Flathead Catfish <30”	Ga. Hwy 252	1 meal/month	
Flathead Catfish >30”	Ga. Hwy 252	1 meal/month	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 252	1 meal/month	Mercury
Sunfish Spp.	Ga. Hwy 252	1 meal/week	Mercury
White Catfish	Ga. Hwy 252	1 meal/week	Mercury

Brier Creek (Burke County) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 56	1 meal/month	Mercury

Chattooga River (Northeast Georgia, Rabun County) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Brown Trout	Burrell’s Ford Bridge	No Restrictions	
Green Sunfish	Hwy 28 nr Pine Mountain	No Restrictions	
Redbreast Sunfish	Burrell’s Ford Bridge	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redeye Bass	Hwy 28 nr Pine Mountain	1 meal/week	Mercury, Selenium

Coleman River (Near Mouth, Rabun County) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Rainbow Trout	Near Tate City Rd.	No Restrictions	

Ebenezer Creek ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Tommy Long Boat Ramp	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Tommy Long Boat Ramp	1 meal/month	Mercury
White Catfish	Tommy Long Boat Ramp	1 meal/week	Mercury

Panther Creek (Stephens County) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	At Yonah Dam Road	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	At Yonah Dam Road	1 meal/week	Mercury
Flat Bullhead	At Yonah Dam Road	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	At Yonah Dam Road	1 meal/week	Mercury
White Catfish	At Yonah Dam Road	1 meal/week	Mercury

Savannah River (Below Clarks Hill Dam, Columbia County) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Above New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Above New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam	No Restrictions	
Striped Mullet	Above New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam	No Restrictions	

Savannah River (Richmond/Burke Counties) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Below New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam	1 meal/week	Mercury
Striped Mullet	Below New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam	No Restrictions	
Specific consumption guidelines have not been issued for the radionuclides cesium-137 & strontium-90, in the Savannah River (Burke/Screven Counties), adjacent to the Savannah River Site (SRS). Guidance on mercury were evaluated and deemed to be protective.			

Savannah River (Screven County) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	U.S. Hwy 301	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	U.S. Hwy 301	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 301	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	U.S. Hwy 301	No Restrictions	
Specific consumption guidelines have not been issued for the radionuclides cesium-137 & strontium-90, in the Savannah River (Burke/Screven Counties), adjacent to the Savannah River Site (SRS). Guidance on mercury were evaluated and deemed to be protective.			

Savannah River (Effingham County) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	Ga. Hwy 119	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 119	1 meal/week	Mercury
Sunfish Spp.	Ga. Hwy 119	No Restrictions	

Savannah River (Fort Howard) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bowfin	Near Rincon	1 meal/month	Mercury
Channel Catfish	U.S. Hwy 17	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	Near Rincon, I-95, and U.S. Hwy 17	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	Near Rincon	No Restrictions	
White Catfish	Near Rincon	1 meal/week	Mercury

Savannah River (Tidal Gate) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
White Catfish	Tidal Gate	1 meal/week	Mercury

Savannah River: Special Striped Bass
(New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam to Estuary, Chatham Co.) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Striped Bass 26" and greater in length	Multiple locations, over section noted above	1 meal/month *	Mercury
* Because there is considerable variation in how much mercury these large predatory fish contain, people who are considered to be especially sensitive to the effects of mercury (pregnant women, nursing mothers and young children), may wish to limit their consumption further than listed above.			
Note: one population of striped bass migrates annually between the Savannah estuary and New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam. Current minimum legal size is 26 inches.			

Spirit Creek ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Above Richmond Factory Pond	Do Not Eat	Mercury, Thallium
Largemouth Bass	Above Richmond Factory Pond	Do Not Eat	Thallium
Redear Sunfish	Above Richmond Factory Pond	Do Not Eat	Thallium

Tallulah River ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Rainbow Trout	Charlies Creek Road	No Restrictions	

Tributary to Hudson River (Alto, Ga., Banks County) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Brown Bullhead	Below Alto Prison	No Restrictions	
Redeye Bass	Below Alto Prison	1 meal/week	Mercury

St. Marys River (Charlton County) ***St. Marys River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	US Hwy 301 nr Folkston	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	US Hwy 301 nr Folkston	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	US Hwy 301 nr Folkston	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	Near St. George	No Restrictions	

St. Marys River (Camden County) ***St. Marys River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 17	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	U.S. Hwy 17	1 meal/week	Mercury
Striped Mullet	U.S. Hwy 17	No Restrictions	

Alapaha River (Tifton to Stockton) ***Suwannee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bullhead	Near Statenville	1 meal/month	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Near Statenville, U.S.Hwy 82 to 84	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	U.S.Hwy 82 to 84	No Restrictions	

Alapahoochee River (Near State Line) ***Suwannee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bullhead	Echols County	1 meal/week	Mercury

Little River (West of Valdosta, Lowndes County) ***Suwannee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Above Ga. Hwy 133	1 meal/week	Mercury

Okefenokee Swamp (Stephen Foster State Park) ***Suwannee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bowfin	Billy's "Lake"	1 meal/month	Mercury
Chain Pickerel	Billy's "Lake"	1 meal/month	Mercury
Flier (sunfish)	Billy's "Lake"	1 meal/week	Mercury

Suwannee River (Clinch/Ware/Echols Counties)
Suwannee River Sill to State Line ***Suwannee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bowfin	U.S. Hwy 441	1 meal/month	Mercury
Chain Pickerel	Short Camp Road & U.S. 441	1 meal/week	Mercury
Flier	U.S. Hwy 441	1 meal/week	Mercury
Warmouth	U.S. Hwy 441	No Restrictions	
Yellow Bullhead	U.S. Hwy 441	No Restrictions	

Withlacoochee River
(Hahira to State Line, Berrien/Lowndes Counties) ***Suwannee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Below Hwy 84	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	Below Hwy 84 Ga Hwy 122	1 meal/week	Mercury

Buffalo Creek ***Tallapoosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Carroll County	No Restrictions	
Brown Bullhead	Carroll County	1 meal/week	PCBs

Little Tallapoosa River ***Tallapoosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Crappie	U.S. Hwy 27	No Restrictions	
Brown Bullhead	U.S. Hwy 27	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 27	No Restrictions	

Tallapoosa River ***Tallapoosa River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Crappie	Ga Hwy 27	Do Not Eat	Mercury, Thallium

Little Tennessee River (Rabun County) ***Tennessee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Mixed Bass/Sunfish	Above John Kelly Rd.	No Restrictions	
Mixed Bass/Sunfish Species: Rock Bass, Redbreast and Green Sunfish. Mixed Sucker Species: Black Redhorse, Striped Jumprock and Northern Hog Sucker			

Rock Creek ***Tennessee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Brown Trout	Southeast of Blue Ridge	No Restrictions	
Rainbow Trout	Southeast of Blue Ridge	No Restrictions	

Georgia Estuarine Systems

Estuaries and freshwaters in Georgia are included in the watersheds of 14 different river basins, using the United States Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC), cataloging system. Estuarine systems often communicate with adjoining basins due to natural interconnections and manmade structures and actions such as causeways, tidal gates and dredging. Terry Creek, Dupree Creek, the Back River, Academy Creek and the lower Brunswick River are technically in the Satilla River Basin, but because of tidal dynamics, water exchange occurs between them and the Altamaha River system.

Savannah River Estuary
(New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam to Estuary, Chatham Co.) ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Striped Bass 27" and greater in length	U.S. Hwy 17/SR 25	1 meal/month *	Mercury
* Because there is considerable variation in how much mercury these large predatory fish contain, people who are considered to be especially sensitive to the effects of mercury (pregnant women, nursing mothers and young children), may wish to limit their consumption further than listed above.			
Note: one population of striped bass migrates annually between the Savannah estuary and New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam. Current minimum legal size is 27 inches.			

Savannah River Estuary ***Savannah River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Sheepshead	CB_02_15762	1 meal/week	Mercury
Striped Mullet	U.S. Hwy 17/SR 25	No Restrictions	

Wassaw Sound

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Shrimp	Multiple	No Restrictions	
Spotted Seatrout	Multiple	No Restrictions	

Ossabaw Sound ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Blue Crab	Casey Canal	No Restrictions	
Striped Mullet	Casey Canal	No Restrictions	

St Catherines Sound -
North Newport River (Upper) & Cay/Peacock Cks, Riceboro ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Blue Crab	N. Newport River Cay & Peacock Creeks nr. I-95	1 meal/week	Mercury
Striped Mullet		No Restrictions	

Sapelo Sound ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Brown Shrimp	Multiple	No Restrictions	

Sapelo Sound—Mud River ***Ogeechee River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
White Shrimp	Mud River	No Restrictions	

Altamaha Sound ***Altamaha River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Flounder	Below Hwy 17	No Restrictions	
Spotted Seatrout	Multiple in Delta	No Restrictions	
Striped Mullet	Below Hwy 17	1 meal/week	Thallium

Village Creek ***Altamaha River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Southern Flounder	Unnamed Trib to Village Ck West of Sea Island nr 22nd St	No Restrictions	
Spotted Seatrout	Unnamed Trib to Village Ck West of Sea Island nr 22nd St	No Restrictions	

Academy Creek ***Satilla River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Blue Crab	Academy Creek	No Restrictions	

Saint Simons Sound ***Satilla River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Tripletail	Northern end of Jekyll Island	No Restrictions	

St Andrew Sound (Satilla River) ***Satilla River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Blue Crab	Mouth Of Floyd Creek	No Restrictions	
Southern Kingfish	Mouth Of Floyd Creek	No Restrictions	
Spot	Mouth Of Floyd Creek	No Restrictions	
Spotted Seatrout	at Satilla River	No Restrictions	

Cumberland Sound ***St. Mary's Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Shrimp	Multiple	No Restrictions	

SPECIAL LISTINGS

Turtle River System:

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Atlantic Croaker	Purvis & Gibson Creeks	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Black Drum		1 meal/week	PCBs
Blue Crab		1 meal/week	Mercury
Red Drum		1 meal/week	PCBs
Sheepshead		1 meal/week	Mercury
Shrimp		No Restrictions	
Southern Flounder		1 meal/week	PCBs
Southern Kingfish		Do Not Eat	Mercury, PCBs
Spot		1 meal/month	PCBs
Spotted Seatrout		1 meal/month	Mercury, PCBs
Striped Mullet		Do Not Eat	PCBs
Clams, Mussels, Oysters	Not applicable	Do Not Eat	Harvesting Prohibited*
* Shellfish Harvesting Prohibited : National Shellfish Sanitation Program. For information see Coastal Resources Division website: https://coastalgadnr.org			

Turtle River System:
Upper Turtle & Buffalo Rivers (St. Simons Estuary) ***Satilla River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Atlantic Croaker	Turtle and Buffalo Rivers, upriver of Georgia Hwy 303	1 meal/month	PCBs
Black Drum		No Restrictions	
Blue Crab		1 meal/week	Mercury
Red Drum		1 meal/week	Mercury
Sheepshead		1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Shrimp		No Restrictions	
Southern Flounder		No Restrictions	
Southern Kingfish		1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Spot		Do Not Eat	PCBs, Thallium
Spotted Seatrout		1 meal/week	Mercury
Striped Mullet		1 meal/month	PCBs
Clams, Mussels, Oysters	Not applicable	Do Not Eat	Harvesting Prohibited*
* Shellfish Harvesting Prohibited : National Shellfish Sanitation Program. For information see Coastal Resources Division website: https://coastalgadnr.org			

Turtle River System:
Middle Turtle River (St. Simons Estuary) ***Satilla River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Atlantic Croaker	Turtle River from State Hwy 303 to Channel Marker 9	1 meal/month	PCBs
Black Drum		1 meal/week	PCBs
Blue Crab		1 meal/week	Mercury
Red Drum		1 meal/week	Mercury
Sheepshead		1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Shrimp		No Restrictions	
Southern Flounder		No Restrictions	
Southern Kingfish		1 meal/month	PCBs
Spot		1 meal/month	PCBs
Spotted Seatrout		1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Striped Mullet		1 meal/month	PCBs
Clams, Mussels, Oysters	Not applicable	Do Not Eat	Harvesting Prohibited*

* Shellfish Harvesting Prohibited : National Shellfish Sanitation Program. For information see Coastal Resources Division website: https://coastalgadnr.org

Turtle River System:
Lower Turtle & South Brunswick Rivers (St. Simons Estuary) ***Satilla River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Atlantic Croaker	Turtle River from Channel Marker 9 and South Brunswick River Downstream to Dubignon and Parsons Creeks	1 meal/week	PCBs
Black Drum		No Restrictions	
Blue Crab		No Restrictions	
Red Drum		No Restrictions	
Sheepshead		1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Shrimp		No Restrictions	
Southern Flounder		No Restrictions	
Southern Kingfish		1 meal/week	Mercury, PCBs
Spot		1 meal/week	PCBs
Spotted Seatrout		1 meal/week	Mercury
Striped Mullet		1 meal/week	PCBs
Clams, Mussels, Oysters	Not applicable	Do Not Eat	Harvesting Prohibited*

* Shellfish Harvesting Prohibited : National Shellfish Sanitation Program. For information see Coastal Resources Division website: https://coastalgadnr.org

St. Simons Estuary:
Terry & Dupree Creeks & Back River to St. Simons Sound ***Satilla River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Atlantic Croaker	Dupree Creek to 0.5 mile below junction with Terry Creek	1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, Thallium
Blue Crab		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, Thallium
Red Drum		1 meal/month	Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium
Southern Kingfish		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium
Spot		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, Dieldrin, PCBs, Thallium, Toxaphene
Spotted Seatrout		1 meal/month	Antimony, PCBs, Thallium
Striped Mullet		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, Dieldrin, Heptachlor Epoxide, PCBs, Thallium, Toxaphene
Clams, Mussels, Oysters	Not applicable	Do Not Eat	Harvesting Prohibited*

* Shellfish Harvesting Prohibited : National Shellfish Sanitation Program. For information see Coastal Resources Division website: https://coastalgadnr.org

St. Simons Estuary:
Terry & Dupree Creeks & Back River to St. Simons Sound ***Satilla River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Atlantic Croaker	Terry Creek 0.75 miles above Back River to the Back River	1 meal/month	Arsenic, Thallium
Bluefish		1 meal/week	Arsenic
Blue Crab		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, Thallium
Red Drum		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium
Southern Kingfish		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium, Toxaphene
Spot		1 meal/month	Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium, Toxaphene
Spotted Seatrout		1 meal/month	Antimony, PCBs, Thallium
Striped Mullet		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium
Clams, Mussels, Oysters	Not applicable	Do Not Eat	Harvesting Prohibited*

* Shellfish Harvesting Prohibited : National Shellfish Sanitation Program. For information see Coastal Resources Division website: https://coastalgadnr.org

St. Simons Estuary:
Terry & Dupree Creeks & Back River to St. Simons Sound ***Satilla River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Atlantic Croaker	Back River above Terry Creek to the Torras Cause-way	1 meal/month	Arsenic, Thallium
Bluefish		1 meal/week	Arsenic
Blue Crab		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, Thallium
Red Drum		1 meal/month	Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium
Southern Kingfish		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium
Spot		1 meal/month	Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium
Spotted Seatrout		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium
Striped Mullet		1 meal/week	Antimony, Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium
Clams, Mussels, Oysters	Not applicable	Do Not Eat	Harvesting Prohibited*
* Shellfish Harvesting Prohibited : National Shellfish Sanitation Program. For information see Coastal Resources Division website: https://coastalgadnr.org			

St. Simons Estuary:
Terry & Dupree Creeks & Back River to St. Simons Sound ***Satilla River Basin***

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Atlantic Croaker	Back River from Torras Causeway to Saint Simons Sound	1 meal/month	Antimony Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium, Toxaphene
Bluefish		1 meal/week	Mercury
Blue Crab		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, Thallium
Red Drum		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium
Southern Kingfish		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, Mercury, PCBs, Thallium
Spot		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium, Toxaphene
Spotted Seatrout		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium
Striped Mullet		1 meal/month	Antimony, Arsenic, PCBs, Thallium
Clams, Mussels, Oysters	Not applicable	Do Not Eat	Harvesting Prohibited*
* Shellfish Harvesting Prohibited : National Shellfish Sanitation Program. For information see Coastal Resources Division website: https://coastalgadnr.org			

Atlantic Ocean

Species	Location	Recommendation	Chemical
Summer Flounder	DRH Artificial Reef	1 meal/week	Mercury
Summer Flounder	CDH Reef	No Restrictions	
Summer Flounder	HLHA Reef	1 meal/week	Arsenic
Summer Flounder	J Artificial Reef	1 meal/week	Arsenic
Summer Flounder	JY Artificial Reef	1 meal/week	Arsenic
Summer Flounder	SFC Reef	1 meal/week	Arsenic

SPECIAL MERCURY GUIDANCE ON KING MACKEREL

The king mackerel is a migratory species with the Atlantic population ranging from South Florida through North Carolina and into the Mid-Atlantic. Georgia DNR officials began working with the other Southeast States to determine levels of mercury in king mackerel in 1998 after learning that Gulf Coast States initiated a similar program. Each State's findings documented consistent levels of mercury over a range of sizes with high levels found in large king mackerel.

On March 23, 2000, Georgia joined together with North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida in issuing a joint health advisory for the consumption of large king mackerel caught offshore in the South Atlantic Ocean that have been found to have high mercury concentrations. This advisory was issued to provide guidance on the safe consumption of king mackerel to the general public and sensitive populations such as pregnant women, nursing mothers and young children. It does not prevent fishermen from landing fish larger than 39 inches.

King Mackerel: Atlantic Ocean Offshore Georgia Coast ***Atlantic Ocean***

Size Range (Fork Length = FL)	Recommendation
24 to 33 inches	No Restrictions
33 to 39 inches (a 33 inch fish weighs approximately 10 pounds)	1 meal per month ** for pregnant women, nursing mothers and children age 12 and younger
	1 meal per week ** for other adults
Over 39 inches (approximately 15 to 17 pounds)	Do Not Eat
King Mackerel are measured in Fork Length (FL), which is from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. The minimum legal size in Georgia is 24 inches FL, with a maximum daily creel limit of 3 fish per person. Federally permitted commercial fishermen are limited to 3500 pounds per trip, and a minimum size of 24 inches FL. ** One meal portion in this special guidance is 8 ounces or 1/2 pound.	

King mackerel spawn along the continental shelf of the Atlantic Coast, rapidly growing to approximately 20 inches in length in the first year. Their diet consists almost exclusively of other fish. King mackerel typically have a maximum life span of 15 years, reaching approximately 4 feet in length and 25 to 30 pounds in weight. Most fish landed are considerably smaller. As a fast-growing, long-lived top predator, the king mackerel has a propensity for accumulating high levels of mercury.

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