

Guidelines For Eating Fish From Georgia Waters



2008 Update

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For more information on fish consumption in Georgia, contact the
Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

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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 2008-2009 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 2007-2008 Regulations, Click on Coastal Resources Division, or go to <http://crd.dnr.state.ga.us>
- For information on Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) source reduction, reuse options, proper disposal or recycling, go to Georgia Department of Community Affairs at <http://www.dca.state.ga.us>.

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 Turninpoachers@dnr.state.ga.us

Check USEPA and USFDA for Federal Guidance on Fish Consumption

- USEPA: <http://www.epa.gov/ost/fishadvice>
- USFDA: <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/seafood.1.html>

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Diagram of Fish Fat Areas (p. 7): Redrawn by Georgia EPD from other sources.
USEPA Watershed Clip Art (p. 4).

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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, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury, chlordane, DDT residues (DDT/DDE/DDD), 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 EPA 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, two contaminants, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and mercury, were frequently detected in significant amounts in a few species from some bodies of water in Georgia. Four additional contaminants, chlordane, DDT residues (DDT/DDE/DDD), toxaphene-like compounds, and dieldrin were also detected infrequently. This publication provides you with information on those six contaminants: PCBs, mercury, chlordane, DDT/DDE/DDD, 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 at only one site (Albany By-Pass Pond, page 18), had enough DDE/DDD residues to recommend a restriction in consumption. The DDE/DDD contaminants are chemical breakdown products of the pesticide DDT. DDT was first synthesized in 1874 and its insecticidal properties were discovered in 1939. In the United States DDT was used extensively until 1969. The U.S. production of DDT was discontinued in 1969. Residues of DDE and DDD are persistent and break down slowly in the environment.

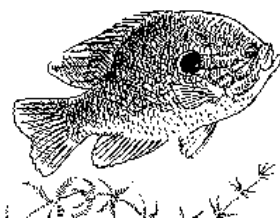
Striped mullet at only one site (Casey Canal, page 27), had enough dieldrin to recommend a restriction in consumption. Dieldrin is another chlorinated pesticide like chlordane and DDT, and has been restricted from use in the United States. It was used to control corn and citrus pests, termites, and in 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 Georgia's Fish Compare?



Georgia has one of the most extensive fish monitoring programs in the southeast. This is not because Georgia has highly contaminated fish, but because the DNR has made a serious commitment to evaluate fish quality and provide detailed information to the people of Georgia. Review and comparison of data collected nationally on fish tissue contamination that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has assembled shows the quality of fish in Georgia is similar to that in surrounding southeastern states.

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 carp and 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. Contaminants are often not measured in panfish such as crappie and bluegill because their food sources are lower on the food chain and bioaccumulate less.

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.

What is Being Done?



The DNR is committed to protecting Georgia's rivers, streams, lakes and other waters. Both PCBs and chlordane have been banned and the levels of these chemicals are steadily decreasing over time.

The Department began this progressive program to evaluate problem areas and to protect public health by giving people the information they need to make decisions about eating fish from different waters. Although the DNR has evaluated fish tissue since the 1970's, the program was significantly expanded in the 1990's to support development of risk-based consumption guidelines. Testing on additional lakes and rivers is balanced with retesting of waters where changes may be occurring. Contaminant levels in fish change very slowly and sampling the same species of fish from the same locations over time will allow the DNR to document changes and trends in contamination levels.

Georgia has more than 70,150 miles of rivers and streams and more than 425,382 acres of lakes, reservoirs and ponds. It will not be possible for the DNR to sample every stream and lake in the state. However, high priority has been placed on the 26 major reservoirs that make up more than 90% of the total lake acreage. Waterways listed in this guide will continue to be sampled as part of a five year rotating schedule of river basin planning and monitoring to track any trends in fish contaminant levels. The Department has also made sampling fish in rivers and streams downstream of urban and/or industrial areas a high priority. The DNR also focuses attention on areas frequented by a large number of anglers.

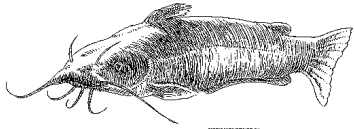
Most lakes and rivers contain a wide variety of fish and selecting which species of fish to test is important. The DNR samples fish that are top predators (high in the food chain) and fish that feed on the bottom. For this reason, largemouth bass and channel catfish are usually the primary species tested. Hybrid bass are also tested in areas with good fisheries for this species. Smaller fish, such as crappie, bluegill and redbreast sunfish, are tested in secondary studies after testing the larger target fish. This is because smaller fish accumulate contaminants more slowly and in smaller amounts than larger fish and bottom feeders.

To prevent future contamination, the Department seeks to identify pollution sources and to work with industries, cities, farms and others to reduce the threat posed by pollutants. In many cases this means implementing new technologies or practices that eliminate the use or creation of contaminants and thus the need to dispose of or discharge these chemicals. State laws have tough restrictions and penalties for discharge of toxic substances. The DNR is responsible for enforcing these laws in Georgia and for ensuring compliance with these regulations.

Individuals can play a role in preventing contamination of Georgia's waters by recycling and disposing of chemicals, such as oil, antifreeze, paint, and other wastes properly. Manufacturers are working to reduce the use of mercury in their products, but it is still found in common household products such as thermostats, electrical switches, thermometers, some batteries, and fluorescent and mercury vapor lamps. To protect Georgia's waterways from contamination, individuals, industries, farmers and others must learn to modify their day-to-day activities and work practices to apply new ways to prevent pollution. The DNR will continue to work closely with these groups to improve water quality in Georgia. Planning, regulations, facilities modernization, public education and other activities will play a major role in protecting Georgia's waters for future generations.



Benefits of Eating Fish



Fish has long been recognized as a nutritious "protein food". Its 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 ($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ 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, DDT/DDE/DDD, 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, DDT/DDD/DDE, 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 its potential to damage the nervous system, especially in the developing fetus and young child.

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.

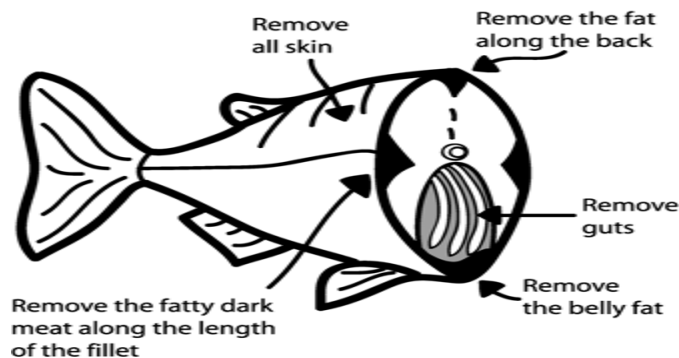
Eat smaller meals when you eat big fish and eat them less often. If you catch a big fish, freeze part of the catch (mark container or wrapping with species and location), and space the meals from this fish over a period of time.

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.

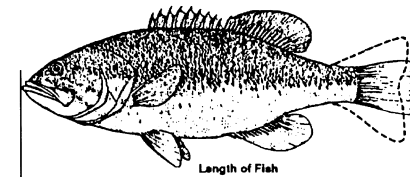


Using These Guidelines

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.

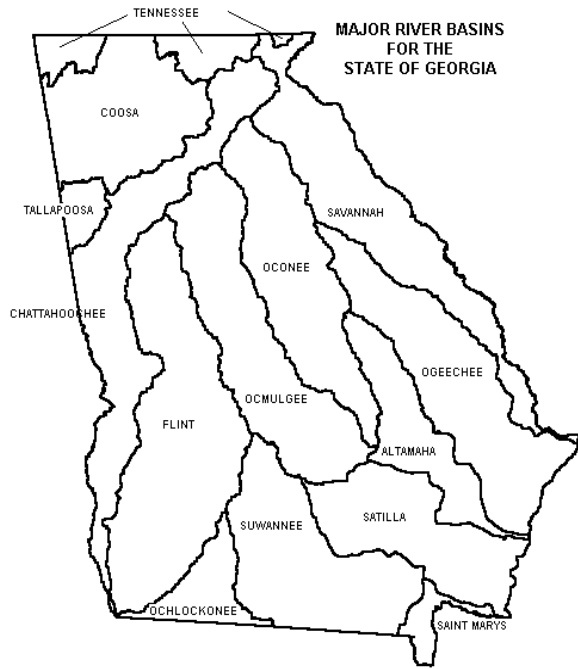
- Measure fish from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail fin.



- 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ 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

- Chattahoochee River Basin*
- Flint River Basin*
- Coosa River Basin*
- Tallapoosa River Basin*
- Tennessee River Basin*
- Savannah River Basin*
- Ogeechee River Basin*
- Ochlockonee River Basin*
- Suwannee River Basin*
- Satilla River Basin*
- St. Marys River Basin*
- Oconee River Basin*
- Ocmulgee River Basin*
- Altamaha River Basin*

Fish Consumption Guidelines

The tables for public lakes have been separated into two categories based on size. The first set of lakes are 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.

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			
Carp	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
White Bass	No Restrictions			
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Golden Redhorse		No Restrictions		
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Hybrid Bass			1 meal/week	Mercury

Lake Andrews *Chattahoochee River Basin*

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

Banks Lake *Suwannee River Basin*

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

Bear Creek Reservoir*Oconee River Basin*

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

* Largemouth Bass 16-22 inches are illegal to keep. ** Bluegill, Redear and Redbreast Sunfish were tested

Lake Blackshear*Flint River Basin*

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

*Only Largemouth Bass 14 inches and longer may be legally retained.

Black Shoals Lake*Ocmulgee River Basin***(Renamed Randy Poynter Lake in 2003: originally named Big Haynes Reservoir)**

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

Lake Blue Ridge*Tennessee River Basin*

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

* Lake Blue Ridge has no minimum size on Largemouth Bass

Lake Burton*Savannah River Basin*

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

* Lake Burton has no minimum size on Largemouth Bass

Carters Lake*Coosa River Basin*

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

Lake Chatuge*Tennessee River Basin*

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

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

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

Goat Rock Lake

Chattahoochee River Basin

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

Lake Harding (Bartletts Ferry)

Chattahoochee River Basin

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

Lake Hartwell: Tugaloo Arm

Savannah River Basin

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week	1 meal/month	Mercury
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Hybrid/Striped Bass	No Restrictions	1 meal/month	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/month	PCBs
Carp			1 meal/week	Mercury
Walleye			1 meal/week	Mercury

Lake Hartwell: Main Body, D.S. Andersonville IS. Georgia/South Carolina Listing

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/month	1 meal/month	PCBs
Hybrid & Striped Bass	Do Not Eat	Do Not Eat	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Channel Catfish	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	1 meal/month	PCBs

Main Body.Guidance issued with South Carolina DHEC (Ph.: 1-888-849-7241)

High Falls Lake

Ocmulgee River Basin

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

Jackson Lake

Ocmulgee River Basin

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

Lake Juliette

Ocmulgee River Basin

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass *	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Bullhead species		No Restrictions		

* Lake Juliette has no minimum size on Largemouth Bass

Lake Sydney Lanier

Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Striped Bass		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Bass *		1 meal/week *	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass *		1 meal/week *	1 meal/week	Mercury
White Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Common Carp			1 meal/week	Mercury
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Black Crappie	No Restrictions			

* Only Largemouth, Spotted and Shoal Bass 14 inches and longer may be legally retained.

Lake Nottely*Tennessee River Basin*

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

Lake Oconee*Oconee River Basin*

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Largemouth Bass *	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Hybrid Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
White Catfish	No Restrictions			
Black Crappie	No Restrictions			

* Only Largemouth Bass under 11 inches, and 14 inches or longer may be legally retained.

Lake Oliver*Chattahoochee River Basin*

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

Lake Rabun*Savannah River Basin*

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

Lake Richard B. Russell*Savannah River Basin*

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

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

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

Lake Sinclair*Oconee River Basin*

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

Lake Tobesofkee*Ocmulgee River Basin*

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

Lake Tugalo*Savannah River Basin*

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

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

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

Lake Walter F. George (Eufaula) Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Largemouth Bass *			No Restrictions	
Hybrid Bass		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Black Crappie	No Restrictions			
Spotted Sucker		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

* Only Largemouth Bass 14 inches and longer may be legally retained.

West Point Lake Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Largemouth Bass *		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Spotted Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		
Hybrid Bass	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	PCBs
Channel Catfish	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	1 meal/week	PCBs
Common Carp			No Restrictions	
Black Crappie	No Restrictions	No Restrictions		

* Legal Largemouth ≥ 14". ** Striped Bass move between Lake & Morgan Falls Dam

Lake Worth (Lake Chehaw; Flint River Reservoir) Flint River Basin

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

Lake Worth (Lake Chehaw, Old Lake Worth Reservoir)

Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week		Mercury
Channel Catfish			1 meal/week	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Spotted Sucker			No Restrictions	

GEORGIA PUBLIC LAKES AND PONDS LESS THAN 500 ACRES

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.

Lake Acworth Coosa River Basin

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

City of Adairsville Pond Coosa River Basin

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Carp		No Restrictions		

Albany By-Pass Pond Flint River Basin

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week	1 meal/week	DDE/DDD
Catfish		1 meal/week		DDE/DDD
Common Carp			1 meal/month	DDE/DDD
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			

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

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

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

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

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

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass *		1 meal/week*	1 meal/week	Mercury
*Minimum size is 14 inches unless posted otherwise.				

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

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass *		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish			No Restrictions	
*Minimum size is 14 inches unless posted otherwise.				

Bowles C. Ford Lake, City of Savannah *Savannah River Basin*

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

Brasstown Valley Kids Fishing Pond *Tennessee River Basin*

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

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

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

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

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

Clayton County Water Authority: J.W. Smith Reservoir *Flint River Basin*

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

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

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

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

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass *		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	
*Minimum size is 14 inches unless posted otherwise.				

Evans County PFA *Ogeechee Basin*

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass *		No Restrictions	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish			No Restrictions	
*Minimum size is 14 inches unless posted otherwise.				

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	
Carp	No Restrictions			

Hamburg Millpond, Hamburg State Park *Ogeechee River Basin*

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

Hugh M. Gillis PFA*Oconee River Basin*

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

Kolomoki 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
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			

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

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

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 Restrictions	No Restrictions	

*Minimum size is 14 inches unless posted otherwise.

Lake Mayer (City of Savannah)*Ogeechee River Basin*

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16"	Over 16"	Chemical
Largemouth Bass		No Restrictions		
Redear Sunfish	No Restrictions			
Speckled Bullhead		No Restrictions	No Restrictions	

McDuffie PFA (East Watershed Ponds)*Savannah River Basin*

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

*Minimum size is 14 inches unless posted otherwise.

McDuffie PFA (West Watershed Ponds)*Savannah River Basin*

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

*Minimum size is 14 inches unless posted otherwise.

Nancy Town Lake (Habersham County)*Savannah River Basin*

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

Lake Olmstead (Richmond County)*Savannah River Basin*

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

Paradise PFA (Horseshoe 4)*Savannah River Basin*

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

Paradise PFA (Lake Patrick)*Savannah River Basin*

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

*Minimum size is 14 inches unless posted otherwise.

Payton Park Pond, Valdosta

Suwannee River Basin

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

Reed Bingham State Park Lake

Suwannee River Basin

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

Lake Seed

Savannah River Basin

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

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

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

*Minimum size is 14 inches unless posted otherwise.

South Slappy Blvd. Offramp Pond (Albany, Georgia)

Flint River Basin

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

Stone Mountain Lake

Ocmulgee River Basin

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

Tribble Mill Lake, Gwinnett County

Ocmulgee River Basin

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

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
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			

Yonah Lake

Savannah River Basin

Species	Less than 12"	12" - 16 "	Over 16 "	Chemical
Largemouth Bass		1 meal/week		Mercury
Catfish (mixed sp.)		1 meal/week		Mercury
Bluegill Sunfish	No Restrictions			

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. The fish tested was the common creel size for the location and species. Freshwater rivers and creeks are tabulated first, followed by listings for Georgia tidal estuarine systems.

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.

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	U.S.Hwys. 82 to 84	1 meal/month	Mercury
Spotted Sucker	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Near Statenville	1 meal/month	Mercury
Bullhead	See Above	1 meal/month	Mercury

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

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

Alcoy River *Ocmulgee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Spotted Sucker	Arrowhatchee Farms	No Restrictions	
Chain Pickerel	See Above	No Restrictions	

Allatoona Creek, Cobb County *Coosa River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Spotted Bass	Ga. Hwy. 176	1 meal/week	Mercury
Alabama Hog Sucker	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

Altamaha River, *Altamaha River Basin* Near Baxley (U.S. Hwy 1), and Near Jesup, Ga. (U.S. Hwy.s 25/84)

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 1	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Flathead Catfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Bluegill Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwys 25/84	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Flathead Catfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Striped Mullet	Altamaha Park	No Restrictions	

Apalachee River *Oconee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Apalachee Beach	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

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

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

Boen Creek *Savannah River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluehead Chub	Rabun County	No Restrictions	

Brasstown Creek *Tennessee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Northern Hog Sucker	Towns County	No Restrictions	

Brier Creek (Burke County)*Savannah River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy. 56	1 meal/month	Mercury
Spotted Sucker	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

Broad River*Savannah River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	Ga. Hwy 17	No Restrictions	
Flathead Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Buffalo Creek*Tallapoosa River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Carroll County	No Restrictions	

Butternut Creek*Tennessee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Hog Sucker	Union County	No Restrictions	

Cane Creek (Wimpy's Air Field)*Chattahoochee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Lumpkin County	No Restrictions	

Canoochee River (Hwy 192 to Lotts Cr.)*Ogeechee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy. 280	1 meal/month	Mercury
Channel Catfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	1 meal/month	Mercury
Snail Bullhead	See Above	1 meal/month	Mercury

Canoochee River (Lotts Cr. To Ogeechee River)*Ogeechee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Below Canoochee Creek (Taylor Creek)	1 meal/month	Mercury
Channel Catfish	See Above	1 meal/month	Mercury

Casey Canal (Tributary to Hayners Cr. / Vernon River)*Ogeechee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Eisenhower Dr.	No Restrictions	
Bluegill Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Striped Mullet	See Above	1 meal/week	Dieldrin

Cedar Creek Tributary (Hart County WMA)*Savannah River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Creek Chubsucker	Hart County WMA	No Restrictions	
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Chattahoochee River*Chattahoochee River Basin***(Near Helen, and Above Lake Lanier)**

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redeye Bass	Ga. Hwy 75, Helen	1 meal/week	Mercury
Snail Bullhead	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Golden Redhorse	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Belton Bridge Road	1 meal/month	Mercury
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Multiple, Dam to Dam	1 meal/week	Mercury
Common Carp	See Above	No Restrictions	
Brown Trout	See Above	No Restrictions	
Rainbow Trout	See Above	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
Largemouth Bass	Below Morgan Falls Dam	No Restrictions	
Common Carp	See Above	1 meal/month	PCBs
Brown Trout	See Above	No Restrictions	
Rainbow Trout	See Above	No Restrictions	
Jumprock Sucker	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Bluegill Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

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

Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Common Carp	SR 166 (DNR boat ramp)	1 meal/month	PCBs
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Bluegill Sunfish	See Above	1 meal/week	PCBs
White Sucker	Peachtree Cr. To I-20	No Restrictions	
Black Bass Spp.	I-285	1 meal/week	Mercury

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

Chattahoochee River Basin

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

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

Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Striped Bass	Morgan Falls to I-285	1 meal/month	PCBs, Mercury

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
(West Point Dam to Interstate 85)**

Chattahoochee River Basin

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

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

Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Oliver Dam to Eagle Phoenix Dam	1 meal/month	PCBs
Bullhead Catfish	See Above	1 meal/week	PCBs

**Chattahoochee River
(Chattahoochee County to Stewart County; Upatoi Creek to Omaha, Ga.)**

Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Oswichee Creek	No Restrictions	
Spotted Sucker	See Above	No Restrictions	
Crappie	See Above	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Chattahoochee River (Early County)

Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Hybrid Bass	Downstream of Plant Farley	No Restrictions	

Chattanooga Creek

Tennessee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Ga. Hwy 193	No Restrictions	
Northern Hog Sucker	See Above	No Restrictions	

Chattooga River (Northeast Georgia, Rabun County)

Savannah River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Northern Hog Sucker	Hwy. 24	1 meal/week	Mercury
Silver Redhorse	Above Lake Tugalo	1 meal/week	Mercury

Chattooga River (Northwest Georgia)*Coosa River Basin*

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

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redeye Bass	Hwy. 19	No Restrictions	
Alabama Hog Sucker	See Above	No Restrictions	
Bluehead Chub	See Above	No Restrictions	

Chestatee River, (Tennessee River to Lake Lanier)*Chattahoochee River Basin*

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

Chickamauga Creek (East and South)*Tennessee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Rock Bass	Ga. Hwy 2	No Restrictions	
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Chickamauga Creek (West)*Tennessee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Spotted Bass	Ga. Hwy 2	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Chickasawhatchee Creek, WMA near Elmodel, Ga.*Flint River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Spotted Sucker	Wildlife Mgm't Area	No Restrictions	

Cohulla Creek (Praters Mill)*Coosa River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Blacktail Redhorse	Ga. Hwy. 2	1 meal/week	Mercury

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Rainbow Trout	Near Tate City Rd.	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:*Coosa River Basin***State Line to Hwy 286 (Hwy 2); and, Hwy 286 to Calhoun (Old Tilton Bridge)**

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Spotted Bass	Ga. Hwy. 2	1 meal/week	Mercury
Smallmouth Buffalo	See Above	1 meal/month	PCBs, Mercury
White Bass	Old Tilton Bridge	1 meal/month	PCBs
Smallmouth Buffalo	See Above	1 meal/month	PCBs, Mercury

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	River Mile 2, Rome	1 meal/month	PCBs
Spotted Bass	See Above	1 meal/week	PCBs, Mercury
Blue Catfish < 18"	River Mile 2 & Hwy. 100	1 meal/week	PCBs
Blue Catfish 18-32"	River Mile 2 & Hwy. 100	1 meal/month	PCBs
Blue Catfish > 32"	River Mile 2 & Hwy. 100	Do Not Eat	PCBs
Smallmouth Buffalo	River Mile 2, Rome	Do Not Eat	PCBs

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Smallmouth Buffalo	Below Hwy 100 and at Brushy Branch	1 meal/month	PCBs
Largemouth Bass	See Above	1 meal/week	PCBs
Spotted Bass	See Above	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	See Above	1 meal/month	PCBs
Black Crappie	Foster Bend	1 meal/week	PCBs
Blue Catfish < 18"	River Mile 2 & Hwy. 100	1 meal/week	PCBs
Blue Catfish 18-32"	River Mile 2 & Hwy. 100	1 meal/month	PCBs
Blue Catfish > 32"	River Mile 2 & Hwy. 100	Do Not Eat	PCBs

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Striped Bass less than 20 inches in length	Multiple sites on Coosa	1 meal/month	PCBs
Striped Bass ≥ 20 inches in length	See Above	Do Not Eat	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
Smallmouth Buffalo	Owens Gin Road	1 meal/month	PCBs, Mercury
Bluegill Sunfish	As Above	No Restrictions	

Daniels Creek (Dade County)*Tennessee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Cloudland Canyon State Park	No Restrictions	

Dukes Creek (Near Helen)*Chattahoochee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Rainbow Trout	Near Ga.Hwy. 75	No Restrictions	
Brown Trout	See Above	No Restrictions	

Note: Trout may not be harvested in Smithgall Woods

Etowah River (Dawson County)*Coosa River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Blacktail Redhorse	Kelly Bridge Road	1 meal/week	Mercury

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Spotted Bass	York Street	1 meal/week	Mercury
Golden Redhorse	See Above	No Restrictions	

Etowah River (Below Lake Allatoona, Bartow/Floyd Co.s)*Coosa River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Channel Catfish	U.S. Hwy. 411	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Striped Bass *	Below Allatoona Dam *	No Restrictions	
Spotted Bass	See Above	1 meal/week	PCBs, Mercury
Bluegill Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Smallmouth Buffalo	See Above	1 meal/month	PCBs, Mercury

* For Striped Bass below Allatoona Dam and above Thompson-Weinman Dam in Cartersville only. See "Coosa River: Special Striped Bass", for lower Etowah River.

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy. 92	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Sucker	See Above	No Restrictions	

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Shoal Bass	Ga. Hwy. 18	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Flathead Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Flint River (Taylor County)*Flint River Basin*

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

Flint River (Above Lake Blackshear, Macon/Dooly Co.s)*Flint River Basin*

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

Flint River (Below Lake Blackshear, Worth/Lee Co.s)*Flint River Basin*

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

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Below Albany & Merck	1 meal/week	Mercury
Sucker	See Above	No Restrictions	
Flathead Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Goldmine Branch (Tributary to Warwoman Cr.)*Savannah River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Brook Trout	Rabun County	No Restrictions	

Gum Creek*Flint River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Crisp County	1 meal/week	Mercury
Carp	See Above	No Restriction	

Holly Creek (Murray County)*Coosa River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Blacktail Redhorse	Fox Bridge Road	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ichawaynochaway Creek*Flint River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Cordays Millpond	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Sucker	See Above	No Restriction	

Jacks River (Fannin County)*Coosa River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Brown Trout	Watson Gap	No Restrictions	

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Brown Trout	Lumpkin County	No Restrictions	

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwys 49 to 118	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Sucker	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Near Rome	No Restrictions	

Little River (Above & Below Rocky Cr., Wilkes Co.) Savannah River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Above & Below Rocky Creek	1 meal/week	Mercury
Silver Redhorse	See Above	No Restrictions	
Spotted Sucker	See Above	No Restrictions	

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
Spotted Sucker	See Above	No Restrictions	

Little Tallapoosa River Tallapoosa River Basin

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

Little Tennessee River (Rabun County) Tennessee River Basin

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

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redbreast Sunfish	U.S. Hwy 29, (Above)	No Restrictions	
Spotted Sucker	See Above	No Restrictions	
Silver Redhorse	Below Barber Creek	No Restrictions	

Mill Creek (Whitfield County) Coosa River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Spotted Sucker	Near Dalton	No Restrictions	
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Mill Creek (Murray County) Coosa River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Golden Redhorse	Hwy. 411, Eton	1 meal/week	Mercury

Moccasin Creek (Lake Burton Hatchery) Savannah River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Rainbow Trout	DNR Hatchery	No Restrictions	

Muckalee Creek (Sumter/Lee Counties) Flint River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	McLittle Bridge Rd. To Ga. Hwy 118	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Sucker	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

Mud Creek, Near Powder Springs, Cobb County Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Alabama Hog Sucker	Ga. Hwy 360	No Restrictions	
Bluegill Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Nickajack Creek, Cobb County Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Alabama Hog Sucker	Cooper Lake Road	No Restrictions	
Bluegill Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Noonday Creek Coosa River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Alabama Hog Sucker	Cobb County	No Restrictions	
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

North Oconee River (Above and Below Athens, Clarke Co.) Oconee River Basin

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

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Above Thomasville, Hwy. 19	1 meal/month	Mercury
White Catfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Warmouth	See Above	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
Spotted Sucker	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Below Lloyd Shoals Dam, Lake Jackson	No Restrictions	
Brown Bullhead	See Above	No Restrictions	

Ocmulgee River (Bibb County)*Ocmulgee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	6 Miles Downstream of Tobesofkee Creek	1 meal/week	Mercury
Flathead Catfish	See Above	1 meal/month	PCBs, Mercury
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

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

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

Ocmulgee River (Pulaski County)*Ocmulgee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Hawkinsville	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Ocmulgee River (Wilcox/Telfair Counties)*Ocmulgee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 280	1 meal/week	Mercury
Flathead Catfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Ocmulgee River (Telfair/Wheeler Counties)*Ocmulgee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 341	1 meal/week	Mercury
Flathead Catfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

Oconee River (Clarke and Oconee Counties)*Oconee River Basin***Confluence of North and Middle Oconee to Barnett Shoals Dam**

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Above Barnett Shoals	1 meal/week	Mercury
Silver Redhorse	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

Oconee River (Oconee and Greene Counties)*Oconee River Basin***Barnett Shoals Dam to Lake Oconee**

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Silver Redhorse	Ga. Hwy. 15	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Common Carp	See Above	No Restrictions	

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Flathead Catfish	Milledgeville to Dublin	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	See Above	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Oconee River (Laurens County)*Oconee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	I-16	No Restrictions	
Spotted Sucker	See Above	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Ogeechee River (Washington County; near Davisboro)*Ogeechee River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 88	1 meal/month	Mercury
Spotted Sucker	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 1	1 meal/month	Mercury
Spotted Sucker	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	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	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 25	1 meal/month	Mercury
Snail Bullhead	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

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

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

Ogeechee River (Bryan County; near Ellabelle)*Ogeechee River Basin*

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

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Mullet	Fort McAllister	No Restrictions	

Ohoopsee River (Near Oak Park, Ga.)*Altamaha River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	I-16	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

Ohoopsee River (Near Reidsville, Ga., Tattnall Co.)*Altamaha River Basin*

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwys 280 to 56	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Sucker	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

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

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

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Large Scale Stoneroller	Clay Road	No Restrictions	
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

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

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

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

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

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bass Spp. *	Taylor County	1 meal/month	Mercury
Sucker Spp. *	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
*Bass: Largemouth & Shoal; Suckers: Grayfin Redhorse, Spotted & Greater Jumprock			

Pipe Makers Canal (Near Savannah, Georgia)**Savannah River Basin**

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

Ponder Branch (Walker County, Villanow)**Coosa River Basin**

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redeye Bass	Ga. Hwy 136	No Restrictions	

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

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

Satilla River (Near Waycross, Ware/Brantley Co.s)**Satilla River Basin**

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 84	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	U.S. Hwy 301	1 meal/week	Mercury

Satilla River (Folkston, Burnt Fort, Charlton/Camden Co.s)**Satilla River Basin**

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy. 252	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	1 meal/month	Mercury
Flathead Catfish 30 inches and smaller	See Above	1 meal/month *	Mercury
Flathead Catfish greater than 30 inches	See Above	Do Not Eat	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.

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Above New Savannah Bluff Lock & Dam	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Sucker	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	Above Stevens Cr. Dam	No Restrictions	
Redbreast Sunfish	Below Stevens Cr. 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
Sucker	See Above	No Restrictions	
Striped Mullet	See Above	No Restrictions	

Specific consumption guidelines have not been issued for the radionuclides cesium-137 & strontium-90, in the Savannah River (Burke/Screven Co.s), 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
Largemouth Bass	U.S. Hwy 301	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Bluegill Sunfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Specific consumption guidelines have not been issued for the radionuclides cesium-137 & strontium-90, in the Savannah River (Burke/Screven Co.s), 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
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy 119	1 meal/month	Mercury
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

Savannah River (Fort Howard)

Savannah River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Near Rincon	1 meal/month	Mercury
White Catfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Bowfin	See Above	1 meal/month	Mercury

Savannah River (Chatham County)

Savannah River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	I-95 and U.S. Hwy. 17	1 meal/week	Mercury
Channel Catfish	U.S. Hwy. 17	No Restrictions	
Striped Mullet	Hwy. 17, Front River	No Restrictions	

Savannah River (Tidal Gate)

Savannah River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Red Drum	Tidal Gate	No Restrictions	
White Catfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

Savannah River: Special Striped Bass

Savannah River Basin

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Striped Bass 27" 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 27 inches.			

Sewell Mill Creek (Cobb County)

Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Alabama Hog Sucker	Ga. Hwy 120	No Restrictions	
Bluegill Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Short Creek (Warren County)

Ogeechee River Basin

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

Slab Camp Creek (Oconee County)

Oconee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Greater Jumprock	Watson Spring Road	No Restrictions	
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

South River (DeKalb/Rockdale County)

Ocmulgee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Bluegill Sunfish	Hwy. 155, Panola Shoals	1 meal/week	PCBs
Snail Bullhead	See Above	1 meal/week	PCBs

South River (Henry County)

Ocmulgee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Snapping Shoals	1 meal/week	PCBs
Silver Redhorse	See Above	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	Below Snapping Shoals	No Restrictions	

South River (Butts County)

Ocmulgee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Black Crappie	Ga. Hwy. 36	No Restrictions	
Largemouth Bass	See Above	No Restrictions	
Channel Catfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Spirit Creek

Savannah River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Above Richmond Factory Pond	No Restrictions	
Spotted Sucker	See Above	No Restrictions	
Redear Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	

Spring Creek (Seminole/Decatur/Miller Counties)

Flint River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Ga. Hwy. 84	1 meal/week	Mercury
Spotted Sucker	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Redear Sunfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

Stamp Creek (Cherokee County)

Coosa River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Rainbow Trout	Pine Log WMA	No Restrictions	

Stekoa Creek

Savannah River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Striped Jumprock	Rabun County	No Restrictions	

St. Marys River (Charlton County)

St. Marys River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Near St. George	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	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	See Above	No Restrictions	
Striped Mullet	See Above	No Restrictions	

Sugar Creek (Murray County)

Coosa River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Golden Redhorse	Sugar Creek Road	1 meal/week	Mercury

Sumac Creek (Murray County)

Coosa River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Golden Redhorse	Hwy. 225	1 meal/week	Mercury

Suwannee River (Clinch/Ware/Echols Co.s)

Suwannee River Basin

Suwannee River Sill to State Line

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Largemouth Bass	Short Camp Road	1 meal/month	Mercury
Bullhead Catfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury
Chain Pickerel	See Above & U.S. 441	1 meal/week	Mercury
Flier	U.S. Hwy 441	1 meal/week	Mercury

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 Co.)

Coosa River Basin

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

Tallapoosa River

Tallapoosa River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Blacktail Redhorse	U.S. Hwy. 27	No Restrictions	
Bluegill Sunfish	See Above	No Restrictions	
Blacktail Redhorse	Ga. Hwy. 100	1 meal/week	Mercury

Tallahassee River, Towns County

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
Redeye Bass	Below Alto Prison	1 meal/week	Mercury
Brown Bullhead	See Above	No Restrictions	

Upatoi Creek

Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Grayfin Redhorse	Above Mouth	No Restrictions	

Withlacoochee River

Suwannee River Basin

(Hahira to State Line, Berrien/Lowndes Counties)

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Redbreast Sunfish	Ga. Hwy 122	1 meal/week	Mercury
Largemouth Bass	Near Clyattville	1 meal/month	Mercury
Redbreast Sunfish	See Above	1 meal/week	Mercury

Yahoola Creek (Consolidated Goldmine)

Chattahoochee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Alabama Hog Sucker	Lumpkin County	No Restrictions	

Yellow River

Ocmulgee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Flat Bullhead Catfish	Porterdale Dam	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.

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.

Academy Creek

Satilla River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendations	Chemical
Blue Crab	Academy Creek	No Restrictions	

Altamaha River Estuary

Altamaha River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendations	Chemical
Striped Mullet	Below Hwy. 17	No Restrictions	
Spotted Seatrout	Multiple in Delta	No Restrictions	

Floyd Creek (to St. Andrews Sound)

Satilla River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendations	Chemical
Blue Crab	Floyd Creek, So. of Floyd Basin	No Restrictions	
Southern Kingfish		No Restrictions	

Hayners Creek

Ogeechee River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendations	Chemical
Blue Crab	Above SR 204	No Restrictions	

North Newport River (Upper) and Cay/Peacock Cr.s, Riceboro

Ogeechee River Basin

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

Turtle River System:

Satilla River Basin

Purvis and Gibson Creeks , (St. Simons Estuary)

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
Red Drum, Flounder	Purvis & Gibson Creeks	1 meal/week	PCBs, Mercury
Shrimp, Black Drum, Spot		1 meal/month	PCBs
Blue Crab, Spotted Seatrout, Southern Kingfish (whiting), Sheepshead		1 meal/month	PCBs, Mercury
Striped Mullet, Atlantic Croaker		Do Not Eat	PCBs
Clams, Mussels, Oysters	Not applicable	Do Not Eat	Shellfish Ban *

* Shellfish Ban: National Shellfish Sanitation Program. For information see Coastal Resources Division website: <http://crd.dnr.state.ga.us>

Upper Turtle & Buffalo Rivers (St. Simons Estuary)

Satilla River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendation	Chemical
White Shrimp	Turtle and Buffalo Rivers, Upriver of Georgia Hwy 303	No Restrictions	
Blue Crab, Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout		1 meal/week	PCBs, Mercury
Flounder		1 meal/week	PCBs
Southern Kingfish, Sheepshead		1 meal/month	PCBs, Mercury
Black Drum, Croaker, Spot		1 meal/month	PCBs
Striped Mullet		Do Not Eat	PCBs
Clams, Mussels, Oysters	Not applicable	Do Not Eat	Shellfish Ban *

* Shellfish Ban: National Shellfish Sanitation Program

Middle Turtle River (St. Simons Estuary)

Satilla River Basin

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

* Shellfish Ban: National Shellfish Sanitation Program

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

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

* Shellfish Ban: National Shellfish Sanitation Program

Savannah River Estuary

Savannah River Basin

Species	Site Tested	Recommendations	Chemical
Striped Mullet	U.S. Hwy 17/SR 25	No Restrictions	

Savannah River Estuary

Savannah River Basin

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

Species	Site Tested	Recommendations	Chemical
Striped Bass 27" 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 27 inches.

SPECIAL LISTINGS

Terry & Dupree Creeks & Back River to St. Simons Sound

(St. Simons Estuary)

Satilla River Basin

Location	Species	Recommendation	Chemical
Terry Creek South of Torras Causeway to Lanier Basin	Silver Perch (Yellowtail)	1 meal/week	PCBs, Mercury
	Blue Crab, Shrimp, Spot, Striped Mullet, Atlantic Croaker, Southern Kingfish (e.g. Ga. whiting), Spotted Seatrout	No Restrictions	
Terry & Dupree Creeks North of Torras Causeway to Confluence with Back River	Blue Crab, Shrimp	No Restrictions	
	Red Drum	1 meal/week	Toxaphene and related compounds
	Striped Mullet, Atlantic Croaker, Southern Kingfish, Spotted Seatrout	1 meal/month	
	Spot	Do Not Eat	
Back River 1 mi. above Terry Cr. to Confluence w/ Torras Causeway	Blue Crab, Shrimp, Striped Mullet, Atlantic Croaker, Southern Kingfish, Spotted Seatrout, Red Drum	No Restrictions	
	Spot	1 meal/month	Toxaphene and related compounds
Back River From Causeway to St. Simons Sound	Blue Crab, Shrimp, Spot, Striped Mullet, Southern Kingfish, Spotted Seatrout, Red Drum	No Restrictions	
	Atlantic Croaker	1 meal/week	Toxaphene and related compounds
Do Not Eat Clams, Mussels or Oysters; Shellfish Ban, Nat'l Shellfish Sanitation Program. For information see Coastal Resources Division website: http://crd.dnr.state.ga.us			

SPECIAL MERCURY GUIDANCE ON 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.

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. This is Georgia's first consumption advisory for ocean waters. The king mackerel is a migratory species with the Atlantic population ranging from South Florida through North Carolina and into the Mid-Atlantic.

King Mackerel: Atlantic Ocean Offshore Georgia Coast

Atlantic Ocean

Size Range (Fork Length = FL)	Recommendation
24 to Less than 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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