



Georgia's Angler Award Program and Freshwater Fish State Record Program

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division recognizes anglers who catch trophy fish through the **Angler Award Program** and the **Freshwater Fish State Record Program**.

In order to qualify for an **Angler Award**, the catch must meet minimum weight or length requirements. **Freshwater Fish State Records** are set when the catch weight exceeds the existing state record by one ounce or more. To see if your catch qualifies for an **Angler Award** or a **Freshwater Fish State Record**, check the official rules on the following pages. After reviewing, please complete and submit information.

ANGLER INFORMATION

Angler Name: _____
 Address/City/State/Zip: _____

 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Age: _____ Fishing license #: _____

FISH INFORMATION

Fish species: _____
 Weight: _____ lb, _____ oz
 Length (inches): _____
 Date Caught: ____/____/____
 Bait Used: _____
 Tackle Type: _____
 Water Body: _____
 Nearest Town/City: _____

APPLICANT SIGNATURE and DATE

_____/_____/_____
(Applicant's signature or parental signature if under 18 years of age) (Date)

GEORGIA WRD INFO

This fish qualifies as: _____ Angler Award _____ Freshwater Fish State Record
 _____/_____/_____
(Name and Signature of WRD employee identifying/weighing fish) (Date)

CERTIFIED SCALE INFO

Scale Owner (Business Name): _____; Phone: _____
 Name of scale operator/witness (store manager or employee): _____

WITNESSES *(only required for Freshwater Fish State Records)*

We, the undersigned, witnessed the weighing of the fish described above, and verify the weight on this form.

Signature: _____; Phone: _____
 Address: _____

Signature: _____; Phone: _____
 Address: _____

Fish Species Information

Angler Awards: Minimum weights and lengths of eligible fish.
State Record Fish: Fish NOT eligible denoted with an (*).

SPECIES	WEIGHT (lb)	LENGTH (in)
Bass, Hybrid	8.0	25
Bass, Largemouth	10.0	26
Bass, Redeye	1.0	13
Bass, Rock	1.0	11
Bass, Shadow	1.0	11
Bass, Shoal	4.0	20
Bass, Smallmouth	3.0	19
Bass, Spotted	5.0	23
Bass, Striped	25.0	36
Bass, Suwannee	2.0	16
Bass, White	2.5	17
Bowfin	10.0	30
Bullhead, Brown	2.0	17
Bullhead, Yellow	2.0	17
Bullhead, Spotted/Flat	2.0	15
Carp, Common/Grass*	15.0	31
Catfish, Channel	12.0	32
Catfish, Blue/Flathead	20.0	33
Catfish, White	2.5	17
Crappie, Black	2.0	15
Crappie, White	2.0	15
Drum (Freshwater)	5.0	22
Gar, Longnose	10.0	43
Gar, Spotted/Florida	5.0	28
Perch, White*	1.0	13
Perch, Yellow	1.0	15
Pickereel, Chain	3.5	24
Pickereel, Redfin	1.0	18
Shad, American	4.0	24
Shad, Hickory	1.5	18
Sunfish, Bluegill	1.5	13
Sunfish, Flier	0.5	9
Sunfish, Green	0.5	9
Sunfish, Redbreast	1.0	11
Sunfish, Redear	1.5	14
Sunfish, Spotted	0.5	9
Sunfish, Warmouth	1.0	11
Trout, Brook	0.5	10
Trout, Brown	4.0	20
Trout, Rainbow	4.0	20
Walleye	4.0	23

GENERAL RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBLE FISH: See listing on reverse side.

WHO CAN APPLY? Both resident and non-resident anglers are eligible. WRD reserves the right to refuse any questionable entry.

APPLICATION AND PHOTOS: The angler must submit an application (reverse side) with a clear, side view photo of the fish, and a photo of the angler with the fish.

LEGAL SEASON, SPORTING TACKLE AND OTHER INFORMATION: Fish must be caught in Georgia during the legal angling season for the species taken in accordance with all fishing laws and regulations. Fish must be caught on sporting tackle and be hooked and landed by the entrant. Bush hooks, trot lines, jugs, baskets, nets, etc., are not considered sporting tackle. Fish caught from hatcheries or intensive fish culture facilities are not eligible. Freshwater fish caught from private waters in which adults of the species in question are stocked are not eligible.

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

OFFICIAL RULES: Angler Award Program

<http://georgiawildlife.com/fishing/anglerawards>

ANGLER AWARD PROGRAM

Angler Awards are awarded for kept fish and for catch-and-release fish. Review the following information before applying:

- The Angler Award Program runs from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31. Applications must be received no later than Jan. 15 of the year following the catch.
- Weight and/or Length:** Fish must meet the listed minimum weight or length requirements. See listing on reverse side.
- Measurements:** Fish total length (TL) must be measured with a ruler or tape measure. To determine TL, measure the fish from the tip of the snout to the back of the tail fin with the fin squeezed together.
- Certified Scale:** For kept Angler Award submissions, fish must be weighed on a certified scale. See “Certified Scale” under “GENERAL RULES AND REQUIREMENTS.”
- Identification:** A WRD Fisheries Management biologist or technician must identify the actual fish or a photo of fish.

•**Catch and Release:** For recognition of catch-and-release fish, include an unobscured, broadside quality photo of the entire fish (for positive fish identification) AND one of the entire fish lying on its side on a flat surface next to a ruler or marked tape. Note—these may be the same photo, provided species and length verifications can be made.

RECOGNITION: Anglers whose fish qualify for an Angler Award will receive a certificate and a hat during January of the year following the catch. Names and photos of Angler Award recipients may be posted on the WRD website, and may be used in social media posts, or released to media or other interested parties.

SUBMIT:

•**Email:** Melissa.cummings@dnr.ga.gov

•**Hard copy:** Deliver to a local WRD Fisheries Management Office (*Office locations:* <http://georgiawildlife.com/about/contact>) OR mail (Melissa Cummings, Angler Award Program, 2067 US Hwy. 278, SE, Social Circle GA 30025)

OFFICIAL RULES: Freshwater Fish State Record Program

<http://georgiawildlife.com/fishing/recordprogram>

FRESHWATER FISH STATE RECORD PROGRAM

- Time Frame:** Applications must be submitted within 90 days of the catch.
- Qualifying Weight:** The fish must weigh at least one ounce more than the existing record. Any catch which matches the existing record, or that exceeds the record by less than an ounce, will be considered a tie.
- Certified Scale:** State Record Fish must be weighed on a certified scale. See “Certified Scale” under “GENERAL RULES AND REQUIREMENTS.”
- Identification:** A WRD Fisheries Section biologist or technician must identify the fish and sign the application.
- Unacceptable Entries:** No frozen fish or mounted fish are eligible.
- Witnesses:** Fish must be weighed in the presence of two witnesses, both of whom must be at least 18 years old and not a member of the entrant’s immediate family. Both witnesses must provide an address and telephone number on the application. Witnesses are not necessary if the fish is weighed on a certified scale at a WRD office.

RECOGNITION: Anglers whose fish qualify for an Freshwater Fish State Record will receive a certificate (in presentation binder), a personalized hat, and two free passes to the Go Fish Education Center. Names and photos of State Record recipients will be used in a media release, social media and posted on the WRD website.

SUBMIT: A state record submission must be brought to a WRD Fisheries Management office. *Office locations:* <http://georgiawildlife.com/about/contact>.