

Guide to Hugh M. Gillis PFA

Hugh M. Gillis is one of Georgia's newest public fishing areas. Located in Laurens County just east of Dublin, the property contains a large 109-acre lake surrounded by 640 acres of gently rolling terrain with a mixture of longleaf pine/wiregrass communities, planted pines and scattered hardwoods. The lake is intensively managed to provide excellent fishing for both boat and bank anglers and has numerous coves, points, submerged humps and standing timber to attract fish. Visit Hugh Gillis PFA for an excellent setting for picnicking and enjoying the outdoors with family and friends.

Hours

Open year-round, 7 days/week, 24 hours/day

Facilities

- Concrete boat ramp
- Restrooms
- Picnic tables
- Fishing piers
- Fish cleaning station
- Most facilities ADA accessible

Regulations

Public fishing areas have special regulations that are posted on site as well as published in the Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations. Anglers 16 years of age and older, except honorary license holders, must possess a current fishing license. For more information, visit www.gofishgeorgia.com or call (800) 366-2661.

Directions

From East Dublin: Travel 10 miles east on U.S. Highway 80. Left (NW) on Keens Crossing Road for 1.4 miles, entrance is on the right.

From Adrian: Travel 7.4 miles West on U.S. Highway 80. Right (NW) on Keens Crossing Road for 1.4 miles, entrance is on the right.

For more fishing information, visit the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division website at www.gofishgeorgia.com or call (478) 825-6151.

Trip Check List

- Check the current boating regulations about life jackets.
- Boats with enclosed areas that may trap gas or vapors are required to be equipped with a USCG approved fire extinguisher.
- Carry your current license and boat registration with you.
- Check your boat's trailer and navigation lights, and fuel before leaving home.
- Carry a first aid kit, insect repellent, sunscreen, extra clothing, food and drinking water.
- Be aware of and abide by all fishing regulations.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.

Be an Ethical Angler!

Ethical anglers fish responsibly, consider the rights of others, portray a positive image, and help to protect and conserve our natural resources. Be an ethical angler, the future depends on it.

- Know and obey the fishing regulations.
- Keep only the fish they can use and release all others.
- Pass on the tradition by taking a child fishing.
- Leave a place cleaner than it was found.
- Do not transfer fish or plants between bodies of water.
- Report violations and pollution.
- Do not litter!
- Dispose of fishing line properly.
- Do not trespass.
- Are courteous of others.
- Lend a helping hand.

T.I.P. (Turn in Poachers): To report game/fish law violations, fish kills or hazardous spills, call (800) 241-4113.

Major Fish Species & Fishing Tips

Largemouth bass • Bluegill • Channel catfish • Crappie • Redear sunfish (shellcracker)

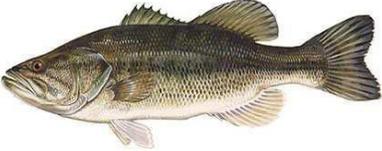
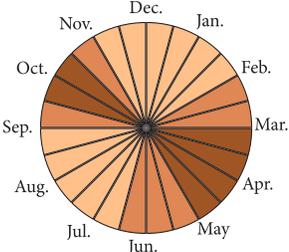
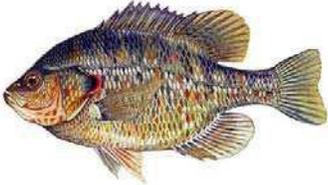
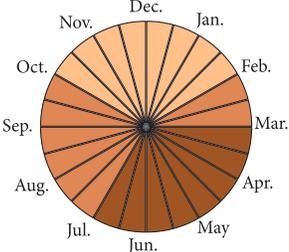
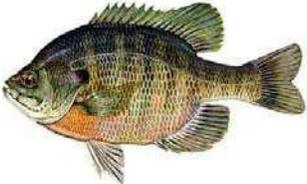
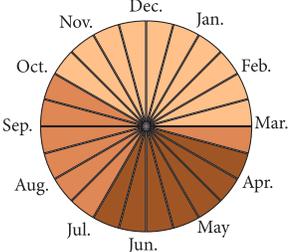
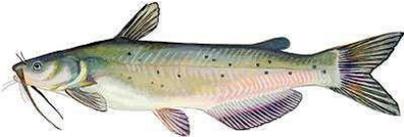
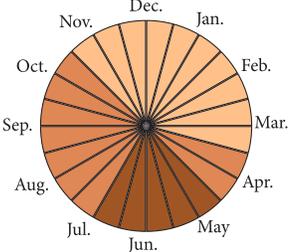
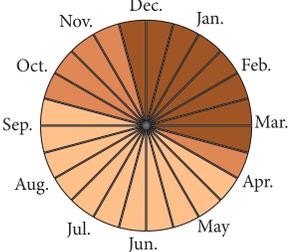
Spring and fall bass tactics include working top water plugs, rattletraps, crank baits and spinner baits around shoreline structure. During lake blooms, rattletraps can produce reaction strikes due to limited site distance. As weather warms, plastic worms, jigs, and flukes will lure fish off 4–6 ft. ledges surrounding the lake and flooded timber left during construction of the lake. As weather cools, bass will move to deeper water. Try using medium diving crank baits around points and humps. Main drop-offs are located between the two fingers of the lake descending down towards the left of the dam and in front of the dam on the west side. An old construction road leads to the mouth of a borrow pit on both sides. The borrow pit (right of the dam) holds fish around artificial fish attractors. Anglers should target the sandy ridge that runs along the east side across from the main boat ramp. Other good areas to fish are near the rock outcroppings, railroad culverts, earthened berms, fishing piers and fallen timber.

Crappie fishing is strong in early spring and fall. As the lake cools, trolling jigs in deeper channels on the lower half of the lake is productive. Fishing live minnows around flooded timber and fish attractors is also productive. As the water warms, crappie will move into more shallow water. Trolling jigs at 4–6 ft. and fishing minnows around the shoreline structure can put a limit of crappie in your boat.

Suspend crickets or worms at 5–6 ft. around ledges and drop-offs from April to October when targeting bluegill. November to March produce nice bluegill fishing in depths of 7–10 ft. Shellcrackers are caught using worms at 5–7 ft. near drop-offs. From April to May, present worms to bedding fish on sandy points and humps along shoreline. The “trophy” flier bite is strong from November to February. Catfish are caught from May to October by suspending cut bait or worms at 6–9 ft. From November to April, cut bait or worms will land more catfish on the bottom in the deeper areas of the lake.



Hugh M. Gillis Fish Guide

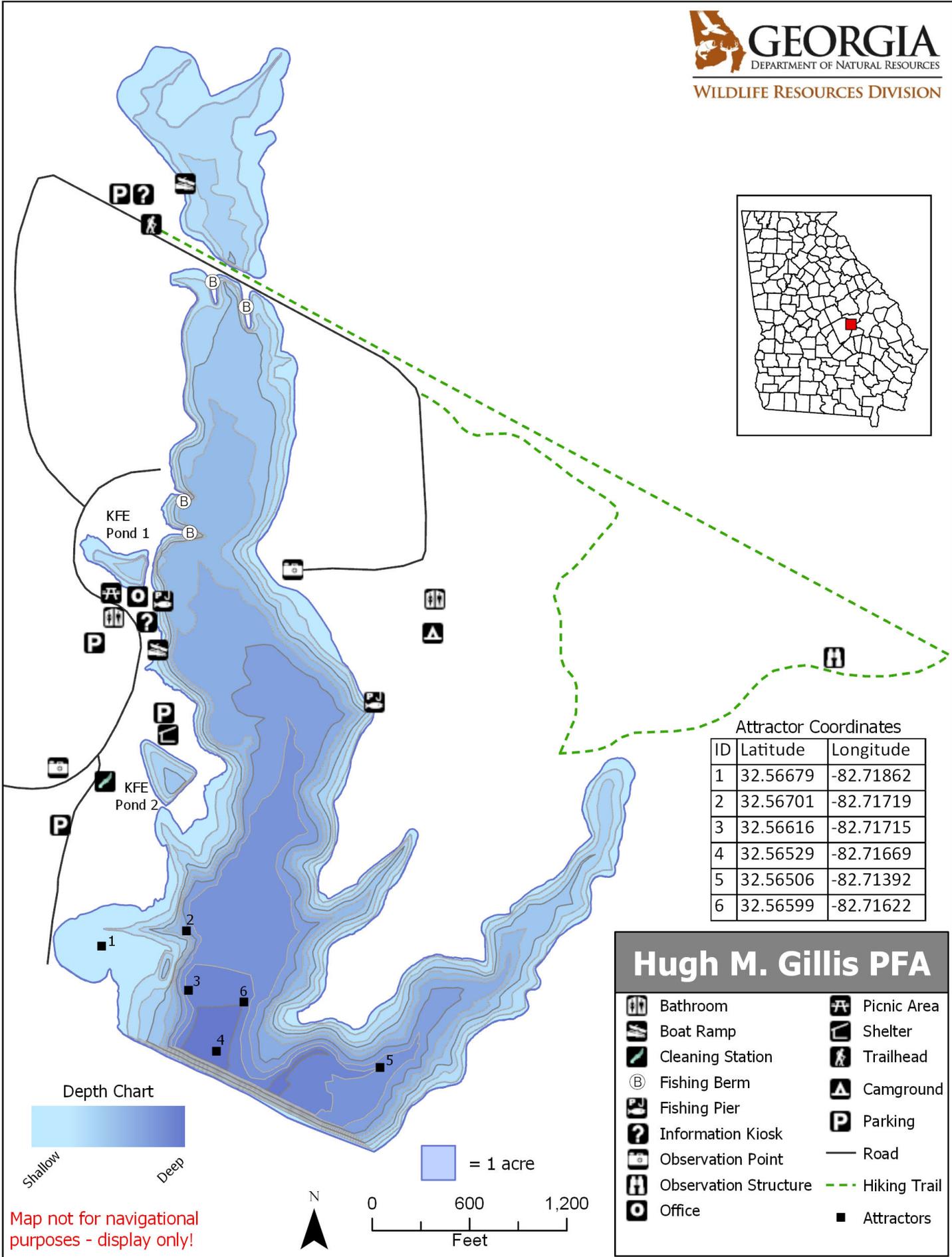
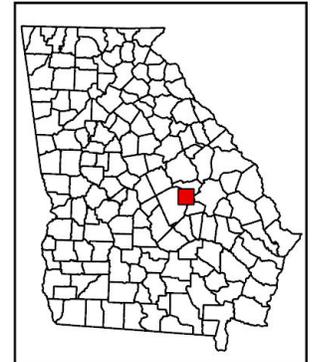
Fish Species	Biology	Best Fishing Times
 <p>Largemouth Bass</p>	<p>Bass spawn from February to May. Occupy a variety of habitats in reservoirs and rivers. Feed both day and night motivated by hunger or striking. Females are typically larger and more aggressive than males. Bait: Crankbaits, plastic worms & jigs</p>	
 <p>Redear Sunfish</p>	<p>“Shellcracker” feed primarily on aquatic insects including midge larvae to snails. Unlike bluegill, shellcracker typically do not stunt. Fast growth, larger size and good flavor make these a desirable fish. Bait: Crickets, Red Wigglers & small top water lures</p>	
 <p>Bluegill</p>	<p>Most likely the first fish caught by children. They aggressively guard nest during spawns. Bluegill are hard fighters, hit a variety of baits, and are abundant in most rivers and lakes. Known as a tasty panfish. Bait: Crickets, Red Wigglers & small top water lures</p>	
 <p>Channel Catfish</p>	<p>Channel catfish are a highly adaptable and desirable fish that are easily caught. They can reach Sizes up to 20 lbs and use their barbells for taste. Larger individuals are often confused with Blue catfish. Bait: Chicken livers, worms, “stink bait” & crickets</p>	
 <p>Black Crappie</p>	<p>As one of Georgia’s most popular and desired panfish, crappie may be caught around flooded timber or fish attractors from fall through early spring. Often found near vegetation during spawns. Bait: Minnows, jigs & red wigglers</p>	

Best Fishing Times Key

Excellent
 Good
 Fair



Fish images: Duane Raver/USFWS



Map not for navigational purposes - display only!