

## GAME FISH RECORDS

# Two new state saltwater records set

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A Richmond Hill man and a Brunswick woman are the newest additions to Georgia's state saltwater game fish records.

Spencer N. Schutte, 27, caught a pinfish weighing 2-pounds, 3.2-ounces and measuring 14 and a half inches total length in Kilkenny Creek in Bryan County on March 12, and Stacey T. Pope of Brunswick on April 7 caught a vermillion snapper weighing 5 pounds, 5.56 ounces.

Both catches were certified by CRD recently, and the anglers received certificates of accomplishment signed by Gov. Brian Kemp, along with other mementos from CRD.

"It's definitely a good feeling to break that record that's stood for almost six years," said Schutte. "But the biggest thing is the Georgia waters. I know the last (men's record pinfish) was caught 40 miles offshore, so that goes to show there's plenty of opportunities to get out there, enjoy it, and do everything the Georgia waters have to offer."

Schutte's catch was weighed on certified scales at Fort McAllister Marina in Richmond Hill. This is the second standing record for pinfish to be weighed at Fort McAllister Marina in recent years, joining Nicole Starnes of Richmond Hill as the women's record holder with her 1-pound, 14.39-ounce pinfish from 2020.

Pope caught the vermillion snapper while fishing offshore near Artificial Reef DW approximately 70 miles east of Sapelo Island. She was bottom fishing with a 7-foot Eureka Charter Special rod and Avet SX G2 reel terminating with a knocker rig baited with menhaden. She was accompanied by licensed



Provided photos/CRD

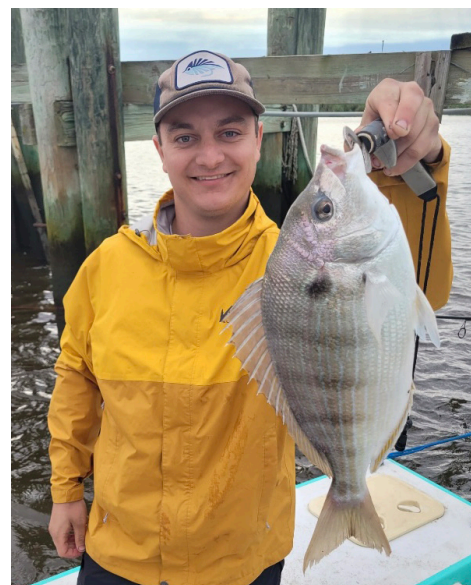
**Above**, Stacey T. Pope holds her record-setting vermillion snapper. **At left**, Spencer Schutte poses with his new record pinfish.

charter guide Capt. Quentin Van Heerden of Eureka Charters. Her catch was weighed on a certified scale at City Market on Gloucester Street in Brunswick.

According to Pope, she was surprised to catch such a large fish and was thrilled when she learned that she had set a new state record.

"It was amazing to catch the fish," said Pope. "It was a little scary, but it was exciting. We just bought a boat in December, and this was only our third time offshore fishing. It's a lot of fun, I love it."

Anglers in Georgia are required to have a valid recreational fishing license, free Saltwater Information Program permit, and to follow



size and possession limits for various species. State saltwater record rules and regulations can be found at [CoastalGaDNR.org/SaltwaterRecords](http://CoastalGaDNR.org/SaltwaterRecords). 🐟

### GEORGIA SALTWATER GAMEFISH PROGRAM

For the current list of saltwater fishing records,

as well as information on how to submit a catch, visit [CoastalGaDNR.org/SaltwaterRecords](http://CoastalGaDNR.org/SaltwaterRecords).