



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office for Coastal Management
Silver Spring Metro Center, Building 4
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

MAR 2 2018

Ms. Jill Andrews, Assistant Director
Coastal Zone Management Program
Department of Natural Resources
One Conservation Way, Suite 300
Brunswick, GA 31520-8687

Dear Mrs. Andrews, *Jill*

Thank you for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources 12/05/2017 request (received 12/12/2017)¹ for approval of changes to the Georgia Coastal Management Program. You requested that the changes be approved as routine program changes (RPCs), pursuant to Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) regulations at 15 C.F.R. part 923, subpart H, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Office for Coastal Management's *Program Change Guidance (July 1996)*.

PUBLIC AND FEDERAL AGENCY COMMENTS

The Office for Coastal Management received no comments on this RPC submission.

DISCUSSION

The Georgia Coastal Management Program (CMP) was approved by NOAA for participation in the national Coastal Zone Management Program in 1997. Since then, there have been legislative and regulatory changes to the 34 state laws and associated regulations that provide for the organization and management authority of the program.²

This update of the GA CMP includes clarifying the enforceable policies of the state to be used for reviewing federal actions for consistency pursuant to the authority granted states under the Coastal Zone Management Act. As with many states, the Georgia CMP has a legacy issue resulting from its original approval which did not identify the specific enforceable policies of the program for federal consistency reviews. This issue is discussed further below.

¹ In accordance with Section 306(e) of the CZMA, the decision was originally due on 01/11/2018 but was extended to 02/16/2018.

² See National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, *State of Georgia Coastal Management Program and Final Environmental Impact Statement* (Dec. 1997) (hereinafter cited as FEIS/Program Document), at Part I-4.

The request for approval pertains to the Aquaculture Development Act (O.C.G.A. 27-1-1, *et seq.*) and Game and Fish Code. The submission requests approval of changes to Chapter 1 of the Game and Fish Code (O.C.G.A. 27-1-1, *et seq.*). In addition, the state is requesting approval to bring into the program certain sections of the remaining Chapters 2 through 5 of the Game and Fish Code: O.C.G.A. 27-1-2, *et seq.* (Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally); O.C.G.A. 27-1-3, *et seq.* (Wildlife Generally); O.C.G.A. 27-1-4, *et seq.* (Fish); and O.C.G.A. 27-1-5, *et seq.* (Wild Animals). The state is also proposing to add to the program the rules associated with the Aquaculture Development Act, and Game and Fish Code. The addition to the program would include enforceable policies identified within these chapters and rules.

The state request for the addition of certain sections of Chapters 2 through 5 of the Game and Fish Code is based on the assumption that these chapters are not part of the GA CMP. This assumption stems from confusion over the description of the authorities and policies of the program in the original FEIS/Program Document.

As a point of clarification, the Game and Fish Code and the 33 other statutes cited as authorities of the Georgia Coastal Management Program were incorporated in their entirety. As listed in the program overview at Part I-4 of the FEIS/Program Document, the “Game and Fish Code” was listed as part of the program. The Table of Policies and Management Authorities within Section III of Chapter Five of the FEIS/Program Document also lists the Game and Fish Code with the citation O.C.G.A. 27-1-1, *et seq.* which is the short title for Game and Fish Code. There is no limitation cited in either listing as to particular chapters. To remove any uncertainty as to contents of the program, the requested addition of Chapters 2-5 are shown in the Table of Approved Changes as “Additions” to the program and approved in their entirety.

As for the enforceable policies of the GA CMP, inconsistent statements found in the FEIS/Program Document regarding the enforceable policies of the GA CMP have been resolved by relying on the statement within the Overview recognizing that “The policies of the Georgia Coastal Management Program are contained within the enforceable provisions of the following 34 state laws and associated regulations.”³ OCM staff have worked with the state staff to identify the enforceable policies within the Game and Fish Code and associated regulations. For the purpose of identifying the enforceable policies within the Game and Fish Code and associated regulations, a separate table is provided showing which sections are enforceable policies for CZMA review purposes. The Aquaculture Development Act and its associated regulations were found not to contain enforceable policies for CZMA review purposes.

CHANGES APPROVED

Based on our review of the submission, we concur that the changes are RPCs and we approve the incorporation of the changes as part of the federally approved Georgia Coastal Management Program. See the enclosed Table of Approved Changes and Table of Enforceable Policies of the Game and Fish Code and Associated Regulations.

³ FEIS/Program Document at Part I-4.

QUALIFICATIONS

Please note that any changes to enforceable policies of the program can only be used for CZMA Federal Consistency review purposes after notice of this approval is published pursuant to 15 C.F.R. § 923.84(b)(4).⁴ Please include in the public notice the list of changes provided in this letter, and send a copy of the notice to the Office for Coastal Management for our records.

Only the standards within the sections approved as enforceable policies may be applied for CZMA review purposes. Requirements to obtain permits and licenses are not standards for CZMA review purposes. The failure to obtain a permit or license may not be the basis for issuing a CZMA federal consistency objection although their issuance may be relied upon to demonstrate that an activity is consistent with the standards of the enforceable policies of the program.

As a standard qualification applying to all program changes, states may not incorporate enforceable policies by reference. If an approved enforceable policy refers to another statute, regulation, policy, standard, guidance, or other such requirement or document, the referenced policy itself must be submitted to and approved by the Office for Coastal Management as an enforceable policy in order to be applied under the federal consistency review provisions of the CZMA. No referenced policy may be applied for federal consistency unless that policy has been separately reviewed and approved as an enforceable policy by the Office for Coastal Management.

Thank you for your cooperation in this review. Please contact Lindy Betzhold at (843) 740-1165, if you have any questions. For future correspondence regarding these program changes, please refer to the file number assigned to this action, GA-2017-2.

Sincerely,



Joelle Gore, Chief
Stewardship Division

Enclosure(s):

Table of Approved Changes

Table of Enforceable Policies of the Game and Fish Code and Associated Regulations

⁴ See also the Office for Coastal Management's *Addendum to the July 1996 Program Change Guidance* (November 2013), <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/consistency/policy/>.

**Table of Changes to the Georgia Coastal Management Program
Approved by the Office for Coastal Management, March 2, 2018
GA-2017-2**

Changes marked with an asterisk (*) do not contain enforceable policies that can be used for Federal Consistency.

ADDITIONS

Name/Description of State or Local Law/Regulation/Policy/Program Authority	State/Local Legal Citation	Date Adopted by State	Date Effective in State
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally. See Table of Enforceable Policies of the Game and Fish Code and Associated Regulations for sections within Chapter 2 approved as enforceable policies of the GA CMP.	O.C.G.A. 27-2	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Wildlife Generally. See Table of Enforceable Policies of the Game and Fish Code and Associated Regulations for sections within Chapter 3 approved as enforceable policies of the GA CMP.	O.C.G.A. 27-3	2015	7/1/2015
Game and Fish Code: Fish. See Table of Enforceable Policies of the Game and Fish Code and Associated Regulations for sections within Chapter 4 approved as enforceable policies of the GA CMP.	O.C.G.A. 27-4	2017	7/1/2017
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals. See Table of Enforceable Policies of the Game and Fish Code and Associated Regulations for sections within Chapter 5 approved as enforceable policies of the GA CMP.	O.C.G.A. 27-5	2012	7/1/2012
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division Relating to Saltwater Fishing Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4, et seq. (391-2-4-.10*, 391-2-4-.16*, 391-2-4-.17*, 391-2-4-.99*)	2015	1/1/2016

Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Hunting Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, et seq. (391-4-2-.11*, 391-4-2-.13*, 391-4-2-.30*, 391-4-2-.72*)	2017	4/6/2017
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Fishing Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3, et seq. (391-4-3-.01*, 391-4-3-.11*)	2016	9/21/2016
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Protected Wildlife Habitats Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-7, et seq.	1998	5/20/1998
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to General Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-9, et seq. (391-4-9-.07*)	2016	9/26/2016
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Protection of Endangered Species Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-10, et seq. (391-4-10-.01*, 391-4-10-.03*, 391-4-10-.05*, 391-4-10-.08*)	2009	11/11/2009
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Aquaculture Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-14, et seq.*	1994	2/24/1994

MODIFICATIONS

Name/Description of State or Local Law/Regulation/Policy/Program Authority	State/Local Legal Citation	Date Amended by State	Date Effective in State
Game and Fish Code. Short title	O.C.G.A. 27-1-1*		
Game and Fish Code. Definitions were amended (2003, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2014, and 2016)	O.C.G.A. 27-1-2	2016	4/20/2016
Game and Fish Code. Authority of DNR was amended (2005)	O.C.G.A. 27-1-3	2005	7/1/2005

Game and Fish Code. Powers and duties of board generally	O.C.G.A. 27-1-4*		
Game and Fish Code. Applicability of "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act" to rules and regulations promulgated by board; affirmation of decision by operation of law; appellate review	O.C.G.A. 27-1-5*		
Game and Fish Code. Powers and duties of the department were amended (2010)	O.C.G.A. 27-1-6*	2010	6/3/2010
Game and Fish Code. Technical assistance for control or elimination of wild or abandoned dogs	O.C.G.A. 27-1-7*		
Game and Fish Code. Construction of fish ladders	O.C.G.A. 27-1-8		
Game and Fish Code. Consent to federal rules and regulations pursuant to federal law authorizing purchase of land by United States government for river navigability purposes	O.C.G.A. 27-1-9*		
Game and Fish Code. Assent to federal law respecting wildlife conservation and restoration projects, fish restoration projects, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife associated recreation projects	O.C.G.A. 27-1-10*		
Game and Fish Code. Consent to acquisition of land by United States government for conservation purposes; notice of intended use	O.C.G.A. 27-1-11*		
Game and Fish Code. Federal-state cooperation in protection and management of wildlife in national forest; powers of board	O.C.G.A. 27-1-12*		
Game and Fish Code. Disposition of funds; appropriations; grants and donations was amended (2011)	O.C.G.A. 27-1-13*	2011	7/1/2011
Game and Fish Code. Disposition of fines and forfeitures was amended (2015)	O.C.G.A. 27-1-14*	2015	7/1/2015
Game and Fish Code. Conservation rangers was amended (2004, 2005, 2009, and 2012)	O.C.G.A. 27-1-16*	2012	7/1/2012

Game and Fish Code. Deputy conservation rangers	O.C.G.A. 27-1-17*		
Game and Fish Code. Powers of conservation rangers generally	O.C.G.A. 27-1-18*		
Game and Fish Code. Power of conservation rangers and deputy conservation rangers to arrest persons; procedure upon failure of person arrested to appear to answer charges	O.C.G.A. 27-1-19*		
Game and Fish Code. Additional powers of conservation rangers; functions of other agencies assigned to department	O.C.G.A. 27-1-20*		
Game and Fish Code. Seizure and disposal of wildlife illegally taken or possessed; civil action by possessor; disposal of wildlife unable to be stored; disposition of unmarketable items	O.C.G.A. 27-1-21*		
Game and Fish Code. Taking, possessing, and releasing of wildlife generally	O.C.G.A. 27-1-22*		
Game and Fish Code. Inspection of business premises and records of commercial license holders	O.C.G.A. 27-1-23*		
Game and Fish Code. Inspection of vessels and boats	O.C.G.A. 27-1-24*		
Game and Fish Code. Interference with arrest or performance of ranger's duties	O.C.G.A. 27-1-25*		
Game and Fish Code. Damaging or destroying department property	O.C.G.A. 27-1-27		
Game and Fish Code. Taking of nongame species	O.C.G.A. 27-1-28		
Game and Fish Code. Sale or purchase of game	O.C.G.A. 27-1-29		
Game and Fish Code. Disturbing or destroying wildlife habitats was amended (2014)	O.C.G.A. 27-1-30	2014	7/1/2014
Game and Fish Code. Unlawful possession or use of wildlife; unlawful concealment	O.C.G.A. 27-1-31*		

Game and Fish Code. Hiring of another to take wildlife contrary to law	O.C.G.A. 27-1-32		
Game and Fish Code. Noncompliance was amended (2015)	O.C.G.A. 27-1-33	2015	7/1/2015
Game and Fish Code. Defenses not available in prosecutions for violations	O.C.G.A. 27-1-34*		
Game and Fish Code. Jurisdiction of probate courts; summons	O.C.G.A. 27-1-35*		
Game and Fish Code. Civil enforcement by department; disposition of penalties	O.C.G.A. 27-1-36*		
Game and Fish Code. Administrative orders; emergency administrative orders; administrative review	O.C.G.A. 27-1-37*		
Game and Fish Code. Penalty for violations of title	O.C.G.A. 27-1-38*		
Game and Fish Code. Date of rules and regulations to establish criminal violations was amended (2003, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016)	O.C.G.A. 27-1-39*	2016	4/20/2016
Aquaculture Development Act. Aquaculture Development Commission created; membership; bylaws; quorum; reimbursement for expenses; meeting at call of chairman	O.C.G.A. 27-4-253*	2009	4/30/2009

**Enforceable Policies of the Game and Fish Code
Approved for CZMA Federal Consistency Review Purposes (as of February 2018)**

Chapter 1: General Provisions	
Definitions.	O.C.G.A. 27-1-2
Authority of DNR.	O.C.G.A. 27-1-3
Construction of fish ladders.	O.C.G.A. 27-1-8
Damaging or destroying department property.	O.C.G.A. 27-1-27
Taking of nongame species	O.C.G.A. 27-1-28
Sale or purchase of game.	O.C.G.A. 27-1-29
Disturbing or destroying wildlife habitats.	O.C.G.A. 27-1-30
Hiring of another to take wildlife contrary to law.	O.C.G.A. 27-1-32
Noncompliance.	O.C.G.A. 27-1-33
Chapter 2: Licenses, Permits and Stamps Generally.	
Scientific collecting permits.	O.C.G.A. 27-2-12
Wildlife exhibition permits.	O.C.G.A. 27-2-13
Film production wildlife permits, including release.	O.C.G.A. 27-2-13.1
Wildlife importation permits.	O.C.G.A. 27-2-19
Fox trapping and selling.	O.C.G.A. 27-2-22.1

Wildlife control permits.	O.C.G.A. 27-2-31
Chapter 3: Wildlife Generally	
Requirement of permission to hunt on lands of another, including enforcement and liability.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-1
Acts prohibited on wildlife management areas.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-1.1
Hunting at night.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-2
Hours for hunting migratory game birds.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-3
Legal weapons for hunting wildlife, including silencers and penalties.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-4
Possession of firearm while hunting with bow and arrow.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-6
Unlawful devices.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-8
Unlawful enticement of game.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-9
Unlawful substances and equipment.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-12
Hunting of wildlife or feral hog from boats, aircraft, or motor vehicles.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-13
Killing or crippling of game bird or game animal without reasonable effort to retrieve.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-14
Seasons and bag limits, including promulgation of rules and regulations.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-15
Hunting with dogs, including training.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-16
Hunting deer with dogs, including seasons and permits.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-17
Hunting foxes with dogs.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-18
Hunting alligators, including possessing products and gathering eggs.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-19
Regulation of the exporting, farming, and selling of fresh-water turtles.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-19.1

Taking rabbits and hares out of season.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-20
Hunting, possessing, or transporting birds.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-22
Sale of tails of squirrels.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-23
Restrictions on hunting feral hogs.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-24
Required outer garments for hunting bears.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-25
Restrictions and penalties for hunting bears.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-26
Unlawful use of bear bait.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-27
Open seasons.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-62
Requirements for lawful transportation.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-90
Transportation by carrier within state.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-91
Transportation for propagation and scientific purposes.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-93
Use of fertility control of wildlife.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-181
Wildlife Generally. Permit application for applying fertility control to wildlife.	O.C.G.A. 27-3-182
Chapter 4: Fish	
Salt-water and fresh-water demarcation line.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-1
Fishing in waters or from lands of another without permission.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-2
Unlawful dumping.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-4
Methods for taking fish.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-5
Use of minnow seines.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-6
Use of gill nets, including seizure.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-7

Unlawful devices or substances.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-8
Possession of nets or other devices for taking shad during closed season.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-9
Creel and possession limits, including size restrictions.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-10
Sport trotlines.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-32
Spearing of fish.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-33
Fishing with bow and arrow.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-34
Artificial-lure streams or lakes.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-36
Taking of fish by grabbling, noodling, or hand grabbing.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-37
Manner of fishing, including moving of trout.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-50
Designation of certain waters as trout waters, including seasons and fishing methods	O.C.G.A. 27-4-51
Fishing in waters not opened for commercial fishing.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-70
Commercial fishing for shad, American eels, catfish, and horseshoe crabs.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-71
Sale, purchase, or transportation of game fish.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-74
Fish. Sale of fish by commercial fish hatcheries.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-75
Lawful devices.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-91
Lawful baskets.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-92
Use of commercial fishing gear within one-half mile below lock or dam.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-93
Required records.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-118
Limit on amount of shrimp fished by cast net, including penalties.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-132.1
Lawful nets, including opening and closing waters and identification.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-133

Requirements for commercial fishing boat license, including penalties.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-134
Maintenance of records by suppliers.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-136
Taking, possessing, and dealing in crabs and peelers, including records.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-150
Use of crab traps, including closure of salt waters and identification.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-151
Bait shrimping.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-171
Issuance of licenses, including limits and fees.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-206
Definitions.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-281
Warning sign to be posted, including signs.	O.C.G.A. 27-4-283
Chapter 5: Wild Animals	
Legislative intent and findings.	O.C.G.A. 27-5-1
Definitions, including prohibitions and restrictions.	O.C.G.A. 27-5-2.1
Wild animal licenses and permits.	O.C.G.A. 27-5-4
Wild animals for which license or permit required.	O.C.G.A. 27-5-5
Specifications for humane handling, care, confinement, and transportation of wild animals.	O.C.G.A. 27-5-6
Release or escape from captivity.	O.C.G.A. 27-5-7
Shooting of any wild animal held under wild animal permit or farmed deer.	O.C.G.A. 27-5-12

Regulations of the Game and Fish Code	
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division Relating to Saltwater Fishing Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4, <i>et seq.</i> (with the exceptions of 391-2-4-.10, 391-2-4-.16, 391-2-4-.17, 391-2-4-.99)
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Hunting Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, <i>et seq.</i> (with the exceptions of 391-4-2-.11, 391-4-2-.13, 391-4-2-.30, 391-4-2-.72)
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Fishing Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3, <i>et seq.</i> (with the exceptions of 391-4-3-.01*, 391-4-3-.11)
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Protected Wildlife Habitats Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-7, <i>et seq.</i>
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to General Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-9, <i>et seq.</i> (with the exception of 391-4-9-.07)
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Protection of Endangered Species Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-10, <i>et seq.</i> (with the exceptions of 391-4-10-.01, 391-4-10-.03, 391-4-10-.05, 391-4-10-.08)

Routine Program Change
to the State of Georgia
Coastal Management Program

Request for Concurrence

December 2017

Submitted by: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division
1 Conservation Way
Brunswick, GA 31520



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Appendix G: Saltwater Fishing Regulations, 391-2-4, et seq.

Appendix H: Hunting Regulations, 391-4-2, et seq.

Appendix I: Fishing Regulations, 391-4-3, et seq.

Appendix J: Protected Wildlife Habitats Regulations, 391-4-7, et seq.

Appendix K: General Regulations, 391-4-9, et seq.

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Appendix M: Aquaculture Regulations, 391-4-14, et seq.

Appendix N: Public Notices

INTRODUCTION

The following constitutes a request by the State of Georgia for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Coastal Management (OCM) to concur in the incorporation of Routine Program Changes (RPC) to the State of Georgia's Coastal Management Program (CMP).

Since 1997, there have been several State legislative and regulatory changes to numerous Acts and associated regulations. The submitted changes fall under existing State authority within the Georgia CMP and are not so substantial as to require an Amendment.

In accordance with requirements for RPC as set forth in 15 CFR 923.84 and the guidelines for RPC contained in OCM's Program Change Guidance from July 1996, the State of Georgia has prepared the following analysis of the routine changes to Georgia's enforceable policies. The analysis explains 1) why the submitted changes to the State CMP are RPC and not Amendments and 2) identifies the statutory and regulatory changes to the policies.

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES

Under 15 CFR 923.80(d), Amendments are defined as substantial changes in one or more of five listed coastal management program areas. Further, OCM's Program Change Guidance from July 1996 states that a substantial change is a high threshold based on a case-by-case determination. Such determination is made by reviewing indicators of substantial change, such as whether new or revised enforceable policies address coastal uses or resources not previously managed are major changes in the way a state CMP manages coastal uses or resources. OCM's Program Change Guidance also states that an explanation of why a proposed change will not result in an Amendment should describe the elements of the State CMP that are affected.

Georgia's CMP enforceable policies are based on State regulations and were incorporated into the Georgia CMP Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) at the time of the Georgia CMP approval in December 1997. However, over time, these regulations are periodically amended or expanded. Prior to the amended or new regulations becoming part of the CMP, they must first be approved by OCM through the RPC process. The submitted program changes amend two of the State's previously approved enforceable policies, add four additional enforceable policies to the State's FEIS and Program, and add seven associated regulations for the State of Georgia. The State submits these changes as Routine Program Changes pursuant to 15 CFR 923.84.

The submitted routine changes of these six State of Georgia Acts and seven associated regulations address statutory and regulatory changes the State has adopted since 1997. These changes could be interpreted as affecting elements of the State CMP within the State coastal zone, however they do not substantially change the authorities and organization of the Georgia CMP. The submitted changes are minor clarifications and additions of existing CMP authority that NOAA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended in order to

increase environmental protection within the State’s coastal zone and of the State’s coastal resources. The submitted changes to the two previously approved enforceable policies include definition additions and clarifications, terminology and procedural clarifications, committee name changes, removal of repetitive language, and the addition of six associated Rules. The submitted changes to the four new enforceable policies include regulations on game and fish licenses, permits, and stamps; as well as regulations on wildlife, fish, and wild animals, including the addition of one associated Rule.

The submitted routine changes fall within the existing State authority of the approved Georgia FEIS and included in the CMP and do not substantially change the State’s enforceable policies. The changes to these six Acts and associated regulations fall under the existing State CMP authority to create minor amendments to that policy to further the effective management of the State’s coastal resources. The following section discusses changes to the enforceable policies currently in the CMP, as well as new authorities and/or regulations to be added. Descriptions of each program change are included in the analyses below, which identify the enforceable policies to be modified and added, describe the nature of the program changes, and identify impacts the changes will have on the existing State CMP. The analyses demonstrate that the submitted program changes are not substantial in nature and are therefore not considered program amendments.

PROPOSED CHANGES

ACTS

Game and Fish Code, 27-1-1, et seq. (Amended)

During each of the 2003 to 2016 sessions, the Georgia legislature amended Chapter 1 of the Game and Fish Code (GFC) (O.C.G.A. 27-1-1, et seq.) in a variety of ways. The following table summarizes the nature of the amendments of the GFC as well as the implementation impact to the Georgia CMP. Other GFC Code Sections not mentioned in the table below were previously approved and have not been amended to date. These amendments do not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the GFC amendments, in underline/strike-through format, is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix A. Additionally, some code sections of the GFC are not approved as Enforceable Policies, as designated by an asterisks (*) in Table 1.

Code Section	Nature of Amendment	CMP Impact
27-1-2	Definitions were amended (2003, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2014, and 2016)	Seven definitions were amended and three were added; no impact

27-1-3	Authority of DNR was amended (2005)	Clarified no net loss of hunting acreage; no impact
27-1-6	Powers and duties of the department were amended (2010)	Added 'electronically' to published items; no impact
27-1-13	Disposition of funds; appropriations; grants and donations was amended (2011)	Clarified fee refund procedure; no impact
27-1-14	Disposition of fines and forfeitures was amended (2015)	Added the word 'bond'; no impact
27-1-16	Conservation rangers was amended (2004, 2005, 2009, and 2012)	Added a disability clause; clarified title name, code section, and grammar; no impact
27-1-30	Disturbing or destroying wildlife habitats was amended (2014)	Removed venomous snakes exemption; no impact
27-1-33	Noncompliance was amended (2015)	Grammatical error corrected; no impact
27-1-39	Date of rules and regulations to establish criminal violations was amended (2003, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016)	Effective date updated on annual basis; no impact

Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally, 27-2-1, et seq. (New)

During the 2016 session, the Georgia legislature adopted the most recent version of Chapter 2 of the Game and Fish Code regulating Licenses, Permits, and Stamps (LPS) (O.C.G.A. 27-2-1, et seq.). This chapter constitutes a new addition to the Georgia CMP, however only specific sections of the entire chapter are relevant to the Program as an enforceable policy (Table 1). The following table summarizes the nature of the relevant sections of the LPS chapter as well as the implementation impact to the Georgia CMP. The addition of these chapter sections does not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the LPS chapter sections is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix B.

Code Section	Nature of Section	CMP Impact
27-2-1	Hunting, trapping, or fishing without a license or permit	General regulations; no impact
27-2-2	Issuance and sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses	General regulations; no impact
27-2-4.4	Special turkey hunting season for young and mobility impaired hunters	General regulations; no impact

27-2-6	Trout, waterfowl, big game, and alligator licenses	General regulations; no impact
27-2-8	Commercial fishing boat licenses	General regulations; no impact
27-2-10	Commercial alligator farming licenses	General regulations; no impact
27-2-11	Game-holding permits	General regulations; no impact
27-2-12	Scientific collecting permits	General regulations; no impact
27-2-13	Wildlife exhibition permits	General regulations; no impact
27-2-13.1	Film production wildlife permits, including release	General regulations; no impact
27-2-15	Wildlife storage permits	General regulations; no impact
27-2-17	Falconry permits, including duties, permitted acts, and prohibitions	General regulations; no impact
27-2-18	Permits to kill deer causing damage to crops	General regulations; no impact
27-2-19	Wildlife importation permits	General regulations; no impact
27-2-20	Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp, including participation in Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program	General regulations; no impact
27-2-22	Wildlife rehabilitation permits	General regulations; no impact
27-2-22.1	Fox trapping and selling	General regulations; no impact
27-2-23	License, permit, tag, and stamp fees	General regulations; no impact
27-2-23.1	Raccoon fur seller's license	General regulations; no impact
27-2-23.2	Salt water fishing guide licenses, including fees and reporting	General regulations; no impact
27-2-29	Free fishing days	General regulations; no impact
27-2-31	Wildlife control permits	General regulations; no impact
27-2-40	Wildlife Violator Policy Compact	Statement of compact; no impact
27-2-41	Rules and regulations authorized	Statement of authority; the State may create rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this article

27-2-42	Penalty for violating	Defines fine and punishment; no impact
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Game and Fish Code: Wildlife Generally, 27-3-1, et seq. (New)

During the 2015 session, the Georgia legislature adopted the most recent version of Chapter 3 of the Game and Fish Code regulating Wildlife (O.C.G.A. 27-3-1, et seq.). This chapter constitutes a new addition to the Georgia CMP, however only specific sections of the entire chapter are relevant to the Program as an enforceable policy (Table 1). The following table summarizes the nature of the Wildlife chapter as well as the implementation impact to the Georgia CMP. The addition of these chapter sections does not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the Wildlife chapter is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix C.

Code Section	Nature of Section	CMP Impact
27-3-1	Requirement of permission to hunt on lands of another, including enforcement and liability	General regulations; no impact
27-3-1.1	Acts prohibited on wildlife management areas	General regulations; no impact
27-3-2	Hunting at night	General regulations; no impact
27-3-3	Hours for hunting migratory game birds	General regulations; no impact
27-3-4	Legal weapons for hunting wildlife, including silencers and penalties	General regulations; no impact
27-3-6	Possession of firearm while hunting with bow and arrow	General regulations; no impact
27-3-7	Hunting under the influence of alcohol or drugs	General regulations; no impact
27-3-8	Unlawful devices	General regulations; no impact
27-3-9	Unlawful enticement of game	General regulations; no impact
27-3-10	Hunting upon or discharging weapons across a public road	General regulations; no impact
27-3-12	Unlawful substances and equipment	General regulations; no impact
27-3-13	Hunting of wildlife or feral hog from boats, aircraft, or motor vehicles	General regulations; no impact
27-3-14	Killing or crippling of game bird or game animal without reasonable effort to retrieve	General regulations; no impact

27-3-15	Seasons and bag limits, including promulgation of rules and regulations	General regulations; authority of DNR Board to create rules and regulations for seasons and bag limits
27-3-16	Hunting with dogs, including training	General regulations; no impact
27-3-17	Hunting deer with dogs, including seasons and permits	General regulations; no impact
27-3-18	Hunting foxes with dogs	General regulations; no impact
27-3-19	Hunting alligators, including possessing products and gathering eggs	General regulations; no impact
27-3-19.1	Regulation of the exporting, farming, and selling of fresh-water turtles	General regulations; no impact
27-3-20	Taking rabbits and hares out of season	General regulations; no impact
27-3-21	Killing of bears by property owners	General regulations; no impact
27-3-22	Hunting, possessing, or transporting birds	General regulations; no impact
27-3-23	Sale of tails of squirrels	General regulations; no impact
27-3-24	Restrictions on hunting feral hogs	General regulations; no impact
27-3-25	Required outer garments for hunting bears	General regulations; no impact
27-3-26	Restrictions and penalties for hunting bears	General regulations; no impact
27-3-27	Unlawful use of bear bait	General regulations; no impact
27-3-28	Person may take possession of native wildlife which has been killed by a motor vehicle	General regulations; no impact
27-3-29	Recording and reporting requirements for game animals and birds, including penalties	General regulations; no impact
27-3-62	Open seasons	General regulations; no impact
27-3-90	Requirements for lawful transportation	General regulations; no impact
27-3-91	Transportation by carrier within state	General regulations; no impact
27-3-92	Transportation out of state	General regulations; no impact
27-3-93	Transportation for propagation and scientific purposes	General regulations; no impact

27-3-94	Acceptance by carriers of wildlife for shipment, including reporting	General regulations; no impact
27-3-150	Lawful taking	Definition; no impact
27-3-151	Activity prohibited	General regulations; no impact
27-3-152	Injunctions, including damages for violations	General regulations; no impact
27-3-180	Findings and declarations	General regulations; no impact
27-3-181	Use of fertility control of wildlife	General regulations; no impact
27-3-182	Permit application for applying fertility control to wildlife	General regulations; no impact
27-3-183	Rules and regulations	Statement of authority; the State may create rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this article
27-3-184	Wildlife fertility control permits, cease and desist orders, and possession of wildlife	General regulations; no impact
27-3-185	Penalties	General regulations; no impact

Game and Fish Code: Fish, 27-4-1, et seq. (New)

During the 2017 session, the Georgia legislature adopted the most recent version of Chapter 4 of the Game and Fish Code regulating Fish (O.C.G.A. 27-4-1, et seq.). This chapter constitutes a new addition to the Georgia CMP, however only specific sections of the entire chapter are relevant to the Program as an enforceable policy (Table 1). The following table summarizes the nature of the Fish chapter as well as the implementation impact to the Georgia CMP. The addition of these chapter sections does not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the Fish chapter is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix D.

Code Section	Nature of Section	CMP Impact
27-4-1	Salt-water and fresh-water demarcation line	General regulations; no impact
27-4-2	Fishing in waters or from lands of another without permission	General regulations; no impact
27-4-4	Unlawful dumping	General regulations; no impact

27-4-5	Methods for taking fish	General regulations; no impact
27-4-6	Use of minnow seines	General regulations; no impact
27-4-7	Use of gill nets, including seizure	General regulations; no impact
27-4-8	Unlawful devices or substances	General regulations; no impact
27-4-9	Possession of nets or other devices for taking shad during closed season	General regulations; no impact
27-4-10	Creel and possession limits, including size restrictions	General regulations; no impact
27-4-11	Fishing in department fish hatcheries	General regulations; no impact
27-4-11.1	Possession of firearms and intoxication on public fishing areas, including closed and public fishing areas	General regulations; no impact
27-4-12	Adoption of rules and regulations by board	Statement of authority; DNR Board to create rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this article
27-4-30	Fishing in private ponds	General regulations; no impact
27-4-31	Catch-out pond licenses	General regulations; no impact
27-4-32	Sport trotlines	General regulations; no impact
27-4-33	Spearing of fish	General regulations; no impact
27-4-34	Fishing with bow and arrow	General regulations; no impact
27-4-36	Artificial-lure streams or lakes	General regulations; no impact
27-4-37	Taking of fish by grabbling, noodling, or hand grabbing	General regulations; no impact
27-4-50	Manner of fishing, including moving of trout	General regulations; no impact
27-4-51	Designation of certain waters as trout waters, including seasons and fishing methods	General regulations; no impact
27-4-70	Fishing in waters not opened for commercial fishing	General regulations; no impact
27-4-71	Commercial fishing for shad, American eels, catfish, and horseshoe crabs	General regulations; no impact
27-4-73	Confiscation and disposition of illegally used commercial fishing gear	General regulations; no impact

27-4-74	Sale, purchase, or transportation of game fish	General regulations; no impact
27-4-75	Sale of fish by commercial fish hatcheries	General regulations with a delayed effective date; no impact
27-4-76	Licensing of wholesale and retail fish dealers	General regulations with a delayed effective date; no impact
27-4-77	Suspension of license for violation of article	General regulations; no impact
27-4-78	Governance of food fish processing plants	General regulations; no impact
27-4-90	Commercial fishing license required	General regulations; no impact
27-4-91	Lawful devices	General regulations; no impact
27-4-92	Lawful baskets	General regulations; no impact
27-4-93	Use of commercial fishing gear within one-half mile below lock or dam	General regulations; no impact
27-4-110	Commercial fishing license required	General regulations; no impact
27-4-111	Filing of bond or affidavit as condition for validity of commercial fishing boat license	General regulations; no impact
27-4-117	Identification tags, numbers, and letters for boats or vessels	General regulations; no impact
27-4-118	Required records	General regulations; no impact
27-4-130	Authority to close salt waters, including notices and sale of seafood	Statement of authority; State can close all or any portion of state salt waters to commercial and noncommercial fishing
27-4-132	Fishing for shrimp for noncommercial purposes	General regulations; no impact
27-4-132.1	Limit on amount of shrimp fished by cast net, including penalties	General regulations; no impact
27-4-133	Lawful nets, including opening and closing waters and identification	General regulations; no impact
27-4-134	Requirements for commercial fishing boat license, including penalties	General regulations; no impact
27-4-136	Maintenance of records by suppliers	General regulations; no impact
27-4-137	Civil forfeiture proceedings	General regulations; no impact

27-4-138	Penalties for offenses pertaining to operation of commercial fishing boats engaged in illegal fishing with power-drawn nets	General regulations; no impact
27-4-140	Penalties for using recreational food shrimp cast netting	General regulations; no impact
27-4-150	Taking, possessing, and dealing in crabs and peelers, including records	General regulations; no impact
27-4-151	Use of crab traps, including closure of salt waters and identification	General regulations and statement of authority; state can close all or any portion of state salt waters to commercial and recreational fishing for blue crabs
27-4-171	Bait shrimping	General regulations; no impact
27-4-200	Forged or false documents, records, or permits unlawful	General regulations; no impact
27-4-201	Penalty for violation of article	General regulations; no impact
27-4-205	Commercial shrimping license required	General regulations; no impact
27-4-206	Issuance of licenses, including limits and fees	General regulations; no impact
27-4-210	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact	Statement of compact; no impact
27-4-211	Establishment of commission	Authorization of ASMF commission; 3 members to be appointed from the state
27-4-212	Powers and duties of commission and state officers	Statement of authorization to carry out ASMF Compact; no impact
27-4-213	Powers granted to commission regarded as supplemental	Statement of supplemental aid to ASMF Compact; no impact
27-4-214	Commission to keep accurate accounts, including reports to Governor and General Assembly	Statement of record keeping and reporting of ASMF Commission; no impact
27-4-215	Examination of commission's accounts by state auditor, including report to Governor	Statement of authorization for the state auditor to review and

		report on ASMF accounts; no impact
27-4-216	Annual appropriation for commission	General regulations to ASMF Commission; no impact
27-4-234	Agreements with adjoining states	General regulations; no impact
27-4-280	Legislative findings	General regulations; no impact
27-4-281	Definitions	General regulations; no impact
27-4-282	Immunity from liability for injury or death, including exceptions	General regulations; no impact
27-4-283	Warning sign to be posted, including signs	General regulations; no impact

Aquaculture Development Act, 27-4-251, et seq. (Amended)

During the 2009 session, the Georgia legislature amended the Aquaculture Development section of the Game and Fish Code (O.C.G.A. 27-4-251, et seq.). The following table summarizes the nature of the amendment as well as the implementation impact to the Georgia CMP. Other Aquaculture Code Sections not mentioned in the table below were previously approved and have not been amended to date. This amendment does not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the Aquaculture Development section amendment, in underline/strike-through format, is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix E. Additionally, some code sections of the Aquaculture Development section are not approved as Enforceable Policies, as designated by an asterisks (*) in Table 1.

Code Section	Nature of Amendment	CMP Impact
27-4-253	Aquaculture Development Commission was amended (2009)	Committee name was updated; no impact

Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals, 27-5-1, et seq. (New)

During the 2012 session, the Georgia legislature adopted the most recent version of Chapter 5 of the Game and Fish Code regulating Wild Animals (O.C.G.A. 27-5-1, et seq.). This chapter constitutes a new addition to the Georgia CMP, however only specific sections of the entire chapter are relevant to the Program as an enforceable policy (Table 1). The following table

summarizes the nature of the Wild Animals chapter as well as the implementation impact to the Georgia CMP. The addition of these chapter sections does not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the Wild Animals chapter is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix F.

Code Section	Nature of Section	CMP Impact
27-5-1	Legislative intent and findings	General regulations; no impact
27-5-2	Powers of board	Statement of authority; provides various authorities for the DNR Board
27-5-2.1	Definitions, including prohibitions and restrictions	General regulations; no impact
27-5-3	Powers of department	Statement of authority; provides various authorities for the DNR
27-5-4	Wild animal licenses and permits	General regulations; no impact
27-5-5	Wild animals for which license or permit required	General regulations; no impact
27-5-6	Specifications for humane handling, care, confinement, and transportation of wild animals	General regulations; no impact
27-5-7	Release or escape from captivity	General regulations; no impact
27-5-8	Seizure of wild animals as contraband, including civil action	General regulations; no impact
27-5-9	Seizure of wild animals pursuant to administrative order, including appeal	General regulations; no impact
27-5-10	Disposal of wild animals recaptured after escape or seized under this title	General regulations; no impact
27-5-11	Wild animal auction license, including applications and filing	General regulations; no impact
27-5-12	Shooting of any wild animal held under wild animal permit or farmed deer	General regulations; no impact

RULES

Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4, et seq.

During the 2015 session, the DNR Board of Natural Resources adopted the most recent version of the Rules of the DNR Coastal Resources Division relating to Saltwater Fishing Regulations,

Chapter 391-2-4, et seq. As authorized in the Game and Fish Code (O.C.G.A. 27-1-1, et seq.), section 27-1-4 establishes powers and duties of the DNR Board to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the administration of game and fish of the state of Georgia. To that end, this rule establishes various regulations on commercial and recreational saltwater fishing practices in Georgia waters, including eel fishing, shad fishing, establishes sound and beach boundaries, saltwater finfishing, shrimp trawl gear, recreational shrimp fishing, crabbing, bycatch reduction, commercial fishing record keeping and reporting, license lotteries, bait minnow trapping, lawful fishing methods and gear, commercial catfish fishing, shrimp bait dealers, horseshoe crab limits, and saltwater fishing guide and pier operator reporting. This rule does not add any additional enforceable policies on resources not previously managed, nor does it change any of the five program areas described in 15 C.F.R. Part 923. It does not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division Relating to Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4, et seq. as adopted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Board of Commissioners in 2015 is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix G. Additionally, some sections of the Saltwater Fishing Regulations are not approved as Enforceable Policies, as designated by an asterisks (*) in Table 1.

Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, et seq.

During the 2017 session, the DNR Board of Natural Resources adopted the most recent version of the Rules of the DNR Wildlife Resources Division relating to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, et seq. As authorized in the Game and Fish Code (O.C.G.A. 27-1-1, et seq.), section 27-1-4 establishes powers and duties of the DNR Board to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the administration of game and fish of the state of Georgia. To that end, this rule establishes various regulations on wildlife hunting and harvest practices in Georgia, including harvest recording and reporting, required clothing, quota hunts, trapping, licenses and permits, confinement, seasons, zones, bag limits, weapons, hunting with dogs, baiting, wildlife management area uses, uses on other state and federal lands, and nuisance deer. This rule does not add any additional enforceable policies on resources not previously managed, nor does it change any of the five program areas described in 15 C.F.R. Part 923. It does not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, et seq. as adopted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Board of Commissioners in 2017 is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix H. Additionally, some sections of the Hunting Regulations are not approved as Enforceable Policies, as designated by an asterisks (*) in Table 1.

Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3, et seq.

During the 2016 session, the DNR Board of Natural Resources adopted the most recent version of the Rules of the DNR Wildlife Resources Division relating to Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3, et seq. As authorized in the Game and Fish Code (O.C.G.A. 27-1-1, et seq.), section 27-1-4 establishes powers and duties of the DNR Board to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the administration of game and fish of the state of Georgia. To that end, this rule establishes various regulations on freshwater fishing practices in Georgia waters, including fishing for non-game species, seasons and hours, trout designations, commercial freshwater fishing, creel and possession limits, size limits, use of state property, public fishing areas, possession and sale of fish or fish eggs, fishing methods, and catch and release fishing. This rule does not add any additional enforceable policies on resources not previously managed, nor does it change any of the five program areas described in 15 C.F.R. Part 923. It does not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3, et seq. as adopted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Board of Commissioners in 2016 is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix I. Additionally, some sections of the Fishing Regulations are not approved as Enforceable Policies, as designated by an asterisks (*) in Table 1.

Protected Wildlife Habitats Regulations, Chapter 391-4-7, et seq.

During the 1998 session, the DNR Board of Natural Resources adopted the most recent version of the Rules of the DNR Wildlife Resources Division relating to Protected Wildlife Habitats, Chapter 391-4-7, et seq. As authorized in the Game and Fish Code (O.C.G.A. 27-1-1, et seq.), section 27-1-6 establishes powers and duties of the DNR Board to promulgate rules and regulations for wildlife protection, preservation, and management of the state of Georgia. To that end, this rule establishes the definition of a pet and details regulations for shorebird and sea bird habitat protection. This rule does not add any additional enforceable policies on resources not previously managed, nor does it change any of the five program areas described in 15 C.F.R. Part 923. It does not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Protected Wildlife Habitats, Chapter 391-4-7, et seq. as adopted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Board of Commissioners in 1998 is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix J.

General Regulations, Chapter 391-4-9, et seq.

During the 2016 session, the DNR Board of Natural Resources adopted the most recent version of the Rules of the DNR Wildlife Resources Division relating to General Regulations, Chapter 391-4-9, et seq. As authorized in the Game and Fish Code (O.C.G.A. 27-1-1, et seq.), various sections establish powers and duties of the DNR Board to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the administration of game and fish, permits, and facilities associated with wildlife of the state of Georgia. To that end, this rule establishes various regulations on general practices not otherwise mentioned in Georgia, including scientific collecting permits, firing ranges, wildlife rehabilitation permits, wildlife exhibition permits, importation of cervids, the Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass, falconry permits, and film production wildlife permits. This rule does not add any additional enforceable policies on resources not previously managed, nor does it change any of the five program areas described in 15 C.F.R. Part 923. It does not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to General Regulations, Chapter 391-4-9, et seq. as adopted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Board of Commissioners in 2016 is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix K. Additionally, some sections of the General Regulations are not approved as Enforceable Policies, as designated by an asterisks (*) in Table 1.

Protection of Endangered Species Regulations, Chapter 391-4-10, et seq.

During the 2009 session, the DNR Board of Natural Resources adopted the most recent version of the Rules of the DNR Wildlife Resources Division relating to Protection of Endangered Species Regulations, Chapter 391-4-10, et seq. As authorized in the Georgia Endangered Wildlife Act (O.C.G.A. 27-3-130, et seq.), the purpose of these rules and regulations is to establish the organizational structure and administrative procedures to be followed in the protection of endangered species of plant and animal life. To that end, this rule establishes various regulations, including definitions, determination of protected species, land acquisition, interagency cooperation, prohibited actions, exceptions, penalties, and a listing of the state protected plant and animal species. This rule does not add any additional enforceable policies on resources not previously managed, nor does it change any of the five program areas described in 15 C.F.R. Part 923. It does not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Protection of Endangered Species Regulations, Chapter 391-4-10, et seq. as adopted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Board of Commissioners in 2009 is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix L.

Additionally, some sections of the Endangered Species Regulations are not approved as Enforceable Policies, as designated by an asterisks (*) in Table 1.

Aquaculture Regulations, Chapter 391-4-14, et seq.

During the 1994 session, the DNR Board of Natural Resources adopted the most recent version of the Rules of the DNR Wildlife Resources Division relating to Aquaculture Regulations, Chapter 391-4-14, et seq. As authorized in the Aquaculture Development Act (O.C.G.A. 27-4-251, et seq.), section 27-4-256 establishes powers and duties of the DNR to register sellers of domestic fish under the applicable provisions of this article in Georgia. To that end, this rule establishes regulations on applications for aquaculture registration, disqualification or revocation of aquaculture registration, and registration certificates in Georgia. This rule does not add any additional enforceable policies on resources not previously managed, nor does it change any of the five program areas described in 15 C.F.R. Part 923. It does not affect new uses subject to management (subpart B) or special management areas (subpart C), results in no changes to program boundaries (subpart D) or authorities and organization (subpart E), and does not affect coordination, public involvement and national interest (subpart F). The full text of the Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Aquaculture Regulations, Chapter 391-4-14, et seq. as adopted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Board of Commissioners in 1994 is provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix M.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Routine Program Change Request for Concurrence was publicly advertised on December 5, 2017 through the Brunswick News and the Savannah News. This RPC was also distributed as a public notice through the legal organ of the eleven coastal zone counties as well as through the DNR GovDelivery system, and on the DNR website at <http://coastalgadnr.org/GCMPProgramDocuments>. Copies of the legal ad and public notice announcements are provided on the enclosed CD in Appendix N. A hard copy of the published legal ad will be forwarded to NOAA.

CONCLUSION

Pursuant to Coastal Zone Management Act and 15 CFR 923.80, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) has reviewed the regulatory changes submitted for incorporation into the State CMP and have concluded that the submitted program changes are not Amendments. GDNR believes that these changes will not substantially change the enforceable authorities of the CMP, uses subject to management under the State CMP, or national interests in the State's coastal zone. The GDNR also believes that the submitted changes increase the ability of the State to manage, preserve, and sustain the coastal resources of the State of Georgia. Therefore, according to the standards set forth by 15 CFR 923.80(d), 15 CFR 923.84 and the OCM's Program Change Guidance from July 1996, the State of Georgia submits these changes as

Routine Program Changes and requests and recommends the OCM's concurrence with this action for incorporation into the State CMP.

Table 1. Summary of Proposed Changes (* = adopted into Program, but not recognized as an Enforceable Policy)

ADDITIONS			
Name/Description of State or Local Law/Regulation/Policy/Program Authority	State/Local Legal Citation	Date Adopted by State	Date Effective in State
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-1	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-2*	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-4.4	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-6	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-8	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-10	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-11	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-12	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-13	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-13.1	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-15	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-17	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-18	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-19	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-20	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-22	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-22.1	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-23*	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-23.1	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-23.2	2016	7/1/2016
Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally	O.C.G.A. 27-2-29*	2016	7/1/2016

Game and Fish Code: Fish	O.C.G.A. 27-4-212*	2017	7/1/2017
Game and Fish Code: Fish	O.C.G.A. 27-4-213*	2017	7/1/2017
Game and Fish Code: Fish	O.C.G.A. 27-4-214*	2017	7/1/2017
Game and Fish Code: Fish	O.C.G.A. 27-4-215*	2017	7/1/2017
Game and Fish Code: Fish	O.C.G.A. 27-4-216*	2017	7/1/2017
Game and Fish Code: Fish	O.C.G.A. 27-4-234	2017	7/1/2017
Game and Fish Code: Fish	O.C.G.A. 27-4-280*	2017	7/1/2017
Game and Fish Code: Fish	O.C.G.A. 27-4-281	2017	7/1/2017
Game and Fish Code: Fish	O.C.G.A. 27-4-282*	2017	7/1/2017
Game and Fish Code: Fish	O.C.G.A. 27-4-283	2017	7/1/2017
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-1	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-2*	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-2.1	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-3*	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-4	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-5	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-6	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-7	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-8*	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-9*	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-10*	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-11*	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals	O.C.G.A. 27-5-12	2012	7/1/2012
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division Relating to Saltwater Fishing Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4, et seq. (391-2-4-.10*, 391-2-4-.16*, 391-2-4-.17*, 391-2-4-.99*)	2015	1/1/2016
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Hunting Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2, et seq. (391-4-2-.11*, 391-4-2-.13*, 391-4-2-.30*, 391-4-2-.72*)	2017	4/6/2017
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Fishing Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3, et seq. (391-4-3-.01*, 391-4-3-.11*)	2016	9/21/2016
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Protected Wildlife Habitats Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-7, et seq.	1998	5/20/1998
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to General Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-9, et seq. (391-4-9-.07*)	2016	9/26/2016
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Protection of Endangered Species Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-10, et seq. (391-4-10-.01*, 391-4-10-.03*, 391-4-10-.05*, 391-4-10-.08*)	2009	11/11/2009
Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Relating to Aquaculture Regulations	DNR Rules and Regulations, Chapter 391-4-14, et seq.	1994	2/24/1994
MODIFICATIONS			
Name/Description of State or Local Law/Regulation/Policy/Program Authority	State/Local Legal Citation	Date Amended by State	Date Effective in State
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-1*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-2	2016	4/20/2016
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-3	2005	7/1/2005

Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-4*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-5*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-6*	2010	6/3/2010
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-7*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-8		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-9*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-10*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-11*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-12*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-13*	2011	7/1/2011
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-14*	2015	7/1/2015
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-16*	2012	7/1/2012
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-17*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-18*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-19*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-20*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-21*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-22*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-23*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-24*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-25*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-27		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-28		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-29		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-30	2014	7/1/2014
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-31*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-32		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-33	2015	7/1/2015
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-34*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-35*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-36*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-37*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-38*		
Game and Fish Code	O.C.G.A. 27-1-39*	2016	4/20/2016
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-251*		
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-252		
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-253*	2009	4/30/2009
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-254*		
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-255		
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-256*		
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-257		
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-258		
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-259		
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-260*		
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-261*		
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-262*		
Aquaculture Development Act	O.C.G.A. 27-4-263		

APPENDIX A

Game and Fish Code (27-1-1, et seq.) Amendments

The full text of the Game and Fish Code (27-1-1, et seq.) are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX B

Game and Fish Code: Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally (27-2-1, et seq.) Addition

The full text of the Licenses, Permits, and Stamps Generally Code (27-2-1, et seq.) are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX C

Game and Fish Code: Wildlife Generally (27-3-1, et seq.) Addition

The full text of the Wildlife Generally Code (27-3-1, et seq.) are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX D

Game and Fish Code: Fish (27-4-1, et seq.) Addition

The full text of the Fish Code (27-4-1, et seq.) are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX E

Aquaculture Development Act (27-4-251, et seq.) Amendments

The full text of the Aquaculture Development Act (27-4-251, et seq.) are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX F

Game and Fish Code: Wild Animals (27-5-1, et seq.) Addition

The full text of the Wild Animals Code (27-5-1, et seq.) are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX G

Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division

Relating to Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4

The full text of the Saltwater Fishing Regulations are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX H

Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division

Relating to Hunting Regulations, Chapter 391-4-2

The full text of the Hunting Regulations are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX I

Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division

Relating to Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3

The full text of the Fishing Regulations are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX J

Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division

Relating to Protected Wildlife Habitats Regulations, Chapter 391-4-7

The full text of the Protected Wildlife Habitats Regulations are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX K

**Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division
Relating to General Regulations, Chapter 391-4-9**

The full text of the General Regulations are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX L

**Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division
Relating to Protection of Endangered Species Regulations, Chapter 391-4-10**

The full text of the Endangered Species Regulations are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX M

**Rules of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division
Relating to Aquaculture Regulations, Chapter 391-4-14**

The full text of the Aquaculture Regulations are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

APPENDIX N

PUBLIC NOTICES

The full text of the Public Notice and Legal Ad are saved as a pdf document on the enclosed CD.

Game and Fish Code (O.C.G.A. 27-1-1, et. seq.)

Legislative amendments to Georgia's Game and Fish Code between 1997 and 2017 (TEXT:
Inserted text, ~~TEXT~~: Deleted text).

§ 27-1-1. Short title

This title shall be known and may be cited as the "Game and Fish Code."

§ 27-1-2. Definitions (See note)

As used in this title, the term:

- (1) "Adult supervision" means under the command and control of a person 18 years of age or older, with the minor being within sight or hearing distance of such person.
- (1.1) "Alligator" means Alligator mississippiensis, commonly known as the American alligator.
- (2) "Alligator farming" means the possession, propagation, and any other act involved in the production of live alligators.
- (3) "Alligator product" means any product or article made, either wholly or in part, from any part of the hide of an alligator or alligator meat or any other part of an alligator carcass ~~or alligator eggs~~.
- (4) "Artificial lure" means any lure which is made completely of natural or colored plastic, wood, cork, rubber, metal, feathers, hair, tinsel, styrofoam, sponge, or string, or any combinations of such materials, in imitation of or as a substitute for natural bait. Such term does not include any item which is sprayed with or containing scented or chemical attractions.
- (5) "Bag limit" or "creel limit" means the quantity of wildlife which may be taken, caught, or killed during a specified period.
- (5.1) "Bait shrimp cast net" means a cast net constructed of a minimum of three-eighths inch bar mesh.
- (6) "Big game" means turkey, deer, and bear.
- (7) "Board" means the Board of Natural Resources.
- (8) "Bushel" means the present United States standard bushel, as determined by the United States Department of Agriculture, which standard bushel measures 2150.4 cubic inches.
- (9) "Business premises" means any place of business operation including, but not limited to, offices, sheds, warehouses, vessels, boats, houses, ponds, and other such locations where commercial activity takes place and specifically includes the equipment used in conducting such activity.
- (10) "Carrier" means a person engaged in the business of transporting goods and specifically includes a common carrier, a contract carrier, a private carrier, and a transportation company.
- (10.1) "Cast net" means a cone shaped net ~~designed to be~~ thrown and retrieved by hand without mechanical assistance and designed to spread out and capture fish and shrimp

as the weighted circumference sinks to the bottom and comes together when pulled by a line.

- (11) "Catch-out pond" means a fresh-water pond or lake where the owner or operator charges persons a fee for the right to fish therein.
- (12) "Clam rake" means a hand-held rake, or a tool consisting of a long handle with a bar that is set transversely with projecting prongs and with a wire basket or enclosure modification, which rake or tool is suitable for scratching and removing mollusks of the class Pelecypoda from estuarine and marine substrates.
- (13) "Commercial" means of or relating to buying, selling, or exchanging or offering for purchase, sale, or exchange.
- (14) "Commercial crab trap" means an oblong cage or other cubical structure which is constructed of wooden slats, hardware cloth, chicken wire, or other similar material, which has one or more tunnel-shaped entrances which allow ingress but limit egress, which is to be used as a trap, which is designed to be left unattended for long periods of time, and which is used for catching decapod crustaceans, mainly of the species *Callinectes sapidus*.
- (15) "Commercial fish hatchery" means a facility consisting of two or more ponds or a raceway system which is capable of growing fish from eggs, fry, or fingerlings to a commercially salable size and which produces fish from such eggs, fry, or fingerlings for sale more than once annually.
- (16) "Commercial fishing" means fishing for the purpose of sale, the sale or offering for sale of fish by the person taking such fish, or fishing with commercial fishing gear.
- (17) "Commercial quantities" means an amount equal to one bushel or more.
- (18) "Commercial shooting preserve" means any shooting preserve open to the general public for a fee.
- (19) "Commercial trapper" means a person who traps on any land other than that belonging to himself or to his immediate family.
- (20) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources.
- (21) "Crab" means any crab of the species *Callinectes sapidus*.
- (22) "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources.
- (23) "Domestic species" means those taxa of animals which have traditionally lived in a state of dependence on and under the dominion and control of man and have been kept as tame pets, raised as livestock, or used for commercial breeding purposes, including, but not limited to, dogs, cats, horses, cattle, ratites, and chickens. Animals which live in a captive or tame state and which lack a genetic distinction from members of the same ~~taxa~~ taxon living in the wild are presumptively wild animals, except that lawfully obtained farmed fish which are held in confinement in private ponds shall be known as and considered to be "domestic fish," but only if they are fish species which are either indigenous to Georgia or are fish species which have been recognized prior to 1992 as having an established population in Georgia waters other than private ponds; provided, however, that *Morone americana*, white perch, shall not be a domestic fish.
- (24) "Educational" means of or relating to an attempt to learn or convey information about the characteristics and behavior of wild animals or wildlife, where such an attempt is made:

- (A) In a public or private college, university, secondary school, or primary school, which college, university, or school is accredited by either the Georgia Accrediting Commission, Inc., or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
 - (B) By an independent study conducted in affiliation with any of the institutions mentioned in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;
 - (C) By any chartered association or society organized for the purpose of conveying knowledge about such species to its members;
 - (D) By a research facility; or
 - (E) By a governmental agency.
- (25) "Established bait dealership" means a facility which is used in whole or in part to sell shrimp for bait and which has been inspected by employees of the department and which has been issued a bait dealer license.
- (26) "Falconer" means a person licensed according to the laws and rules and regulations pertaining to falconry.
- (27) "Falconry" means the sport of taking quarry by means of a trained raptor.
- (27.1) "Farmed deer" means fallow deer (*Dama dama*), axis deer (*Axis axis*), sika deer (*Cervus nippon*), red deer and elk (*Cervus elaphus*), and reindeer and caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*), and hybrids between these farmed deer species raised for the commercial sale of meat and other parts or for the sale of live animals.
- (28) "Feral hog" means any hog ~~which is normally considered domestic but which is living in a wild state and cannot be claimed in private ownership~~ has lived any part of its life in a wild, free-ranging state and is currently in such state or has been taken.
- (29) "Fishing" means catching, capturing, taking, or killing fish, mussels, and all seafood and includes all lesser acts such as attempting to catch, capture, or kill by any device or method and every act of direct assistance to any person in catching or attempting to catch fish, mussels, or seafood.
- (29.1) "Food shrimp cast net" means:
- (A) Until March 1, 2009, a cast net constructed of a minimum of one-half inch bar mesh; and
 - (B) On and after March 1, 2009, a cast net constructed of a minimum of five-eighths inch bar mesh.
- (29.2) "Fresh-water turtle" means any turtle or its eggs within the families Chelydridae, Emydidae (excluding *Malaclemys terrapin* and *Terrapene carolina*), Kinosternidae, and Trionychidae.
- (30) "Full-time employee" means a person who works at least 30 hours per week for one employer. Expressly excluded from this term is an independent contractor or casual vendor who does not receive regular periodic compensation from one employer.
- (31) "Fur-bearing animals" means the following animals: mink, otter, raccoon, fox, opossum, muskrat, skunk, bobcat, and weasel.
- (32) "Fur dealer" means a person who purchases or sells raw undressed hides, furs, pelts, or skins of fur-bearing animals and alligator hides or alligator products, excluding alligator meat; provided, however, those persons engaged in wholesale or retail furrier

operations, that is, those who engage in the manufacture or production of finished fur or alligator products, shall not be fur dealers for purposes of this title.

- (33)** "Fur dealer's agent" means any person who represents the owner of or a dealer in furs, alligator hides, or alligator products for the purpose of selling such furs, alligator hides, or alligator products.
- (34)** "Game animals" means the following animals: bear, bobcat, deer, fox, opossum, rabbit, raccoon, sea turtles and their eggs, squirrel, cougar (*Felis concolor*), and all members of the families Alligatoridae and Crocodylidae.
- (35)** "Game birds" means the following birds: turkey, quail, grouse, and all migratory game birds.
- (36)** "Game fish" means the following fish, except domestic fish as provided in paragraph (23) of this Code section:
- (A)** Bass:
- (i)** Largemouth bass;
 - (ii)** Smallmouth bass;
 - (iii)** White bass;
 - (iv)** Striped bass;
 - (v)** Spotted bass;
 - (vi)** Redeye (Coosa) bass;
 - (vii)** Striped-white bass hybrid;
 - (viii)** Shoal bass (Flint River smallmouth); and
 - (ix)** Suwannee bass;
- (B)** Trout:
- (i)** Rainbow trout;
 - (ii)** Brown trout; and
 - (iii)** Brook trout;
- (C)** Crappie:
- (i)** White crappie; and
 - (ii)** Black crappie;
- (D)** Shad:
- (i)** American shad; and
 - (ii)** Hickory shad;
- (E)** Sunfish or bream:
- (i)** Flier;
 - (ii)** Spotted sunfish (stumpknockers);
 - (iii)** Rockbass (goggleye);
 - (iv)** Shadow bass;

- (v) Redbreast sunfish;
 - (vi) Redear sunfish;
 - (vii) Bluegill (bream); and
 - (viii) Warmouth;
- (F) Perch:
- (i) Walleye; and
 - (ii) Sauger;
- (G) Pickerel:
- (i) Chain pickerel;
 - (ii) Grass pickerel; and
 - (iii) Redfin pickerel;
- (H) Catfish:
- (i) Channel catfish; and
 - (ii) Flathead catfish; and
- (I) Red drum.
- (37) "Game species" means all game animals, game birds, and game fish.
- (38) "Held as pets" means the possession of any wild animal for purposes other than scientific, educational, or public exhibition purposes or other than for sale to the general public or other than for resale to a retail dealer, an exhibition, or a research facility.
- (39) "Hunting" means pursuing, shooting, killing, taking, or capturing wildlife or feral hogs. This term also includes acts such as placing, setting, drawing, or using any device used to take wildlife or feral hogs, whether any such act results in taking or not, and includes every act of assistance to any person in taking or attempting to take such wildlife or feral hogs.
- (40) (A) "Immediate family," except insofar as that term relates to trapping, trappers, and fur dealers, means all persons living in one household under one head of household and bearing a blood or dependent relationship to such head of household.
- (B) "Immediate family," insofar as that term relates to trapping, trappers, and fur dealers, means son, daughter, father, mother, brother, sister, granddaughter, grandson, or spouse.
- (40.1) "License" means any document, decal, stamp, permit, or temporary license identification number which authorizes the holder to participate in any activity regulated by the department and which is issued by the department; provided, however, that a temporary license number shall be a valid license for ten days from the date of issuance.
- (41) "Licensed bait dealer" means the owner of an established bait dealership within this state who has been properly licensed and bonded pursuant to the applicable laws and regulations.

- (42) "May" means is authorized, but not required, and denotes discretion and permission rather than command. When "may" is used in authorizing a certain action to be taken, it shall also include the authorization to change that action.
- (43) "Migratory game birds" means all the following birds: brant, coots, cranes, doves, ducks, gallinules, geese, rails, snipe, swans, and woodcock. Birds which are mutations of such birds and birds which are the result of hybridization between such birds or between such birds and other birds are included as migratory game birds.
- (44) "Mountain trout" means rainbow, brook, and brown trout.
- (45) "Night" means between the hours of 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise.
- (46) "Nongame fish" means any fish not included within the definition of the term "game fish" in this Code section and is synonymous with the term "rough fish."
- (47) "Peeler" means a crab which has a soft shell fully developed under the hard shell and which has a pink or red line on the outer edge of the swimming paddles.
- (48) "Pen raised game birds ~~birds~~ bird" means ~~game birds~~ any bobwhite quail, chukar or red-legged partridge, coturnix or Japanese quail, ring-necked pheasant, mallard duck, or black duck which ~~are~~ is raised in captivity and ~~are~~ is more than two generations removed from the wild.
- (49) "Perishable" means likely to deteriorate quickly in quality or value unless given special treatment such as dressing, freezing, or cold storage.
- (50) "Person" means any individual, partnership, firm, corporation, association, or other entity.
- (51) "Pole and line" means any hand line or any type of pole with a line attached and specifically includes a casting rod, a spinning rod, a fly rod, and all similar hand-held equipment for use with bait or artificial lure; provided, however, such pole and line may only be used to entice fish to strike or bite such bait or lure.
- (52) "Private oyster or clam beds" means oyster or clam beds in which the right to plant, cultivate, and harvest oysters and clams is not vested in the state pursuant to Code Sections 44-8-6, 44-8-7, and 44-8-8.
- (53) "Private pond" means a body of water wholly on or within the lands of one title from which fish cannot go upstream or downstream or to the lands of another.
- (54) "Private shooting preserve" means any shooting preserve owned or leased by an individual, partnership, firm, corporation, association, or other entity and used only by the owners, members, and guests.
- (55) "Public exhibition" means any commercial or noncommercial display of wild animals or wildlife to the general public, including displays held in nontraveling facilities in fixed locations or displays held in transient facilities which travel to different parts of the state.
- (56) "Public road" means any road open to and intended for use by the public and maintained at public expense.
- (57) "Purchase" means to acquire, obtain, or receive or to attempt to acquire, obtain, or receive by exchange of valuable consideration. This term specifically includes barter and exchange.

- (58) "Raptor" means a live migratory bird of the order Falconiformes or the order Strigiformes, other than the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) or the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).
- (59) "Rats and mice" means any gnawing mammal of the class Mammalia, the subclass Theria, the order Rodentia, and either the family Muridae or the family Cricetidae and the genera *Peromyscus*, *Sigmodon*, *Oryzomys*, or *Reithrodontomys*.
- (60) "Resident" means any ~~citizens~~ citizen of the United States who has been domiciled within the State of Georgia for a period of at least three months. For purposes of issuing or procuring the noncommercial hunting and fishing licenses required by this title, ~~residents~~ the term "resident" shall include full-time military personnel on active duty who list Georgia as their home of record in their official military files or who are stationed at a military base located in Georgia and the dependents of such military personnel; provided, however, that requirements for residency as defined in paragraph (5) of subsection (e) of Code Section 27-2-3.1 shall apply to such military personnel and their dependents for all lifetime license types listed in Code Section 27-2-3.1 that are only available to residents. Requirements for residency as defined in paragraph (5) of subsection (e) of Code Section 27-2-3.1 shall also apply to such military personnel and their dependents for all honorary license types listed in Code Section 27-2-4 and to the landowner exemption in subsection (b) of Code Section 27-2-1, provided that the domicile requirement shall be a period of at least three months.
- (61) "Retail fish dealer" means any person engaged in the purchasing, raising, propagating, breeding, or other acquiring or possessing of live fish or fish eggs to be sold or furnished to others for use thereby, other than for resale or for aquaria.
- (61.1) "Salt water fishing guide" means a person engaged in the occupation of taking fee-paying anglers fishing in the salt waters of this state.
- (61.2) "Salt water fishing pier" means a permanent structure built and maintained for the purpose of providing fishing access in the salt waters of this state and associated with a hotel or motel.
- (62) "Scientific" means of or relating to a systematic attempt, made at a public or private college, university, secondary school, or primary school, which college, university, or school is accredited by either the Georgia Accrediting Commission, Inc., or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; or made in the course of an independent study conducted in affiliation with any of the aforementioned institutions; or made by any chartered association or society organized for the purpose of conveying knowledge to its members; or made by a research facility or a governmental agency, for the purpose of discovering new knowledge through the possession of wild animals or wildlife for the testing of a theory or hypothesis, such theory or hypothesis to be tested according to the accepted procedures of observation, comparison, objective data collection, and analysis.
- (63) "Seafood" means marine and estuarine fauna or flora used as food or of a kind suitable for food and specifically includes, but is not limited to, shrimp taken for bait and horseshoe crabs taken for bait.
- (64) "Sell" means to dispose of, transfer, or convey or to attempt to dispose of, transfer, or convey by exchange of money or other valuable consideration. This term specifically includes barter and exchange.
- (65) "Shedding facility" means a soft-shell crab facility containing a tank or other enclosure in which peelers are or may be kept alive until they shed their shells and

become soft-shell crabs and containing such other equipment as may be prescribed by the department.

- (65.1) "Shellfish" means common bivalve mollusks which includes all edible species of oysters, clams, mussels, or other bivalves.
- (65.2) "Shellfish management area" means a wildlife management area where shellfish are managed by the state or lessees for the propagation of shellfish.
- (66) "Shooting preserve" means any area utilized for the purpose of shooting or taking, or shooting and taking, game birds or pen raised game birds.
- (67) "Small game" means all game animals and game birds other than big game.
- (68) "Soft-shell crab" means a crab which has just emerged from its old shell and has a new soft, pliable shell.
- (69) "Soft-shell crab dealer" means any person operating a shedding facility approved by the department.
- (70) "State owned oyster or clam beds" means oyster or clam beds in which the right to plant, cultivate, and harvest oysters and clams is vested in the state pursuant to Code Sections 44-8-6, 44-8-7, and 44-8-8.
- (71) "Taking" means killing, capturing, destroying, catching, or seizing.
- (71.1) "Ten-foot net" means a trawl with a cork line not to exceed ten feet from tie-to-tie between the first and last mesh across the mouth of the net, a lead line not to exceed 13 feet from tie-to-tie between the first and last mesh across the mouth of the net, and leg lines of equal length. No webbing shall extend toward the door beyond the original brail lines which run vertically between the first tie at each end of the cork line and the first tie at each end of the lead line.
- (72) "Trapping" means taking, killing, or capturing wildlife with traps. This term also includes all lesser acts such as placing, setting, or staking such traps, whether such acts result in taking or not, and attempting to take and assisting any person in taking or attempting to take wildlife with traps.
- (72.1) "Twenty-foot net" means a trawl with a cork line not to exceed 20 feet from tie-to-tie between the first and last mesh across the mouth of the net, a lead line not to exceed 25 feet from tie-to-tie between the first and last mesh across the mouth of the net, and leg lines of equal length. No webbing shall extend toward the doors beyond the original brail lines which run vertically between the first tie at each end of the cork line and the first tie at each end of the lead line.
- (73) "Waters of this state" means any waters within the territorial limits of this state and the marginal sea adjacent to this state and the high seas when navigated as a part of a journey or ride to or from the shore of this state except ponds or lakes not open to the public, whether such ponds or lakes are within the lands of one title or not.
- (74) "Wholesale fish dealer" means any person engaged in purchasing, raising, propagating, breeding, or acquiring or possessing live fish or fish eggs to be sold or furnished to others for the purpose of resale, including any person engaged in transporting live fish or fish eggs into this state; provided, however, that any person who holds or sells only "domestic fish" and is registered pursuant to Code Section 27-4-255 or any person who holds or sells fish solely for use in aquaria shall not be considered a wholesale fish dealer.

- (75) "Wild animal" means any animal which is not wildlife and is not normally a domestic species in this state. This term specifically includes any hybrid or cross between any combination of a wild animal, wildlife, and a domestic animal. Offspring from all subsequent generations of such crosses or hybrids are wild animals.
- (76) "Wild animal business" means the importation, transportation, or possession of any wild animal for the purpose of sale or transfer.
- (77) "Wildlife" means any vertebrate or invertebrate animal life indigenous to this state or any species introduced or specified by the board and includes fish, except domestic fish produced by aquaculturists registered under Code Section 27-4-255, mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, crustaceans, and mollusks or any part thereof.

§ 27-1-2 Note: Delayed Effective Date --

Ga. L. 2004, p. 948, § 3-1(c), provides that the 2004 amendment becomes effective only upon the effective date of a specific appropriation of funds for purposes of that Act as expressed in a line item of an appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly. This Code section, as amended, is not set out in the Code owing to the delayed effective date. Funds were not appropriated at the 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, or 2016 session of the General Assembly. After the appropriation is made, paragraphs (23) and (77) will read as follows:

"(23) 'Domestic species' means those taxa of animals which have traditionally lived in a state of dependence on and under the dominion and control of man and have been kept as tame pets, raised as livestock, or used for commercial breeding purposes, including, but not limited to, dogs, cats, horses, cattle, ratites, and chickens. Animals which live in a captive or tame state and which lack a genetic distinction from members of the same taxon living in the wild are presumptively wild animals, except that lawfully obtained farmed fish which are held in confinement in private ponds shall be known as and considered to be 'domestic fish,' but only if they are fish species which are either indigenous to Georgia or are fish species which have been recognized prior to 1992 as having an established population in Georgia waters other than private ponds; provided, however, that *Morone americana*, white perch, shall not be a domestic fish; and provided, further, that pacific white shrimp produced or used by and contained on the premises of a pacific white shrimp aquaculturalist registered under Code Section 2-15-6 shall not be presumed to be wild animals."

"(77) 'Wildlife' means any vertebrate or invertebrate animal life indigenous to this state or any species introduced or specified by the board and includes mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, crustaceans, and mollusks or any part thereof; except that such term does not include any domestic fish produced by aquaculturalists registered under Code Section 27-4-255 or any pacific white shrimp produced or used by and lawfully contained on the premises of a pacific white shrimp aquaculturalist as those terms are defined by Code Section 2-15-2."

§ 27-1-3. Legislative declarations; ownership and custody of wildlife; preservation of hunting and fishing opportunities; promotion and right to hunt, trap, or fish; local regulation; general offenses

- (a) The General Assembly recognizes that hunting and fishing and the taking of wildlife are a valued part of the cultural heritage of the State of Georgia. The General Assembly further recognizes that such activities play an essential role in the state's economy and in funding the state's management programs for game and nongame species alike, and that such activities have also come to play an important and sometimes critical role in the biological management of certain natural communities within this state. In recognition of this

cultural heritage and the tradition of stewardship it embodies, and of the important role that hunting and fishing and the taking of wildlife play in the state's economy and in the preservation and management of the state's natural communities, the General Assembly declares that Georgia citizens have the right to take fish and wildlife, subject to the laws and regulations adopted by the board for the public good and general welfare, which laws and regulations should be vigorously enforced. The General Assembly further declares that the state's wildlife resources should be managed in accordance with sound principles of wildlife management, using all appropriate tools, including hunting, fishing, and the taking of wildlife.

- (b) The ownership of, jurisdiction over, and control of all wildlife, as defined in this title, are declared to be in the State of Georgia, in its sovereign capacity, to be controlled, regulated, and disposed of in accordance with this title. Wildlife is held in trust by the state for the benefit of its citizens and shall not be reduced to private ownership except as specifically provided for in this title. All wildlife of the State of Georgia is declared to be within the custody of the department for purposes of management and regulation in accordance with this title. However, the State of Georgia, the department, and the board shall be immune from suit and shall not be liable for any damage to life, person, or property caused directly or indirectly by any wildlife.
- (c)

 - (1) To the greatest practical extent, department land management decisions and actions shall not result in any net loss of land acreage available for hunting opportunities on department managed state owned lands that exists on July 1, 2005.
 - (2) The department has the authority and the responsibility to work with cooperating sportsmen, conservation groups, and others to encourage participation in hunting and fishing at a level to ensure continuation of such activities in perpetuity and no net loss of hunting and fishing opportunity on state owned lands. Further, the department is authorized to promote and encourage hunting, fishing, and other wildlife associated recreation on state managed wildlife areas, public fishing areas, federally owned or managed forests, and other suitable public and private lands of this state.
- (d) To hunt, trap, or fish, as defined in this title, or to possess or transport wildlife is declared to be a right to be exercised only in accordance with the laws governing such right. Every person exercising this right does so subject to the authority of the state to regulate hunting, trapping, and fishing for the public good and general welfare; and it shall be unlawful for any person exercising the right of hunting, trapping, fishing, possessing, or transporting wildlife to refuse to permit authorized employees of the department to inspect and count such wildlife to ascertain whether the requirements of the wildlife laws and regulations are being faithfully complied with. Any person who hunts, traps, fishes, possesses, or transports wildlife in violation of the wildlife laws and regulations violates the conditions under which this right is extended; and any wildlife then on his person or within his immediate possession is deemed to be wildlife possessed in violation of the law and is subject to seizure by the department pursuant to Code Section 27-1-21. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to reduce, infringe upon, or diminish the rights of private property owners as otherwise provided by general law.
- (e) It shall be unlawful to hunt, trap, or fish except during an open season for the taking of wildlife, as such open seasons may be established by law or by rules and regulations promulgated by the board or as otherwise provided by law.
- (f) It shall be unlawful to hunt, trap, or fish except in compliance with the bag, creel, size, and possession limits and except in accordance with such legal methods and weapons and

except at such times and places as may be established by law or by rules and regulations promulgated by the board.

- (g) It shall be unlawful to hunt, trap, or fish for any game species after having obtained the daily or season bag or creel limit for that species.
- (h) Except as otherwise provided by general law, the power and duty to promulgate rules and regulations relating to hunting, trapping, and fishing rests solely with the board. No political subdivision of the state may regulate hunting, trapping, or fishing by local ordinance; provided, however, that a local government shall not be prohibited from exercising its management rights over real property owned or leased by it for purposes of prohibiting hunting, fishing, or trapping upon the property or for purposes of setting times when access to the property for purposes of hunting, fishing, or trapping in accordance with this title may be permitted. Nothing contained in this Code section shall prohibit municipalities or counties, by ordinance, resolution, or other enactment, from reasonably limiting or prohibiting the discharge of firearms within the boundaries of the political subdivision for purposes of public safety.
- (i) A person who takes any wildlife in violation of this title commits the offense of theft by taking. A person who hunts, traps, or fishes in violation of this title commits the offense of criminal attempt. Any person who violates any provision of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (j) If any court finds that any criminal violation of the provisions of this title is so egregious as to display a willful and reckless disregard for the wildlife of this state, the court may, in its discretion, suspend the violator's right to hunt, fish, trap, possess, or transport wildlife in this state for a period not to exceed five years. Any person who hunts, fishes, traps, possesses, or transports wildlife in this state in violation of such suspension of rights shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,500.00 nor more than \$5,000.00 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months or both.

§ 27-1-4. Powers and duties of board generally

The board shall have the following powers and duties relative to this title:

- (1) Establishment of the general policies to be followed by the department under this title;
- (2) Promulgation of all rules and regulations necessary for the administration of this title including, but not limited to, rules and regulations to regulate the times, places, numbers, species, sizes, manner, methods, ways, means, and devices of killing, taking, capturing, transporting, storing, selling, using, and consuming wildlife and to carry out this title, and rules and regulations requiring daily, season, or annual use permits for the privilege of hunting and fishing in designated streams, lakes, or game management areas; and
- (3) Promulgation of rules and regulations to protect wildlife, the public, and the natural resources of this state in the event of fire, flood, disease, pollution, or other emergency situation without complying with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act." Such rules and regulations shall have the force and effect of law upon promulgation by the board.

§ 27-1-5. Applicability of "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act" to rules and regulations promulgated by board; affirmation of decision by operation of law; appellate review

- (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided, all rules and regulations promulgated by the board under this title shall be promulgated pursuant to Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act." For the purposes of this title, rule making under subsection (b) of Code Section 50-13-4 in response to an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare shall include rule making to protect wildlife, the public, and the natural resources of this state in the event of fire, flood, disease, pollution, or other emergency situations.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, when a petition for judicial review of a final decision of the board in any matter arising under this title is filed pursuant to Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act," if the superior court in which the petition for review is filed does not hear the case within 90 days from the date the petition for review is filed with the court, the final decision of the board shall be considered affirmed by operation of law unless a hearing originally scheduled to be heard within the 90 days has been continued to a date certain by order of the court. In the event a hearing is held later than 90 days after the date the petition for review is filed with the court because a hearing originally scheduled to be heard within the 90 days has been continued to a date certain by order of the court, the final decision of the board shall be considered affirmed by operation of law if no order of the court disposing of the issues presented for review has been entered within 30 days after the date of the continued hearing. If a case is heard within 90 days from the date the petition for review is filed, the final decision of the board shall be considered affirmed by operation of law if no order of the court dispositive of the issues presented for review has been entered within 30 days of the date of the hearing.
- (c) A decision of the board affirmed by operation of law under subsection (b) of this Code section shall be subject to appellate review in the same manner as a decision of the superior court. The date of entry of judgment for purposes of appeal pursuant to Code Section 5-6-35 of a decision affirmed by operation of law without action of the superior court shall be the last date on which the superior court could have taken action under subsection (b) of this Code section. Upon the setting aside of any such decision of the board, the court may recommit the controversy to the board for further hearing or proceedings in conformity with the judgment and opinion of the court; or such court may enter the proper judgment upon the findings, as the nature of the case may demand. Such decree of the court shall have the same effect and all proceedings in relation thereto shall, subject to the other provisions of this chapter, thereafter be the same as though rendered in an action heard and determined by the court.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any reference to an administrative law judge or hearing officer in this title shall be to an administrative law judge appointed by the chief state administrative law judge. The decision of the administrative law judge shall constitute the final administrative decision in any matter and any party to the matter, including the commissioner, shall have the right of judicial review in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50. Any request for administrative review by an administrative law judge appointed by the chief state administrative law judge shall be filed with the commissioner.
- (e) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any reference to a final decision of the Board of Natural Resources in this title shall be to a final administrative decision by an administrative law judge appointed by the chief state administrative law judge.

§ 27-1-6. Powers and duties of department generally

The department shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) Subject to all applicable state laws, to acquire by purchase, condemnation, lease, agreement, gift, or devise lands or waters suitable for the purposes enumerated in this paragraph and to develop, operate, and maintain the same for the following purposes:
 - (A) For fish hatcheries, nursery ponds, game farms, sanctuaries, reservations, and refuges;
 - (B) For wildlife restoration, propagation, protection, preservation, research, or management; and
 - (C) For public hunting, fishing, or trapping areas, where the public may hunt, fish, or trap in accordance with the provisions of law and the rules and regulations of the board;
- (2) To capture, propagate, transport, purchase, sell, band, or release any species of wildlife for propagation, research, or stocking purposes; to safeguard and enhance the habitat on which the wildlife depends; and to exercise control measures of nuisance or destructive species;
- (3) To enter into cooperative agreements with educational institutions and state, federal, and other agencies to promote wildlife management, conservation, and research;
- (4) To purchase all uniforms, equipment, and supplies necessary for the administration of this title;
- (5) To carry out the operational, field, and administrative functions contained in this title;
- (6) To publish in print or electronically and distribute magazines, pamphlets, books, or literature of any nature as may be necessary to inform and educate the public concerning the wildlife resources of the state and the functions, duties, activities, laws, rules, and regulations of the department pursuant to this title and pursuant to any other title;
- (7) To keep a public record which correctly discloses all moneys received and expended by the department and all such information as may be necessary or proper in the conduct of the affairs and business of the department. The books and accounts of the department shall be audited in the same way as other books and accounts of the other departments of the state are audited;
- (8) To pay to each conservation ranger the expenses incurred by such ranger in the performance of his duties;
- (9) To contract with private landowners for the purposes of managing and operating public hunting and fishing areas on the property of such private landowners; and
- (10) To develop an official waterfowl stamp for the State of Georgia and to issue such stamp to any interested person and to contract with any person granting such person the right to reproduce and market the official waterfowl stamp in stamp, print, poster, or such other form as the department shall determine and to contract with any person for the purpose of promoting, supporting, or otherwise assisting any waterfowl program of the department, including, but not limited to, public education; research; acquisition of wetlands; and management, development, and protection of waterfowl programs; provided, however, that not more than 15 percent of the funds retained by the department, if any, shall be used for law enforcement activities. The department is

authorized to establish a special fund to be known as the "Waterfowl Stamp Fund." This fund shall consist of all moneys paid to the department as royalties, all moneys derived from the sale of any official waterfowl stamp, and all moneys contributed to the fund for the purposes provided in this paragraph and all interest thereon. All balances in the fund shall be deposited in an interest-bearing account identifying the fund and shall be carried forward each year so that no part thereof may be deposited in the general treasury. The department shall administer the fund and may expend moneys held in the fund in furtherance of the purposes provided in this paragraph. Moneys paid into this fund shall be deemed supplemental to and shall in no way supplant funding that would otherwise be appropriate for these purposes. As used in this paragraph, the term "waterfowl" means any species of ducks, swans, or geese.

§ 27-1-7. Technical assistance for control or elimination of wild or abandoned dogs

Upon the request of the governing authority of a city, county, or combination thereof, the department is authorized to provide technical assistance to the city, county, or combination thereof relative to the control or elimination of wild or abandoned dogs running at large, provided that, with the exception of the technical assistance provided in accordance with this Code section, all costs relative to the control or elimination shall be borne by the city, county, or combination thereof.

§ 27-1-8. Construction of fish ladders; requiring construction by private persons; assessment of cost upon refusal; issuance of execution

- (a) The department is authorized to provide for the free passage of fish in the fresh-water streams of Georgia for the purpose of spawning and propagating and to erect or cause to be erected fish ladders or other passageways whereby fish may pass over any dam or other obstruction placed in the fresh-water streams of Georgia by any person.
- (b) It shall be the duty of the department to give written notice to any person owning, leasing, or constructing any dam or other obstruction which restricts the free passage of fish in the fresh-water streams of this state, which notice shall require the person to provide a suitable fish ladder or passageway over the dam or obstruction. The person shall, within 60 days after the receipt of the notice, provide at his own expense a fish ladder or other suitable passageway for the purpose of allowing fish in such fresh water to pass freely over the dam or obstruction.
- (c) Should any person owning, leasing, or constructing any dam or other obstruction in the fresh-water streams of this state fail and refuse to provide a fish ladder or other passageway after receiving the notice, as required in subsection (b) of this Code section, the department is authorized to build or erect a fish ladder or other passageway over the dam or obstruction; and the cost of the same shall be assessed by the department against the person owning, leasing, or constructing the dam or obstruction.
- (d) The department is authorized to issue an execution in the nature of a fi. fa. against any person against whom an assessment has been made pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section. The assessment shall be collected by any sheriff or other authorized officer of the state by means of levy and sale in the same manner as the collection of any other fi. fas.

§ 27-1-9. Consent to federal rules and regulations pursuant to federal law authorizing purchase of land by United States government for river navigability purposes

The consent of the General Assembly is given to the making by the Congress of the United States or under its authority of all such rules and regulations as the federal government shall determine to be needed in respect to game animals, game and nongame birds, and fish on such lands in the northern part of Georgia as shall have been or may hereafter be purchased by the United States under the terms of the act of Congress of March 1, 1911, entitled "An Act to Enable any state to Cooperate with any other state or states, or with the United States, for the Protection of the Watersheds of Navigable Streams, and to Appoint a Commission for the Acquisition of Lands for the Purpose of Conserving the Navigability of Navigable Rivers" (36 United States Statutes at Large, page 961), and acts of Congress supplementary thereto and amendatory thereof, and in or on the waters thereof.

§ 27-1-10. Assent to federal law respecting wildlife conservation and restoration projects, fish restoration projects, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife associated recreation projects

The State of Georgia assents to the provisions of P.L. 75-415 and P.L. 81-681. The department is authorized, empowered, and directed to perform such acts as may be necessary to establish and conduct cooperative wildlife restoration projects as defined in P.L. 75-415, cooperative fish restoration projects as defined in P.L. 81-681, and wildlife conservation and restoration programs, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife associated recreation projects as defined in P.L. 106-553, as well as the regulations promulgated under those federal acts. No funds accruing to the state from license fees paid by hunters or fishermen or interest thereon shall be diverted for any purpose other than the administration of the department and for the study, protection, preservation, restoration, or propagation of fish and wildlife in this state.

§ 27-1-11. Consent to acquisition of land by United States government for conservation purposes; notice of intended use

- (a) The consent of the State of Georgia is given to the acquisition by the United States government by purchase, gift, devise, lease, condemnation, or otherwise of such areas of land or water or of land and water in the State of Georgia as the United States government may deem necessary for the conservation, protection, propagation, and development of all species of fish and wildlife and for other conservation purposes. However, the State of Georgia reserves full and complete jurisdiction and authority over all such areas not incompatible with the administration, maintenance, protection, and control thereof by the United States government under the first terms of any act of Congress authorizing such acquisitions.
- (b) The consent given by subsection (a) of this Code section is conditioned on the requirement that, prior to the acquisition, notice shall be given by the federal government to the department of plans stating the specific use to be made of and the specific location and description of the lands desired by the federal government for any such conservation use and, further, that the plan for acquisition of the lands shall be approved by the department.

§ 27-1-12. Federal-state cooperation in protection and management of wildlife in national forest; powers of board

- (a) The department shall have the authority to enter into cooperative agreements with the United States government or with the proper authorities thereof for the protection and management of the wildlife resources of the national forest lands within the State of Georgia and for the restocking of the same with desirable species of wildlife.
- (b) After entering into an agreement under subsection (a) of this Code section, the board shall have the authority to close all hunting and fishing in the national forest lands within this state for such period of time as the board may deem necessary. The board shall have authority from time to time to prescribe the season for hunting or fishing in such lands, to prescribe the number of animals, fish, and birds that may be taken from such lands and the size thereof, and to prescribe the conditions under which the same may be taken.

§ 27-1-13. Disposition of funds received by department; appropriations; grants and donations for natural resources conservation camps

- (a) All funds resulting from the operation of the department and from the administration of the laws and regulations pertaining to wildlife, excluding fines, but including all license fees and other income (except that income provided for in subsection (b) of this Code section), shall be paid into the general funds of the state treasury; and each year at least such amount shall be appropriated to the department. The board shall be authorized to establish, by rule or regulation, a procedure to refund fees collected in error or overpayment or to which the department or state is otherwise not entitled.
- (b) The department is authorized to accept grants and donations (either monetary or of real or personal property) for the purpose of creating and maintaining natural resources conservation camps in the state. Any donation or grant so received and any income therefrom or any income derived from the operation of any of the camps shall be held and maintained by the department for the exclusive use and the benefit of each of said camps. The board is authorized and directed to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations respecting the operation of said camps.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the department is authorized to retain all miscellaneous funds generated by the operation of its wildlife management areas and refuges, its public fishing areas, and its wildlife, hunter, and boating education programs for use in the operation and maintenance of those areas, refuges, and programs. Any such funds not expended for this purpose in the fiscal year in which they are generated shall be deposited in the state treasury. Nothing in this Code section shall be construed so as to allow the department to retain any funds required by the Constitution of Georgia to be paid into the state treasury. The department shall comply with all provisions of Code Section 45-5-7, Parts 1 and 2 of Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 45, the "Budget Act," except Code Section 45-12-92, prior to expending any such miscellaneous funds.

§ 27-1-14. Disposition of fines and bond forfeitures

The proceeds from all fines and bond forfeitures arising from criminal prosecution for violation of the wildlife laws, rules, and regulations shall, except as otherwise specifically provided in this title, be applied initially to payment of the fees of the officers of the trial court and court costs as prescribed by law. Any money remaining after such disposition shall be remitted promptly by the clerk of the court in which the case is disposed of to the county treasurer of the county in which the fine is assessed, who shall deposit the funds in the general funds of the county.

§ 27-1-16. Establishment of unit of conservation rangers; qualifications, appointment, and supervisory personnel; retention of badge and weapon upon disability retirement

- (a) Within the department is established a unit of peace officers to be known as conservation rangers. All such conservation rangers shall be at least 21 years of age. Such unit of peace officers shall include, but not be limited to, the commissioner and other supervisory personnel; provided, however, that the commissioner and the director of the division to which peace officer functions are assigned shall be excluded from the classified service ~~under the State Personnel Administration as provided for in Chapter 20 of Title 45 as defined by Code Section 45-20-2~~ unless otherwise provided by law. The commissioner shall have the power to appoint such a number of conservation rangers of the state at large, as may be necessary to carry out the duties assigned to them, who shall be charged with the law enforcement responsibilities pertaining to the department.
- (b) After a conservation ranger has accumulated 25 years of service with the department as a peace officer and upon leaving such department under honorable conditions, such conservation ranger shall be entitled as part of his such officer's compensation to retain his or her weapon and badge pursuant to regulations promulgated by the commissioner.
- (c) As used in this subsection, the term "disability" means a disability that prevents an individual from working as a law enforcement officer. When a conservation ranger leaves the department as a result of a disability arising in the line of duty, such conservation ranger shall be entitled as part of such officer's compensation to retain his or her weapon and badge in accordance with regulations promulgated by the commissioner.

§ 27-1-17. Deputy conservation rangers

- (a) The board shall have the power to appoint deputy conservation rangers. No deputy conservation rangers may be appointed without actual duties relating to the protection of natural resources.
- (b) Deputy conservation rangers shall have all or part of the powers and duties of conservation rangers, as assigned by the board. Deputy conservation rangers who are not employees of the department shall receive no compensation for their services. The board is authorized to appoint such number of deputy conservation rangers as may be necessary to carry out the duties assigned to them.
- (c) Each deputy conservation ranger who is not an employee of the department shall personally secure a bond of not less than \$5,000.00 from a bonding or surety company licensed to transact business in the State of Georgia conditioned upon the faithful performance of his duties, payable to the department.
- (d) The board shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations concerning qualifications, appointments, badge, oath of office, and other matters pertaining to deputy conservation rangers.

§ 27-1-18. Powers of conservation rangers generally

- (a) Conservation rangers shall have the power and authority:
 - (1) To enforce all state laws on all property owned or controlled by the department;
 - (2) To enforce all state laws pertaining to functions assigned to the department;

- (3) To enforce any state law when the violation of that law is committed in conjunction with a violation of a state law pertaining to functions assigned to the department;
 - (4) To enforce any state law when ordered to do so by the Governor or to protect any life or property when the circumstances demand action; and
 - (5) At the expense of the department, to assist the Department of Public Safety and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in carrying out their duties and responsibilities when requested to do so by the Department of Public Safety or the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.
- (b) The commissioner may, and in the case of a request by the Governor shall, authorize and direct the department's conservation rangers to cooperate with and render assistance to any law enforcement agency of this state or any municipality, county, or other political subdivision thereof in any criminal case, in the prevention or detection of violations of any law, or in the apprehension or arrest of persons who violate the criminal laws of this state, any other state, or the United States, upon a request by the governing authority or chief law enforcement officer of any municipality, the sheriff of any county, a judge of the superior court of any county, or the Governor.

§ 27-1-19. Power of conservation rangers and deputy conservation rangers to arrest persons; procedure upon failure of person arrested to appear to answer charges

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, conservation rangers and deputy conservation rangers, when authorized to do so by the board, may arrest persons accused of violating any law or regulation which such officers are empowered to enforce by the issuance of a citation, provided that the offense is committed in the presence of the officer or information concerning the offense constituting a basis for arrest was received by the arresting officer from a law enforcement officer observing the offense being committed. The arresting officer may issue to the person a citation which shall enumerate the specific charges against the person and the date upon which the person is to appear and answer the charges. Whenever an arrest is made by the arresting officer on the basis of information received from another law enforcement officer observing the offense being committed, the citation shall list the name of each officer, and each must be present when the charges against the offender are heard.
- (b) If the person charged shall fail to appear as specified in the citation, the judge having jurisdiction of the offense may issue a warrant ordering the apprehension of the person and commanding that he be brought before the court to answer the charge contained within the citation and the charge of his failure to appear as required. The person shall then be allowed to make a reasonable bond to appear on a given date before the court.

§ 27-1-20. Additional powers of conservation rangers; functions of other agencies assigned to department

- (a) In addition to the powers enumerated in Code Sections 27-1-18 and 27-1-19, conservation rangers shall have all the powers previously vested in any other law enforcement officers within the department including, but not limited to, the following:
- (1) To enforce all laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to wildlife and to boating safety and as otherwise provided;
 - (2) To execute all warrants and search warrants for the violation of the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to wildlife or to boating safety;

- (3) To serve subpoenas issued for the examination, investigation, and trial of all offenses against the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to wildlife or to boating safety;
 - (4) To arrest without warrant any person found violating any of the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to wildlife or to hunting, fishing, or boating;
 - (5) To seize and take possession of all wildlife or parts thereof taken, caught, killed, captured, possessed, or controlled or which have been shipped or are about to be shipped at any time and in any manner or for any purpose contrary to the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to wildlife;
 - (6) To go upon property outside of buildings, posted or otherwise, in the performance of their duties;
 - (7) To carry firearms while performing duties pertaining to wildlife;
 - (8) To seize as evidence, without warrant, any device other than a boat, vehicle, or aircraft when they have cause to believe that its possession or use is in violation of any of the provisions of the laws or regulations dealing with wildlife. For the purposes of this Code section, "device" includes any light, hunting apparatus, or fishing or netting gear or tackle;
 - (9) To enter and inspect any commercial cold storage warehouse, ice house, locker plant, butcher shop, or other plant or building for the purpose of determining whether wildlife is being kept or stored therein in violation of the wildlife laws or regulations; and
 - (10) To exercise the full authority of peace officers while in the performance of their duties.
- (b) Unless inconsistent with this title, whenever any statute pertaining to an agency whose functions are assigned to the department refers to law enforcement personnel of that agency, that reference applies to conservation rangers.

§ 27-1-21. Seizure and disposal of wildlife illegally taken or possessed; civil action by possessor; disposal of wildlife unable to be stored; disposition of unmarketable items

- (a) Conservation rangers, sheriffs, and other peace officers of this state or any political subdivision thereof shall seize any wildlife taken or possessed in violation of the wildlife laws and regulations of this state. Such wildlife shall be sold or disposed of in such manner as the commissioner may direct, in conformance with any rules and regulations promulgated by the board, at any time after the expiration of 30 days following the seizure, unless the owner thereof or the person in possession at the time of the seizure files a civil action against the State of Georgia, Department of Natural Resources, within 30 days following the seizure, in the state or superior court having jurisdiction in the county where the seizure was made. The person filing the action shall have the burden of proof, and the action shall be tried as other civil cases in such court. Items for which such an action has been filed shall be held pending the resolution of the action, provided that reasonable charges for storage shall be paid by the person filing the action in the event that such person does not prevail in the action.
- (b) If the wildlife seized is perishable or if by its nature, size, or quantity it cannot be humanely, conveniently, or economically stored, held, or contained, or if the wildlife seized poses a threat to public safety or public health, the commissioner may at any time order that it be disposed of and the proceeds, if any, held in escrow for 30 days following such seizure. If the owner thereof or the person in possession at the time of seizure files an action pursuant

to this Code section, the action will be for the return of the proceeds, if any, and the proceeds will be held in escrow until final disposition of the action. If no such action is filed, the proceeds shall be paid into the state treasury.

- (c) Items for which there is no conveniently ascertainable commercial market may be donated to a charitable institution or otherwise disposed of as the commissioner may direct.

§ 27-1-22. Taking, possessing, and releasing of wildlife generally

For purposes of wildlife management and in accordance with sound principles of wildlife research and management, authorized personnel of the department and persons authorized by contract with the department are authorized to take, transport, possess, purchase, sell, band, and release wildlife at such times, by such methods, and in such quantities as are otherwise made unlawful by this title.

§ 27-1-23. Inspection of business premises and records of commercial license holders

Any commercial license holder shall be deemed, by application for such license, to have agreed to make his business premises and records available for inspection by authorized agents of the department during normal business hours and at any other time when the licensed commercial activity is being conducted on such premises.

§ 27-1-24. Inspection of vessels and boats

The provisions of this title or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this title pertaining to the operation of vessels or boats upon the waters of this state shall be enforceable by, in addition to conservation rangers, agents of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and other persons having responsibility to preserve the peace and enforce the laws of this state. Such persons shall have the authority to order any vessel or boat within the boundaries of this state to stop and lay to and shall have the authority to board, inspect, and examine the vessel or boat, its equipment, the wildlife on board, if any, and such documents, licenses, or other records which the vessel or boat is required to possess under this title and Code Sections 52-7-1 through 52-7-25 for the purpose of determining compliance with the provisions of such laws.

§ 27-1-25. Interference with arrest or performance of ranger's duties

It shall be unlawful for any person to resist or interfere by force, menace, threat, or in any other manner with any arrest for violation of any wildlife law. It shall also be unlawful for any person to refuse to go with a conservation ranger or deputy conservation ranger after such an arrest has been made or to interfere with such ranger in the performance of his duty.

§ 27-1-25.1. Failure or refusal to bring motor vehicle or boat to a stop when ordered to do so

It shall be unlawful for any person operating any motor vehicle or power boat to fail or refuse to bring such vehicle or boat to a stop, or otherwise to flee or attempt to elude a pursuing peace officer who is in uniform, who prominently displays his badge of office, and who is authorized to enforce this title, when given a visible or audible signal to bring such vehicle or boat to a stop. An officer may give such visible or audible signal by use of his hand or voice or by use of an emergency light or siren.

§ 27-1-27. Damaging or destroying department property

It shall be unlawful for any person to take, damage, or destroy any wildlife, equipment, gate, building, or other property belonging to or under the custody and control of the department or any of its employees or agents.

§ 27-1-28. Taking of nongame species

- (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, rule, or regulation, it shall be unlawful to hunt, trap, fish, take, possess, or transport any nongame species of wildlife, except that the following species may be taken by any method except those specifically prohibited by law or regulation:
- (1) Rats;
 - (2) Mice;
 - (3) Coyotes;
 - (4) Armadillos;
 - (5) Groundhogs;
 - (6) Beaver;
 - (7) Fresh-water turtles;
 - (8) Poisonous snakes;
 - (9) Frogs;
 - (10) Spring lizards;
 - (11) Fiddler crabs;
 - (12) Fresh-water crayfish;
 - (13) Fresh-water mussels; and
 - (14) Nutria.
- (b) The nongame species enumerated in subsection (a) of this Code section may be taken by any method except those specifically prohibited by law or regulation.
- (c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to authorize the taking of any species which is protected under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, P.L. 93-205, as amended, or under any state law which has as its purpose the protection of endangered or threatened species.

§ 27-1-29. Sale or purchase of game

Except as otherwise specifically provided, it shall be unlawful for any person in this state to sell or to purchase any game species or parts thereof, provided that authorized personnel of the department and of any federal agency may buy or sell such game species or parts thereof for the sole purpose of obtaining evidence of violations of the wildlife laws and regulations.

§ 27-1-30. Disturbing or destroying wildlife habitats

Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation, it shall be unlawful to disturb, mutilate, or destroy the dens, holes, or homes of any wildlife; to blind wildlife with lights; or to use explosives, chemicals, electrical or mechanical devices, or smokers of any kind in order to drive

such wildlife out of such habitats, ~~provided that this Code section shall not apply to poisonous snakes.~~

§ 27-1-31. Unlawful possession or use of wildlife; unlawful concealment

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to make use of or possess any wildlife or parts thereof which he knows or reasonably should have known have been taken or possessed contrary to any of the wildlife laws, rules, and regulations.
- (b) It shall also be unlawful for any person to conceal the taking or possessing of wildlife by himself or any other person, whether by accident or otherwise, if the person concealing the taking or possessing knows or reasonably should have known that the wildlife has been taken or possessed illegally.

§ 27-1-32. Hiring of another to take wildlife contrary to law

It shall be unlawful for any person to hire another to take or possess wildlife in violation of the wildlife laws, rules, and regulations.

§ 27-1-33. Noncompliance with laws while on fishing area, fish hatchery, natural area, or wildlife management area; hunting without wildlife management area license; acts constituting criminal trespass

- (a) It shall be unlawful to enter upon or to hunt, trap, or fish on any public fishing area, fish hatchery, or natural area, or wildlife management area owned or operated by the department except in compliance with all applicable laws and all rules and regulations promulgated by the board including, but not limited to, any law, rule, or regulation relating to seasons or bag limits or requiring a special permit. Further, it shall be unlawful for any person except those specifically excluded by law to hunt on a wildlife management area without a valid wildlife management area license as authorized by Code Section 27-2-23.
- (b) Any person who enters upon or who hunts, traps, or fishes on any public hunting or fishing area, fish hatchery, or natural area or any game management area owned or operated, ~~or owned and operated,~~ by the department in violation of this Code section commits the offense of criminal trespass.

§ 27-1-34. Defenses not available in prosecutions for violations

In any prosecution for the violation of any of the provisions of the wildlife laws, it shall not be a defense that the person taking, possessing, selling, transporting, or storing wildlife was mistaken as to the species, sex, age, size, or any other fact regarding such wildlife or that the person lacked criminal intent, it being one of the purposes of the wildlife laws to penalize recklessness resulting in the violation of the wildlife laws.

§ 27-1-35. Jurisdiction of probate courts; summons

- (a) The jurisdiction of the probate courts of the several counties of this state is enlarged and extended so that probate courts, acting by and through the judge or presiding officer, shall have the right and power to receive pleas of guilty and impose sentence upon defendants violating the provisions of this title.
- (b) When a person is arrested for any violation of the wildlife laws, the arresting officer may, at his discretion, choose to issue to the offender a summons to appear before a court of jurisdiction. Every such summons shall show:

- (1) That it is issued by authority of the department;
 - (2) The name of the person summoned or, if the person to be summoned refuses to give his name or the officer serving the summons believes the name given is false or if the officer is for other cause unable to ascertain the correct name of the person to be summoned, a fictitious name plainly identified as such;
 - (3) The offense with which the person being summoned is charged and the date and location of the alleged offense;
 - (4) The location of the court and the day and hour at which he is summoned to appear;
 - (5) That failure to so appear is a violation of Georgia laws and subject to prosecution;
 - (6) The date the summons is served; and
 - (7) The name and official designation of the officer serving it.
- (c) Every person so summoned shall appear at the place and on the date ordered except in cases where a bond has been posted in lieu of the summons or where the court has granted a continuance.
- (d) The officer serving a summons pursuant to this Code section shall, on or before the return date of the summons, deliver a copy thereof to the court before which it is returnable, or to the clerk of such court, and shall file any information and such affidavits as may be required with respect to the alleged offense.
- (e) Personal delivery of a summons to the persons charged shall constitute due and proper service of the summons; provided, however, that if the violation is for a vehicle parking violation involving an unattended vehicle, service may be made by placing the summons on the driver's side of the windshield of the vehicle.

§ 27-1-36. Civil enforcement by department; disposition of penalties

- (a) As an alternative to criminal enforcement pursuant to Code Section 27-1-38, the department, in order to enforce this title or any rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, may employ any one or any combination of the following methods:
- (1) Any person who violates any provisions of this title or any regulations or orders promulgated and administered thereunder shall be liable civilly for a penalty in an amount of up to \$1,000.00 for each and every violation thereof, the penalty to be recoverable by a civil action brought in the name of the commissioner by the district attorney of the county in which the alleged violator resides. The commissioner on his motion may or upon complaint of any interested party charging a violation shall refer the matter directly to the district attorney of the county in which the alleged violator resides. The proceeds from all civil penalties arising from enforcement of the wildlife laws, regulations, and orders pursuant to this Code section shall be used in the manner prescribed in Code Section 27-1-14;
 - (2) Whenever the commissioner determines that any person has violated any provision of this title or any regulations or orders promulgated under this title, the commissioner may issue an administrative order imposing a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000.00 for the violation. Any person who is aggrieved or adversely affected by any such order shall, upon petition within 30 days after the issuance of such order, have a right to a hearing before an administrative law judge appointed by the Board of Natural Resources. The hearing before the administrative law judge shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act," and the rules and

regulations adopted by the board pursuant thereto. The decision of the administrative law judge shall constitute the final decision of the board and any party to the hearing, including the commissioner, shall have the right of judicial review thereof in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50; or

- (3) All civil penalties recovered by the department as provided in this Code section shall be paid into the state treasury. The commissioner may file in the superior court in the county in which the person under order resides or, if the person is a corporation, in the county in which the corporation maintains its principal place of business, or in the county in which the violation occurred, a certified copy of a final order of the commissioner or the administrative law judge unappealed from or of a final order of the administrative law judge affirmed upon appeal, whereupon the court shall render judgment in accordance therewith and notify the parties. The judgment shall have the same effect, and all proceedings in relation thereto shall thereafter be the same, as though the judgment had been rendered in an action duly heard and determined by the court.
- (b) The civil penalty prescribed in this Code section shall be concurrent with, alternative to, and cumulative of any and all other civil, criminal, or alternative rights, remedies, forfeitures, or penalties provided, allowed, or available to the commissioner with respect to any violation of this title and any regulations or orders promulgated pursuant thereto; provided, however, that in no instance shall the department be authorized to proceed against any person under both Code Section 27-1-38 and this Code section for any single violation of the wildlife laws, rules, and regulations.

§ 27-1-37. Administrative orders; emergency administrative orders; administrative review

- (a) Whenever the department has reason to believe that a violation of any provision of this title, any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, or a condition of any permit issued thereunder has occurred or is occurring, the department may, in its discretion, issue an administrative order requiring the violator to take whatever corrective action the department deems necessary in order to obtain compliance within a period of time set forth in such order. Such order may also authorize the seizure of any wildlife or wild animal which the department determines is being or has been taken, imported, sold, transferred, or possessed in violation of this title, any regulation promulgated pursuant thereto, or a condition of any permit or license issued thereunder. Any such order issued by the department shall become final unless the person named therein files with the department a written request for a hearing within 30 days after the order is served personally or by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery on such person.
- (b) In addition to taking the actions authorized in subsection (a) of this Code section, the department may issue an emergency administrative order for the purpose of authorizing any appropriate enforcement action including, but not limited to, the seizure of wildlife or wild animals; provided, however, that such emergency order must be supported by and have attached thereto an affidavit stating that the affiant has personal knowledge that immediate irreparable injury is likely to occur to wildlife or other natural resources, to wild animals, or to human beings. Any such emergency order issued by the department shall be effective immediately upon the issuance of the order. The person named in the order shall, upon written request within 30 days of the issuance of the order, be entitled to a hearing, the hearing to be held within ten days of receipt of the request.

- (c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require the issuance of an administrative order or emergency administrative order to seize contraband or wildlife in accordance with this title.
- (d) The hearing reviewing an administrative order or an emergency administrative order shall be conducted by an administrative law judge appointed by the Board of Natural Resources. The hearing before the administrative law judge shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act," and the rules and regulations adopted by the board pursuant thereto. The decision of the administrative law judge shall constitute the final decision of the board and any party to the hearing, including the department, shall have the right of judicial review thereof in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50.

§ 27-1-38. Penalty for violations of title

Unless otherwise specifically provided, any person who violates any of the provisions of this title shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; provided, however, that unless otherwise specifically provided, any person who violates any of the provisions of this title or any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant thereto relating to the possession or use of fishing gear on trawlers shall be a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and shall be fined \$1,000.00 for the first offense, \$3,000.00 for the second offense, and \$5,000.00 for the third and each subsequent offense.

§ 27-1-39. Rules and regulations used to establish criminal violations

Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for purposes of establishing criminal violations of the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources as provided in this title, the term "rules and regulations" means those rules and regulations of the Board of Natural Resources in force and effect on January 1, 2016.

Licenses, Permits, and Stamps (O.C.G.A. 27-2-1, et. seq.)

§ 27-2-1. Hunting, trapping, or fishing without license or permit generally; nonresidents

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt, fish, trap, or possess any wildlife or feral hog without first procuring all of the licenses, stamps, or permits required or authorized under this title.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any resident of this state who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt, fish in the waters of this state, or trap without a valid hunting license, fishing license, or trapping license, respectively, as provided in Code Section 27-2-23, except on premises owned by him or her or his or her immediate family; provided, however, that the resident owner of any vessel with a valid registration in accordance with Code Section 52-7-5 shall have, as part of the registration fee for such vessel, a paid three-day resident hunting and fishing license that begins on such owner's date of birth and extends two consecutive days thereafter in accordance with the requirements of this title and as otherwise specified by the department. It shall be unlawful for any resident of this state to hunt, fish, or trap in this state without carrying such license upon his or her person, except on premises owned by him or her or his or her immediate family and except when otherwise specifically directed by authorized personnel of the department.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person not a resident of Georgia who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt, fish in the waters of this state, or trap in this state without a valid nonresident hunting, fishing, or trapping license, respectively, as provided in Code Section 27-2-23, except as otherwise specifically provided by law and interstate agreements. It shall be unlawful for any nonresident to hunt, fish in the waters of this state, or trap without carrying such license on his or her person, unless otherwise specifically directed by authorized personnel of the department.
- (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this Code section, no license shall be required to fish with permission of the owner from noncommercial premises not open to the public, including docks and foreshores of such premises, or at a facility or on a charter boat licensed pursuant to the provisions of Code Section 27-2-23.2.

§ 27-2-2. Issuance and sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses; identification required of purchasers; withdrawal of agents' authority to sell licenses

- (a) Hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses shall be issued and sold by the department on forms containing such information as may be prescribed by the department. As used in this Code section, the term "license" shall include all permits, licenses, or stamps issued by the department under Code Section 27-2-23. Licenses for hunting and fishing may be sold in each county by persons approved by the department to be license agents.
- (b) Each license agent may be required to:
 - (1) Remit to the department a premium which shall entitle him or her to coverage under a blanket performance bond provided by the department. The premium, which may include the reasonable cost of administering a self-insurance program, shall be in an amount determined by the commissioner, and shall be due and payable annually upon billing by the department;

- (2) Account for all license sales and the monetary receipts from such sales in reports to the department, which reports shall be on a schedule and in a form specified by the written agreement between the license agent and the department. Failure to remit license sales receipts as specified in the agreement may result in suspension of the license agent's ability to sell licenses; and
 - (3) Receive for himself or herself no more than 60 cent(s) for each license issued, except for nonresident hunting licenses and resident sportsman licenses, for which the license agent may receive \$1.25 for each license issued, and except for licenses sold by telephone by an approved telephone license agent or over the Internet by an approved Internet license agent, for which the agent may charge and receive up to \$5.00 per transaction in addition to the actual cost of the license or licenses sold during the transaction; provided, however, that neither the telephone license agent nor the Internet license agent shall receive any additional fee per license sold during a telephone or Internet transaction; provided, further, that the sale of one or more licenses to one applicant during one telephone call or one Internet session shall constitute a single transaction.
- (b.1) Any person who applies to be a license agent after June 30, 1998, shall be assessed a fee not to exceed the fair market cost of automated licensing equipment the department shall install in such agent's place of business. Such fees shall be due and payable upon installation of the automated equipment.
- (c) The commissioner may either purchase a blanket performance bond for the department's license agents from or through the Department of Administrative Services or any other source or establish a self-insurance bond by retaining all moneys paid to the department for the premium established pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section, all moneys received as interest, and nonappropriated funds received from other sources to establish and maintain a reserve fund for the purpose of making payments to the department upon the defalcations of license agents and defraying the expenses necessary to administer the program; provided, however, that no revenue collected from taxes, fees, and assessments for state purposes shall be deposited in such fund. The commissioner shall invest any such moneys in the same manner as other moneys in his or her possession. The commissioner is authorized, in his or her discretion, to contract for any or all of the services necessary to carry out the functions enumerated in this Code section.
- (d) Prior to selling any license, except for a license sold over the telephone by an approved telephone license agent or over the Internet by an approved Internet license agent, each license agent shall require each person desiring to purchase a license to display a driver's license or equally reliable identification of the individual and the current residence and age of such individual. In the event the department determines that a license agent has intentionally or negligently sold a resident license to a person who is a nonresident or who is underage, the department may immediately withdraw the authority of such license agent to issue and sell licenses on behalf of the department, provided that the department shall not withdraw the license agent's authority until the license agent has been given ten days' written notice of intention to withdraw authority setting forth the reason or reasons for the withdrawal and giving the license agent a hearing in the county of said agent's residence on the reasons for withdrawal.

§ 27-2-4.4. Special turkey hunting season for young and mobility impaired hunters

- (a) As used in this Code section, the term "mobility impaired person" means any person who has been verified by a doctor of medicine currently licensed to practice by the Georgia

Composite Medical Board, the State Board of Examiners in Osteopathy, or an equivalent body of another state to have any one of the following permanent conditions:

- (1) Dependence upon a wheelchair or similar device for ambulation;
 - (2) Hemiplegia;
 - (3) Monoplegia;
 - (4) Paraplegia; or
 - (5) Single-leg amputation above the knee.
- (b) The board shall promulgate rules and regulations authorizing the hunting of turkeys during an extended open season to:
- (1) Any person who is 16 years of age or younger; or
 - (2) Any mobility impaired person.
- (c) Notwithstanding any provisions of Code Section 27-3-15 to the contrary, such extended season shall be for the weekend prior to the first weekend of the open turkey season, as established by the board.
- (d) Such special authorization shall be subject to all other provisions of this title.

§ 27-2-6. Trout license, official Georgia waterfowl license, big game license, and alligator hunting license

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to fish for or possess mountain trout or to fish in any waters designated as trout waters or trout streams pursuant to Code Section 27-4-51 unless such person has in his or her possession a trout license in addition to his or her fishing license.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt or possess big game unless such person has in his or her possession a big game license in addition to the required hunting license; provided, however, that all nonresidents, regardless of age, must possess a nonresident hunting/fishing license along with any harvest records required by law or regulation to hunt big game in this state.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt ducks, geese, or swans unless such person has in his or her possession an official Georgia waterfowl license in addition to the required hunting license.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt alligators unless such person has in his or her possession an alligator hunting license in addition to the required hunting license; provided, however, that this subsection shall not apply to lifetime license holders.
- (e) No resident of this state shall be required to obtain a trout license, official Georgia waterfowl license, or big game license to hunt, fish, or trap on premises owned by him or her or his or her immediate family.
- (f) Any visitor to a state park, whether a resident or nonresident of Georgia, shall not be required to purchase a trout license when fishing in impounded waters on lands owned or leased by the department.

§ 27-2-8. Commercial fishing boat licenses

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in commercial fishing with a boat or vessel in the salt waters of this state without first obtaining a valid commercial fishing boat license for the boat or vessel. The owner or operator of the boat or vessel shall present in writing an application for the license, setting forth such data and information as the department shall require. The application shall be made upon a form prescribed by the department and shall be under oath and duly witnessed by an officer authorized by law to administer oaths.
- (b) Fees for licenses required under this Code section shall be as follows:

 - (1) A trawler (which shall be any boat or vessel which utilizes one or more trawls or power-drawn nets in the taking of shrimp, crabs, or fish), up to and including 18 feet in overall length, \$50.00;
 - (2) A trawler more than 18 feet in overall length, \$50.00 plus \$3.00 per foot or fraction thereof of overall length in excess of 18 feet;
 - (3) All boats other than trawlers, up to and including 18 feet in overall length, \$5.00;
 - (4) All boats, other than trawlers, over 18 feet in overall length, \$5.00 plus 50 cent(s) per foot or fraction thereof in excess of 18 feet.
- (c) To defray the additional cost of regulating and policing, aliens and nonresidents shall be charged a license fee in addition to that provided by subsection (b) of this Code section in the amount of \$25.00 for each boat or vessel used in commercial fishing or in the taking of seafood, which boat or vessel is owned, in whole or part, by such nonresident or alien, provided that, in the event such nonresident or alien applying for the license is a resident of another state which charges nonresidents a license fee greater than the total license fee charged for nonresidents in this state, then the additional license fee provided for nonresidents in this subsection shall be increased to the amount necessary to cause the Georgia nonresident license fee to be the same amount as the nonresident license fee of such other state.

§ 27-2-10. Commercial alligator farming licenses

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in alligator farming unless such person has a valid commercial alligator farming license as provided in Code Section 27-2-23. Any person desiring to establish, maintain, and operate a commercial alligator farm shall apply to the department for such a license.
- (b) It shall be lawful for any person with a valid commercial alligator farming license to possess and propagate live alligators and to process and sell or export the hides of the alligators harvested on such alligator farm, provided that it shall be unlawful for any person, including a person with a commercial alligator farming license, to acquire any live alligator, except by propagation of live alligators lawfully in his possession, without first obtaining a permit from the department to acquire the live alligator. It shall also be unlawful for any person, including a person with a valid commercial alligator farming license, to sell, barter, exchange, give, or loan any live alligator to any other person without first obtaining a permit from the department to so sell, barter, exchange, give, or loan the live alligator.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person with a valid commercial alligator farming license to acquire or possess any alligator hide or carcass except from the harvest of live alligators lawfully in his possession and on his alligator farm.

- (d) At such time as is deemed necessary by the department to discharge its responsibilities under this Code section, every person with a valid commercial alligator farming license shall file reports with the department in such form and containing such information as deemed necessary by the department. In addition, every such licensee shall maintain on his business premises records in such form and containing such information as is required by the department to discharge its responsibilities under this Code section.
- (e) The board shall have the authority to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations relative to commercial alligator farming including, but not limited to, the power:
 - (1) To establish standards relating to enclosures, housing facilities, handling, care, and treatment of live alligators on the alligator farm of the licensee;
 - (2) To establish standards relating to the processing, marking, sale, and exportation of hides of alligators harvested on the alligator farm of the licensee;
 - (3) To require, at such times as it deems necessary for the department to discharge its responsibilities under this Code section, from each licensee an application for a commercial alligator farming license in such form and containing such information as the department deems necessary; and
 - (4) To require each licensee to maintain on his business premises records in such form and containing such information as is required by the department to discharge its responsibilities under this Code section.

§ 27-2-11. Game-holding permits

It shall be unlawful for any person to hold or possess any game animal or game bird for the purpose of propagation or to hold such animal or bird as a pet without first obtaining a valid game-holding permit as provided in Code Section 27-2-23. The department may grant such a permit when, in its discretion, it determines that the issuance of the permit is in the best interest of the game animal or game bird and in the best interest of the wildlife and the citizens of this state. If such a permit is issued, the department shall prescribe the term for each permit and may impose conditions as it determines necessary. Any game animal or game bird held under such permit may not be sold by the holder but must be retained, consumed, or disposed of without charge, in accordance with this title, provided that holders of valid commercial shooting preserve licenses may charge a fee to users of such preserves who take or attempt to take such species. Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to authorize the holding or possession of the progeny of any game bird or game animal under the permit under which a parent is held or possessed, unless specifically so stated on the game-holding permit.

§ 27-2-12. Scientific collecting permits

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, possess, or transport any of the wildlife of this state, or the plumage, skin, or body thereof, or the nests or eggs of the same for scientific purposes without obtaining a scientific collecting permit and complying with this Code section.
- (b) Application for a scientific collecting permit must be made on forms obtained from the department and must be accompanied by the permit fee as provided in Code Section 27-2-23 and a project proposal containing the justification for and an outline of the proposed collecting activities.

- (c) The department shall issue such a permit only if it has determined that the proposed collecting activities are in the best interest of the wildlife resources. In making such a determination, the department shall consider the following:
 - (1) Whether there is a need for the information or data;
 - (2) Whether the proposed collecting activities would duplicate sound research previously accomplished;
 - (3) Whether there would be benefit to the species or population being studied;
 - (4) Whether the project would be detrimental to the particular wildlife population or associated populations or to the habitat of the wildlife; and
 - (5) Whether the project is of reasonably sound design.
- (d) Based on the conditions outlined in subsection (c) of this Code section, such permit may contain conditions on the number and type of wildlife to be collected, the dates and locations of collecting, and the type of gear which may be used. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title to the contrary, the department may authorize the use of baskets, nets, seines, traps, chemicals, and electrical devices for purposes of collecting pursuant to this Code section.
- (e) Persons issued a scientific collecting permit shall treat all wildlife humanely and shall notify the department at least three days in advance of the date of collecting. Such persons shall also submit to the department reports detailing the information or data obtained from such collecting activities. The reports shall be submitted by the following March 31 or within 60 days after collecting, whichever is later.
- (f) Permits may be denied, revoked, or not renewed in accordance with the procedures outlined in Code Section 27-2-25 for the reasons outlined in said Code section or for any of the following reasons:
 - (1) Violation of specific conditions listed on the permit;
 - (2) Excessive collection of wildlife;
 - (3) Submitting false information;
 - (4) Failure to maintain records;
 - (5) Failure to notify the department within three days of collecting activities;
 - (6) Inhumane treatment of wildlife; or
 - (7) Any other violation of this Code section or the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

§ 27-2-13. Wildlife exhibition permits

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, hold, or possess any wildlife in captivity for the purpose of display or exhibition to the public without first procuring a valid wildlife exhibition permit as provided in Code Section 27-2-23. No such permit shall be issued by the department except where the exhibition or display is solely for educational purposes. The department may impose conditions on such permit requiring adequate sanitation facilities, housing, and feed for the animals and insuring the safety of the public in accordance with regulations promulgated by the board. Exhibitions of wildlife by educational institutions; state, city, county, or municipal zoos; or transient circuses shall not be required to procure a wildlife exhibition permit, provided that such exhibitors

must comply with all regulations of the board relating to sanitation, housing, feed, and public safety. Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require a permit to exhibit or display fish.

- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person holding any wildlife in captivity pursuant to a wildlife exhibition permit to release the wildlife from captivity or to house or maintain the wildlife in such a manner as to pose a reasonable possibility that the wildlife may be released accidentally or escape from captivity.

§ 27-2-13.1. Film production wildlife permits; release

(a)

- (1) For purposes of this subsection, the term "film production" means the creation of film, video, or digital projects in this state, including, but not limited to, the creation of feature films, documentaries, series, pilots, movies for television, advertisements, music videos, and interactive entertainment.
 - (2) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, hold, or possess any wildlife in captivity for film production purposes or to otherwise provide wildlife for use in film production without first procuring a film production wildlife permit as provided in Code Section 27-2-23. No wildlife may be possessed by the applicant prior to a film production wildlife permit being granted by the department, unless such wildlife was legally possessed by the applicant prior to the grant of the permit. The department may impose conditions on such permit requiring adequate sanitation facilities, housing, and feed for the animals and insuring the safety of the public in accordance with regulations promulgated by the board.
 - (3) A permit issued pursuant to this subsection shall authorize the permit holder to transport, possess, or transfer wildlife for any permitted purpose related to film production; provided, however, that possession of a permit shall not exempt the holder from any other local, state, or federal requirements.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person holding any wildlife in captivity pursuant to a permit issued in accordance with this Code section to release the wildlife from captivity or to house or maintain the wildlife in such a manner as to pose a reasonable possibility that the wildlife may be released accidentally or escape from captivity.

§ 27-2-15. Wildlife storage permits

It shall be unlawful for any person operating a grocery store, hotel, market, cold storage house, restaurant, or other commercial facility to receive for storage or to store any wildlife or parts thereof without first obtaining a wildlife storage permit from the department and without requiring the person delivering the wildlife for storage to exhibit a valid license authorizing the person to take or possess the wildlife, provided that nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require a permit to store fish.

§ 27-2-17. Falconry permits; duties, permitted acts, and prohibitions pertaining to permit holders

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to trap, take, transport, or possess raptors for falconry purposes unless such person possesses, in addition to any licenses and permits otherwise required by this title, a valid falconry permit as provided in Code Section 27-2-23.

- (b) It shall be unlawful for any nonresident to trap, take, or attempt to trap or take a raptor from the wild in this state or to transport or possess any raptor in this state unless such nonresident possesses:
 - (1) A valid falconry license or permit issued by his or her state, tribe, or territory, provided that such state, tribe, or territory has been certified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as compliant with applicable federal falconry law; and
 - (2) All licenses and permits otherwise required by this title.
- (c) Application for a falconry permit shall be made on forms obtained from the department.
- (d) No falconry permit shall be issued until the applicant's raptor housing facilities and equipment have been inspected and certified by the department.
- (e) The department shall have the right, during reasonable times, to enter upon the premises of persons subject to this Code section to inspect and certify compliance with federal and state standards.
- (f) It shall be lawful for a falconer who is in full compliance with this Code section to take small game with raptors, so long as such falconer observes all other laws regulating the taking of small game.
- (g) The board shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this Code section and to ensure compliance with federal law. If the commissioner certifies that any rule is necessary for compliance with federal law, the board may adopt such rule without complying with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act."

§ 27-2-18. Permits to kill deer causing damage to crops

The department shall be authorized to issue to a person who cultivates crops, who is immediately responsible for their cultivation, or who is the principal owner of the crops a permit to kill deer which have caused or are reasonably certain to cause damage to crops which were planted for the purpose of harvesting and marketing such crops or their by-products. The person shall apply to the department for such a permit on a form containing such information as may be necessary for the proper evaluation and consideration of the application. Permits shall be issued only in cases where the department has determined that the killing of deer is justified.

Representatives of the department are authorized to investigate claims of damage and the necessity of killing deer prior to the issuance of such a permit. Permits issued by the department shall include restrictions and conditions relative to the property on which deer may be killed, persons authorized to kill deer on the property, crops which may be protected, number and sex of deer which may be killed, expiration of permit, and such other restrictions and conditions as may be necessary. It shall be unlawful for any person to kill any deer under the authority of any such permit except in accordance with the restrictions and conditions of the permit.

§ 27-2-19. Wildlife importation permits

It shall be unlawful to import any wildlife other than fish, pen raised duck, pen raised turkey, and pen raised quail without obtaining, at no cost, a wildlife importation permit from the department. The department shall only issue such a permit when it has determined that the issuance of the permit is in the best interest of the wildlife of this state. If such a permit is issued, the department shall prescribe the term for each such permit and may impose any conditions it determines necessary to ensure adequate public safety and the best interests of the wildlife of this state.

§ 27-2-20. Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp; participation in federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person 16 years of age or older to hunt brant, ducks, geese, and swans in this state without a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person required to obtain a hunting license as provided in Code Section 27-2-1 to hunt any migratory game bird, including brant, ducks, geese, swans, doves, rails, woodcock, snipe, gallinules, and coots, without participating in the federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. Participation in such program shall require the completion of a screening questionnaire prior to obtaining a free Georgia migratory bird license and the possession of the license or other evidence of participation while hunting migratory birds.

§ 27-2-22. Wildlife rehabilitation permits

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, hold, or possess in captivity any sick or injured wildlife, except fish, without first obtaining, at no charge, a wildlife rehabilitation permit from the department; provided, however, that such permit shall only be issued to persons determined by the department, based on criteria established by regulation of the board, to be competent and capable of rehabilitating the wildlife for which a permit has been requested; provided, further, that the department shall only issue such a permit when it has determined that the issuance of the permit is in the best interest of the wildlife of this state. If such a permit is issued, the department shall prescribe the term for each such permit and may impose any conditions it determines necessary to ensure adequate public safety and to be in the best interests of the wildlife of this state.

§ 27-2-22.1. Fox trapping and selling

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to trap and sell live fox without first procuring a commercial trapping license provided for in Code Section 27-2-23. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title to the contrary, live fox may be taken from the wild only during trapping season and may be sold only to licensed commercial fox hunting preserves or licensed commercial fox breeders. Foxes may be held during open trapping season for up to five days until sold but must be sold or dispatched within five days after the close of trapping season. Any person in possession of a live fox must comply with the provisions of Code Section 27-5-6.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to purchase a live fox unless the person selling such game animal has a valid commercial trapping license and unless the person purchasing such animal has a valid license provided for in this Code section.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to own or operate an area utilized for the purpose of running, taking, or hunting penned fox for a fee or other manner of compensation to such owner or operator unless such person has a valid commercial fox hunting preserve license provided for in this subsection and in Code Section 27-2-23. For purposes of this Code section, the term "penned fox" means a fox that has been trapped, purchased, or raised in captivity. The license required by this subsection shall be effective from April 1 through March 31 of the following year. An application for a commercial fox hunting preserve license shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the department. No license shall be issued pursuant to this subsection unless the following conditions are met and each permit shall be conditioned upon the following:

- (1) Fox may be held in holding pens not less than four acres in size or in smaller facilities for the treatment of fox which are injured, diseased, or very young;
 - (2) There shall be no restriction on the number of dogs which may be used concurrently in areas of at least 100 acres in size which are enclosed and used for the purpose of running, taking, or hunting penned fox. For enclosed areas of less than 100 acres only one dog may be used for each five acres of area to be utilized for running, taking, or hunting penned fox;
 - (3) The density of fox in a running pen may not exceed one animal per ten acres;
 - (4) The boundary lines of areas to be utilized for the purpose of running, taking, or hunting penned fox must be posted against trespassing and must be marked by signs indicating such boundary lines, and letters not less than two inches in height shall be used to indicate such boundary lines and that the area is posted against trespassing;
 - (5) All facilities to be utilized by the fox hunting preserve shall be maintained in a sanitary condition with adequate food, water, and shelter available at all times for such animals. Fox shall also be vaccinated against canine disease prior to release into an area used for running, taking, or hunting; and
 - (6) Records of fox located within the fox hunting preserve and of any known losses of fox shall be maintained and kept current by the owner or operator of such facility. Records shall also be maintained of all fox purchased, including the number of fox purchased, the date of purchase, and the name and address of the seller, for the purpose of inspection by the department.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of propagating or breeding fox for sale, restocking, propagation, or other commercial purposes unless that person has obtained a commercial fox breeder license provided for in this subsection and in Code Section 27-2-23. Such license shall be effective from April 1 through March 31 of the following year. An application for a commercial fox breeder license shall be submitted on a form as prescribed by the department. No license shall be issued pursuant to this subsection unless the following conditions are met and each permit shall be conditioned upon the following:
- (1) All facilities associated with the business of propagating or breeding fox shall be maintained in a sanitary condition with adequate food, water, and shelter available at all times for such animals;
 - (2) Records shall be kept of fox purchased by the commercial fox breeder, including the number of animals, the date of purchase, and the name and address of the seller, for the purpose of inspection by the department; and
 - (3) Persons engaged in the business of propagating or breeding fox shall be knowledgeable and competent in such business.
- (e) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt, take, or possess fox at a commercial fox hunting preserve without first procuring the licenses required under this title; provided, however, nonresidents of this state may procure a nonresident hunting preserve license which shall meet the requirements of this subsection and this title.
- (f) It shall be unlawful to receive or possess any fox shipped, transported, or removed from outside of this state unless the jurisdiction from which such fox was transported is pursuant to a permit from the department.

§ 27-2-23. License, permit, tag, and stamp fees

Fees for licenses, permits, tags, and stamps required by this title shall be as follows:

(1) Hunting licenses:

(A) Resident hunting license	Annual	10.00
(B) Resident hunting license	Two-year	18.00
(C) Resident big game license	Annual	9.00
(D) Nonresident big game license	Annual	195.00
(E) Nonresident big game license	Three-day	90.00
(F) Resident big game license	Two-year	16.00
(G) Shooting preserve hunting license valid for residents and nonresidents	Two-year	12.00
(H) Commercial fox hunting preserve license	Season	60.00
(I) Commercial fox breeder license	Season	60.00
(J) Waterfowl license valid for residents and nonresidents	Annual	5.50
(K) Waterfowl license valid for residents and nonresidents	Two-year	11.00
(L) Georgia migratory bird license	Annual	Free

(2) Hunting and fishing licenses:

(A) Resident hunting/fishing license	Annual	17.00
(B) Resident hunting/fishing license	Two-year	31.00
(C) Nonresident hunting/fishing license	Three-day	20.00
(D) Resident hunting/fishing license	Three-day	3.50
(E) Nonresident hunting/fishing license	Annual	100.00

(3) Sportsman's licenses:

(A) Resident sportsman's license	Annual	55.00
(B) Resident sportsman's license	Two-year	105.00

(4) Recreational fishing licenses:

(A) Resident fishing license	Annual	9.00
(B) Resident fishing license	Two-year	16.00
(C) Nonresident fishing license	Annual	45.00
(D) Resident trout license	Annual	5.00
(E) Resident trout license	Two-year	10.00
(F) Resident trout license	Three-day	3.50
(G) Nonresident trout license	Annual	20.00
(H) Nonresident trout license	Three-day	10.00
(I) Salt-water shore fishing license	One-day	5.00

(5) Trapping licenses:

(A) Resident commercial trapping license	Annual	30.00
(B) Nonresident commercial trapping license	Annual	295.00

(6) Commercial fishing licenses:

(A) Resident commercial fishing license	Season	12.00
(B) Nonresident commercial fishing license	Season	118.00
(C) Resident commercial crabbing license	Season	12.00
(D) Nonresident commercial crabbing license	Season	118.00

(7) Fur, hide, and pelt licenses:

(A) Resident fur dealer license	Annual	295.00
(B) Nonresident fur dealer license	Annual	415.00
(C) Fur dealer's agent license	Annual	180.00

(8) Miscellaneous licenses and permits:

(A) Retail fish dealer license	Annual	10.00
(B) Wholesale fish dealer license	Annual	59.00
(C) Resident game-holding permit	Annual	5.00
(D) Commercial quail breeder permit	Annual	30.00
(E) Scientific collecting permit	Annual	50.00
(F) Wildlife exhibition permit	Annual	59.00
(G) Commercial shooting preserve license	Annual	150.00
(H) Private shooting preserve license	Annual	50.00
(I) Reserved		
(J) Commercial fish hatchery license	Annual	59.00
(K) Catch-out pond license	Annual	236.00
(L) Soft-shell crab dealer license	Annual	10.00
(M) Resident taxidermist license	Three-year	150.00
(N) Nonresident taxidermist license	Three-year	500.00
(O) Falconry permit	Three-year	30.00
(P) Commercial alligator farming license	Annual	50.00
(Q) Resident alligator hunting license	Annual	50.00
(R) Nonresident alligator hunting license	Annual	200.00
(S) Wild animal license	Annual	236.00
(T) Wild animal auction license	Seven-day	5,000.00
(U) Resident bait dealer license	Season	25.00
(V) Nonresident bait dealer license	Season	150.00
(W) Resident film production wildlife permit	Annual	300.00
(X) Nonresident film production wildlife permit	Annual	600.00

- (9) The board is authorized to provide by rule for a fee not to exceed \$19.00 for resident daily, seasonal, or annual use permits, or licenses; a fee of \$38.00 for resident two-year use permits; or a fee not to exceed \$73.00 for nonresident annual use permits or licenses to hunt and fish on or otherwise use specially designated streams, lakes, public fishing areas, or wildlife management areas.
- (10) The fees established in subparagraphs (1)(A) through (1)(F), (2)(A), (2)(B), (2)(E), (3)(A), (3)(B), (4)(A), (4)(B), (4)(C), (4)(D), (4)(E), and (4)(G) of this Code section shall be reduced by \$2.75 for each renewal transaction made before the expiration date of the then current license or tag. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "renewal transaction" means the renewal of one or more licenses by a licensee during a single telephone call, Internet session, or on-site visit to a store.

§ 27-2-23.1. Raccoon fur seller's license

- (a) In addition to the fur dealers' licenses provided for in Code Section 27-2-23, the department shall issue a raccoon fur seller's license for an annual fee of \$5.00. A person to whom a raccoon fur seller's license has been issued shall be authorized to sell the raw, undressed furs, hides, skins, or pelts of raccoons lawfully taken by any means other than by trapping.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell the raw, undressed fur, hide, skin, or pelt of a raccoon lawfully taken by means other than trapping unless such person has a current valid raccoon fur seller's license issued by the department. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (c) A person who purchases or sells raw, undressed furs, hides, skins, or pelts of raccoons taken by trapping and by means other than trapping shall be considered a fur dealer within the meaning of this Code section and must be licensed therefor as provided in Code Section 27-2-23. The license authorized by this Code section shall be issued only to persons who take raccoons exclusively by lawful means other than trapping.

§ 27-2-23.2. Salt water fishing guide licenses; fees; reporting requirements

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the occupation of salt water fishing guide without holding a valid annual salt water fishing guide license pursuant to the provisions of this Code section.
- (b)
 - (1) A salt water fishing guide who possesses a valid United States Coast Guard operator of passenger vessel license may purchase an annual customer fishing license pursuant to the provisions of this Code section, which license shall cover all fee-paying anglers while fishing with such guide during the license year; and all such anglers while so covered shall be exempt from fishing license requirements otherwise applicable under this title.
 - (2) Any person operating a single hotel or motel facility having a salt water fishing pier or piers may purchase an annual salt water fishing pier license pursuant to the provisions of this Code section, which license shall cover all anglers while fishing from such salt water fishing pier during the license year; and all such anglers while so covered shall be exempt from fishing license requirements otherwise applicable under this title.
- (c) Fees for licenses required under this Code section shall be as follows:

- (1) (A) Resident salt water fishing guide license, \$25.00;
(B) Nonresident salt water fishing guide license, \$50.00;
- (2) (A) (i) Customer fishing license for a resident salt water fishing guide carrying six or fewer fee-paying anglers, \$150.00;
(ii) Customer fishing license for a resident salt water fishing guide carrying an unlimited number of fee-paying anglers, \$400.00;
(B) Customer fishing license for a nonresident salt water fishing guide, \$400.00;
and
- (3) Salt water fishing pier license, \$400.00.
- (d) Each person who holds a salt water fishing guide license or salt water fishing pier license pursuant to the provisions of this Code section shall report such information as required by the department at such times and in such manner as the board provides by rule or regulation.

§ 27-2-29. Free fishing days

Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the commissioner may designate not more than three days, which need not be consecutive, in each calendar year as free fishing days during which residents may, without obtaining a fishing license, exercise the privileges of a holder of a fishing license, subject to all limitations, restrictions, conditions, rules, and regulations applicable to the holder of a fishing license. This Code section shall in no way affect the commercial fishing licenses required under this article.

§ 27-2-31. Wildlife control permits

- (a) The department is authorized to issue wildlife control permits authorizing the permittee to trap, transport and release, or kill wildlife and feral hogs where such action is otherwise prohibited by law or regulation:
 - (1) When the department determines that there is a substantial likelihood the presence of such wildlife will endanger or cause injury to persons or will destroy or damage agricultural crops, domestic animals, buildings, structures, or other personal property;
 - (2) For the control of white-tailed deer on airport property; provided, however, that permits shall be issued under this paragraph for purposes of public safety, and the control of white-tailed deer for other purposes and the removal of black bear shall be as provided in Code Sections 27-2-18 and 27-3-21, respectively;
 - (3) For fur-bearing animals, as defined in paragraph (31) of Code Section 27-1-2, to implement a bona fide wildlife management plan that has been approved by the department; and
 - (4) For feral hogs, provided that:
 - (A) All permitted activities must comply with all rules and regulations of the Department of Agriculture; and
 - (B)
 - (i) No person shall transport any live feral hog without carrying on his or her person a feral hog transport permit issued by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to Code Section 2-7-201, and no person shall release any trapped or

transported feral hog into any area that is not fenced to prevent the escape of such feral hog onto the land of another.

(ii) Any person who violates division (i) of this subparagraph shall, upon conviction thereof, be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and shall be punished as provided by Code Section 17-10-4; provided, however, that if a fine is imposed pursuant to such Code section, such fine shall be not less than \$1,500.00.

(iii) Any license or permit previously issued under this title to any person convicted of violating division (i) of this subparagraph shall by operation of law be revoked and shall not be reissued for a period of three years after the date of such conviction. The licensee or permit holder shall be notified of the revocation personally or by a letter sent by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery to the name and address indicated on the application for the license or permit, or both, or to the Secretary of State as provided in Code Section 27-2-24.

(b)

(1) In issuing a wildlife control permit, the department shall prescribe the method, means, species, numbers, time limits, location, and any other conditions it deems necessary to ensure the continued viability of the wildlife population involved and to ensure that the public safety and interest are not compromised.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, a wildlife control permit for feral hogs shall authorize the hunting or trapping of such feral hogs:

(A) At night with a light except during the season prescribed for hunting deer;

(B) From within a motor vehicle or while on a motor vehicle; and

(C) By a Georgia resident without a hunting or trapping license if such hunting occurs on premises owned by the permittee or his or her immediate family or leased by him or her or his or her immediate family and used primarily for raising or harvesting crops other than timber or for containing livestock or poultry. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to affect or negate the terms of any lease agreement.

(3) A wildlife control permit for feral hogs shall expire not less than five years from the issuing date; provided, however, that if the permittee is leasing the premises upon which the hunting is to occur, such permit shall expire automatically upon the termination of the lease. The department shall provide for the renewal of permits.

(c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to authorize the taking of any species which is protected by the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, Public Law 93-205, as amended, or under any state law or regulation which has as its purpose the protection of endangered or threatened species.

§ 27-2-40. Wildlife Violator Policy Compact

The Wildlife Violator Compact is enacted into law and entered into by the State of Georgia with any and all states legally joining therein in accordance with its terms. The compact is substantially as follows:

"WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

ARTICLE I FINDINGS, DECLARATION OF POLICY, AND PURPOSE

- (a)** The party states find that:
- (1)** Wildlife resources are managed in trust by the respective states for the benefit of all residents and visitors.
 - (2)** The protection of their respective wildlife resources can be materially affected by the degree of compliance with state statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule relating to the management of those resources.
 - (3)** The preservation, protection, management, and restoration of wildlife contributes immeasurably to the aesthetic, recreational, and economic aspects of these natural resources.
 - (4)** Wildlife resources are valuable without regard to political boundaries, therefore, all persons should be required to comply with wildlife preservation, protection, management, and restoration laws, ordinances, and administrative rules and regulations of all party states as a condition precedent to the continuance or issuance of any license to hunt, fish, trap, or possess wildlife.
 - (5)** Violation of wildlife laws interferes with the management of wildlife resources and may endanger the safety of persons and property.
 - (6)** The mobility of many wildlife law violators necessitates the maintenance of channels of communications among the various states.
 - (7)** In most instances, a person who is cited for a wildlife violation in a state other than the person's home state:
 - (A)** Must post collateral or bond to secure appearance for a trial at a later date; or
 - (B)** If unable to post collateral or bond, is taken into custody until the collateral or bond is posted; or
 - (C)** Is taken directly to court for an immediate appearance.
 - (8)** The purpose of the enforcement practices described in paragraph (7) of this subdivision is to ensure compliance with the terms of a wildlife citation by the person who, if permitted to continue on the person's way after receiving the citation, could return to the person's home state and disregard the person's duty under the terms of the citation.
 - (9)** In most instances, a person receiving a wildlife citation in the person's home state is permitted to accept the citation from the officer at the scene of the violation and to immediately continue on the person's way after agreeing or being instructed to comply with the terms of the citation.
 - (10)** The practice described in paragraph (7) of this subdivision causes unnecessary inconvenience and, at times, a hardship for the person who is unable at the time to post collateral, furnish a bond, stand trial, or pay the fine, and thus is compelled to remain in custody until some alternative arrangement can be made.
 - (11)** The enforcement practices described in paragraph (7) of this subdivision consume an undue amount of law enforcement time.
- (b)** It is the policy of the party states to:
- (1)** Promote compliance with the statutes, laws, ordinances, regulations, and administrative rules relating to management of wildlife resources in their respective states.

- (2) Recognize the suspension of wildlife license privileges or rights of any person whose license privileges or rights have been suspended by a party state and treat this suspension as if it had occurred in their state.
 - (3) Allow violators to accept a wildlife citation, except as provided in subdivision (b) of Article III, and proceed on the violator's way without delay whether or not the person is a resident in the state in which the citation was issued, provided that the violator's home state is party to this compact.
 - (4) Report to the appropriate party state, as provided in the compact manual, any conviction recorded against any person whose home state was not the issuing state.
 - (5) Allow the home state to recognize and treat convictions recorded for their residents which occurred in another party state as if they had occurred in the home state.
 - (6) Extend cooperation to its fullest extent among the party states for obtaining compliance with the terms of a wildlife citation issued in one party state to a resident of another party state.
 - (7) Maximize effective use of law enforcement personnel and information.
 - (8) Assist court systems in the efficient disposition of wildlife violations.
- (c) The purpose of this compact is to:
- (1) Provide a means through which the party states may participate in a reciprocal program to effectuate policies enumerated in subdivision (b) of this article in a uniform and orderly manner.
 - (2) Provide for the fair and impartial treatment of wildlife violators operating within party states in recognition of the person's right of due process and the sovereign status of a party state.

ARTICLE II DEFINITIONS

Unless the context requires otherwise, the definitions in this article apply through this compact and are intended only for the implementation of this compact:

- (a) "Citation" means any summons, complaint, ticket, penalty assessment, or other official document issued by a wildlife officer or other peace officer for a wildlife violation containing an order which requires the person to respond.
- (b) "Collateral" means any cash or other security deposited to secure an appearance for trial, in connection with the issuance by a wildlife officer or other peace officer of a citation for a wildlife violation.
- (c) "Compliance" with respect to a citation means the act of answering the citation through appearance at a court, a tribunal, or payment of fines, costs, and surcharges, if any, or both such appearance and payment.
- (d) "Conviction" means a conviction, including any court conviction, of any offense related to the preservation, protection, management, or restoration of wildlife which is prohibited by state statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule, or a forfeiture of bail, bond, or other security deposited to secure appearance by a person charged with having committed any such offense, or payment of a penalty assessment, or a plea of nolo contendere, or the imposition of a deferred or suspended sentence by the court.

- (e) "Court' means a court of law, including Magistrate's Court and the Justice of the Peace Court.
- (f) "Home state' means the state of primary residence of a person.
- (g) "Issuing state' means the party state which issues a wildlife citation to the violator.
- (h) "License' means any license, permit, or other public document which conveys to the person to whom it was issued the privilege of pursuing, possessing, or taking any wildlife regulated by statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule of a party state.
- (i) "Licensing authority' means the department within each party state which is authorized by law to issue or approve licenses or permits to hunt, fish, trap, or possess wildlife.
- (j) "Party state' means any state which enacts legislation to become a member of this wildlife compact.
- (k) "Personal recognizance' means an agreement by a person made at the time of issuance of the wildlife citation that the person will comply with the terms of that citation.
- (l) "State' means any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Provinces of Canada, or other countries.
- (m) "Suspension' means any revocation, denial, or withdrawal of any or all license privileges or rights, including the privilege or right to apply for, purchase, or exercise the benefits conferred by any license.
- (n) "Terms of the citation' means those conditions and options expressly stated upon the citation.
- (o) "Wildlife' means all species of animals, including but not necessarily limited to mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans, which are defined as 'wildlife' and are protected or otherwise regulated by statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule in a party state. 'Wildlife' also means food fish and shellfish as defined by statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule in a party state. Species included in the definition of 'wildlife' vary from state to state and determination of whether a species is 'wildlife' for the purposes of this compact shall be based on local law.
- (p) "Wildlife law' means any statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule developed and enacted to manage wildlife resources and the use thereof.
- (q) "Wildlife officer' means any individual authorized by a party state to issue a citation for a wildlife violation.
- (r) "Wildlife violation' means any cited violation of a statute, law, regulation, ordinance, or administrative rule developed and enacted to manage wildlife resources and the use thereof.

ARTICLE III PROCEDURES FOR ISSUING STATE

- (a) When issuing a citation for a wildlife violation, a wildlife officer shall issue a citation to any person whose primary residence is in a party state in the same manner as if the person were a resident of the home state and shall not require the person to post collateral to secure appearance, subject to the exceptions contained in subdivision (b)

of this article, if the officer receives the person's personal recognizance that the person will comply with the terms of the citation.

(b) Personal recognizance is acceptable:

- (1)** If not prohibited by local law or the compact manual adopted by the Board of Natural Resources as a rule; and
- (2)** If the violator provides adequate proof of the violator's identification to the wildlife officer.

(c) Upon conviction or failure of a person to comply with the terms of a wildlife citation, the appropriate official shall report the conviction or failure to comply to the licensing authority of the party state in which the wildlife citation was issued. The report shall be made in accordance with procedures specified by the issuing state and shall contain the information specified in the compact manual adopted by the Board of Natural Resources as a rule as minimum requirements for effective processing by the home state.

(d) Upon receipt of the report of conviction or noncompliance required by subdivision (c) of this article, the licensing authority of the issuing state shall transmit to the licensing authority in the home state of the violator the information in a form and content as contained in the compact manual adopted by the Board of Natural Resources as a rule.

ARTICLE IV PROCEDURES FOR HOME STATE

(a) Upon receipt of a report of failure to comply with the terms of a citation from the licensing authority of the issuing state, the licensing authority of the home state shall notify the violator, shall initiate a suspension action in accordance with the home state's suspension procedures and shall suspend the violator's license privileges or rights until satisfactory evidence of compliance with the terms of the wildlife citation has been furnished by the issuing state to the home state licensing authority. Due process safeguards will be accorded.

(b) Upon receipt of a report of conviction from the licensing authority of the issuing state, the licensing authority of the home state shall enter such conviction in its records and shall treat such conviction as if it occurred in the home state for the purposes of the suspension of license privileges.

(c) The licensing authority of the home state shall maintain a record of actions taken and make reports to issuing states as provided in the compact manual adopted by the Board of Natural Resources as a rule.

ARTICLE V RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF SUSPENSION

All party states shall recognize the suspension of license privileges or rights of any person by any state as if the violation on which the suspension is based had in fact occurred in their state and would have been the basis for suspension of license privileges or rights in their state.

ARTICLE VI APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS

Except as expressly required by provisions of this compact, nothing herein shall be construed to affect the right of any party state to apply any of its laws relating to license privileges to any person or circumstance, or to invalidate or prevent any agreement or other cooperative arrangements between a party state and a nonparty state concerning wildlife law enforcement.

ARTICLE VII COMPACT ADMINISTRATOR PROCEDURES

- (a)** For the purpose of administering the provisions of this compact and to serve as a governing body for the resolution of all matters relating to the operation of this compact, a board of compact administrators is established. The board of compact administrators shall be composed of one representative from each of the party states to be known as the compact administrator. The compact administrator shall be appointed by the head of the licensing authority of each party state, or his or her designee, and will serve and be subject to removal in accordance with the laws of the state the administrator represents. A compact administrator may provide for the discharge of the administrator's duties and the performance of the administrator's functions as a board of compact administrators member by an alternate. An alternate may not be entitled to serve unless written notification of the alternate's identity has been given to the board of compact administrators.
- (b)** Each member of the board of compact administrators shall be entitled to one vote. No action of the board of compact administrators shall be binding unless taken at a meeting at which a majority of the total number of votes on the board of compact administrators are cast in favor thereof. Action by the board of compact administrators shall be only at a meeting at which a majority of the party states are represented.
- (c)** The board of compact administrators shall elect annually, from its membership, a chairperson and vice-chairperson.
- (d)** The board of compact administrators shall adopt bylaws, not inconsistent with the provisions of this compact or the laws of a party state, for the conduct of its business and shall have the power to amend and rescind its bylaws.
- (e)** The board of compact administrators may accept for any of its purposes and functions under this compact all donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, conditional or otherwise, from any state, the United States, or any governmental agency, and may receive, utilize, and dispose of the same.
- (f)** The board of compact administrators may contract with or accept services or personnel from any governmental or intergovernmental agency, individual, firm, corporation, or any private nonprofit organization or institution.
- (g)** The board of compact administrators shall formulate all necessary procedures and develop uniform forms and documents for administering the provisions of this compact. All procedures and forms adopted pursuant to board of compact administrators action shall be contained in the compact manual adopted by the Board of Natural Resources as a rule.

ARTICLE VIII ENTRY INTO COMPACT AND WITHDRAWAL

- (a)** This compact shall become effective when it has been adopted by at least two states.
- (b)**
 - (1)** Entry into the compact shall be made by resolution of ratification executed by the authorized officials of the applying state and submitted to the chairperson of the board of compact administrators.
 - (2)** The resolution shall be in a form and content as provided in the compact manual adopted by the Board of Natural Resources as a rule and shall include statements that in substance are as follows:

- (A) A citation of the authority by which the state is empowered to become a party to this compact;
 - (B) Agreement to comply with the terms and provisions of the compact; and
 - (C) That compact entry is with all states then party to the compact and with any state that legally becomes a party to the compact.
- (3) The effective date of entry shall be specified by the applying state, but shall not be less than sixty days after notice has been given by the chairperson of the board of compact administrators or by the secretariat of the board of compact administrators to each party state that the resolution from the applying state has been received.
- (c) A party state may withdraw from this compact by official written notice to the other party states, but a withdrawal shall not take effect until ninety days after notice of withdrawal is given. The notice shall be directed to the compact administrator of each member state. No withdrawal shall affect the validity of this compact as to the remaining party states.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPACT

- (a) This compact may be amended from time to time. Amendments shall be presented in resolution form to the chairperson of the board of compact administrators and may be initiated by one or more party states.
- (b) Adoption of an amendment shall require endorsement by all party states and shall become effective thirty days after the date of the last endorsement.
- (c) Failure of a party state to respond to the compact chairperson within one hundred twenty days after receipt of the proposed amendment shall constitute endorsement.

ARTICLE X CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes stated herein. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, individual, or circumstance is held invalid, the compact shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any party state thereto, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining states and in full force and effect as to the state affected as to all severable matters.

ARTICLE XI TITLE

This compact shall be known as the 'Wildlife Violator Compact.'

§ 27-2-41. Rules and regulations authorized

The Board of Natural Resources shall make and publish in print or electronically such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.

§ 27-2-42. Penalty for violating

It shall be unlawful for any person whose license, privilege, or right to hunt, fish, trap, possess, or transport wildlife, having been suspended or revoked pursuant to this article, to exercise that right or privilege within this state or to purchase or possess such a license which grants such right or privilege. Any person who hunts, fishes, traps, possesses, or transports wildlife in this

state or who purchases or possesses a license to hunt, fish, trap, possess, or transport wildlife in this state in violation of such suspension or revocation pursuant to this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,500.00 nor more than \$5,000.00 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months or both.

Wildlife (O.C.G.A. 27-3-1, et. seq.)

§ 27-3-1. Requirement of permission to hunt on lands of another; written permission; enforcement; immunity of landowner from civil liability

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt upon the lands of another or enter upon the lands of another in pursuit of wildlife, with or without a license, without first obtaining permission from the landowner or lessee of such land or the lessee of the game rights of such land. Such permission shall not be required, however, if the person hunting or a member of the person's family is the owner of the land, the lessee of the land, or the lessee of the game rights of the land. For the purposes of this Code section only, "family" means mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, niece, nephew, grandson, granddaughter, grandmother, grandfather, or spouse.
- (b) If the land is posted and if the owner of the land, lessee of the land, or lessee of the game rights of the land has informed a law enforcement agency that permission to hunt upon the land must be in writing, then the permission required by subsection (a) of this Code section must be in writing and must be carried on the hunter's person.
- (c)
 - (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any person who violates subsection (a) or (b) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500.00.
 - (2) Any person who violates subsection (a) or (b) of this Code section for the second time within a two-year period shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000.00; and the department shall revoke the right of such person to a hunting license for a period of one year for each such second conviction within a two-year period.
 - (3) Any person who violates subsection (a) or (b) of this Code section for a third or subsequent time within a three-year period shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$2,000.00; and the department shall revoke the right of such person to a hunting license for a period of three years for each such third or subsequent conviction within a three-year period.
 - (4) The minimum fines and revocation periods specified in this subsection shall not apply, however, to an offender who is 17 years of age or younger.
- (d) It shall be the duty of any peace officer whose duty it is to preserve the peace or make arrests or enforce the law to enforce this Code section.
- (e) Any owner of land, lessee of land, or lessee of the game or fishing rights to land who gives permission to another person to hunt, fish, or take wildlife upon the land with or without charge shall be entitled to the same protection from civil liability provided by Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 51 for landowners who allow the public to use their land for recreational purposes without charge.

§ 27-3-1.1. Acts prohibited on wildlife management areas

It shall be unlawful for any person on any wildlife management area owned or operated by the department:

- (1) To possess a firearm other than a handgun, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-11-125.1, during a closed hunting season for that area unless such firearm is unloaded

and stored in a motor vehicle so as not to be readily accessible or to possess a handgun during a closed hunting season for that area unless such person possesses a valid weapons carry license issued pursuant to Code Section 16-11-129;

- (2) To possess a loaded firearm other than a handgun, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-11-125.1, in a motor vehicle during a legal open hunting season for that area or to possess a loaded handgun in a motor vehicle during a legal open hunting season for that area unless such person possesses a valid weapons carry license issued pursuant to Code Section 16-11-129;
- (3) To be under the influence of drugs, intoxicating liquors, beers, or wines. The determination of whether any person is under the influence of drugs or intoxicating liquors, beers, or wines may be made in accordance with Code Section 27-3-7;
- (4) To hunt within 50 yards of any road which receives regular maintenance for the purpose of public vehicular access;
- (5) To target practice, except where an authorized shooting range is made available by the department, and then only in a manner consistent with the rules for shooting ranges promulgated by the board;
- (6) To drive a vehicle around a closed gate, cable, sign, or other structure or device intended to prevent vehicular access to a road entering onto or within such an area;
- (7) To hunt within any posted safety zone;
- (8) To camp upon or drive a motor vehicle over any permanent pasture or area planted in crops;
- (9) While hunting bears in any such area opened to bear hunting, to kill a female bear with a cub or cubs or to kill a cub weighing less than 75 pounds;
- (10) To fail to report if he or she kills a deer, bear, or turkey in the manner specified by the rules of the department for that wildlife management area on the date killed to the state game and fish checking station on the area;
- (11) To construct any tree stand or to hunt from any tree stand except a portable or natural tree stand; or
- (12) To trap except with a special trapping permit issued by the department.

§ 27-3-2. Hunting at night

It shall be unlawful to hunt at night any game bird or game animal in this state except for alligators, raccoons, opossums, foxes, and bobcats. Any light used to hunt raccoons, opossums, foxes, or bobcats shall be carried on the person of a hunter, affixed to a helmet or hat worn by a hunter, or be part of a belt system worn by a hunter.

§ 27-3-3. Hours for hunting migratory game birds

It shall be unlawful to hunt migratory game birds between sunset and one-half hour before sunrise. It shall also be unlawful to hunt migratory game birds between one-half hour before sunrise and sunset, except that it shall not be unlawful to hunt migratory game birds during those hours as may be designated by the board for a particular migratory game bird. In accordance with the framework of open hunting season dates established by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and as may be appropriate based on sound wildlife management principles, the board is specifically authorized to promulgate rules and regulations establishing the hours, on a state-wide, regional, or local basis, for hunting migratory game birds. The board

is specifically authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations without complying with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act," and all rules and regulations promulgated by the board pursuant to this Code section shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

§ 27-3-4. Legal weapons for hunting wildlife generally; use of silencers and suppressors prohibited; penalty for violations

- (a) It shall be unlawful to hunt wildlife with any weapon, except that:
- (1) Longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, and compound bows may be used for taking small game, feral hogs, or big game. Arrows for hunting deer, bear, and feral hogs must be broadhead type;
 - (2) During primitive weapon hunts or primitive weapons seasons:
 - (A) Longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, compound bows, muzzleloading firearms of .44 caliber or larger, and muzzleloading shotguns of 20 gauge or larger loaded with single shot may be used; and
 - (B) Youth under 16 years of age may hunt deer with any firearm legal for hunting deer;
 - (3) Firearms for hunting deer and bear are limited to 20 gauge shotguns or larger shotguns loaded with slugs or buckshot (except that no buckshot is permitted on state wildlife management areas unless otherwise specified), muzzleloading firearms of .44 caliber or larger, and center-fire firearms .22 caliber or larger; provided, however, that firearms for hunting feral hogs, other than those weapons specified in this paragraph, may be authorized by rule or regulation of the board. Bullets used in all center-fire rifles and handguns must be of the expanding type;
 - (4) Weapons for hunting small game shall be limited to shotguns with shot shell size of no greater than 3 1/2 inches in length with No. 2 lead shot or smaller or federally approved nontoxic shot size of F or smaller shot, .22 caliber or smaller rimfire firearms, air rifles, muzzleloading firearms, longbows, recurve bows, crossbows, and compound bows; provided, however, that in addition to the weapons listed in this paragraph, any center-fire firearm of .17 caliber or larger may be used for hunting fox and bobcat. Nothing contained in this paragraph shall permit the taking of protected species;
 - (5) For hunting game animals other than deer and bear, shotguns shall be limited to a capacity of not more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined. If a plug is necessary to so limit the capacity, the plug shall be of one piece, incapable of being removed through the loading end of the magazine;
 - (6) It shall be unlawful to hunt turkey with any weapons except shotguns using No. 2 shot or smaller, muzzleloading firearms, longbows, crossbows, recurve bows, or compound bows. Any person taking turkey in violation of this paragraph shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as for a misdemeanor, except that a fine imposed for such violation shall not be less than \$250.00;
 - (7) Weapons for hunting alligators shall be limited to hand-held ropes or snares, snatch hooks, harpoons, gigs, or arrows with restraining lines attached. Lawfully restrained alligators may be killed with any caliber handgun or bangstick and shall be killed immediately before transporting;
 - (8) There are no firearms restrictions for taking nongame animals, nongame birds, or feral hogs; and

- (9) The use of silencers or suppressors for hunting within this state is prohibited; provided, however, that a silencer or suppressor may be used for hunting on the private property of the person using such silencer or suppressor, on private property for which the owner of such property has provided verifiable permission to the person using such silencer or suppressor, and on public lands in areas designated by the department.

(b)

- (1) It shall be illegal to use a silencer or suppressor for hunting in violation of paragraph (9) of subsection (a) of this Code section. A person who violates the provisions of this paragraph shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (2) The hunting privileges of any person who has been convicted of violating the provisions of this title or any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant thereto by hunting without landowner permission, hunting in an area that is closed for hunting, or hunting big game out of season or at night with a firearm equipped with a suppressor shall be suspended for three years.

§ 27-3-6. Possession of firearm while hunting with bow and arrow

It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any center-fire or rimfire firearm other than a handgun, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-11-125.1, while hunting with a bow and arrow during archery or primitive weapons season for deer or while hunting with a muzzleloading firearm during a primitive weapons season for deer or to possess a loaded handgun while hunting with a bow and arrow during archery or primitive weapons season for deer or while hunting with a muzzleloading firearm during primitive weapons season for deer unless such person possesses a valid weapons carry license issued pursuant to Code Section 16-11-129.

§ 27-3-7. Hunting under the influence of alcohol or drugs

- (a) As used in this Code section, the term "hunt" or "hunting" means the act of hunting, as such term is defined in Code Section 27-1-2, while in possession of or using a firearm, bow, or any other device which serves to launch a projectile.
- (b) A person shall not hunt while:
 - (1) Under the influence of alcohol to the extent that it is less safe for the person to hunt;
 - (2) Under the influence of any drug to the extent that it is less safe for the person to hunt;
 - (3) Under the combined influence of alcohol and any drug to the extent that it is less safe for the person to hunt;
 - (4) The person's alcohol concentration is 0.08 grams or more at any time within three hours after such hunting from alcohol consumed before such hunting ended; or
 - (5) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this Code section, there is any amount of marijuana or a controlled substance, as defined in Code Section 16-13-21, present in the person's blood or urine, or both, including the metabolites and derivatives of each or both without regard to whether or not any alcohol is present in the person's breath or blood.
- (c) The fact that any person charged with violating this Code section is or has been legally entitled to use a drug shall not constitute a defense against any charge of violating this Code section; provided, however, that such person shall not be in violation of this Code

section unless such person is rendered incapable of hunting safely as a result of using a drug other than alcohol which such person is legally entitled to use.

- (d) Upon the trial of any civil or criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been committed by any person in violation of subsection (b) of this Code section, evidence of the amount of alcohol or drug in a person's blood, urine, breath, or other bodily substance at the alleged time, as determined by a chemical analysis of the person's blood, urine, breath, or other bodily substance shall be admissible. Where such a chemical test is made, the following provisions shall apply:
 - (1) Chemical analysis of the person's blood, urine, breath, or other bodily substance, to be considered valid under this Code section, shall have been performed according to methods approved by the Division of Forensic Sciences of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation on a machine which was operated with all the electronic and operating components prescribed by its manufacturer properly attached and in good working order and by an individual possessing a valid permit issued by the Division of Forensic Sciences for this purpose. The Division of Forensic Sciences of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation shall approve satisfactory techniques or methods to ascertain the qualifications and competence of individuals to conduct analyses and to issue permits, along with requirements for properly operating and maintaining any testing instruments, and to issue certificates certifying that instruments have met those requirements, which certificates and permits shall be subject to termination or revocation at the discretion of the Division of Forensic Sciences;
 - (2) When a person undergoes a chemical test at the request of a law enforcement officer, only a physician, registered nurse, laboratory technician, emergency medical technician, or other qualified person may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content therein, provided that this limitation shall not apply to the taking of breath or urine specimens. No physician, registered nurse, or other qualified person or employer thereof shall incur any civil or criminal liability as a result of the medically proper obtaining of such blood specimens when requested in writing by a law enforcement officer;
 - (3) The person tested may have a physician or a qualified technician, chemist, registered nurse, or other qualified person of his or her own choosing administer a chemical test or tests in addition to any administered at the direction of a law enforcement officer. The justifiable failure or inability to obtain an additional test shall not preclude the admission of evidence relating to the test or tests taken at the direction of a law enforcement officer; and
 - (4) Upon the request of the person who shall submit to a chemical test or tests at the request of a law enforcement officer, full information concerning the test or tests shall be made available to such person or such person's attorney. The arresting officer at the time of arrest shall advise the person arrested of his or her rights to a chemical test or tests according to this Code section.
- (e) In the event of a hunting accident involving a fatality, the investigating coroner or medical examiner having jurisdiction shall direct that a chemical blood test to determine the blood alcohol concentration or the presence of drugs be performed on the dead person and that the results of such test be properly recorded on his or her report.
- (f) Upon the trial of any civil or criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been committed by any person hunting in violation of subsection (b) of this Code section, the amount of alcohol in the person's blood at the time alleged, as shown by

chemical analysis of the person's blood, urine, breath, or other bodily substance, shall give rise to the following presumptions:

- (1) If there was at that time a blood alcohol concentration of 0.05 grams or less, it shall be presumed that the person was not under the influence of alcohol, as prohibited by paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b) of this Code section;
- (2) If there was at that time a blood alcohol concentration in excess of 0.05 grams but less than 0.08 grams, such fact shall not give rise to any presumption that the person was or was not under the influence of alcohol, as prohibited by paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b) of this Code section, but such fact may be considered with other competent evidence in determining whether the person was under the influence of alcohol, as prohibited by paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (b) of this Code section; and
- (3) If there was at that time or within three hours after hunting, from alcohol consumed before such hunting ended, a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more grams, the person shall be in violation of paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of this Code section.

(g)

- (1) Any person who exercises the privilege of hunting in this state shall be deemed to have given consent, subject to subsection (d) of this Code section, to a chemical test or tests of his or her blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances for the purpose of determining the presence of alcohol or any other drug, if arrested for any offense arising out of acts alleged to have been committed while such person was hunting in violation of subsection (b) of this Code section. Subject to subsection (d) of this Code section, the requesting law enforcement officer shall designate which test or tests shall be administered.
- (2) At the time a chemical test or tests are requested, the arresting officer shall read to the person the following implied consent warning:

"Georgia law requires you to submit to state administered chemical tests of your blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances for the purpose of determining if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you refuse this testing and you are convicted of hunting while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, your privilege to hunt in this state will be suspended for a period of two years. Your refusal to submit to the required testing may be offered into evidence against you at trial. If you submit to testing and the results indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.08 grams or more and if you are subsequently convicted of hunting under the influence of alcohol by having an alcohol concentration of 0.08 grams or more at any time within three hours after hunting from alcohol consumed before such hunting ended, your privilege to hunt in this state will be suspended for a period of one year. After first submitting to the required state tests, you are entitled to additional chemical tests of your blood, breath, urine, or other bodily substances at your own expense and from qualified personnel of your own choosing. Will you submit to the state administered chemical tests of your (designate which tests) under the implied consent law?"

- (h) Any person who is dead, unconscious, or otherwise in a condition rendering such person incapable of refusal shall be deemed not to have withdrawn the consent provided by subsection (g) of this Code section, and the test or tests may be administered, subject to subsection (d) of this Code section.

(i)

- (1) If a person refuses, upon the request of a law enforcement officer, to submit to a chemical test designated by the law enforcement officer as provided in subsection (g) of this Code section, no test shall be given; provided, however, that subject to the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, such refusal shall be admissible in any legal action; and provided, further, that upon conviction of a violation of subsection (b) of this Code section, in addition to any other punishment imposed, such person's privileges to hunt in this state shall be suspended by operation of law for a period of two years. The fact that such person was not in possession of a valid hunting license at the time of the violation shall have no effect on the suspension of his or her hunting privilege.
- (2) If in any legal action a party desires to present evidence of the refusal of a person charged with violating subsection (b) of this Code section to submit to a chemical test designated by a law enforcement officer as provided in subsection (g) of this Code section, the party desiring to present such evidence shall request the judge presiding over such legal proceeding to hold a hearing to determine the admissibility of such evidence after notice to the person alleged to have refused to submit to such testing and to the law enforcement officer.
- (3) The scope of the hearing shall be limited to the following issues:

 - (A) Whether the law enforcement officer had reasonable grounds to believe the person was hunting while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance and was lawfully placed under arrest for violating subsection (b) of this Code section;
 - (B) Whether at the time of the request for the test or tests the officer informed the person of the person's implied consent rights and the consequence of submitting or refusing to submit to such test; and
 - (C) Whether the person refused to submit to the test.
- (4) It shall be unlawful during any period of a person's hunting privilege suspension for such person to:

 - (A) Hunt without a license in violation of Code Section 27-2-1;
 - (B) Possess a current Georgia hunting license; or
 - (C) Hunt in any situation where a hunting license is not required.
- (5) Any person convicted of hunting while intoxicated while his or her hunting privileges are suspended pursuant to this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (j) Nothing in this Code section shall be deemed to preclude the acquisition or admission of evidence of a violation of this Code section if the evidence was obtained by voluntary consent or a search warrant as authorized by the Constitution or the laws of this state or the United States.
- (k) Upon the request of a law enforcement officer, if a person consents to submit to a chemical test designated by such officer as provided in subsection (g) of this Code section, and the results of such test indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.08 grams or more, upon a conviction of a violation of paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of this Code section, in addition to any other punishment imposed, such person's privileges to hunt in this state shall be suspended by operation of law for a period of one year. Even if such person did not possess a valid hunting license at the time of the violation, such person's hunting privileges shall be suspended for one year.

- (l) Following the period of suspension set forth in subsection (i) or (k) of this Code section, such person may apply to the department for reinstatement of his or her hunting privileges. Any suspension pursuant to this Code section shall remain in effect until such person submits proof of completion of a DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program certified by the Department of Driver Services and pays a restoration fee of \$200.00, unless such conviction was a recidivist conviction, in which case the restoration fee shall be \$500.00.

§ 27-3-8. Unlawful devices

It shall be unlawful for any person to make use of any pitfall, deadfall, catch, snare, trap, net, salt lick, blind pig, baited hook, or other device for the purpose of taking any game animal or game bird or any other wildlife, except as otherwise provided in this title or by rule or regulation of the board.

§ 27-3-9. Unlawful enticement of game

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

- (1) "Northern zone" means the northern zone for hunting deer with firearms as established pursuant to subsection (c) of Code Section 27-3-15.
- (2) "Southern zone" means the southern zone for hunting deer with firearms as established pursuant to subsection (c) of Code Section 27-3-15.

(a.1) It shall be unlawful for any person to place, expose, deposit, distribute, or scatter any corn, wheat, or other grains, salts, apples, or other feeds or bait so as to constitute a lure or attraction or enticement for any game bird or game animal on or over any area where hunters are or will be hunting.

(a.2) Nothing in subsection (a.1) of this Code section shall prohibit any person from placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering any corn, wheat, or other grains, salts, apples, or other feeds or bait so as to constitute a lure or attraction or enticement for deer on lands that are not under the ownership or control and management of the state or federal government; provided, however, that any such lure or attraction or enticement shall not cause hunting on any adjoining property to be prohibited under subsection (b) of this Code section.

(b)

- (1) Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt any game bird or game animal upon, over, around, or near any place where any corn, wheat, or other grains, salts, apples, or other feed or bait has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered so as to constitute a lure, attraction, or enticement to such birds or animals. It shall also be unlawful to hunt any game animal or game bird upon, over, around, or near any such place for a period of ten days following the complete removal of all such feed or bait.
- (2) The prohibitions of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to:
 - (A) The hunting of deer in the northern zone, other than on lands under the ownership or control and management of the state or federal government, if the hunter is at least 200 yards away from and not within sight of such feed or bait; and
 - (B) The hunting of deer in the southern zone, other than on lands under the ownership or control and management of the state or federal government, if the hunter has

written permission of the landowner to hunt upon, over, around, or near such feed or bait, except as otherwise provided by paragraph (3) of this subsection.

- (3)** (A) The board may by rule or regulation restrict the feeding, baiting, or hunting of deer upon, over, around, or near such feed or bait in any county wherein there is a documented occurrence of a communicable disease in deer and in any county adjoining such county. Such restriction may be imposed in such county and any adjoining county for a period of up to and including one year and may be extended for additional periods of up to and including two years each upon documentation that the communicable disease is still present in deer in such county. No person shall feed, bait, or hunt deer in violation of any restriction imposed pursuant to this paragraph.
- (B) The department shall give notice of such restriction by mail or electronic means to each person holding a current license to hunt whose last known address is within a restricted county. The department may place or designate the placement of signs and markers so as to give notice of such restriction.
- (4)** Any person who takes any big game animal, other than deer, within 200 yards of any place where any corn, wheat, or other grains, salts, apples, or other feed or bait has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered so as to constitute a lure, attraction, or enticement for any game bird or game animal shall, upon conviction of thereof, be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and shall be punished as provided by Code Section 17-10-4.
- (c)** When a conservation ranger is aware or becomes aware that a clearly identifiable area of land or field is baited for doves in such a manner that hunting thereon would be a violation of paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section, it shall be the duty of the conservation ranger to require the owner or other person having lawful possession or control of the baited area of land or field to remove such bait. The conservation ranger shall require such owner or other person to erect on the area of land or field signs having printed thereon the words: "No Hunting, Baited Field." Such signs shall remain for ten days after bait is removed. The printing on such signs shall be clearly visible to a person with normal eyesight from a distance of at least 50 yards. A sufficient number of such signs shall be erected to provide reasonable notice to hunters that the field or area is baited for doves. If the conservation ranger cannot locate the owner or other person having lawful possession or control of the area of land or field baited for doves, it shall be the duty of such conservation ranger to erect such signs. The owner or other person having lawful possession or control of an area or field baited for doves who fails to comply with an order of a conservation ranger requiring the removal of bait or the erection of signs, or both, as required by this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. When a conservation ranger is aware that a clearly identifiable area of land or field is baited for doves in such a manner that hunting thereon would be a violation of paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section prior to any such violation, no charge may be brought against any person under paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section unless the provisions of this subsection have been followed. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude the owner or other person having lawful possession or control of a baited area or field from being charged with and convicted of a violation of subsection (a.1) of this Code section. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude a person's being charged with and convicted of a violation of paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section when such violation is on an area of land or field baited for doves which was not previously identified by a conservation ranger as provided in this subsection prior to such violation.

§ 27-3-10. Hunting upon or discharging weapons across a public road

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt, with or without dogs, any wildlife upon any public road in this state. It shall also be unlawful for any person while hunting to discharge any weapon from or across any public road in this state.
- (b) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$1,000.00 and, in the discretion of the sentencing court, imprisonment for not more than 12 months; provided, however, that such fine shall not be subject to suspension, stay, or probation except that if the court finds that payment of such fine would impose great economic hardship upon the defendant, the court may order such fine paid in installments.

§ 27-3-12. Unlawful substances and equipment; computer assisted remote hunting prohibited

- (a) It shall be unlawful to hunt any wild animal, game animal, or game bird by means of drugs, poisons, chemicals, smoke, gas, explosives, recorded calls or sounds, or recorded and electronically imitated or amplified sounds or calls. It shall also be unlawful to use electronic communications equipment for the purpose of facilitating pursuit of any wild animal, game bird, or game animal.
- (b)
 - (1) As used in this subsection, the term "computer assisted remote hunting" means the use of a computer or other device, equipment, hardware, or software to control remotely the aiming and discharge of a firearm or other weapon so as to allow a person not holding that firearm or other weapon to hunt or shoot a wild animal or any wildlife.
 - (2) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, or association to engage in computer assisted remote hunting or provide or operate a facility that allows others to engage in computer assisted remote hunting if the wild animal or wildlife being hunted or shot is located in this state.
 - (3) (A) Any person violating the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000.00 and not more than \$5,000.00, imprisonment for a term not to exceed 12 months, or both such fine and imprisonment.
(B) Any equipment used or intended for use in a violation of this Code section, excluding motor vehicles, is declared to be contraband and shall be forfeited in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 16 of Title 9.
(C) The hunting and fishing privileges of any person convicted of violating this subsection shall be suspended for three years.

§ 27-3-13. Hunting of wildlife or feral hog from boats, aircraft, or motor vehicles

- (a) It shall be unlawful to hunt any wildlife or feral hog from an electric, gas, or diesel boat, a steamboat, a sailboat, an aircraft, a hydroplane, a hovercraft, or a motor vehicle; except that alligators may be hunted from any boat or watercraft under power and feral hogs may be hunted from motor vehicles in accordance with an applicable wildlife control permit issued by the department.

(b) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$250.00 and, in the discretion of the sentencing court, imprisonment for not more than 12 months; provided, however, that such fine shall not be subject to suspension, stay, or probation except that if the court finds that payment of such fine would impose great economic hardship upon the defendant, the court may order such fine paid in installments.

§ 27-3-14. Killing or crippling of game bird or game animal without reasonable effort to retrieve

It shall be unlawful for any person to kill or cripple any game bird or game animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the same.

§ 27-3-15. Seasons and bag limits; promulgation of rules and regulations by board; possession of more than bag limit; reporting number of deer killed

(a) It shall be unlawful to hunt the following game species at any time during the periods set forth below:

Game Species	Closed Season
-----	-----
(1) Quail	March 16 -- Oct. 31
(2) Grouse	March 1 -- Oct. 14
(3) Turkey	
(A) Gobblers	May 22 -- March 14
(B) Hens	All year
(4) Deer	Jan. 16 -- Sept. 7; except that the closed season may be Feb. 1 -- Sept. 7 in those counties specified as having an extended archery-only open season in paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of this Code section.
(5) Bobcat	March 1 -- Oct. 14
(6) Opossum	March 1 -- Oct. 14, for that area north of and including Haralson, Paulding, Bartow, Cherokee, Forsyth, Hall, Banks, Franklin, and Hart counties.
(7) Rabbit	March 1 -- Oct. 31
(8) Raccoon	March 1 -- Oct. 14, for that area north of and including Carroll, Fulton, Gwinnett, Barrow, Clarke, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Wilkes, and Lincoln counties.
(9) Squirrel	March 1 -- August 14
(10) Bear	Jan. 16 -- Sept. 7
(11) Sea turtles and their eggs	All year
(12) Cougar (Felis concolor)	All year
(13) Alligators	Nov. 1 -- March 31
(14) Migratory game birds	March 11 -- August 31

(b) It shall be unlawful to hunt the following game species at any time during the period set forth below, except that it shall not be unlawful to hunt the following game species during

such periods or portions thereof, and in such number not to exceed the following numbers, as may be designated by the board as open seasons and bag limits for such species:

Game Species	Maximum Open Season	Maximum Bag Limits	
		Daily	Season
(1) Quail	Nov. 1 -- March 15	12	No limit
(2) Grouse	Oct. 15 -- Feb. 29	3	No limit
(3) Turkey gobblers	March 15 -- May 21	3	3
(4) Deer	Sept. 8 -- Jan. 15; except that there may be also an extended archery-only open season Jan. 1 -- Jan. 31 in the counties of Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Rockdale due to the extra need for herd reduction in that urban and suburban area of the state.	The daily limit shall be ten antlerless deer and two antlered bucks. The season limit shall be ten antlerless deer and two antlered bucks. Only one antlered buck may have less than four points one inch or longer on one side of the antlers. Up to two deer per managed hunt may be allowed on wildlife management areas without complying with the state-wide bag limit.	
(5) Bobcat	Oct. 15 -- Feb. 29	No limit	No limit
(6) Opossum	(A) Oct. 15 -- Feb. 29, for that area north of and including Haralson, Paulding, Bartow, Cherokee, Forsyth, Hall, Banks, Franklin, and Hart counties; and (B) Jan. 1 -- Dec. 31 for the remainder of the state	No limit	No limit
(7) Rabbit	Nov. 1 -- Feb. 29	12	No limit
(8) Raccoon	(A) Oct. 15 -- Feb. 29, for	No limit	No limit

that area north of and including Carroll, Fulton, Gwinnett, Barrow, Clarke, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Wilkes, and Lincoln counties; and

	(B) Jan. 1 -- Dec. 31 for the remainder of the state	No limit	No limit
(9) Squirrel	Aug. 15 -- Feb. 29	12	No limit
(10) Fox	Jan. 1 -- Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
(11) Migratory game birds	Sept. 1 -- March 10	Subject to limits set by the federal government and adopted by the board.	
(12) Bear	Sept. 8 -- Jan. 15	2	2
(13) Alligators	April 1 -- Oct. 31	Subject to limits adopted by the board.	

- (c) In accordance with subsection (b) of this Code section and as may be appropriate, based on sound wildlife management principles, the board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations establishing open seasons on a state-wide, regional, or local basis and establishing daily and season bag limits.
- (d) In accordance with subsection (b) of this Code section and in accordance with the framework of open hunting season dates for migratory game birds established by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and as may be appropriate based on sound wildlife management principles, the board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations establishing methods of taking, daily and season bag limits, and open seasons for migratory game birds on a state-wide, regional, or local basis. The board is specifically authorized to promulgate such rules and regulations without complying with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act"; and all rules and regulations promulgated by the board pursuant to this subsection shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the board.
- (e) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess more than the daily bag limit or more than the aggregate of the daily bag limits while in the field or while returning from the field to one's automobile or principal means of land transportation or to one's permanent abode or temporary or transient place of lodging or to a commercial storage facility or to a post office or to a common carrier facility.
- (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section, it shall be unlawful to take the species designated below, except squirrels, by means of falconry at any time during the period March 16 through September 30; but it shall not be unlawful to take the species designated below, except squirrels, by means of falconry during the period October 1 through March 15. It shall be unlawful to take squirrels by means of falconry at any time during the period March 16 through August 14, but it shall not be unlawful to take squirrels by means of falconry at any time during the period August 15 through March 15 in such number not exceeding the bag limits for each such species as follows:

Game Species

Maximum Bag Limits

	<u>Daily</u>	<u>Season</u>
(1) Quail	12	No limit
(2) Grouse	3	No limit
(3) Rabbit	12	No limit
(4) Squirrel	12	No limit

(g)

- (1) The department shall report to the General Assembly on or before the fifth day of February of each year the estimated number of deer killed, by sex, in the immediately preceding season.
- (2) Upon completion of its annual analysis of data from the immediately preceding season, the department shall report to the General Assembly on the same day that it reports to the Board of Natural Resources each year the actual number of deer killed, by sex, in the immediately preceding season.

§ 27-3-16. Hunting with dogs generally; training of hunting dogs

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his or her possession any firearms, axes, climbers, or other equipment for taking game while training hunting dogs, provided that handguns with blank ammunition or shot cartridges may be used for training hunting dogs, and shotguns with number six shot or smaller shot may be used while training pointing, flushing, and retrieving dogs using pen raised quail and pigeons.
- (b) There is no closed season for training hunting dogs, except as otherwise provided.
- (c) It shall be unlawful to run deer with dogs, except during the lawful open season for hunting deer with dogs.
- (d) It shall be unlawful to take game by any means while training hunting dogs, except during the lawful open seasons for such game; provided, however, that pen raised quail may be taken at any time for training hunting dogs if the dog trainer maintains proof of purchase of pen raised quail.
- (e) It shall be unlawful for any person to train hunting dogs on property other than that owned by such person or his immediate family unless such person has a hunting license in his immediate possession.

§ 27-3-17. Hunting deer with dogs; seasons; permit required

- (a) It shall be unlawful to hunt deer with dogs except during such special open seasons for the hunting of deer with dogs as may be designated by the board on a state-wide, regional, or local basis.
- (b) In accordance with subsection (a) of this Code section, the board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations establishing an open season for the hunting of deer with dogs as may be appropriate based on sound wildlife management principles.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt deer with dogs on any tract of real property unless a permit for hunting deer with dogs has been issued by the department for such tract to the owner or owners of such tract or the lessee of deer hunting rights for such tract. A permit for hunting deer with dogs shall not be issued to a lessee of deer hunting rights for any tract of real property that is less than 1,000 contiguous acres or to the property owner or owners for any tract of real property that is less than 250 contiguous acres. Any application for a permit for hunting deer with dogs shall be on such form as prescribed by

the department and shall include a written description of the tract boundaries and a map showing key features such as public roads or streams on or bordering the tract and occupied dwellings on adjacent properties. The application must be signed by all persons owning any portion of the tract of real property or an authorized agent thereof.

- (d) The owner of any dog that is used for hunting deer must cause such dog to be identified at all times during the hunt with the permit number for the tract being hunted.
- (e) Any person operating a motor vehicle used in conducting a deer hunt with dogs shall during such hunt clearly display in the front or rear windshield of such motor vehicle a decal or card showing the tract permit number in numerals not less than two inches high.
- (f) The department shall thoroughly investigate for validity any complaints from adjacent property owners regarding hunting deer with dogs in violation of this title or rules and regulations issued pursuant to this title. The commissioner may take action against a permit as provided by Code Section 27-2-25 for violations of the provisions of this title or rules and regulations issued pursuant to this title occurring on the tract of real property for which the permit was issued.
- (g) Any person 16 years of age or older, including without limitation any person hunting on his or her own property, who hunts deer with dogs must obtain and possess a deer-dog hunting license in addition to all other required hunting licenses and permits. The license fee for such deer-dog license shall be \$5.00 for a one-year period, except that there shall be no charge for any holder of a valid honorary hunting license, sportsman's license, or lifetime sportsman's license issued pursuant to this title.
- (h) In addition to the provisions of subsection (f) of this Code section, the commissioner may revoke a deer-dog license for any hunter who, within a single hunting season, commits two or more violations of dogs off of permitted property.

§ 27-3-18. Hunting foxes with dogs

It shall be lawful to hunt foxes with dogs; provided, however, that no hunter shall go upon the land of another without the permission of the owner or the lessee of such land or the lessee of the game rights of such land.

§ 27-3-19. Hunting alligators; possessing alligator products; gathering alligator eggs

- (a) Except as provided in Code Section 27-3-15, it shall be unlawful for any person to hunt alligators within this state. The display or use of a light in any area closed to alligator hunting by any person not otherwise authorized to do so by regulations of the board in a place which alligators might be known to inhabit and in a manner capable of disclosing the presence of alligators, together with the possession of firearms, spear guns, gigs, harpoons, or other such equipment customarily used for the taking of alligators, during the period between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise shall be considered prima-facie evidence of an intent to violate this subsection.
- (b) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500.00 and, in the discretion of the sentencing court, imprisonment for not more than 12 months; provided, however, that such fine shall not be subject to suspension, stay, or probation except that if the court finds that payment of such fine would impose great economic hardship upon the defendant, the court may order such fine paid in installments.

(c)

- (1)** It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, buy, or sell in this state the untanned hide or skin or alligator products from an alligator not lawfully taken under the authority of Code Section 27-3-15. All such hides, skins, and alligators not lawfully taken are declared to be contraband and shall be seized and disposed of as directed by the commissioner. Possession in a store, warehouse, or retail place of business of such untanned hides or skins or alligator products not lawfully taken shall be prima-facie evidence of violation of this subsection. This subsection shall not apply to alligator products made from hides or skins of alligators produced on farms licensed under this title or from hides or skins of alligators lawfully possessed, taken, or acquired outside or inside this state, nor shall any provision of this subsection be construed so as to prohibit the preparation, processing, or manufacturing of such commercially grown or lawfully possessed, taken, or acquired alligator hides or the storage or sale of products made therefrom, subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the board.
- (2)** It shall be unlawful for any person to gather alligator eggs from the wild or possess alligator eggs gathered from the wild in this state except pursuant to permit issued by the department for such purpose. The board shall establish the conditions of such permits by such rules or regulations as are reasonable and necessary under sound game management practices, which shall include without limitation specification of when and where such eggs may be gathered, limits on the number of eggs that may be gathered, the placement of gathered eggs in incubators, return of a minimum percentage and size of hatchlings from gathered eggs to the wild, and permit fees in such amounts as are necessary to cover the cost of administration. This paragraph shall not apply to the collection of alligator eggs from an alligator farm licensed under this title.

(d)

- (1)** It shall be unlawful to possess or transport into this state any untanned alligator hide, skin, or alligator product from any place in which the taking of alligators is prohibited.
 - (2)** It shall be unlawful to possess or transport into this state any alligator eggs gathered from the wild from any place where such gathering of alligator eggs from the wild is prohibited.
 - (3)** All such hides, skins, alligator products, and alligator eggs are declared to be contraband and shall be seized and disposed of in accordance with Code Section 27-1-21.
 - (4)** Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, it shall be lawful to possess and transport into this state any untanned alligator hide, skin, alligator product, or alligator egg which was lawfully taken and transported and which is accompanied by a bill of sale, bill of lading, invoice, or permit.
- (e)** Any person who possesses any untanned alligator hide, skin, alligator product, or alligator egg from any place in which the taking of alligators is lawful, the gathering of alligator eggs from the wild is lawful, or from an alligator farm licensed under this title shall retain such receipts, invoices, bills of lading, permits, or other indicia of lawful possession, taking, or acquisition as are necessary to indicate clearly at all times the place of origin of the specific untanned alligator hides, skins, alligator products, or alligator eggs possessed.
- (f)** The hunting privileges of a person found guilty of hunting alligators at night in violation of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be suspended by the court of jurisdiction for a period not less than two years.

§ 27-3-19.1. Regulation of the exporting, farming, and selling of fresh-water turtles

- (a) It shall be unlawful to export, farm, or sell any fresh-water turtle or part thereof except in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the board.
- (b) As the board deems appropriate for purposes of this Code section, it may promulgate such rules and regulations as are reasonable and necessary under sound wildlife management practices.

§ 27-3-20. Taking rabbits and hares out of season

It shall be unlawful for any person to take rabbits or hares in this state except during the lawful hunting season as prescribed by law or rules and regulations. Persons under 16 years of age may trap or capture rabbits or hares by use of rabbit boxes or similar traps and sell them under the conditions set forth in Code Section 27-3-67.

§ 27-3-21. Killing of bears by property owners

Any property owner or his or her agent shall have the right to petition the department to remove any bear which shall constitute a clear and immediate threat to his or her property. The property owner shall petition the department for such removal on a form containing such information as may be necessary for the proper evaluation and consideration of the application. Removal shall occur only in cases where the department has determined that the removal of the bear is justified. Representatives of the department are authorized to investigate claims of damage and the necessity of removal of the bear prior to taking action on the petition.

§ 27-3-22. Hunting, possessing, or transporting birds generally

It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt, trap, take, possess, sell, purchase, ship, or transport any hawk, eagle, owl, or any other bird or any part, nest, or egg thereof, except for the English or European house sparrow, the European starling, feral pigeons, and domestic fowl, and except as otherwise permitted by the game and fish laws of this state; provided, however, that any person may transport into this state feathers of birds, other than migratory game birds, for millinery purposes.

§ 27-3-23. Sale of tails of squirrels

Notwithstanding any other provision of this title to the contrary, it shall be lawful to sell the tails of legally taken squirrels.

§ 27-3-24. Restrictions on hunting feral hogs

- (a) It shall be unlawful to hunt, or engage in the hunting of, feral hogs:
 - (1) Upon the lands of another or enter upon the lands of another in pursuit of feral hogs without first obtaining permission from the landowner or lessee of such land or the lessee of the game rights of such land;
 - (2) Upon any land which is posted without having the permission required by paragraph (1) of this subsection in writing and carried upon the person; or
 - (3) During the firearms deer season unless the hunter and each person accompanying the hunter are wearing a total of at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material as an outer garment and such material or garment is worn above the waistline, and may include a head covering.

(a.1)

- (1)** The board may by rule or regulation restrict the feeding, baiting, or hunting of feral hogs upon, over, around, or near feed or bait in any county wherein there is a documented occurrence of a communicable disease in deer and in any county adjoining such county. Such restriction may be imposed in such county and any adjoining county for a period of up to and including one year and may be extended for additional periods of up to and including two years each upon documentation that the communicable disease is still present in deer in such county. No person shall feed, bait, or hunt feral hogs in violation of any restriction imposed pursuant to this paragraph.
- (2)** The department shall give notice of such restriction by mail or electronic means to each person holding a current license to hunt whose last known address is within a restricted county. The department may place or designate the placement of signs and markers so as to give notice of such restriction.

(a.2) It shall be unlawful for any person to place, expose, deposit, distribute, or scatter any corn, wheat, or other grains, salts, apples, or other feed or bait so as to constitute a lure, attraction, or enticement for feral hogs within 50 yards of any property ownership boundary.

(b) It shall be unlawful to transport any live feral hog without carrying on his or her person a feral hog transport permit issued by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to Code Section 2-7-201. Any person who captures live feral hogs without such permit shall kill such feral hogs prior to transport from the point of capture.

(c) The Board of Natural Resources is authorized by rules or regulations to control and regulate the hunting or taking of feral hogs on wildlife management areas.

§ 27-3-25. Hunting bears; required outer garments

It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt bears or for any person to accompany another person hunting bears unless each person shall wear a total of at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material as an outer garment during firearms and primitive weapons seasons. Such clothing must be worn above the waistline and may include a head covering.

§ 27-3-26. Hunting bears; restrictions; penalties

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (1)** Hunt, take, or attempt to take a bear except during the open season for hunting and taking bears or under authority of a permit by the Department of Natural Resources to kill or take a bear;
- (2)** Buy, sell, barter, or exchange a bear or bear part; or
- (3)** Possess or transport a freshly killed bear or bear part except during the open season for hunting and taking bears and except as provided in Code Section 27-3-28.

(b) Each act constituting a violation of this Code section is a separate offense.

(c) Any person violating the provisions of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature, and, upon conviction, may be punished by a fine of not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$5,000.00, by confinement for a term not to exceed 12 months, or both. The court may order that restitution be paid to the department of not less than \$1,500.00 for each bear or bear part which is the subject of a violation of this Code section. Any equipment which is used or intended for use in a violation of this Code section,

excluding motor vehicles, is declared to be contraband and is forfeited in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 16 of Title 9. The hunting and fishing privileges of any person convicted of violating the provisions of this Code section shall be suspended for three years.

§ 27-3-27. Unlawful use of bear bait

- (a) It is unlawful to use any type of bait to concentrate the bear population in any area or to lure them to any location which gives or might give a hunter an unnatural advantage when hunting bear.
- (b) Any person violating the provisions of this Code section is guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and, upon conviction, may be punished by a fine of not less than \$500.00 and not to exceed \$5,000.00 or by confinement for a term not to exceed 12 months, or both.

§ 27-3-28. Person may take possession of native wildlife which has been killed by a motor vehicle

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, any person may lawfully possess native wildlife which has been accidentally killed by a motor vehicle. The following exceptions and conditions to this general rule shall apply:
 - (1) Any person taking possession of a bear accidentally killed by a motor vehicle shall notify the department or a law enforcement officer of the fact and location of the taking of possession and his or her name and address within 48 hours after taking possession of the bear; and
 - (2) This Code section shall not authorize any person to take possession of any animal of a species designated as a protected species under Article 5 of this chapter or under federal law.
- (b) A law enforcement officer receiving a report of a person taking possession of a bear under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of this Code section shall in turn transmit the reported information to the department within 48 hours after receipt of such information.

§ 27-3-29. Recording and reporting requirements for game animals and birds; penalty for violations

- (a) The board shall promulgate rules and regulations establishing harvest recording and reporting requirements for game animals and game birds. Such rules and regulations shall describe the type of information that is required, the requirements for transportation of the carcass of a game animal or game bird killed by another person, and the requirements for possession of the carcass of a game animal or game bird by any private or commercial cold storage or processing facility.
- (b) Except in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations of the board regarding required harvest recording and reporting, it shall be unlawful for:
 - (1) Any person killing a game animal or game bird to remove the carcass from the place of killing or for any person to transport the carcass of a game animal or game bird killed by another person; or
 - (2) Any private or commercial cold storage or processing facility to possess the carcass of a game animal or game bird.

- (c) It shall be unlawful to obtain, possess, or otherwise use multiple sets of licenses or harvest records for the purpose of circumventing the bag limit for any game animal or game bird for which a harvest record is required by the rules and regulations of the board.
- (d) Any person violating the provisions of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$200.00 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both.

§ 27-3-62. Open seasons

- (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Code section, it shall be unlawful to trap any wildlife in this state between March 1 and November 19.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to trap any wildlife during the period between November 20 and February 29, except as otherwise provided in this Code section and except that it shall not be unlawful to trap a fur-bearing animal during that period or a portion thereof if that period or portion thereof is designated by the board as an open trapping season for such fur-bearing animal.
- (c) In accordance with subsection (b) of this Code section and as may be appropriate in accordance with sound wildlife management principles, the board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations establishing open seasons for the trapping of fur-bearing animals on a state-wide, regional, or local basis.
- (d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) or (b) of this Code section, it shall be lawful to trap beaver, rats, and mice at any time during the year. It shall also be lawful for any person to set steel traps within 200 yards of the residence or dwelling of any such person for the protection of livestock, ratites, poultry, or other fowl or domestic animals from any predatory bird or animal.
- (e) Any person who violates any provision of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

§ 27-3-90. Requirements for lawful transportation

It shall be unlawful for any person to remove, ship, or transport from any point within this state to another point within this state or from any point within this state to any point beyond the borders of this state, except as otherwise provided, any wildlife taken in this state unless the wildlife is in the personal possession of or is carried openly by the person who took such wildlife and unless the person has in his possession a proper license or permit as prescribed by the wildlife laws, rules, and regulations.

§ 27-3-91. Transportation by carrier within state

It shall be unlawful for any person to take any wildlife and have such wildlife transported to his home or any other place within this state by a carrier unless the person files with the carrier a written statement giving his name and address and the number of wildlife to be so transported and specifying that he lawfully took the wildlife and that it is to be disposed of lawfully. A copy of the statement shall be attached to the wildlife or to its packaging.

§ 27-3-92. Transportation out of state

It shall be unlawful for any person, other than a carrier who has complied with Code Section 27-3-94, to remove, ship, or transport wildlife out of this state except under the following conditions:

- (1) The person must have in his possession at the time of such removing, shipping, or transporting the proper wildlife license or permit duly issued to such person by the department;
- (2) The person cannot remove from the state more than the bag or possession limits established by law or regulation;
- (3) The person shall make a sworn statement, duly attested to by an authorized officer of this state, which statement shall show that the person has lawfully taken such wildlife and that they are not for sale, except as otherwise permitted by the wildlife laws, rules, and regulations, and shall show the number of wildlife being shipped, transported, or removed from the state. One copy of the statement shall be given the carrier, if such wildlife is being transported by carrier, and one shall be attached to the wildlife being shipped, transported, or removed from the state; and
- (4) The person shall submit his license or permit and sworn statement to any sheriff, deputy sheriff, or conservation ranger for inspection when requested to do so.

§ 27-3-93. Transportation for propagation and scientific purposes

It shall be unlawful for any person to ship or transport from any point within this state to any other point within this state, or to points beyond this state, any wildlife or parts thereof for propagation or scientific purposes unless the person has been issued and is holding a valid scientific collecting permit. Both the person shipping or transporting the wildlife and any carrier accepting such shipment shall, on the same day the shipment is made, report to the department the number and the species of wildlife shipped, to whom shipped, and by whom shipped.

§ 27-3-94. Acceptance by carriers of wildlife for shipment; reports required

It shall be unlawful for any carrier to ship, transport, or receive for shipment or transportation any wildlife, except as otherwise provided by the wildlife laws, rules, or regulations, without having ascertained that the person offering the wildlife for shipment or transportation was then and there in possession of a proper license or permit duly issued for the period when the shipment was offered, or without receiving from the person a sworn statement as provided in paragraph (3) of Code Section 27-3-92. Any carrier who shall ship or transport the skins, hides, or pelts of fur-bearing animals shall be required to make reports of such shipments or transportation as may be required by the rules and regulations of the board.

§ 27-3-150. "Lawful taking" defined

As used in this article, the term "lawful taking" means taking wildlife when such taking is authorized by the provisions of this title or by rules or regulations of the board adopted pursuant to the authority of this title.

§ 27-3-151. Activity prohibited

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (1) Interfere with the lawful taking of wildlife by another person by intentionally preventing or attempting to prevent such person from such lawful taking of wildlife;
- (2) Disturb or engage in activity tending to disturb wildlife for the purpose of intentionally preventing or attempting to prevent the lawful taking of such wildlife; or
- (3) Fail to obey an order of a law enforcement officer to desist from conduct violating paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection if the law enforcement officer observes such

conduct or if the law enforcement officer has reasonable grounds for believing that the person has engaged in such conduct that day or that the person plans or intends to engage in such conduct that day at a specific location.

- (b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this Code section shall be construed to apply to the activities of law enforcement officers or employees of the department in the performance of their duties.

§ 27-3-152. Injunctions; damages for violations

- (a) The superior court of a county may enjoin conduct which would be in violation of Code Section 27-3-151 upon the petition of a person who is affected or who reasonably may be affected by such conduct upon a showing that such conduct is threatened or that such conduct has occurred at a particular location in the past and that it is not unreasonable to expect that under similar circumstances such conduct will be repeated.
- (b) A person who engages in conduct in violation of Code Section 27-3-151 shall be civilly liable to any other person who is adversely affected by such conduct, and any award for damages may include punitive damages. In addition to any other items of special damage, the measure of damages may include expenditures of the affected person for license and permit fees, travel, guides, and special equipment and supplies to the extent that such expenditures were rendered futile by preventing the lawful taking of wildlife.

§ 27-3-180. Findings and declarations

The General Assembly recognizes that the hunting and taking of wildlife pursuant to this title are a valued cultural heritage consistent with the sound scientific principles of wildlife management and play an essential and effective role in the management of wildlife populations. The General Assembly further recognizes that the State of Georgia and its citizens derive substantial economic, recreational, and esthetic benefits from such activities. Therefore, the General Assembly finds and declares that it is in the public interest to ensure public health, safety, welfare, and conservation of the state's wildlife resources by strictly regulating in this state the use of fertility control on any wildlife.

§ 27-3-181. Use of fertility control of wildlife

- (a) As used in this article, the term "fertility control" means any action that results in contraception, contragestation, or sterilization or produces a temporary or permanent state of infertility.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to apply any fertility control to any wildlife, except in accordance with a wildlife fertility control permit issued under the provisions of this article and any rules or regulations adopted by the board.
- (c) Nothing in this article shall prohibit or apply to the medically necessary treatment of sick or injured wildlife by properly licensed veterinarians. This article shall not limit employees of the department in the performance of their official duties.

§ 27-3-182. Permit application for applying fertility control to wildlife

- (a) Application for a wildlife fertility control permit shall be made on forms obtained from the department.

- (b) The department may issue such a permit only if it has determined that the proposed activity is in the best interest of the wildlife resources. In making such a determination, the department may consider the following:
- (1) Whether the proposed activity may preclude the use of hunting as the primary management tool;
 - (2) Whether the drug has been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration;
 - (3) Whether there is a need for the information and data or a need to manage the target wildlife population to achieve the objectives sought by the applicant;
 - (4) Whether the proposed activity would duplicate sound scientific research previously accomplished;
 - (5) Whether the proposed activity is of reasonably sound design;
 - (6) Whether the proposed activity poses health or safety risks to humans and wildlife, including, but not limited to, wildlife species that may consume the target wildlife;
 - (7) Whether the proposed activity includes all necessary approvals, including, but not limited to, any federal or state agency approvals for specific or extra label use and any agency or institutional endorsement of the application; and
 - (8) Whether the applicant or the sponsor has documented that he or she has adequate funds available to implement the proposed activity.
- (c) In the event that a determination has been made to revoke, suspend, deny, or refuse to renew any wildlife fertility control permit issued pursuant to this article, the applicant for such permit may appeal the determination according to the provisions stated in Code Section 27-2-25.

§ 27-3-183. Rules and regulations

The board is authorized to promulgate and adopt any rules and regulations, consistent with sound wildlife management practices and not inconsistent with law, as it deems necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of this article.

§ 27-3-184. Wildlife fertility control permits; cease and desist orders; possession of wildlife

- (a) The department shall have the authority to prescribe the form, contents, and conditions for a wildlife fertility control permit and application as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.
- (b) The department shall have the authority to issue, revoke, or deny any permit required by this article and pursuant to any rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this article.
- (c) The department may, prior to a hearing and in accordance with Code Section 27-1-37, issue a cease and desist order or other appropriate order to any person who is violating any provision of this article or any regulation, permit, or license issued pursuant to this article.
- (d) The department shall have the authority in accordance with Code Sections 27-1-21 and 27-1-37 to take possession of and dispose of any wildlife if it has reason to believe that fertility control has been administered to such wildlife in violation of this article.

§ 27-3-185. Penalties

- (a) Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,500.00 nor more than \$5,000.00, imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months, or both such fine and imprisonment.
- (b) Any licenses or permits issued under this title to any person convicted of violating any provision of this article shall by operation of law be revoked and shall not be reissued for a period of three years. The department shall notify the person in writing of the revocation.

Fish (O.C.G.A. 27-4-1, et. seq.)

§ 27-4-1. Salt-water and fresh-water demarcation line

- 1) The line established in this state as the separation point between salt waters and fresh waters for commercial fishing and sport fishing is as follows:
 - (a) The point at which U.S. Highway 17 crosses the following bodies of water and their tributaries shall be the line of demarcation for them: St. Marys River, Satilla River, South Altamaha River, Champney River, Butler River, Darien River, Little Ogeechee System (except Salt Creek), North Newport River, Medway River, Big Ogeechee River, and the point at which Georgia Highway 25/South Carolina 170 crosses the Savannah River and its tributaries. All water seaward of these points shall be considered salt water; and
 - (b) The following streams and their tributaries are designated as salt water for their entire length: Crooked River, Little Satilla River, South Brunswick River, Turtle River, Sapelo River, South Newport River, Salt Creek (Little Ogeechee System), and all other rivers, streams, and tributaries in the six coastal counties which are not enumerated in this subsection.
- 2) This Code section shall not apply to fresh-water ponds on the seaward side of the demarcation line.

§ 27-4-2. Fishing in waters or from lands of another without permission; obstruction or interference with rights of others

It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in the waters or from upon the lands of another without first having obtained permission from the landowner or person in charge of such lands, provided that nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to apply to the fishing or taking of fish, other than oysters, clams, and other shellfish, in any of the salt-water creeks, streams, or estuaries leading from the Atlantic Ocean or from the sounds, rivers, or bays surrounding the several islands of this state. It shall also be unlawful for any person to obstruct or interfere with the right of any other person to fish in these salt-water creeks, streams, or estuaries leading from the Atlantic Ocean or from the sounds, rivers, or bays surrounding the several islands of this state. Conservation rangers, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and all other peace officers of this state or of any county or municipality thereof shall enforce this Code section.

§ 27-4-4. Unlawful dumping; recovery of damages

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, dump, drain, or allow to pass into any waters of this state which belong to the department or which are being utilized by the department for fish propagation any sawdust, dyestuff, oil, chemicals, or other deleterious substances that will or may tend to injure, destroy, or drive away from such waters any fish or aquatic organisms which may inhabit such waters.
- (2) The state, through the department, may recover damages in a civil action against any person who unlawfully or negligently injures or destroys any fish or aquatic organism in any waters which belong to the department or which are being utilized by the department for fish propagation. The measure of damages in such action shall be the amount which will compensate for all the detriment proximately caused by the destruction or injury of such fish or aquatic organism.

§ 27-4-5. Methods for taking fish generally

- (A) It shall be unlawful to fish for game fish, except American shad, hickory shad, flathead catfish, and channel catfish, by any means other than a pole and line. Except as otherwise provided, it shall be unlawful to take any fish in the fresh waters of this state by any method other than a pole and line, sport trotlines in accordance with Code Section 27-4-32, set hooks, jugs, bow and arrow in accordance with Code Section 27-4-34, spears in accordance with Code Section 27-4-33, seines in accordance with Code Section 27-4-6, by hand in accordance with Code Section 27-4-37, and as authorized in Code Section 27-4-91 with regard to commercial fresh-water fishing.
- (B) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Code section, dip nets and cast nets may be used to take for bait threadfin shad, blueback herring, gizzard shad, and other nongame fish as authorized by the board; and landing nets may be used to land fish legally caught.
- (C) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Code section, it shall be lawful to use seines, nets, and chemicals in a pond if all the owners of a pond desire that such be done and if a local conservation ranger is notified at least two hours in advance of the use, provided that it shall not be lawful to use such seines, nets, and chemicals in an oxbow lake. For purposes of this Code section, an "oxbow lake" means a lake formed in an abandoned river channel which has become separated from the main stream by a natural change in the river.

§ 27-4-6. Use of minnow seines

It shall be unlawful to take any game fish or American eels by minnow seines from the fresh waters of this state. It shall also be unlawful to take any nongame fish by minnow seines from any of the fresh waters of this state, except where such fish are five inches in length or less and are not to be sold or otherwise used for commercial purposes and except where such waters are not trout waters as designated pursuant to Code Section 27-4-51. It shall also be unlawful to use a seine which is longer than 20 feet or which has a mesh larger than three-eighths of an inch square, or in diameter if the mesh is not square. All game fish and American eels taken in such seines shall be immediately released unharmed into the waters from which they were taken.

§ 27-4-7. Use of gill nets; seizure of illegal nets

- (B) Except as otherwise provided by law or rule and regulation, it shall be unlawful for any person to use a gill net in any of the fresh waters or salt waters of this state at any time, provided that it shall be lawful for properly licensed fishermen to use such nets in the taking of shad in accordance with Code Section 27-4-71 and all other laws and rules and regulations applicable to the taking of shad. All nets violative of this Code section found in the fresh waters or salt waters of this state or in the possession of any person on or around fresh water or salt water shall be seized by conservation rangers or other peace officers of this state. Nets so seized shall be confiscated and shall become the property of the department and shall be disposed of as the commissioner shall direct.
- (B) Except for shad taken in accordance with Code Section 27-4-71, it shall be unlawful to land in this state any of the species of fish enumerated in Code Section 27-4-10 which were taken by means of a gill net. For purposes of this subsection, "to land" fish means to bring the fish to shore in this state in the boat or vessel utilized in taking the fish by means of a gill net, regardless of the jurisdiction from which the fish were taken.

§ 27-4-8. Unlawful devices or substances

It shall be unlawful for any person to use any firearm, battery, generator or other similar device or any dynamite, explosives, or destructive substances, including poisons, walnut hulls, and lime, for the purpose of catching, killing, taking, or harming fish. The possession of any of the foregoing devices or substances, except firearms, in any boat on the fresh waters of this state shall be deemed prima-facie evidence of guilt under this Code section; provided, however, this provision shall not apply to batteries used to operate motors or lights.

§ 27-4-9. Possession of nets or other devices for taking shad during closed season deemed evidence of violation

The possession, in any boat upon the waters of this state, of nets or other devices capable of taking shad during such time as laws or regulations prohibit the taking of such fish shall be prima-facie evidence that the person having such nets or equipment in his possession is guilty of taking shad in violation of the wildlife laws, rules, and regulations.

§ 27-4-10. Creel and possession limits; size restrictions

(C) It shall be unlawful to take in one day or to possess at any one time, except at a commercial storage facility or at one's place of abode, more than the creel and possession limits established by the board for that fish species; provided, however, that it shall be illegal to possess more than a total of 50 individuals of all fresh water species named in this Code section. It shall be unlawful to take from the waters of this state or to possess any fish species larger or smaller or in numbers greater than the limits established by the board in accordance with this Code section. The board shall establish creel and possession limits which shall be no greater than the following limits and shall establish sizes of fish species within the following ranges which may not be taken:

Species	Ranges of Sizes Within Which Fish May Not Be Taken And Possession Limit	Maximum Daily Creel
(1) Largemouth bass	0 -- 24 inches	10
(2) Smallmouth bass	0 -- 18 inches	10
(3) Shoal bass	0 -- 18 inches	10
(4) Suwannee bass	0 -- 18 inches	10
(5) Spotted bass or Kentucky bass	0 -- 18 inches	10
(6) Redeye bass or Coosa bass	0 -- 12 inches	10
(7) Mountain trout	0 -- 24 inches	8
(8) White bass	0 -- 36 inches	15
(9) Striped bass	0 -- 36 inches	15
(10) Striped white bass hybrids	0 -- 36 inches	15
(11) Any one or combination of the species of bream or sunfish	0 -- 10 inches	50
(12) Walleye	0 -- 24 inches	15
(13) Sauger	0 -- 24 inches	15

(14) Chain pickerel	0 -- 24 inches	15
(15) Grass pickerel	0 -- 12 inches	15
(16) Redfin pickerel	0 -- 12 inches	15
(17) Black crappie	0 -- 14 inches	30
(18) White crappie	0 -- 14 inches	30
(19) American shad	0 -- 30 inches	8
(20) Hickory shad	0 -- 24 inches	8
(21) Amberjack	0 -- 50 inches	5
(22) Atlantic croaker	0 -- 10 inches	25
(23) Atlantic sturgeon	0 -- 86 inches	1
(24) Black drum	0 -- 36 inches	15
(25) Black sea bass	0 -- 15 inches	15
(26) Blue marlin		3
(27) Bluefish	0 -- 20 inches	15
(28) Cobia	0 -- 40 inches	5
(29) Dolphin	0 -- 24 inches	15
(30) Flounder (Paralichthys spp.)	0 -- 15 inches	15
(31) Gag grouper	0 -- 25 inches	5
(32) King mackerel	0 -- 36 inches	5
(33) Red drum	0 -- 36 inches	5
(34) Red porgy	0 -- 20 inches	10
(35) Red snapper	0 -- 25 inches	5
(36) Sailfish		3
(37) Sand tiger shark	0 -- 140 inches	1
(38) Sharks	0 -- 120 inches	2
(39) Sheepshead	0 -- 20 inches	15
(40) Small sharks composite (Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, and spiny dogfish)	0 -- 54 inches	4
(41) Spanish mackerel	0 -- 20 inches	20
(42) Spot	0 -- 10 inches	25
(43) Spotted sea trout	0 -- 25 inches	15
(44) Tarpon	0 -- 90 inches	1
(45) Tripletail	0 -- 25 inches	5
(46) Weakfish	0 -- 15 inches	15
(47) White marlin		3

(C) In accordance with sound principles of wildlife research and management, the board shall have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations establishing size limits, open seasons, creel and possession limits, and possession and landing specifications on a state-wide, regional, or local basis in accordance with this Code section. The board is further authorized to designate certain areas as catch and release fishing areas and to promulgate

rules and regulations necessary for the management of such areas for catch and release fishing.

§ 27-4-11. Fishing in department fish hatcheries.

It shall be unlawful to fish in ponds or other waters of fish hatcheries owned or operated by the department, except for those waters which the department opens for fishing. The department may set special creel limits, hours, open dates, age limitations, and other conditions for fishing in the ponds or other waters at each facility.

§ 27-4-11.1. Possession of firearms and intoxication on public fishing areas; fishing in closed fishing areas; other restrictions in public fishing areas

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person on any public fishing area owned or operated by the department:
 - (1) To possess a firearm other than a handgun, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-11-125.1, during a closed hunting season for that area unless such firearm is unloaded and stored in a motor vehicle so as not to be readily accessible or to possess a handgun during a closed hunting season for that area unless such person possesses a valid weapons carry license issued pursuant to Code Section 16-11-129;
 - (2) To possess a loaded firearm other than a handgun, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-11-125.1, in a motor vehicle during a legal open hunting season for that area or to possess a loaded handgun in a motor vehicle during a legal open hunting season for that area unless such person possesses a valid weapons carry license issued pursuant to Code Section 16-11-129; or
 - (3) To be under the influence of drugs, intoxicating liquors, beers, or wines. The determination of whether any person is under the influence of drugs or intoxicating liquors, beers, or wines may be made in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 3 of this title relating to hunting while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to fish at any time in any pond or lake on a public fishing area owned or operated by the department which has been posted "closed" by the department for purposes of fisheries management or to take or possess any species or any size of any species or to exceed the creel limit of any species at any time from any pond or lake on a public fishing area which has been posted with a sign which states that that species or size may not be taken or that creel limit exceeded. Creel and size limits posted as permissible must be within the limits set forth in Code Section 27-4-10 and, if applicable, the limits set by the board pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to take in one day or to possess at any one time any number of fish caught from public fishing areas except in compliance with limits set by rule and regulation of the board, which limits shall not be more than the maximum limit for that species set forth in Code Section 27-4-10.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for any person to fish or to be present on any public fishing area except in accordance with rules and regulations established by the board for the use of such area. The board shall have the authority to adopt rules and regulations governing methods of fishing; to regulate the operation and use of vessels; to close the area or certain ponds or lakes of the area to vessels; and to regulate other matters that the board deems necessary for the safe operation and sound management of the area.

- (e) It shall be unlawful on any public fishing area for any person to drive or otherwise operate a vehicle on any road posted "closed" to vehicular access, to drive around a closed gate or cable blocking a road, or to drive on any road that is not improved in that it is not receiving maintenance for the purpose of vehicular access. It shall be unlawful for any person to park a vehicle at any place within a public fishing area, including upon the right of way of any county, state, or federal highway which traverses the public fishing area, where signs placed at the direction of the commissioner or his or her designee prohibit parking.
- (f) It shall be unlawful for any person to camp anywhere on any public fishing area except in those areas designated by appropriate signs as camping areas.
- (g) It shall be unlawful for persons under 14 years of age to enter or remain upon any public fishing area unless such person is under adult supervision. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or knowingly to permit his or her ward who is under 14 years of age to enter or remain upon any public fishing area unless such child or ward is under adult supervision.
- (h) It shall be unlawful for any person who has fished at a public fishing area to refuse to allow department personnel to count, measure, and weigh his or her catch.

§ 27-4-12. Adoption of rules and regulations by board; reporting; legislative overruling of rules and regulations

- (a) In accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management, the board shall have the authority to adopt rules and regulations establishing seasons; methods of fishing and disposition; size, possession, and creel limits; and gear and landing specifications for the taking of fish from the fresh waters and salt waters of this state, except to the extent that such matters are specifically provided for by this title.
- (b) Within the first ten days of a subsequent legislative session, the board shall report to the appropriate standing committees of each house and to all members whose districts are included within current boundaries of the First Congressional District the following information for the previous year:
 - (1) A listing and description of rules promulgated by the board for salt-water species listed in Code Section 27-4-10; and
 - (2) A listing and description of any findings made by the department in making a determination pursuant to Code Section 27-4-130.
- (c) The General Assembly may override any rule or regulation promulgated by the board affecting salt-water finfish fisheries after January 1, 2013, by adopting a joint resolution of the General Assembly so stating, the provisions of Code Section 50-13-4 notwithstanding.

§ 27-4-30. Fishing in private ponds

The owner of a private pond, the owner's family, or tenants with the owner's consent shall be permitted to fish within the bounds of the pond at any time and in any manner without a fishing license. All other persons shall be required to obtain fishing licenses to fish within the bounds of a private pond as provided in this title unless the fish in the private pond are "domestic fish" as defined in paragraph (23) of Code Section 27-1-2. For the purposes of this Code section, the term "private pond" shall not include ponds owned by city or county governments, the State of Georgia, the United States, or authorities or political subdivisions of such governments.

§ 27-4-31. Catch-out pond licenses

The owner or operator of a catch-out pond operated as one contiguous unit and under single ownership, including ownership by a partnership, firm, association, or corporation, may purchase a catch-out pond license as provided in Code Section 27-2-23. Such license shall not be transferable to another owner or operator or to any other site. Persons, both residents and nonresidents, may fish in a properly licensed catch-out pond without obtaining a fishing license or trout license and without complying with the creel limits, possession limits, size limits, and seasons set forth in this title. It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of a catch-out pond not properly licensed to represent to any person that such person may fish in the pond as if the pond were a licensed catch-out pond.

§ 27-4-32. Sport trotlines

Sport trotlines must be marked with the owner's name and address and with visible buoys and must be submerged at least three feet below the surface of the water. Such trotlines must be attended regularly and removed after the completed fishing trip. Unmarked or unattended lines will be confiscated by personnel of the department. As used in this Code section, "sport trotlines" means one line or a combination of lines using less than 51 hooks. It shall be unlawful to use any sport trotline within one-half mile below any lock or dam on any of the fresh waters of this state.

§ 27-4-33. Spearing of fish

- (a) It shall be unlawful to spear game fish and all species of catfish in the fresh waters of this state except as provided in this Code section; provided, however, other species of nongame fish may be speared solely for the purpose of sport, provided the person engaged in the act of spearing is completely submerged.
- (b) "Spearing" as used in this Code section shall be limited to the use of a spear or similar instrument that is held in the hand of the person using the same and the use of a weapon other than a firearm which propels or forces a projectile or similar device therefrom, to which a wire, rope, line, cord, or other means of recovering the projectile or similar device is attached, which wire, rope, line, cord, or other means is secured to the weapon or the person using the weapon.
- (c) It shall also be unlawful for any person to engage in the spearing of fish in the fresh waters of this state without a resident or nonresident fishing license as provided in Code Section 27-2-23.
- (d) It shall be unlawful to use spears with poisonous or exploding heads.
- (e) It shall be unlawful to discharge spears into waters nearer than 150 feet to anyone engaged in any other means of recreation.
- (f) Any game fish, except channel catfish and flathead catfish taken under the provisions of subsection (g) of this Code section, with an open wound and in the possession of a person fishing with a spear shall be prima-facie evidence of taking and possessing fish illegally.
- (g) It shall be unlawful to take channel catfish and flathead catfish anywhere in the Savannah River, including its tributaries and impoundments within the Savannah River Basin, by means of spearing, except under the following conditions:
 - (1) The taking of channel catfish and flathead catfish in the Savannah River, including its tributaries and impoundments within the Savannah River Basin, by spear shall be legal at any time of the day and at night by the use of a light; and

- (2) All spears used pursuant to this subsection must be equipped with barbs or contain devices on the point to act as a harpoon for recovering fish and must be attached to the person using the spear or to the weapon by a rope, line, or cord sufficient for recovering the spear and channel catfish or flathead catfish.

§ 27-4-34. Fishing with bow and arrow

- (a) It shall be unlawful to take nongame fish from the waters of this state by means of bow and arrow except under the following conditions:
 - (1) Each person using a bow and arrow shall have on his or her person a valid state resident or nonresident fishing license;
 - (2) All arrows used pursuant to this Code section must be equipped with barbs or contain devices on the point to act as a harpoon for recovering fish and must be attached to the person or bow by a rope, line, or cord sufficient for recovering the arrow and nongame fish;
 - (3) Arrows with poisonous or exploding heads are illegal;
 - (4) It shall be unlawful to discharge arrows into waters nearer than 150 feet to anyone engaged in any other means of recreation; and
 - (5) Legal hours for the taking of fish by bow and arrow shall be from sunrise to sunset, except as otherwise provided in subsection (d) in this Code section.
- (b) Any game fish, except channel catfish and flathead catfish taken under the provisions of subsection (d) of this Code section, with an open wound and in the possession of a person fishing with a bow and arrow shall be prima-facie evidence of taking and possessing fish illegally.
- (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of this Code section, if all other requirements of said subsection (a) are met, nongame fish may be taken in impounded waters of reservoirs over 500 acres in size by bow and arrow at any time during the day and may be taken at night by the use of a light.
- (d) It shall be unlawful to take channel catfish and flathead catfish anywhere in the Savannah River, including its tributaries and impoundments within the Savannah River Basin, by means of bow and arrow, except under the following conditions:
 - (1) Each person using a bow and arrow shall have on his or her person a valid state resident or nonresident fishing license;
 - (2) All arrows used pursuant to this subsection must be equipped with barbs or contain devices on the point to act as a harpoon for recovering fish and must be attached to the person or bow by a rope, line, or cord sufficient for recovering the arrow and channel catfish or flathead catfish;
 - (3) Arrows with poisonous or exploding heads are illegal;
 - (4) It shall be unlawful to discharge arrows into waters nearer than 150 feet to anyone engaged in any other means of recreation; and
 - (5) The taking of channel catfish and flathead catfish in the Savannah River, including its tributaries and impoundments within the Savannah River Basin, by bow and arrow shall be legal at any time of the day and at night by the use of a light.
- (e) Subject to the provisions of this Code section, and in accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management, the board is authorized to promulgate

rules and regulations regarding the taking of any fish from the salt waters of this state by means of bow and arrow.

§ 27-4-36. Artificial-lure streams or lakes.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to fish in any artificial-lure stream or lake except with an artificial lure or to have any bait or lure other than artificial in possession at such stream or lake. The board shall have the authority to designate streams, lakes, or parts of streams or lakes as artificial-lure streams or lakes and to promulgate rules regarding fishing methods, gear, and size or type of artificial lures that may be used on such streams or lakes.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to have in possession while fishing such streams or lakes any bait, lure, landing net, or other gear which may not be lawfully used on such streams or lakes.

§ 27-4-37. Taking of fish by grabbling, noodling, or hand grabbing

- 1) It shall be unlawful to fish for game fish, catfish, and all other species of fish in the freshwaters of the state by grabbling, noodling, or hand grabbing except as provided in this Code section. Flathead, channel, and blue catfish may be taken by hand without the aid of any device, hook, snare, net, or other artificial instrument and without the aid of any scuba equipment, air hose, or other artificial breathing apparatus between March 1 and July 15 of each year.
- 2) It shall be unlawful to alter any natural or manmade feature by placing boards, wire, barrels, buckets, or any device or obstruction in any stream or other body of water or to modify any log, hole, or other feature in an attempt to attract or capture fish by grabbling, noodling, or hand grabbing or to take fish by grabbling, noodling, or hand grabbing from such altered devices. It shall also be unlawful to raise any part of a natural or artificial device out of the water to aid in the hand capture of enclosed fish.
- 3) Any game fish, except channel and flathead catfish, taken in violation of the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section that are in the possession of a person grabbling, noodling, or hand grabbing fish shall be prima-facie evidence of taking and possessing fish illegally.
- 4) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the grabbling, noodling, or hand grabbing of flathead, channel, or blue catfish in the fresh waters of this state without a resident or nonresident fishing license as provided in Code Section 27-2-23.

§ 27-4-50. Manner of fishing; moving of trout

- (a) It shall be unlawful to fish for trout in any waters designated as trout waters pursuant to Code Section 27-4-51 by any means other than using one pole and line held in hand.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to use live fish for bait in any waters designated as trout waters pursuant to Code Section 27-4-51, except as authorized by the board.
- (c) It shall be unlawful to move trout from any of the fresh waters of this state to any other fresh waters of this state, except that authorized agents of the department may move trout as necessary for purposes of fisheries management, conservation, and restoration.

§ 27-4-51. Designation of certain waters as trout waters; establishment of seasons and methods of fishing

- (a) The board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations as may be appropriate based on sound wildlife management principles designating all or any portion of any watershed, stream, or lake as trout waters and establishing seasons, times, and methods of fishing in such waters.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to fish in any waters which the board designates as trout waters except during such times and in such methods as the board establishes by rule or regulation.

§ 27-4-70. Fishing in waters not opened for commercial fishing

It shall be unlawful to fish commercially except in waters opened for commercial fishing by regulation of the board.

§ 27-4-71. Commercial fishing for shad, American eels, catfish, and horseshoe crabs

- (a) It shall be unlawful to fish commercially for shad, American eels, catfish in salt water, or horseshoe crabs except with a valid commercial fishing license as prescribed in Code Section 27-2-23 and a valid commercial fishing boat license as prescribed in Code Section 27-2-8. In accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management, the commissioner may authorize any person so licensed to fish for shad, American eels, catfish in salt water, or horseshoe crabs.
- (b) In accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management, the board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations establishing the seasons, days, and places; methods of fishing and disposition; and size, creel, and possession limits for fishing commercially for shad, American eels, catfish in salt water, and horseshoe crabs.
- (c) It shall be unlawful to fish commercially for shad, American eels, catfish in salt water, or horseshoe crabs except in compliance with the rules and regulations of the board pertaining to the seasons, days, and places; methods of fishing and disposition; and size, creel, and possession limits for fishing commercially for such species.

§ 27-4-73. Confiscation and disposition of illegally used commercial fishing gear

Should any law enforcement officer of this state or employee of the department discover any commercial fishing gear or any trap, net, seine, basket, or similar device for taking fish, which gear or device is being used in violation of this title, such officer or employee shall seize and hold the same. In the event no one within a reasonable time claims the seized commercial fishing gear and the owner thereof is unknown to such officer or employee, the gear shall be confiscated and shall become the property of the department and disposed of as ordered by the commissioner.

§ 27-4-74. Sale, purchase, or transportation of game fish generally

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section and in Code Section 27-4-75, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell or purchase any game fish.
- (b) Game fish shipped into this state and accompanied by a bona fide bill of sale or lading giving the date of the transaction, the details of the source of the fish, and the species, number, and pounds thereof may be lawfully transported, sold, and resold, provided each

person in possession thereof has the bill of sale or lading and has otherwise complied with this Code section and any regulations promulgated pursuant to this Code section.

- (c) It shall be lawful for any person to sell or purchase game fish from a pond when the owner of the pond has obtained a valid permit from the department and the permit is displayed in a prominent place at the pond and the person shall have complied with all the requirements of this Code section and any regulations promulgated pursuant to this Code section. The permit may be issued to the owner only once annually and shall limit the time for taking fish from the pond to 15 days unless an extension is granted by the department. However, no person shall sell, purchase, or possess any game fish taken from such a pond unless the fish are packaged and labeled with the pond permit number and the number and pounds of each species of fish contained therein. The fish shall remain so packaged until processed for consumption or released into another body of water.
- (d) Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this title to the contrary, American shad, hickory shad, flathead catfish, and channel catfish harvested from Georgia waters other than private ponds in the course of commercial fishing as that term is defined in Code Section 27-1-2 shall not be subject to the prohibitions set forth in this Code section.

§ 27-4-75. Sale of fish by commercial fish hatcheries; sale of game fish; bill of sale or lading for possession of certain game fish and domestic fish; sale of diseased fish (see Note for effective date)

- (a) It shall be unlawful to sell any fish from a commercial fish hatchery as defined in Code Section 27-1-2 unless the hatchery is licensed under Code Section 27-2-23 or except as follows:
 - (1) Fish may be sold as provided in Code Section 27-4-74 or 27-4-76; and
 - (2) Domestic fish as defined in paragraph (23) of Code Section 27-1-2 and that are produced by an aquaculturist registered under Code Section 27-4-255.
- (b) Except as provided in Code Section 27-4-74 and except for persons licensed as wholesale or retail fish dealers as provided in Code Section 27-4-76, it shall be unlawful for anyone other than a commercial fish hatchery licensed under Code Section 27-2-23 to sell any species of game fish. It shall also be unlawful for any person to have in his or her possession any such game fish obtained from a commercial fish hatchery, wholesale fish dealer, or retail fish dealer or domestic fish from an aquaculturist registered under Code Section 27-4-255 without a bona fide bill of sale or lading which provides the date of transaction, identifies the seller, and details at least two of the following three criteria for each species of fish contained therein: number, weight, or average length.
- (c) It shall also be unlawful to sell fish from a commercial fish hatchery which the department has determined to have diseases or parasites which would be harmful to native fish populations.

Note: DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE

Ga. L. 2004, p. 948, § 3-1(c), provides that the 2004 amendment becomes effective only upon the effective date of a specific appropriation of funds for purposes of that Act as expressed in a line item of an appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly. This Code section, as amended, is not set out in the bound volume owing to the delayed effective date. Funds were not appropriated at the 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015,

or 2016 sessions of the General Assembly. After the appropriation is made subsections (a) and (b) will read as follows:

"(a) It shall be unlawful to sell any fish from a commercial fish hatchery as defined in Code Section 27-1-2 unless the hatchery is licensed under Code Section 27-2-23 or except as follows:

(1) Fish may be sold as provided in Code Section 27-4-74 or 27-4-76; and

(2) Domestic fish as defined in paragraph (23) of Code Section 27-1-2 and that are produced by an aquaculturalist registered under Code Section 27-4-255."

"(b) Except as provided in Code Section 27-4-74 and except for persons licensed as wholesale or retail fish dealers as provided in Code Section 27-4-76, it shall be unlawful for anyone other than a commercial fish hatchery licensed under Code Section 27-2-23 to sell any species of game fish. It shall also be unlawful for any person to have in his or her possession any such game fish obtained from a commercial fish hatchery, wholesale fish dealer, or retail fish dealer or domestic fish from an aquaculturalist registered under Code Section 27-4-255 without a bona fide bill of sale or lading which provides the date of transaction, identifies the seller, and details at least two of the following three criteria for each species of fish contained therein: number, weight, or average length."

§ 27-4-76. Licensing of wholesale and retail fish dealers; sale, transportation into state, or possession of live fish and fish eggs (see Note for effective date)

- (a) It shall be unlawful to engage in the business of a wholesale or retail fish dealer, as defined in Code Section 27-1-2, without first obtaining an annual license from the department as provided in Code Section 27-2-23. Properly licensed wholesale fish dealers or retail fish dealers may sell game fish obtained from a licensed fish hatchery or domestic fish obtained from a registered aquaculturist or as otherwise provided in Code Section 27-4-74. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, a licensed commercial fish hatchery shall not be required to obtain a license as a wholesale fish dealer or a retail fish dealer.
- (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this Code section, nonresident persons may sell and transport fish and fish eggs into the state without being required to procure a wholesale fish dealer license where the sale and shipment are made to a wholesale fish dealer duly licensed under Code Section 27-2-23.
- (c) The board may by regulation prohibit or limit the importation, possession, or sale in this state of live fish or fish eggs where the same are found to be harmful to endemic fish populations or where the importation, possession, or sale might introduce or spread disease or parasites.
- (d) The conservation rangers or other agents or officials of the department shall confiscate any fish imported, purchased, or acquired by any person in violation of this Code section or any regulation promulgated by the board pursuant to this Code section.

Note: DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE

Ga. L. 2004, p. 948, § 3-1(c), provides that the 2004 amendment becomes effective only upon the effective date of a specific appropriation of funds for purposes of that Act as expressed in a line item of an appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly. This Code section, as amended, is not set out in the bound volume owing to the delayed effective date. Funds were not appropriated at the 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015,

or 2016 sessions of the General Assembly. After the appropriation is made subsection (a) will read as follows:

"(a) It shall be unlawful to engage in the business of a wholesale or retail fish dealer, as defined in Code Section 27-1-2, without first obtaining an annual license from the department as provided in Code Section 27-2-23. Properly licensed wholesale fish dealers or retail fish dealers may sell game fish obtained from a licensed fish hatchery or domestic fish obtained from an aquaculturalist registered under Code Section 27-4-255 or as otherwise provided in Code Section 27-4-74. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, a licensed commercial fish hatchery shall not be required to obtain a license as a wholesale fish dealer or a retail fish dealer."

§ 27-4-77. Suspension of license for violation of article

Upon a conviction of any person for the violation of any of the provisions of this article, all licenses held by any such person to fish commercially or operate or use commercial fishing gear in the public impounded waters or navigable streams of this state may, at the option of the court, be forfeited for a period of six months from the date of conviction.

§ 27-4-78. Governance of food fish processing plants

Any food fish processing plant shall be governed by the provisions of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 26 as such provisions apply to meat and poultry processing plants.

§ 27-4-90. Commercial fishing license required; effective dates

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in commercial fresh-water fishing in this state without having a valid commercial fishing license as provided in Code Section 27-2-23. The license shall be a personal license required of each individual engaging in the activities covered by this Code section and shall be effective from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

§ 27-4-91. Lawful devices generally

- (a) Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation, it shall be unlawful for any person engaged in commercial fresh-water fishing in this state to use any gear other than trotlines, baskets in accordance with Code Section 27-4-92, turtle traps, or shad nets in accordance with Code Section 27-4-71, to which have been attached a tag bearing the name, address, and commercial fishing license number of the person using any such gear.
- (b) For purposes of subsection (a) of this Code section, "trotlines" means one line which has more than 50 hooks in any combination or a combination of lines with more than 50 hooks in use by one person. The lines must be marked with visible buoys and must be attended regularly and removed after the completed fishing trip. The lines must be submerged at least three feet below the surface of the water. It shall be unlawful to keep any game fish, except flathead catfish, channel catfish, American shad, and hickory shad, taken with such lines.
- (c) For purposes of subsection (a) of this Code section, turtle traps must be constructed of netting and shaped as hoop nets. The traps must also have one open muzzle or throat at least 32 inches wide with a ring ten inches in diameter made into the rear of the trap to permit fish to escape. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, it shall be unlawful to use such traps in the Chattahoochee River and its impoundments lying between Georgia and Alabama. It shall also be unlawful to retain any game fish taken in such traps in any of the waters of this state.

§ 27-4-92. Lawful baskets

- (a) Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation, it shall be unlawful to fish with any basket unless such basket is constructed of one-inch mesh wire and is not more than 72 inches in length and 60 inches in circumference. One throat shall be located at the extreme front of the basket, and the second throat shall be located 17 inches behind the first. The second throat shall have a trap door 7 1/2 inches square.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to fish with baskets in fresh-water flowing streams. It shall also be unlawful to fish with a basket without notifying the conservation ranger in the area of the time and place such basket is to be used.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any basket or trap made of metal, wire, wood, fabric, or other material suitable for use or capable of use in taking fish from the waters of this state unless the person has a commercial fishing license and unless an identification tag as required in Code Section 27-4-91 is attached to the basket or trap; provided, however, that the owner of a private pond may possess and use a basket or trap for taking fish therefrom without the necessity of obtaining a commercial fishing license; provided, further, that baskets meeting the requirements of subsection (a) of this Code section may be possessed for the purpose of sale and may be sold at a regularly established place for sale without the owner or operator of the place obtaining a commercial fishing license.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, it shall be unlawful to take any game fish, except flathead catfish and channel catfish, with baskets.
- (e) Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, it shall be unlawful for any person to fish with more than five baskets in the waters of Lake Sinclair and Lake Oconee. No person shall fish with the baskets of other persons unless accompanied by such other persons at the time of such fishing.

§ 27-4-93. Use of commercial fishing gear within one-half mile below lock or dam

It shall be unlawful to use any commercial fishing gear, as designated in this title, within one-half mile below any lock or dam on any of the fresh waters of this state.

§ 27-4-110. Commercial fishing license required

It shall be unlawful for any person other than a person in possession of a valid commercial crabbing license as provided for in Code Section 27-4-150, for purposes of such license, or a person in possession of a commercial food shrimp cast netting license as provided in Code Section 27-4-205, for purposes of such license, to engage in commercial fishing in any of the salt waters of this state without first obtaining a commercial fishing license, which shall be carried on his or her person while engaging in such activities. Each license shall be separate and distinct from each other and separate from and in addition to the commercial fishing boat license required by Code Section 27-2-8.

§ 27-4-111. Filing of bond or affidavit as condition for validity of commercial fishing boat license

A commercial fishing boat license issued under Code Section 27-2-8 shall not be valid unless there is in effect in the name of the owner of the boat one of the following:

- (1) A cash forfeiture bond meeting the requirements of Code Section 27-4-134 sufficient to cover the forfeiture prescribed by law for the next offense; or

- (2) A forfeiture bond executed by a bonding, surety, or insurance company meeting the requirements of Code Section 27-4-134 sufficient to cover the forfeiture prescribed by law for the next offense; or
- (3) An affidavit meeting the requirements of Code Section 27-4-134.

§ 27-4-117. Identification tags, numbers, and letters for boats or vessels

It shall be unlawful for any boat or vessel licensed by the department pursuant to Code Section 27-2-8 to fail to have fixed securely on each side of the bow or pilothouse thereof, and displayed conspicuously in order that it may be read from a reasonable distance, a tag furnished by the department. It shall also be unlawful for any boat or vessel so licensed to fail to have painted upon the boat or vessel, in a size and upon such part as may be prescribed by the department, such numbers and letters to identify the boat or vessel. The paint used for such purpose shall be different from and in clear contrast in color to the boat or vessel on which applied. The numbers and letters so painted on the boat or vessel shall not be covered at any time while the boat or vessel is trawling, fishing, or taking any seafood.

§ 27-4-118. Required records

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person landing seafood in this state to fail to maintain at all times a record book showing the amount of seafood landed per trip; the name and address of the person or persons to whom sold; the date of sale and the time and place of delivery; and such other information as may be required by the department.
- (b) Each person required to maintain records pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section shall report such information to the department, whose address for the purpose of reporting shall be the Coastal Resource Division headquarters, at such times and in such manner as the board provides by rule or regulation.

§ 27-4-130. Authority to close salt waters; notice; regulations prohibiting sale of seafood

- (a) The commissioner shall have the power to close all or any portion of the salt waters of this state to commercial and noncommercial fishing by species for a period not to exceed six months within a calendar year. Any determination to close the salt waters pursuant to this subsection or to reopen such waters shall be made in accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management.
- (b) Nothing in this Code section shall prohibit a person from landing in this state any fish or seafood taken in federal waters pursuant to a valid commercial federal permit.
- (c) For the purposes of enforcing this article, the department is authorized to zone the salt waters of this state.
- (d) Public notice of the opening or closing of salt waters as provided in this article shall be given by posting a notice of such opening or closing at the courthouse in each coastal county and by such other means as may appear feasible to inform interested persons of the opening or closing. Such notices shall be posted at least 24 hours prior to any enforcement action taken pursuant to this Code section.
- (e) In accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management, the board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to prohibit the sale of any or all seafood in this state.

§ 27-4-132. Fishing for shrimp for noncommercial purposes generally

- (a) In accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management, the board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations establishing the seasons, days, and places; methods of fishing and disposition; and size, creel, and possession limits for noncommercial fishing for shrimp. Except as otherwise provided by law, it shall be unlawful to fish for shrimp for noncommercial purposes in the salt waters of the State of Georgia except by means established by the board. The determination of whether to open or close a river or creek or a portion thereof for fishing for shrimp shall be made by the commissioner in accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management.
- (b) Reserved.
- (c) It shall be unlawful to fish for shrimp except at such times and places as the commissioner may establish. The commissioner is authorized to open or close any or a portion of the salt waters of this state to fishing for food shrimp at any time between May 15 and the last day of February if the commissioner has determined that such action in opening or closing such waters is in accordance with current sound principles of wildlife research and management.

§ 27-4-132.1. Limit on amount of shrimp fished by cast net; penalty for violation

- (a)
 - (1) No person or group of persons occupying the same boat fishing for shrimp for noncommercial purposes by means of a food shrimp cast net may take more than 48 quarts of shrimp with heads or 30 quarts of shrimp tails in any day. No such person or group of persons occupying the same vessel may possess at any time more than 48 quarts of shrimp with heads or 30 quarts of shrimp tails.
 - (2) Reserved.
 - (3) (A) No group of persons occupying the same boat, one or more of whom is in possession of a commercial food shrimp cast netting license and who are fishing for shrimp by means of a food shrimp cast net, may take more than 150 quarts of shrimp with heads or 95 quarts of shrimp tails taken by such cast net or a combination of a cast net and a seine in any day; provided, however, that beginning December 1 and until the close of each food shrimp season, possession shall be limited to 75 quarts of shrimp with heads or 48 quarts of shrimp tails in any day.
(B) No such group of persons occupying the same vessel may possess at any time more than 150 quarts of shrimp with heads or 95 quarts of shrimp tails; provided, however, that beginning December 1 and until the close of each food shrimp season, no such group of persons occupying the same vessel may possess at any time more than 75 quarts of shrimp with heads or 48 quarts of shrimp tails.
 - (4) No one person fishing for shrimp solely by means of a seine, whether such person is acting alone or in a group of persons, may take more than 24 quarts of shrimp with heads or 15 quarts of shrimp tails in any day. No such person may possess at any time more than 24 quarts of shrimp with heads or 15 quarts of shrimp tails. If any person or group of persons are in possession of a food shrimp cast net and a seine, such person or group of persons shall be subject to the limits imposed upon taking shrimp by food shrimp cast net.

- (5) No person or group of persons fishing for food shrimp for commercial purposes shall have on board a vessel any cast net other than a food shrimp cast net.
 - (6) Reserved.
 - (7) No vessel owner shall allow the vessel to be used by any person or persons to take more than the legal quantity allowable in any day regardless of the number of trips made or the duration of any trip by such vessel. It shall be unlawful for any vessel owner or operator to allow a vessel to be left anchored and unoccupied for the purpose of receiving shrimp taken by the occupant of any other vessel.
- (b)
- (1) Violation of subsection (a) of this Code section shall constitute a misdemeanor.
 - (2) In addition to any criminal penalties assessed, any person violating the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section shall pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$50.00 for each quart of shrimp taken or possessed in excess of the allowable limit.
- (c) Whenever the commissioner or his or her designee has reason to believe that any person has violated subsection (a) of this Code section or any rule or regulation promulgated to implement such subsection, he or she may request and shall receive a hearing before an administrative law judge of the Office of State Administrative Hearings acting in place of the Board of Natural Resources, as provided by Code Section 50-13-41. Upon finding that such person has violated subsection (a) of this Code section, the administrative law judge shall impose a civil penalty in the amount of \$50.00 for each quart of shrimp taken or possessed in excess of the allowable limit. The decision of the administrative law judge shall constitute a final decision in the matter, and any party to the hearing, including the commissioner, shall have the right of judicial review thereof in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act."

§ 27-4-133. Lawful nets; opening and closing waters; identification on boats fishing for shrimp

- (a) Except as otherwise specifically provided, it shall be unlawful for any person to use a power-drawn net in any of the salt waters of this state for commercial shrimping for human consumption. All sounds shall be closed to such fishing, except that the commissioner may open Cumberland, St. Simons, Sapelo, St. Andrew, Wassaw, or Ossabaw sounds or any combination of such sounds at any time between September 1 and December 31, provided that he or she has determined that the shrimp in the waters of each sound to be opened are 45 or fewer shrimp with heads on to the pound; and the commissioner shall close each sound so opened when he or she has determined that the shrimp in the waters of the sound exceed 45 shrimp with heads on to the pound. The commissioner may open any waters outside, on the seaward side, of the sounds between May 15 and December 31, provided that he or she has determined that the shrimp in such outside waters are 45 or fewer shrimp with heads on to the pound; and the commissioner shall close the waters so opened when he or she has determined that the shrimp in such outside waters exceed 45 shrimp with heads on to the pound. The commissioner may open any waters outside the sounds during the months of January and February, provided that he or she has determined that the shrimp in such outside waters are 50 or fewer shrimp with heads on to the pound; and the commissioner shall close such outside waters so opened when he or she has determined that the shrimp in such outside waters exceed 50 shrimp with heads on to the pound. The department shall conduct inspections for such shrimp count, and a determination by the commissioner shall be conclusive as to

the count. The commissioner shall provide public notice of the opening and closing of such waters, as provided in this Code section, by posting a notice of all openings and closings at the courthouse and on all shrimp docks and by such other means as may appear feasible. The notices shall be posted at least 24 hours prior to any change in the opening and closing of any such waters, provided that such notice is required only when waters are opened or closed by action of the commissioner.

(a.1)

- (1)** It shall be unlawful to fish for shrimp for human consumption with any trawl or trawls having a total foot-rope length greater than 220 feet, not including the foot-rope length of a single trawl not greater than 16 feet when used as a try net. Foot-rope shall be measured from brail line to brail line, first tie to last tie on the bottom line. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to vessels having a maximum draft of seven feet or less when fully loaded. The department is authorized to exempt trawls used by persons holding a valid scientific collection permit granted by the department.
 - (2)** A vessel operator who violates the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$2,500.00, imprisoned for not longer than 30 days, or both, and any trawl on board the vessel shall be contraband and forfeited in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 16 of Title 9.
- (b)** Reserved.
- (c)** Except as otherwise specifically provided, it shall be unlawful to fish with nets other than cast nets in any of the tidal rivers or creeks, except to fish for shad, provided that nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed so as to prohibit any person from using a beach seine along any public beach.
 - (d)** The department shall have the power to close all or any portion of the salt waters of this state to commercial and recreational fishing in the event of a disaster likely to cause seafood to be unfit for human consumption or in the event of any other emergency situation.
 - (e)** Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to prohibit any person from fishing in the salt waters of this state for shrimp to be used or sold for live bait pursuant to Code Section 27-4-171, provided that it shall be unlawful to fish for shrimp for bait with any trawl equipment which has been used to fish for shrimp pursuant to this Code section.
 - (f)** In accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management, the commissioner may authorize any person to fish for crabs, jellyfish, or whelks with power-drawn nets of four-inch stretched mesh from any waters outside, on the seaward side, of the sounds at any time during the year, or from the waters of Cumberland, St. Simons, Sapelo, St. Andrew, Wassaw, and Ossabaw sounds during the months of January, February, and March, when the commissioner has determined that fishing for crabs, jellyfish, or whelks within such waters will not be detrimental to the conservation of crabs, jellyfish, whelks, or shrimp. Possession of any net with mesh smaller than that provided in this subsection while taking crabs, jellyfish, or whelks shall be prima-facie evidence of the violation of this Code section.
 - (g)** It shall be unlawful for any person fishing for shrimp for commercial purposes pursuant to this Code section to fail to have positioned on the bow or cabin of the boat taking such shrimp a board with a background color of daylight fluorescent orange and with such

numerals and letters painted or affixed thereon as are specified by the department for the boat. The numerals and letters shall be at least 16 inches in height, black in color, of block character, and spaced so as to be readable from the air from left to right.

- (h) Any determination to open or close the salt waters pursuant to this Code section shall be made in accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management.

§ 27-4-134. Requirements for commercial fishing boat license; penalty for violation

- (a) Upon application for a commercial fishing boat license under Code Section 27-2-8, the owner of such boat, if said boat is to be used for fishing with power-drawn nets in accordance with the provisions of Code Section 27-4-133, must do one of the following:
 - (1) Post a cash forfeiture bond in the form prescribed by the board in favor of the State of Georgia in the amount of \$5,000.00, conditioned upon faithful compliance with Code Section 27-4-133;
 - (2) File with the commissioner a forfeiture bond in the form prescribed by the board executed by a bonding, surety, or insurance company licensed to do business in this state in favor of the state in the amount of \$5,000.00, conditioned upon faithful compliance with Code Section 27-4-133; or
 - (3) File with the commissioner an affidavit in the form prescribed by the board stating that the affiant is a resident of the State of Georgia, that he is the sole owner of the boat to be licensed, and that the boat is free from all encumbrances, including but not limited to liens, mortgages, and other evidences of security interests. The department may require proof of residence or ownership or proof of residence and ownership. The affidavit shall acknowledge that the boat sought to be licensed will be subject to Code Section 27-4-137. The affidavit shall be filed by the department in the office of the clerk of the superior court as follows: when the owner is an individual, then in the county where he resides; when the owner is a partnership, corporation, or business entity other than an individual, then in the county of the owner's principal place of business. The affidavit shall be filed by the clerk like other security interests on boats; provided, however, that the filing of such affidavit shall not be permissible where the boat is documented under the laws of the United States.
- (b) The term of the bond provided for in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be for one year and shall correspond to the period of the license. When such a bond has been filed, Code Section 27-4-137 shall not apply to the boat covered by the bond. The commissioner shall have the right to recover on the bond for the breach of its conditions whenever said boat is used in violation of Code Section 27-4-133 or any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant thereto, either with or without the knowledge, consent, or acquiescence of the owner of the boat. The recovery shall be:
 - (1) For the first violation, \$1,000.00; and
 - (2) For each subsequent violation within the period of any license, \$4,000.00.
- (c) Every breach or violation shall carry over to all succeeding bonds filed under this Code section. The aggregate liability shall not exceed the amount of the bond. However, in the event that the total amount of any bond is forfeited, the commercial fishing boat license shall be suspended until a new bond in the amount of \$10,000.00 is filed covering the remainder of the period of the license. Until the new bond is filed, any commercial use of the boat shall be unlawful; and the owner shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed so as to alter or affect

the seizure and civil forfeiture, under Code Section 27-4-137, of any boat not covered by the bonds provided for in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of this Code section.

§ 27-4-136. Maintenance of records by suppliers

(a)

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person owning or operating shellfish canning or shucking facilities or otherwise dealing in purchasing, landing, packing, or supplying raw shrimp, shellfish, crabs, fish, or other seafood for commercial purposes to fail to keep a record in which is entered the amount of shrimp, shellfish, crabs, fish, or other seafood taken from Georgia waters for commercial purposes; the name of each person from whom purchased; the date and price of purchase; the grade and quantity purchased; the name, number, and approximate tonnage of the boat in which they were brought to the facility; the number of calendar days expended in harvesting the product; the approximate location or locations of harvest; the quantity canned and packed for shipment; the date and amount of each shipment; and such other information as the department requires.
 - (2) Each person required to maintain records pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall report such information to the department, whose address for the purpose of reporting shall be the Coastal Resource Division headquarters, at such times and in such manner as the board provides by rule or regulation.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any master collecting permittee to fail to maintain records in a form as prescribed by the Department of Agriculture.

§ 27-4-137. Civil forfeiture proceedings

- (a) Each boat, propulsion unit, net, door, boom, winch, cable, electronic device, or accessory equipment used in violation of Code Section 27-4-133 or 27-4-171 is declared to be contraband and forfeited to the state in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 16 of Title 9; provided, however, that:
- (1) Forfeiture shall only be done in accordance with Code Section 9-16-12 and the property shall be described only in general terms; and
 - (2) The holder of any bona fide lien on the property shall be protected to the full extent of the lien, but only if the lien was perfected prior to the filing by the department of the affidavit provided for in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section 27-4-134, provided that the state shall not be obligated beyond the proceeds of any such sale less the actual costs incurred.
- (b) The Attorney General may, upon the request of the commissioner, aid the district attorney in the in rem proceeding arising from any seizure or confiscation of property.

§ 27-4-138. Penalties for offenses pertaining to operation of commercial fishing boats engaged in illegal fishing with power-drawn nets

(a)

- (1) As used in this Code section, the term "fishing day" means any day in any period during which the waters of this state are open to commercial shrimping pursuant to Code Section 27-4-133 and any administrative order of the commissioner.

- (2)** Any person on board any commercial fishing boat who violates or causes to be violated the provisions of Code Section 27-4-133 or of Code Section 52-7-13 with regard to waters identified in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of such Code section, which violation occurs not more than one-fourth mile within any waters which are closed or declared a boating safety zone at the time of the violation, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and shall be punished as such, subject to minimum punishment as follows:
- (A)** For the first offense, the person shall be fined not less than \$500.00;
 - (B)** For the second offense, the person shall be fined not less than \$1,500.00 and given a mandatory suspension from any commercial fishing for ten fishing days; and
 - (C)** For the third or any subsequent offense, the person shall be fined not less than \$5,000.00 and given a mandatory suspension from any commercial fishing for 60 fishing days.
- (3)** Any person in command of any commercial fishing boat who violates or causes to be violated the provisions of Code Section 27-4-133, which violation occurs one-fourth mile or more within any waters which are closed at the time of the violation, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and shall be punished as such, subject to minimum punishment as follows:
- (A)** For the first offense, the person shall be fined not less than \$5,000.00 and given a mandatory suspension from any commercial fishing for 60 fishing days;
 - (B)** For the second offense, the person shall be fined not less than \$10,000.00 and given a mandatory suspension from any commercial fishing for 120 fishing days; and
 - (C)** For the third or any subsequent offense, the person shall be fined not less than \$10,000.00 and given a mandatory suspension from any commercial fishing for one year.
- (4)** Any person who violates a mandatory suspension provided for in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection shall, upon a proper showing, be subject to imprisonment for a period not to exceed 12 months.
- (b)** It is the responsibility of every person operating a commercial fishing boat to determine whether or not the boat has a license which is valid and in effect. Any person who is engaged in illegal fishing with power-drawn nets while operating a boat which has not been licensed or which has had its license suspended and not reinstated shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a mandatory minimum sentence as follows:
- (1)** For the first offense, the person shall be fined not less than \$2,500.00 or sentenced to not less than 30 days' nor more than 12 months' imprisonment, or both; and
 - (2)** For the second offense, the person shall be fined not less than \$5,000.00 and given a mandatory suspension from any fishing for not less than five years. Any person who violates such mandatory suspension shall, upon a proper showing, be subject to imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.
- (c)** For purposes of this Code section, "illegal fishing with power-drawn nets" means any violation of Code Section 27-4-133 or 27-4-171.
- (d)** Adjudication of guilt or imposition of sentence shall not be suspended, probated, deferred, or withheld for any offense punishable under this Code section.

§ 27-4-140. Penalties for using recreational food shrimp cast netting

- (a) Any enforcement officer or other law enforcement officer who discovers an illegal cast net being used on the waters of this state shall confiscate the net, which shall be forfeited.
- (b) Any person convicted of using an illegal cast net to fish for shrimp from the waters of this state for commercial sale for food purposes shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (c) Any person convicted for the second or any subsequent time of using an illegal cast net shall, in addition to any other penalty imposed by law, forfeit the vessel on which the violation occurred and in addition all commercial fishing and boat licenses issued to such person shall be revoked in accordance with the provisions of Code Section 27-2-25.
- (d) Any person convicted of illegally fishing for shrimp from the waters of this state for commercial sale for food purposes shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Possession of a quantity of shrimp in excess of the noncommercial food shrimp possession limit allowed pursuant to Code Section 27-4-132.1 shall be prima-facie evidence of the intent of the person or persons so in possession to take shrimp for commercial purposes.

§ 27-4-150. Taking, possessing, and dealing in crabs and peelers; required records

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take or possess in this state any crab, other than a mature adult female crab, measuring less than five inches from spike to spike across the back; provided, however, that any person may take or possess peelers measuring at least three inches from spike to spike across the back. Any crabs taken or possessed in violation of this paragraph may not be intentionally killed and must be returned to the salt waters of this state as soon as possible; provided, however, nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit any person from importing, transporting, or possessing crabs when such person can provide documentary evidence showing that the crabs were taken outside this state in full compliance with the laws of the state of origin. He or she must have an executed invoice showing the point of origin of such crabs and exhibit such an invoice upon demand to any conservation ranger.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person other than a licensed commercial fisherman or licensed commercial crab fisherman to take or possess commercial quantities of crabs, other than soft-shelled crabs, during any 24 hour period; provided, however, nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit a person from possessing commercial quantities of such crabs when the person can provide documentary evidence showing that the crabs were purchased from a licensed commercial fisherman, a licensed commercial crab fisherman, or any person licensed to engage in the business of selling seafood or were purchased outside this state.
- (c)
 - (1) It shall be unlawful for any person other than a licensed commercial crab fisherman or a licensed soft-shell crab dealer to take or possess peelers in commercial quantities; provided, however, it shall be lawful for any person to possess such amount of peelers when the person can provide documentary evidence showing that the peelers were purchased from a licensed soft-shell crab dealer or any person licensed to engage in the business of selling seafood or were purchased outside the state.
 - (2) It shall be unlawful for any person taking peelers to sell the peelers to any person other than a licensed soft-shell crab dealer.
 - (3) It shall be unlawful for a soft-shell crab dealer to purchase peelers from any person other than a licensed commercial crab fisherman or another soft-shell crab dealer,

provided that it shall be lawful for a soft-shell crab dealer to purchase peelers from any person outside this state, or from outside this state.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person other than a licensed soft-shell crab dealer to operate a shedding facility for commercial purposes.

(e)

(1) Except as provided in Code Section 27-4-133, only a person in possession of a valid commercial crabbing license may operate a commercial fishing boat for the purpose of commercial crabbing activities as provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of this Code section. Such license shall be distinct from and in addition to the commercial fishing boat license required by Code Section 27-2-8.

(2) On and after May 1, 2013, the total number of new commercial crabbing licenses issued shall not exceed 100. Those commercial crabbing licenses issued prior to May 1, 2013, shall remain active until such time the license is not renewed. Any license which is not renewed by May 1 of any license year shall revert to the department for reissue by lottery devised and operated by the department. No person may hold more than one license at any time.

(3) Commercial crabbing licenses may be sold for consideration to any person not holding a current commercial crabbing license unless otherwise prohibited by law or regulation.

(4) Commercial crabbing licenses may be transferred to the licensee's spouse, lineal descendants, siblings, or lineal ancestors if the licensee dies or is permanently and totally disabled. An instrument of the court declaring the rightful heir or recipient may be required for transfers upon a death. For purposes of this Code section, a permanent, total disability shall be a physical or mental impairment of a total and permanent nature which prevents gainful employment and which is certified as such by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Social Security Administration, Medicaid, medicare, the Railroad Retirement System, or a unit of federal, state, or local government recognized by the board by rule or regulation. The transferee of a license so transferred shall engage in commercial crabbing as evidenced by his or her commercial crab harvest records within two years after such transfer or the license shall revert to the department for reissue as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection. Any person receiving a commercial crabbing license by transfer shall register such transfer with the department and pay to the department the license fee, if so required, within 30 days following the date of the transfer.

(f)

(1) It shall be unlawful for anyone engaged in commercial fishing for crabs in the salt waters of this state to fail to maintain at all times a record book showing the amount of crabs caught daily; the name and address of the person or persons to whom sold; the date of sale and the time and place of delivery; and such other information as may be required by the department. If no fishing occurred during any calendar month, a report stating such must be filed.

(2) Each person required to maintain records pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall report such information to the department at such time and in such manner as the board provides by rule or regulation. Such records shall be deemed provided in accordance with the provisions of this subsection on the date they were postmarked with the correct address and postage.

- (3) Any person who fails to report records as required by the provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection within 60 days of the date such report is due shall be penalized as follows:
 - (A) On a first offense, the person shall pay a fine of \$250.00;
 - (B) On a second offense, the person shall pay a fine of \$500.00; and
 - (C) On a third or any subsequent offense, the person shall pay a fine of \$500.00, and his or her commercial crabbing license shall be suspended for a period of ten days.
- (4) Any licensed crabber who has not submitted all harvest records for the previous year, as required by paragraph (2) of this subsection and all pertinent rules and regulations, shall be ineligible for license renewal until such time as the required records have been submitted and all penalties paid.
- (g) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall pay a fine as follows:
 - (1) For a first offense, the person shall pay a fine of \$250.00;
 - (2) For a second offense, the person shall pay a fine of \$500.00, and his or her commercial crabbing and commercial fishing boat licenses shall be suspended for ten days and may not be used by any person; and
 - (3) For a third and each subsequent offense, the person shall pay a fine of \$1,000.00, and his or her commercial crabbing and commercial fishing boat licenses shall be suspended for 60 days and may not be used by any person. Any person whose license is so suspended shall remove all of his or her traps from the water not later than ten days after the first day of the suspension.

§ 27-4-151. Use of crab traps; identification of boats or vessels; closure of salt waters authorized.

- (a) For purposes of crabbing, that portion of the St. Marys River and the Satilla River System (including the Satilla River and White Oak Creek) which is seaward of the points at which the Seaboard Coastline Railroad crosses such streams and that portion of the Altamaha River System which is seaward of the points at which U.S. Highway I-95 crosses the streams of that system shall be considered salt water. It shall be unlawful to place any crab trap in the waters of this state other than that described as salt water in Code Section 27-4-1 or by this subsection.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to set or place any commercial crab trap in the salt waters of this state which does not have attached a float which is made of a substance visible from a distance of 100 feet in clear weather at slack tide. For the purposes of this Code section, "slack tide" means that portion of the tidal current characterized by slowness, sluggishness, and lack of energy and which occurs approximately midway between maximum flood-tide and maximum ebb-tide currents and between maximum ebb-tide and maximum flood-tide currents.
- (c) It shall also be unlawful to set or place in the salt waters of this state any commercial crab trap which does not have attached a float with such identification as is assigned by the department to the owner of the trap. Such identification shall be at least one inch in height, of a color which contrasts with the color of the float, of block character, and spaced so as to be readable from left to right. The identification shall be assigned by the department to the owner of the trap when the owner is issued his or her commercial

crabbing license. For subsequent years, the same identification shall be assigned to such commercial crab fisherman.

(d)

- (1)** When the float of a commercial crab trap has been identified as provided in this Code section, it shall be unlawful for any person, other than the licensed commercial crab fisherman or a sole individual licensed as required in subsection (b) of Code Section 27-4-150 and carrying on his or her person written permission from the licensed commercial crab fisherman if the department has been previously notified in writing of such permission, to pull such trap or to take crabs from such trap or intentionally to damage, destroy, remove from the water any crab trap or float thereof, or to use such a float for any purpose. It shall also be unlawful for any person to use such a float for any purpose other than to mark a submerged crab trap. For purposes of determining the number of crab traps a person is employing, it shall be conclusively presumed that a crab trap is tethered to each such float.
- (2)** In addition to the penalty provided by Code Section 27-1-38, any person convicted of violating the provisions of this subsection shall be penalized as follows:
 - (A)** On a first offense, his or her crabbing license shall be suspended for a period of three months, during which time the person shall be ineligible to apply for a new license and upon the completion of which he or she may renew the license;
 - (B)** On a second offense, his or her crabbing license shall be suspended for a period of six months, during which time the person shall be ineligible to apply for a new license and upon the completion of which he or she may renew the license; and
 - (C)** On a third or any subsequent offense, his or her crabbing license shall be permanently revoked and the person shall be prohibited from purchasing a license in the future.
- (e)** It shall also be unlawful for any person to engage in commercial crabbing with a boat or vessel unless there is displayed on each side of the forward third of the boat or vessel so as to be readable from the water such identification as is assigned by the department to such person. The identification shall be at least eight inches in height, of a color which contrasts with the color of the background, of block character, and spaced so as to be readable from left to right. The assigned identification of the boat or vessel being utilized shall correspond to the identification of the float of the trap from which crabs are being taken. No boat or vessel shall be assigned more than one identification in any license year unless such boat or vessel is transferred to another licensed commercial fisherman and such transfer is registered with the department. A crabbing boat or vessel may only employ traps marked with floats with identification issued by the department corresponding to the identification of the boat or vessel being utilized. No identification may be assigned to more than one boat or vessel in any license year, except for replacement vessels as provided in subparagraph (g)(1)(B) of this Code section; provided, however, that one identification number may be assigned to a licensed crabber's primary and alternate vessels, only one of which may be operated for crabbing at any time.
- (f)** It shall be unlawful for any person to catch crabs for commercial purposes within 100 feet of the dock of any other person. It shall also be unlawful to place or set commercial crab traps in the channel of any stream when such channel has been marked by a lawfully established system of waterway markers.
- (g)** (1) (A) The first time after July 1, 1998, that a person obtains or renews a commercial crabbing license, he or she shall obtain a permit from the department establishing the

maximum number of traps he or she may deploy at any given time during that license year. Such permits shall be issued in 50 trap increments up to a maximum of 200 traps. The licensee shall pay a fee of \$2.00 per trap for the permit, and the permit shall be for the same duration and shall be renewed at the same time as the commercial crabbing license.

- (B)** No crab trap permit may be sold or transferred to another person except as provided in this subparagraph. Such a permit may be transferred along with the transfer of the licensed commercial crabber's nontrawler license to a replacement vessel if the transfer of the permit and the license is registered with the department. Such a permit may be transferred to the purchaser of a commercial crab boat along with the commercial crabber's license and the commercial crabber's nontrawler license if the transfer of the permit, the commercial crabber's license, and the commercial crabber's nontrawler license are recorded with the department and a new permit fee is paid to the department.
- (C)** No crab trap permit may be amended to permit the use of more traps except at the time of license renewal. The licensee shall have the trap permit in his or her possession at all times while crabbing.

 - (2)** It shall be unlawful for any licensed commercial crab fisherman or a person designated by such licensee as provided in subsection (d) of this Code section to employ more crab traps than the number allowed by his or her crab trap permit at any time. It shall be unlawful for any person to exercise harvest permission as provided in subsection (d) of this Code section from more than one licensed commercial crab fisherman at any time.
 - (3)** Any person violating the provisions of paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,000.00 or incarceration for not longer than one year or both. In addition to such criminal penalty, any person found guilty of employing more than the permitted number of crab traps shall pay a civil fine of \$100.00 for each excess trap. In addition to such criminal and civil penalties, the license of any person found guilty of employing more than 50 excess crab traps shall be suspended for one year, during which time the person shall be ineligible to apply for a new license and upon the completion of which he or she may renew the license. Upon a second or subsequent such offense, the person's license shall be revoked for one year, and at the end of that time such person must apply for a new license as if he or she had never before been in possession of a license; provided, however, that such individual shall not be eligible to receive a license through transfer pursuant to paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (e) of Code Section 27-4-150.
 - (4)** Whenever the commissioner or his or her designee has reason to believe that any person has violated the provisions of paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection or any rule or regulation promulgated to implement such subsection, he or she may request and shall receive a hearing before an administrative law judge of the Office of State Administrative Hearings acting in place of the Board of Natural Resources, as provided by Code Section 50-13-41. Upon finding that such person has violated this Code section, the administrative law judge shall impose a civil penalty in the amount of \$100.00 for each trap in excess of the permitted number. The decision of the administrative law judge shall constitute a final decision in the matter, and any party to the hearing, including the commissioner, shall have the

right of judicial review thereof in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act."

- (h) Any commercial crab trap in violation of this Code section is declared to be contraband and subject to seizure by conservation rangers, sheriffs, and other peace officers authorized to enforce this title.
- (i) Nothing in this title shall be construed to require any individual to obtain a commercial fishing license or a commercial crabbing license when such person is deploying six or fewer crab traps in the salt waters of this state to take crabs for personal consumption; provided, however, that each crab trap measures 2 feet by 2 feet or smaller; a float clearly marked with the owner's name and address is attached to each crab trap; the quantity of crabs taken or possessed by such person does not exceed one bushel per person or two bushels per boat when the boat is occupied by more than one person; and the crabs are not sold.
- (j) The commissioner shall have the power to close all or any portion of the salt waters of this state to commercial and recreational fishing for blue crabs or any component of the blue crab fishery, including peeler, soft, or sponge crabs. Any determination to close the salt waters pursuant to this subsection or to reopen such waters shall be made in accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management as provided by Code Section 27-4-130.

§ 27-4-171. Bait shrimping

(a)

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to fish for shrimp for live bait to be sold, to engage in the sale of shrimp for live bait, or to engage in the sale of shrimp for dead bait unless the person has a bait dealer license and possesses a valid personal commercial fishing license as provided in Code Section 27-2-23 or is an employee of a licensed bait dealer and possesses a valid personal commercial fishing license as provided in Code Section 27-2-23; provided, however, that no cashier employed by a licensed bait dealer and not actively involved in the harvest of bait shrimp shall be required to obtain a commercial fishing license under this Code section. No bait dealer license shall be issued to a person holding a commercial food shrimp cast netting license issued pursuant to Part 5 of this article. Any license issued pursuant to this Code section shall be invalid immediately upon the holder's obtaining such a commercial food shrimp cast netting license. No bait dealer license shall be issued for an individual whose establishment is located on any dock or other facility, including platforms, walkways, and buildings, which is one contiguous unit and where shrimp taken pursuant to Code Section 27-4-133 are processed, stored, or sold for retail purposes.
- (2) In addition to complying with subsection (b) of this Code section, any applicant for a bait dealer license must first file with the commissioner a forfeiture bond in the form prescribed by the department, executed by a bonding, surety, or insurance company licensed to do business in this state, in favor of the state in the amount of \$2,000.00, conditioned upon the faithful compliance by the person and all his or her employees with all the laws and regulations relating to the taking, possession, and sale of bait shrimp, provided that a cash forfeiture bond in like amount may be substituted in lieu of the commercial bond provided for in this Code section. The term of the bond shall be one year and shall correspond to the period of the bait dealer license, which shall be from April 1 to March 31. The bond shall be in addition to the commercial fishing

boat license, where applicable, required by Code Section 27-2-8 and in addition to the personal commercial fishing license required by this Code section. Notation of execution of the bond shall be stamped or endorsed on the applicant's bait dealer license.

- (3) Trawler licenses for bait shrimp trawling shall not be issued to any person who does not possess a valid bait dealer license unless such person is an employee of a licensed bait dealer.
- (4) In addition to the general provisions of this Code section and in accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management, the board is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations establishing the seasons, days, and places; methods of fishing and disposition; and size, creel, and possession limits for commercial bait shrimping.
- (5) It shall be unlawful for any person fishing for shrimp for live bait pursuant to this Code section to:

 - (A) Hold a valid commercial food shrimp cast netting license issued pursuant to Part 5 of this article or to employ any person holding such a commercial food shrimp cast netting license;
 - (B) Fish for shrimp pursuant to this Code section in closed waters. All salt waters of this state shall be closed to fishing for shrimp pursuant to this Code section, except those rivers or creeks or portions thereof opened to such taking. The determination of whether to open or close a river or creek or portion thereof shall be made by the commissioner in accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management; and
 - (C) Fail to maintain on the commercial fishing boat bait-holding facilities which comply with the requirements set forth by the board.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or otherwise dispose of, for human consumption, any shrimp caught pursuant to this Code section or to possess such shrimp for the purpose of sale or other distribution for human consumption or personally to consume such shrimp. Possession of shrimp with heads off shall be prima-facie evidence that the shrimp are to be sold for human consumption or are personally to be consumed. Possession of more than 20 quarts of unlabeled, unpackaged, or unfrozen heads-on shrimp shall be prima-facie evidence that such shrimp are to be used for human consumption or are personally to be consumed.
- (c) This Code section shall not prohibit the interstate import of bait shrimp provided that a bona fide bill of lading accompanies such shrimp as proof that such shrimp were not taken or transported in violation of this Code section or the laws of the jurisdiction from which the bait shrimp originated.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for any person fishing for shrimp pursuant to this Code section to fail to have positioned on the bow or cabin of the boat being used for fishing for shrimp a board with a background color of daylight fluorescent orange with such numerals and letters painted or affixed thereon as are specified by the department for a particular established bait dealership. The numerals and letters shall be at least 16 inches in height and two inches in width or thickness, black in color, of block character, clearly legible, and spaced so as to be readable from the air from left to right. The numerals and letters required for compliance with this subsection shall be assigned by the department at the time a bait dealer license is issued pursuant to Code Section 27-2-23.

- (e) The department shall inspect the bait dealer facilities within 30 days from the time application for license is received to ensure the facilities comply with the requirements of this Code section and Code Section 48-8-59 before issuing a bait dealer license.

§ 27-4-200. Forged or false documents, records, or permits unlawful

It shall be unlawful to knowingly produce, manufacture, or possess any forged or false documents, records, or permits provided for in this article.

§ 27-4-201. Penalty for violation of article

Except as otherwise provided in this article, any person who violates any provision of this article shall, upon conviction thereof, be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

§ 27-4-205. Commercial shrimping license required

It shall be unlawful for any person to fish for shrimp with a cast net from the waters of the state for commercial sale for food purposes or to sell for food purposes any shrimp he or she has taken with a cast net from the waters of the state unless he or she is in possession of a commercial food shrimp cast netting license as provided in this part. Such license shall be required in addition to a commercial fishing boat license issued pursuant to Code Section 27-2-8.

§ 27-4-206. Issuance of licenses; limits; fees

- (a) The department may issue no more than 200 commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses as provided in this Code section. Such licenses shall be issued only to individuals and shall not be transferable.
- (b) The department shall issue commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses for the 1998-1999 license year in order of the date and time the application was received to individuals who:
 - (1) Were in possession of a valid 1997-1998 commercial fishing license issued on or before December 12, 1997;
 - (2) Were listed as owner or captain of a valid 1997-1998 commercial fishing boat license on the application for which a cast net was indicated as a commercial harvest gear on or before December 12, 1997; and
 - (3) Are able to provide evidence satisfactory to the department that they sold shrimp ex-vessel during the 1997-1998 license year on or before December 12, 1997.
- (c) If the number of licenses issued pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section does not total 200, the department may issue the remaining allotment of commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses in the initial or any subsequent license year by lottery devised and operated by the department. After such lottery has been conducted, any remaining unissued licenses may be issued via a method established by the department.
- (d) The department shall charge a license fee for the commercial food shrimp cast netting license in the amount of \$250.00 for a resident commercial food shrimp cast netting license and \$2,500.00 for a nonresident commercial food shrimp cast netting license.
- (e) Any license which is not renewed in subsequent license years shall revert to the department to be issued as provided in subsection (c) of this Code section.

§ 27-4-210. Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact

The Governor of this state is authorized and directed to execute a compact on behalf of the State of Georgia with any one or more of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida, and with such other states as may enter into the compact, legally joining therein the form substantially as follows:

"ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMPACT.

The contracting states solemnly agree:

Article I. The purpose of this compact is to promote the better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, of the Atlantic seaboard by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries, and by the prevention of the physical waste of the fisheries from any cause. It is not the purpose of this compact to authorize the states joining herein to limit the production of fish or fish products for the purpose of establishing or fixing the price thereof, or creating and perpetuating monopoly.

Article II. This agreement shall become operative immediately as to those states executing it whenever any two or more of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida have executed it in the form that is in accordance with the laws of the executing state and the Congress has given its consent. Any state contiguous with any of the aforementioned states and riparian upon waters frequented by anadromous fish, flowing into waters under the jurisdiction of any of the aforementioned states, may become a party hereto as hereinafter provided.

Article III. Each state joining herein shall appoint three representatives to a commission hereby constituted and designated as the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. One shall be the executive officer of the administrative agency of such state charged with the conservation of the fisheries resources to which this compact pertains or, if there be more than one officer or agency, the official of that state named by the governor thereof. The second shall be a member of the legislature of such state designated by the commission or committee on interstate cooperation of such state, or if there be none, or if said commission on interstate cooperation cannot constitutionally designate the said member, such legislator shall be designated by the governor thereof; provided, that if it is constitutionally impossible to appoint a legislator as a commissioner from such state, the second member shall be appointed by the governor of said state in his discretion. The third shall be a citizen who shall have a knowledge or an interest in the marine fisheries problem to be appointed by the governor. This commission shall be a body corporate with the powers and duties set forth herein.

Article IV. The duty of the said commission shall be to make inquiry and ascertain from time to time such methods, practice, circumstances and conditions as may be disclosed for bringing about the conservation and the prevention of the depletion and physical waste of the fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, of the Atlantic seaboard. The commission shall have power to recommend the coordination of the exercise of the police powers of the several states within their respective jurisdictions to promote the preservation of those fisheries and their protection against overfishing, waste, depletion or any abuse whatsoever, and to assure a continuing yield from the fisheries resources of the aforementioned states.

To that end the commission shall draft and, after consultation with the advisory committee hereinafter authorized, recommend to the governors and legislatures of the various signatory states legislation dealing with the conservation of the marine, shell and anadromous fisheries of the Atlantic seaboard. The commission shall, more than one month prior to any regular meeting of the legislature in any signatory state, present to the governor of the state its recommendations relating to enactments to be made by the legislature of this compact.

The commission shall consult with and advise the pertinent administrative agencies in the states party hereto with regard to problems connected with the fisheries and recommend the adoption of such regulations as it deems advisable.

The commission shall have power to recommend to the states party hereto the stocking of the waters of such states with fish and fish eggs or joint stocking by some or all of the states party hereto and when two or more of the states shall jointly stock waters the commission shall act as the coordinating agency for such stocking.

Article V. The commission shall elect from its number a chairman and a vice-chairman and shall appoint and at its pleasure remove or discharge such officers and employees as may be required to carry the provisions of this compact into effect and shall fix and determine their duties, qualifications and compensation. Said commission shall adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its business. It may establish and maintain one or more offices for the transaction of its business and may meet at any time or place but must meet at least once a year.

Article VI. No action shall be taken by the commission in regard to its general affairs except by the affirmative vote of a majority of the whole number of compacting states present at any meeting. No recommendation shall be made by the commission in regard to any species of fish except by the affirmative vote of a majority of the compacting states which have an interest in such species. The commission shall define what shall be an interest.

Article VII. The Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior of the Government of the United States shall act as the primary research agency of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission cooperating with the research agencies in each state for that purpose. Representatives of the said Fish and Wildlife Service shall attend the meetings of the commission.

An advisory committee to be representative of the commercial fisherman and the saltwater anglers and such other interests of each state as the commission deems advisable shall be established by the commission as soon as practical for the purpose of advising the commission upon such recommendations as it may desire to make.

Article VIII. When any state other than those named specifically in Article II of this compact becomes a party thereto for the purpose of conserving its anadromous fish in accordance with the provisions of Article II, the participation of such state in the action of the commission shall be limited to such species of anadromous fish.

Article IX. Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit the powers of any signatory state or to repeal or prevent the enactment of any legislation or the enforcement of any requirement by any signatory state imposing additional conditions and restrictions to conserve its fisheries.

Article X. Continued absence of representation or of any representative on the commission from any state party hereto shall be brought to the attention of the governor thereof.

Article XI. The states party hereto agree to make annual appropriations to the support of the commission in proportion to the primary market value of the products of their fisheries,

exclusive of cod and haddock, as recorded in the most recent published reports of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior, provided no state shall contribute less than \$200 per annum and the annual contribution of each state above the minimum shall be figured to the nearest \$100.

The compacting states agree to appropriate initially the annual amounts scheduled below, which amounts are calculated in the manner set forth herein, on the basis of the catch record of 1938. Subsequent budgets shall be recommended by a majority of the commission and the cost thereof allocated equitably among the states in accordance with their respective interests and submitted to the compacting states.

Schedule of Initial Annual State Contributions

Maine.....	\$ 700.00
New Hampshire.....	200.00
Massachusetts.....	2,300.00
Rhode Island.....	300.00
Connecticut.....	400.00
New York.....	1,300.00
New Jersey.....	800.00
Delaware.....	200.00
Maryland.....	700.00
Virginia.....	1,300.00
North Carolina.....	600.00
South Carolina.....	200.00
Georgia.....	200.00
Florida.....	1,500.00

Article XII.

This compact shall continue in force and remain binding upon each compacting state until renounced by it. Renunciation of this compact must be preceded by sending six months' notice in writing of intention to withdraw from the compact to the other states party hereto."

§ 27-4-211. Establishment of commission; members; terms of office; removal

- (a) Pursuant to Article III of the compact, there shall be three members (hereinafter called commissioners) of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (hereinafter called commission) from the State of Georgia. The first commissioner from the State of Georgia shall be the commissioner of natural resources ex officio; and the term of any such ex officio commissioner shall terminate at the time he ceases to hold the office of commissioner of natural resources; and his successor as commissioner shall be his successor as commissioner of natural resources. The second commissioner from the State of Georgia shall be a legislator and a member of the Commission on Interstate Cooperation of the State of Georgia ex officio, designated by the Commission on Interstate Cooperation; and the term of any such ex officio commissioner shall terminate at the time he ceases to hold such legislative office or office as commissioner on interstate cooperation; and his successor as commissioner shall be named in like manner. The Governor (by and with the advice and consent of the Senate) shall appoint a citizen as a third commissioner who shall have a knowledge of and interest in the marine fisheries problem. The term of the commissioner shall be three years, and he shall hold office until

his successor shall be appointed and qualified. Vacancies occurring in the office of the commissioner for any reason or cause shall be filled by appointment by the Governor (by and with the advice and consent of the Senate) for the unexpired term.

- (b) The commissioner of natural resources, as ex officio commissioner, may delegate, from time to time, to any deputy or other subordinate in his department or office the power to be present and participate, including voting as his representative or substitute, at any meeting of or hearing by or other proceeding of the commission.
- (c) The terms of each of the initial three members shall begin at the date of the appointment of the appointive commissioner, provided the compact shall have then gone into effect in accordance with Article II of the compact; otherwise, they shall begin upon the date upon which the compact shall become effective in accordance with said Article II.
- (d) Any commissioner may be removed from office by the Governor upon charges and after a hearing.

§ 27-4-212. Powers and duties of commission and state officers

There is granted to the commission and the commissioners thereof all the powers provided for in the compact and all the powers necessary or incidental to the carrying out of the compact in every particular. All officers of the State of Georgia are authorized and directed to do all things falling within their respective provinces and jurisdictions necessary or incidental to the carrying out of the compact in every particular, it being declared to be the policy of the State of Georgia to perform and carry out the compact and to accomplish the purposes thereof. All officers, bureaus, departments, and persons of and in the government or the administration of the State of Georgia are authorized and directed at convenient times and upon request of the commission to furnish the commission with information and data possessed by them and to aid the commission by loan of personnel or other means lying within their legal rights.

§ 27-4-213. Powers granted to commission regarded as supplemental

Any powers granted to the commission shall be regarded as in aid of and supplemental to and in no case a limitation upon any of the powers vested in the commission by other laws of the State of Georgia or by the laws of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida or by the Congress or the terms of the compact.

§ 27-4-214. Commission to keep accurate accounts; reports to Governor and General Assembly; recommendations for legislative action

The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements and shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly of the State of Georgia on or before December 10 of each year, setting forth in detail the transactions conducted by it during the 12 months preceding December 1 of that year. The commission shall also make recommendations for any legislative action deemed by it advisable, including amendments to the statutes of the State of Georgia which may be necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of the compact between the signatory states.

§ 27-4-215. Examination of commission's accounts by state auditor; report to Governor

The state auditor is authorized and empowered from time to time to examine the accounts and books of the commission, including its receipts, disbursements, and such other items referring to

its financial standing as the state auditor may deem proper, and to report the results of the examination to the Governor of the state.

§ 27-4-216. Annual appropriation for commission

The sum of \$200.00 per annum, or so much as may be necessary, is appropriated, out of any moneys in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the expenses of the commission created by the compact authorized by this part.

§ 27-4-234. Agreements with adjoining states

- (a) As used in this Code section, the term "adjoining state" means any of the following states: Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.
- (b) The department is authorized to make and enter into agreements, from time to time, with the proper authorities of any adjoining state whereby:
 - (1) A citizen of the State of Georgia who has obtained an honorary fishing license as a blind person pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of Code Section 27-2-4 may fish within such adjoining state without the necessity of purchasing a nonresident fishing license in that state; and
 - (2) A citizen of the adjoining state who has an honorary fishing license as a blind person issued by that state may fish within the State of Georgia without the necessity of purchasing a nonresident fishing license in this state.
- (c) An agreement entered into with an adjoining state pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section pertains only to reciprocity of fishing licenses and all other fishing laws and regulations of the State of Georgia shall apply to any nonresident fishing in Georgia waters pursuant to the authority of any such agreement.
- (d) The commissioner is authorized to enter into agreements from time to time with the proper authorities of any of the adjoining states whereby a valid fishing license issued by the State of Georgia will be accepted and honored as and in lieu of a fishing license for adjoining states so agreeing on the banks and in the waters of the lakes, rivers, and streams lying between the State of Georgia and such adjoining state or partly within the boundaries of both the State of Georgia and that adjoining state. In turn, valid licenses issued by said adjoining state shall be accepted and honored as and in lieu of a Georgia fishing license on the banks and in the waters of such lakes, rivers, and streams. Notwithstanding provisions of this title to the contrary, it shall be unlawful to take game fish except channel catfish, flathead catfish, American shad, and hickory shad from waters of the lakes, rivers, and streams lying between the State of Georgia and such adjoining state or partly within the boundaries of Georgia and that adjoining state. The numbers of those game fish which may be lawfully taken from such waters are limited by the commissioner in accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife management. Those limits allow one to 50 fish of each species to be taken but no more than a total of 50 fish of all species.

§ 27-4-280. Legislative findings

The General Assembly recognizes that persons who participate in the sport of fishing may incur injuries as a result of the risks involved in such activity. The General Assembly also finds that the state and its citizens derive numerous economic and personal benefits from such activity. The General Assembly finds, determines, and declares that this article is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. It is, therefore, the intent of the General

Assembly to encourage the sport of fishing by limiting the civil liability of those involved in such activity.

§ 27-4-281. Definitions

As used in this article, the term:

- (1) "Fishing location" means a body of water, whether naturally occurring or manmade, containing fish and for the privilege of fishing there a fee is charged.
- (2) "Participant" means any person who enters the fishing location, singly or with a group, either by paying a fee or having the fee waived, for the purpose of fishing, education, or enjoying the outdoor environment and any person who accompanies such person.

§ 27-4-282. Immunity from liability for injury or death; exceptions

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, the owner or operator of any fishing location, or any other person, corporation, group, partnership, or other entity, shall not be liable for an injury to or the death of a participant resulting from the inherent risks of fishing, including but not limited to drowning, and, except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, no participant or participant's representative shall make any claim against, maintain an action against, or recover from an owner or operator, or any other person or entity for injury, loss, damage, or death of the participant resulting from any of the inherent risks of fishing.
- (b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this Code section shall prevent or limit the liability of an owner or operator or any other person or entity if the owner or operator:
 - 1) Owns, leases, rents, or otherwise is in lawful possession and control of the land or facilities upon which the participant sustained injuries because of a dangerous latent condition which was known or should have been known to the owner or operator and for which signs warning of the latent defect have not been conspicuously posted;
 - 2) Commits an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant, and that act or omission caused the injury; or
 - 3) Intentionally injures the participant.
- (c) Nothing in subsection (a) of this Code section shall prevent or limit the liability of an owner or operator under liability provisions as set forth in the products liability laws.

§ 27-4-283. Warning sign to be posted; contents of warning sign

- (a) Every owner and operator of a fishing location shall post and maintain signs which contain the warning notice specified in subsection (b) of this Code section. Such signs shall be placed in a clearly visible location on or near the water and at the location where the fee is paid. The warning notice specified in subsection (b) of this Code section shall appear on the sign in black letters, with each letter to be a minimum of one inch in height. Every written contract entered into by an owner or operator shall contain in clearly readable print the warning notice specified in subsection (b) of this Code section.
- (b) The signs and contracts described in subsection (a) of this Code section shall contain the following warning notice:

WARNING

Under Georgia law, an owner or operator of a fishing location is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant from the inherent risks of fishing, including but not limited to drowning, pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 27 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

- (c) Failure to comply with the requirements concerning warning signs and notices provided in this Code section shall prevent an owner or operator from invoking the privileges of immunity provided by this article.

Georgia Aquaculture Development Act (O.C.G.A. 27-4-251, et. seq.)

Legislative amendments to the Georgia Aquaculture Development Act between 1997 and 2017 (TEXT: Inserted text, ~~TEXT~~: Deleted text).

§ 27-4-251. Short title

This article may be cited as the "Georgia Aquaculture Development Act."

§ 27-4-252. Definitions (see Note for effective date)

As used in this article, the term:

- (1) "Aquaculture" means the extensive or intensive farming of aquatic animals and plants.
- (2) "Commission" means the Aquaculture Development Commission created by Code Section 27-4-253.

Note: DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE

Ga. L. 2004, p. 948, § 3-1(c), provides that the 2004 amendment becomes effective only upon the effective date of a specific appropriation of funds for purposes of that Act as expressed in a line item of an appropriations Act enacted by the General Assembly. This Code section, as amended, is not set out in the bound volume owing to the delayed effective date. Funds were not appropriated at the 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, or 2016 sessions of the General Assembly. After the appropriation is made paragraph (1) will read as follows:

"(1) 'Aquaculture' means the extensive or intensive farming of aquatic animals, other than pacific white shrimp as defined by Code Section 2-15-2, and aquatic plants."

§ 27-4-253. Aquaculture Development Commission created; membership; bylaws; quorum; reimbursement for expenses; meeting at call of chairman

- (a) There is created the Aquaculture Development Commission. The commission shall be composed of 14 members as follows:
 - (1) The president of the Georgia Aquaculture Association or his representative, who shall serve as chairman of the commission;
 - (2) The president of the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation or his representative;
 - (3) The dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of the University of Georgia or his representative;
 - (4) The chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs of the House of Representatives or his representative;
 - (5) The chairman of the ~~Senate Committee on Agriculture of the Senate~~ Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee or his representative;

- (6) The Commissioner of Agriculture or his representative;
- (7) The commissioner of natural resources or his representative;
- (8) The commissioner of economic development or his or her representative; and
- (9) Six members to be appointed by the president of the Georgia Aquaculture Association as follows:
 - (A) Four members shall be representatives of the aquaculture industry;
 - (B) One member shall be a representative of the commercial fish farming supply and equipment industry; and
 - (C) One member shall be a representative of a private industry which is doing research in the promotion of fish farming.

Each of such six members shall be appointed for a term of two years and until a successor is appointed and assumes membership on the commission. The terms of the first six such members shall begin on July 1, 1989.

- (b) The members of the commission shall enter upon their duties without further act or formality. The commission may make such bylaws for its government as it deems necessary but is under no duty to do so. The commission may appoint working subcommittees based on identified needs. These subcommittees may consist of noncommission members who exhibit an interest in the development of the aquaculture industry of Georgia.
- (c) Eight members of the commission shall constitute a quorum necessary for the transaction of business, and a majority vote of those present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be sufficient to do and perform any action permitted the commission by this article. No vacancy on the commission shall impair the right of a quorum to transact any and all business of the commission.
- (d) The members shall not receive compensation for their services on the commission but those members who are public officials or employees shall be reimbursed from the funds of their employing department, agency, or branch of government for per diem, travel, and other expenses in the same manner and amount as they otherwise receive for performing services for their respective departments, agencies, or branches of government.
- (e) The commission shall meet upon the call of its chairman.

§ 27-4-254. Duty of commission to develop aquaculture development plan; contents of plan; meetings of commission; staff support

- (a) The commission shall make a thorough study of aquaculture and the potential for development and enhancement of aquaculture in the state. It shall be the duty of the commission to develop, distribute, and, from time to time, amend an aquaculture development plan for the State of Georgia for the purpose of facilitating the establishment and growth of economically viable aquaculture enterprises in Georgia. Such plan shall include:
 - (1) An evaluation of Georgia's natural resources as they relate to aquaculture;

- (2) An evaluation of species with potential for culture in Georgia;
 - (3) An identification of constraints to development of aquaculture in Georgia and recommendations on methods to alleviate these constraints;
 - (4) An identification of the roles of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources in supporting the aquaculture industry, including an evaluation of existing physical and personnel resources and recommendations for allocation of additional resources where needed;
 - (5) Recommendations for implementation of the plan; and
 - (6) An identification of the role of other state and federal agencies in the development of the aquaculture industry.
- (b) The commission is authorized to conduct meetings at such places and at such times as it considers expedient and to do all other things consistent with this article which are necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this article.
 - (c) Staff support for the commission shall be provided by the Department of Natural Resources with assistance from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic Development.

§ 27-4-255. Registration required for sale of domestic fish; regulation of sale without registration

Any person engaged in the sale of domestic fish, except grocery stores, shall apply to the department for an aquaculture registration. The domestic fish of a registered aquaculture producer shall be privately owned subject to regulation by the Department of Natural Resources; provided, however, any person selling "domestic fish" without first obtaining an aquaculture registration shall be considered to be selling "wildlife" or "wild animals" and shall be subject to the provisions of this title governing such sale.

§ 27-4-256. Duty of department to register sellers of domestic fish; expiration of registration

The Department of Natural Resources shall register sellers of domestic fish under the applicable provisions of this article. Such registration shall expire on April 1 following the second anniversary of registration; provided, however, that such registration shall expire 30 days following any change in the status of any information required by the provisions of this article or by any rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this article to be reported to the department. The department shall issue to registrants who update their registration new certificates of registration for the full period of registration provided for in this Code section.

§ 27-4-257. Contents of application for registration

- (a) All applications to the department for registration as a seller of domestic fish shall:
 - (1) Designate an address in this state where the applicant can be personally served with legal process;

- (2) Contain an appointment of an agent in this state for acceptance of service of legal process, together with the agent's address in this state; or
 - (3) Contain a designation of the Secretary of State for acceptance of service of legal process.
- (b) A copy of such application shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State by the department.

§ 27-4-258. Filing of application as admission of doing business in state

The filing of an application with the department for registration as a seller of domestic fish shall constitute an admission by the applicant that the applicant is doing business in this state.

§ 27-4-259. Denial of registration

- (a) The Commissioner may deny registration to:
- (1) Any applicant with a criminal record;
 - (2) Any applicant who is found by the Commissioner to have violated any law administered by the department or any regulation or quarantine of the department; or
 - (3) A corporation, when any of its officers has a criminal record or is found by the Commissioner to have violated any law administered by the department or any regulation or quarantine of the department.
- (b) In the case of a partnership, all parties shall be considered applicants for the purpose of this Code section.
- (c) No registration shall be denied under this article without opportunity for hearing in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act."

§ 27-4-260. Revocation of registration

The Commissioner may revoke any outstanding registration where the holder of the same or any officer or agent of the holder is found by the Commissioner to have violated any law administered by the department or any regulation or quarantine of the department, provided that no registration shall be revoked under this Code section without opportunity for hearing in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act."

§ 27-4-261. Certificate as evidence of registration; list of persons registered

All registration certificates issued by the department shall be evidence of a registration. The department shall maintain a current list of all persons registered under this article.

§ 27-4-262. Rules and regulations

The board shall make and publish in print or electronically such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.

§ 27-4-263. Inspections

- (a) Any inspector or other person authorized to ascertain compliance with any rule or regulation of the department pertaining to the production or sale of domestic fish may enter during normal business hours and inspect the premises of a registered seller or producer of domestic fish to determine whether such person is in compliance with the rules and regulations of the department.
- (b) In the event any person refuses to give his consent to an inspection as provided in subsection (a) of this Code section, the commissioner or any person authorized to make inspections may seek a warrant to make an inspection as provided in this subsection:

 - (1) Any application for an inspection warrant shall be made to a person who is a judicial officer within the meaning of Code Section 17-5-21;
 - (2) An inspection warrant shall be issued only upon cause and when supported by an affidavit particularly describing the place, dwelling, structure, premises, or vehicle to be inspected and the purpose for which the inspection is to be made. In addition, the affidavit shall contain either a statement that consent to inspect has been sought and refused or facts or circumstances reasonably justifying the failure to seek such consent. Cause shall be deemed to exist if either reasonable legislative or administrative standards for conducting a routine or area inspection are satisfied with respect to the particular place, dwelling, structure, premises, or vehicle, or there is reason to believe that a condition of nonconformity exists with respect to the particular place, dwelling, structure, premises, or vehicle;
 - (3) An inspection warrant shall be effective for the time specified therein, but not for a period of more than 14 days, unless extended or renewed by the judicial officer who signed and issued the original warrant, upon satisfying himself that such extension or renewal is in the public interest. Such inspection warrant must be executed and returned to the judicial officer by whom it was issued within the time specified in the warrant or within the extended or renewed time. After the expiration of such time, the warrant, unless executed, is void;
 - (4) An inspection pursuant to an inspection warrant shall be made between 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. of any day or at any time during operating or regular business hours. An inspection should not be performed in the absence of an owner or occupant of the particular place, dwelling, structure, premises, or vehicle unless specifically authorized by the judicial officer upon a showing that such authority is reasonably necessary to effectuate the purpose of the regulation being enforced. An inspection pursuant to a warrant shall not be made by means of forcible entry, except that the judicial officer may expressly authorize a forcible entry where facts are shown which are sufficient to create a reasonable suspicion of a violation of this title, which, if such violation

existed, would be an immediate threat to health, safety, or welfare or where facts are shown establishing that reasonable attempts to serve a previous warrant have been unsuccessful. Where prior consent has been sought and refused and a warrant has been issued, the warrant may be executed without further notice to the owner or occupant of the particular place, dwelling, structure, premises, or vehicle to be inspected;

- (5)** It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse to allow an inspection pursuant to an inspection warrant issued as provided in this subsection. Any person violating this paragraph shall be guilty of a misdemeanor; and
 - (6)** Under this subsection, an inspection warrant is an order, in writing, signed by a judicial officer, directed to the commissioner or any person authorized to make inspections for the department, and commanding him or her to conduct any inspection authorized by any rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to this article.
- (c)** The provisions of Code Section 27-1-23 shall not be applicable to any person registered under this article.

Wild Animals (O.C.G.A. 27-5-1, et. seq.)

§ 27-5-1. Legislative intent and findings

The General Assembly finds and declares that it is in the public interest to ensure the public health, safety, and welfare by strictly regulating in this state the importation, transportation, sale, transfer, and possession of those wild animals which pose a possibility of:

- (1) Harmful competition for wildlife;
- (2) The introduction of a disease or pest harmful to wildlife;
- (3) Problems of enforcing laws and regulations relative to wildlife;
- (4) Threatening wildlife or other natural resources; or
- (5) Endangering the physical safety of human beings.

The importation, transportation, sale, transfer, and possession of wild animals are privileges not to be granted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that such actions can be accomplished in a manner that does not pose unnecessary risk to Georgia's wildlife and other natural resources or to the citizens of and visitors to this state. For these reasons, the General Assembly further finds and declares that only certain wild animals may be held for scientific or educational purposes, for public exhibition, or as pets and may only be lawfully held when the requirements of this chapter are met. The General Assembly further finds and declares that any wild animal for which a license or permit, or both, is required under the provisions of this chapter and for which no such license or permit, or both, has been obtained is a nuisance and is contraband and is subject to seizure by any peace officer authorized to enforce this chapter.

§ 27-5-2. Powers of board generally

- (a) The board shall have the authority to regulate the importation, transportation, sale, and possession of wild animals when and to the extent that the importation, transportation, sale, or possession poses a possibility of:
 - (1) Harmful competition for wildlife;
 - (2) The introduction of a disease or pest harmful to wildlife;
 - (3) Problems of enforcement of laws and regulations relating to wildlife;
 - (4) Danger to wildlife or other natural resources; or
 - (5) Danger to the physical safety of human beings.
- (b) The board is specifically authorized to supplement the list of wild animals set forth in this chapter for which a permit or license, or both, is required.
- (c) The board shall have the authority to require that any listed wild animal that is imported, transported, possessed, sold, or transferred by any person, including wild animal dealers, be labeled with the correct species, number, age, or other relevant information.
- (d) The board shall have the authority to require an applicant for a permit or license required under this chapter to supply such information and to supply it in such form as the board deems necessary for the department to discharge its responsibilities under this chapter.

§ 27-5-2.1. Definitions; importation restrictions; prohibition on possession of cervid carcasses

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

- (1) "Cervid" means a member of the family cervidae.
- (2) "Chronic wasting disease" means a fatal disease that belongs to a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and that affects the brains of cervids.
- (3) "Clean" means having no meat matter or tissue attached to the carcass part.
- (4) "Importation" means the transportation of a cervid, cervid carcass, or carcass part into this state.
- (5) "Whole" means the entire carcass, whether eviscerated or not, prior to the carcass being processed.

(b)

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, or association to import, bring, or cause to be imported or brought into this state any live cervid, except as otherwise authorized by rule or regulation of the board in effect as of January 1, 2007, or such later date as may be provided by Code Section 27-1-39.
- (2) (A) Any person who violates paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,500.00 nor more than \$5,000.00, imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months, or both such fine and imprisonment.
(B) The hunting and fishing privileges of any person convicted of violating paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be suspended for not less than three years from the date of conviction.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to import or possess a whole cervid carcass or cervid carcass part from any state having a documented case of a cervid infected with chronic wasting disease, except for any one or more of the following cervid carcass parts:

- (1) Boned-out meat and commercially processed cuts of meat;
- (2) Portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached;
- (3) Hides with no heads attached;
- (4) Clean skull plates with antlers attached;
- (5) Clean antlers;
- (6) Finished taxidermy heads; and
- (7) Clean upper canine teeth (buglers, whistlers, ivories).

§ 27-5-3. Powers of department generally

- (a) The department shall have the authority to prescribe the form and contents for the license and permit applications provided for in this chapter.
- (b) The department shall issue or deny all permits and licenses required by this chapter and any rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.

- (c) The department may, prior to a hearing, issue a cease and desist order or other appropriate order to any person who is violating this chapter or any regulation, permit, or license issued pursuant to this chapter.
- (d) The department may quarantine or otherwise dispose of or order the disposition of any wild animal when it determines that the wild animal is affected with or exposed to a contagious or infectious disease or is infested with a parasite or pest harmful to wildlife.
- (e) The department shall have the authority, based upon the standards set forth in Code Section 27-5-6, to determine if the necessary facilities, conditions, and standards prescribed by this chapter are sufficient for safety to the public and for the humane handling, care, confinement, and transportation of the wild animal for which application for a permit or license, or both, has been received. The department shall be authorized to make such determinations by inspecting the facilities of the permit or license holder. Following such determination, the department also has the authority to condition the license or permit so that the standards and intent of this chapter are met.
- (f) The department is authorized to capture and contain any wild animal regulated by this chapter which has escaped or been released when such wild animal is determined by the department to pose a risk to Georgia's wildlife or other natural resources or to the citizens of and visitors to this state.

§ 27-5-4. Wild animal licenses and permits generally

- (a) Unless otherwise provided in Code Section 27-5-5, it shall be unlawful for any person to import, transport, transfer, sell, purchase, or possess any wild animal listed in Code Section 27-5-5 or specified by the board by regulation without first obtaining a wild animal license from the department as provided in Code Section 27-2-23 or a wild animal permit as provided in this Code section; provided, however, anyone holding a deer-farming license is not required to have a wild animal license or permit to possess farmed deer. Unless otherwise specified by the department, such license or permit shall be effective from April 1 through March 31 and may contain such conditions and restrictions, including restrictions as to numbers and species of animals, as the department determines appropriate in light of the provisions of this chapter. An applicant for a wild animal license or permit shall have the burden of proving that any wild animals subject to such license or permit are or will be imported, transported, transferred, sold, purchased, or possessed in compliance with this chapter.
- (b)
 - (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, wild animal licenses will be issued only to persons engaged in the wholesale or retail wild animal business or persons exhibiting wild animals to the public. Wild animal permits will be issued at no cost and only to persons for scientific or educational purposes, to persons with a permanent disability or disease as provided and for the purpose described in paragraph (2) of this subsection, or to a pond owner for grass carp or grass carp hybrids where the department has determined that the possession of such carp by the pond owner will not constitute a threat to wildlife; provided, however, that no such permit shall be required for persons buying triploid grass carp from properly licensed wild animal dealers authorized to sell grass carp where the bill of sale is retained by the buyer as proof of such sale and where the triploid grass carp are to be stocked only into a private pond; provided, further, that no such license or permit shall be required solely for the transportation of wild animals through this state where the animals

remain in this state no more than 24 hours and are not sold or transferred while in this state.

- (2) The department shall issue a wild animal permit only for an animal in the genus *Cebus* (capuchin monkeys) to any person who establishes to the satisfaction of the department that:

 - (A) Such person has a permanent disability or disease which interferes with the person's ability to perform one or more routine daily living activities;
 - (B) The animal for which the permit is to be issued has been trained to assist the person in performing his or her daily living activities;
 - (C) The animal will be humanely treated and will not present a health or safety threat;
 - (D) The animal for which the permit is to be issued is the only wild animal to be possessed by that person;
 - (E) The permittee does not have a history of violating this chapter; and
 - (F) The organization furnishing the animal to the applicant:

 - (i) Is reputable, lawful, and does not have any history of violating this chapter;
 - (ii) Provides to the department documentation and data sufficient to establish that the organization has a proven record, over at least a ten-year period, of furnishing animals which provide meaningful assistance to persons with disabilities; and
 - (iii) Has received and maintained a nonprofit, tax-exempt status.
- (3) Permits issued under the provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be issued only to individuals and are nontransferable.
- (4) Capuchin monkeys possessed under the provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection are exempt from the requirements of paragraph (5) of subsection (k) of this Code section but must be treated humanely and shall be kept only in the residence of the permittee. When transported, the monkey must be in a USDA approved carrier and there shall be no contact allowed between the public and monkey when outside the permittee's residence. Under no circumstances may the monkey be present on premises where food is sold.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, transfer, deliver, or surrender a wild animal listed in Code Section 27-5-5 or specified by the board by regulation to any other person unless that other person holds a license or permit issued pursuant to this chapter for such wild animal or is exempt from the requirement for such a permit or license by the provisions of subsection (d) of this Code section.
- (d) No wild animal license or permit shall be required for a carrier regulated either by the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Civil Aeronautics Board, or the Department of Public Safety to import or transport any wild animal.
- (e) Any licenses issued by the department to any person for public exhibition purposes shall be conditioned so that the person operating a wild animal exhibition in a nontraveling, fixed facility shall make the facility open to the public for a time no less than 30 hours per week for at least six months each year; and the person operating a wild animal exhibition in a transient facility shall make the facility open to the public for a reasonable period of time and for reasonable hours of the day, depending upon the nature of the exhibition. The department is authorized to issue such licenses in accordance with this chapter

requiring adequate facilities for the humane handling, care, and confinement of wild animals and ensuring public safety. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, exhibitions of wild animals by federal, state, city, county, or municipal governments or their agencies and transient circuses, which circuses can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the department that 10 percent of the proceeds from such exhibitions shall be devoted to charitable purposes in this state, shall not be required to purchase a wild animal license but shall be required to obtain the license, at no charge, from the department; provided, however, all other provisions of this chapter and all regulations relating to the humane handling, care, and confinement of wild animals must be complied with.

- (f) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a wild animal license or permit is required for the possession of any wild animal listed in subsection (b) of Code Section 27-5-5 or as required by regulation of the board. Liability insurance is required for the possession of any wild animal that is classified as being inherently dangerous to people in subsection (a) of Code Section 27-5-5 or as required by regulation of the board. Prior to the issuance of a wild animal license or permit for animals classified as being inherently dangerous to people, any applicant other than a governmental agency or university research facility must provide proof of liability insurance from a company licensed to do business in this state or an unauthorized insurer if permitted by Chapter 5 of Title 33. Such insurance must be maintained in force and effect and cover claims for injury or damage to persons or property in an amount equal to \$40,000.00 for each inherently dangerous animal up to a maximum of \$500,000.00. The insurance company shall notify the department at least 30 days prior to the termination of the policy by the company. Liability insurance is not required for wild animals that are not considered to be inherently dangerous to people.
- (g) Any license or permit issued in accordance with this chapter shall be valid only for the species and numbers of wild animals referenced on the application and the license or permit. The license or permit to hold a female wild animal shall cover her progeny only while the progeny are physically dependent upon her or until her progeny are two months of age, whichever period is longer. It shall also be unlawful to transfer any license or permit issued by the department from one person to another person.
- (h) It shall be unlawful for any person holding a license or permit issued pursuant to this chapter to import, transport, sell, transfer, or possess any wild animal in facilities not approved by the department as described in Code Section 27-5-6.
- (i) In the event that a determination has been made to revoke, suspend, deny, or refuse to renew any license or permit issued pursuant to this chapter, the applicant for the license or permit may appeal the determination according to the provisions stated in Code Section 27-2-25.
- (j) It shall be unlawful for any person holding a license or permit pursuant to this chapter to import, purchase, transport, sell, or transfer any wild animal and fail to record in a record book, within 24 hours after the completion of such a transaction, the date, place, manner, and names and addresses of all persons involved in such a transaction. It shall also be unlawful to fail to maintain such records for a period of 12 months or to fail to provide the department access to such records during all regular business hours.
- (k) Wild animal licenses shall not be issued unless the following conditions are met:
 - (1) The applicant must be at least 18 years of age;

- (2) Applicants requesting a license for mammals must obtain a license from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture or provide written documentation that the applicant is exempt from such requirements;
- (3) Applicants must submit documentation verifying that the proposed construction of facilities and the holding of wild animals is not prohibited by county or municipal ordinances;
- (4) The applicant must obtain required business licenses; and
- (5) Facilities for holding or exhibiting wild animals must be completely separated from a residence and meet specifications for humane handling, care, and confinement as provided in Code Section 27-5-6.

§ 27-5-5. Wild animals for which license or permit required

(a) The following animals are considered to be inherently dangerous to human beings and are subject to the license or permit and insurance requirements provided for in subsection (f) of Code Section 27-5-4:

(1) Class Mammalia:

(A) Order Marsupialia: Genus Macropus (Kangaroos, wallabies, wallaroos) -- All species;

(B) Order Primates:

(i) Family Pongidae (gibbons, orang-utan, chimpanzees, siamangs, and gorillas) -- All species;

(ii) Family Cercopithecidae:

(I) Genus Macaca (macaques) -- All species;

(II) Genus Papio (mandrills, drills, and baboons) -- All species;

(III) Theropithecus gelada (Gelada baboon);

(C) Order Carnivora:

(i) Family Canidae:

(I) Genus Canis (wolves, jackals, and dingos); all species; except that any person possessing hybrid crosses between wolves and domestic animals on July 1, 1994, shall have until July 1, 1995, to apply for a fee-exempt permit to possess these animals as pets; provided, however, that the said hybrid is sexually neutered; provided, further, that it shall be unlawful to transfer possession or ownership of said hybrid without prior written approval from the department. Liability insurance shall not be mandatory for wolf hybrids possessed under this fee-exempt permit;

(II) Chrysocyon brachyurus (maned wolf);

(III) Cuon alpinus (red dog);

(IV) Lycaon pictus (African hunting dog);

(ii) Family Ursidae (bears) -- All species;

(iii) Family Mustelidae -- Gulo gulo (wolverine);

(iv) Family Hyaenidae (hyenas) -- All species;

(v) Family Felidae:

- (I)** Genus *Leo* or *Panthera* or *Neofelis* (lions, tigers, jaguars, and leopards) -- All species;
- (II)** *Unica unica* (snow leopard);
- (III)** *Acinonyx jubatus* (cheetah);
- (IV)** *Felis concolor* (cougar) -- All subspecies;

(D) Order Proboscidae: Family Elephantidae (elephants) -- All species;

(E) Order Perissodactyla: Family Rhinocerotidae (rhinoceroses) -- All species;

(F) Order Artiodactyla:

- (i)** Family Suidae -- *Phacochoerus aethiopicus* (wart hog);
- (ii)** Family Hippopotamidae -- *Hippopotamus amphibius* (hippopotamus);
- (iii)** Family Bovidae:

- (I)** Genus *Taurotragus* (eland) -- All species;
- (II)** *Boselaphus tragocamelus* (nilgai);
- (III)** *Bos sauveli* (kouprey);
- (IV)** *Syncerus caffer* (African buffalo);
- (V)** *Hippotragus niger* (sable);
- (VI)** *Oryx gazella* (gemsbok);
- (VII)** *Addax nasomaculatus* (addax);
- (VIII)** Genus *Alcelaphus* (hartebeests) -- All species;
- (IX)** Genus *Connochaetes* (gnu, wildebeest) -- All species;

(2) Class Reptilia:

(A) Order Crocodylia:

- (i)** Family Crocodylidae (crocodiles, gavials, etc.) -- All species;
- (ii)** Family Alligatoridae -- (alligators and caimans) -- All species;

(B) Order Squamata:

(i) Suborder Serpentes:

- (I)** Family Elapidae (cobras, coral snakes, etc.) -- All species;
- (II)** Family Viperidae (adders, vipers, etc.) -- All species;
- (III)** Family Colubridae -- All poisonous rear-fanged species (*Opisthoglypis*);
- (IV)** Family Crotalidae (pit vipers) -- All species;

- (ii)** Suborder Lacertilia: Family Helodermatidae (Gila monsters and beaded lizards) -- All species;

(3) Class Osteichthyes:

- (A) Order Cypriniformes (Suborder Characoidei): Family Characidae (tetra, piranha): Genera *Serrasalmus*, *Serrasalmo*, *Pygocentrus*, *Taddeyella*, *Rooseveltiella*, *Pygopristis* (piranhas) -- All species;
 - (B) Order Siluriformes: Family Trichomycteridae (parasitic catfishes): Genera *Vandellia* (candiru) and *Urinophilus* -- All species; and
 - (4) Class Chondrichthyes (cartilaginous fish): Order Rajiformes: Family Potamotrygonidae (fresh-water stingray) -- All species.
- (b) Except as provided in this Code section, a license or permit is required for the following wild animals and any others specified by regulation of the board:
- (1) Class Mammalia:
 - (A) Order Marsupialia -- All species other than those listed in subparagraph (a)(1)(A) of this Code section; except that *Petaurus breviceps* (sugar glider) may be sold, purchased, exhibited, or held as a pet without a license or permit if the owner thereof possesses valid documentation that the animal originated from a source inspected and regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture;
 - (B) Order Insectivora (shrews, moles, etc.) -- All species;
 - (C) Order Dermoptera (flying lemurs) -- All species;
 - (D) Order Chiroptera (bats) -- All species;
 - (E) Order Primates (monkeys, apes, etc.) -- All species except Family Hominidae;
 - (F) Order Edentata (sloths, armadillos, etc.) -- All species;
 - (G) Order Pholidota (pangolins or scaly anteaters) -- All species;
 - (H) Order Lagomorpha (rabbits, hares, etc.) -- All species except Genus *Oryctolagus*; or any other normally domesticated species;
 - (I) Order Rodentia (rats, mice, etc.) -- All species except Genus *Cavia*; Genus *Gerbillus*; Genus *Mesocricetus*; *Mus musculus*; *Rattus rattus*; *Rattus norvegicus*; or any other normally domesticated species;
 - (J) Order Cetacea (whales, dolphins, etc.) -- All species;
 - (K) Order Carnivora (weasels, ferrets, cats, bears, wolves, etc.) -- All species, except that a European ferret (*Mustela putorius furo*) may be sold, purchased, exhibited, or held as a pet without a license or permit; provided, however, that the ferret owner can provide valid documentation that the ferret was sexually neutered prior to seven months of age and is vaccinated against rabies with a properly administered vaccine approved for use on ferrets by the United States Department of Agriculture;
 - (L) Order Tubulidentata (armadillo) -- All species;
 - (M) Order Proboscidea (elephants) -- All species;
 - (N) Order Hyracoidea (conies) -- All species;
 - (O) Order Sirenia (manatees, dugong) -- All species;
 - (P) Order Perissodactyla (odd-toed ungulates) -- All species;

- (Q)** Order Artiodactyla (even-toed ungulates) -- All species except *Bison bison* (buffalo), *Bubalus bubalis* (water buffalo), and *Llama guanicoe*, *L. glama*, and *L. pacos* (llamas);
- (2)** Class Aves:
- (A)** Order Falconiformes (hawks, eagles, vultures, etc.) -- All species except that persons possessing a federal falconry license shall be allowed to possess birds in the Order Falconiformes without obtaining a wild animal license;
- (B)** Order Galliformes: Family Meleagrididae (turkeys) -- All species not normally domesticated;
- (C)** Order Psittaciformes: *Myiopsitta monachus* (monk parakeet);
- (D)** Order Cuculiformes: Family Cuculidae (cuckoos) -- All species;
- (E)** Order Strigiformes (owls) -- All species;
- (F)** Order Passeriformes:
- (i)** Family Alaudidae (larks): *Alauda arvensis* (sky larks);
- (ii)** Family Pycnonotidae (bulbuls) -- All species;
- (iii)** Family Muscicapidae (thrushes, blackbirds, fieldfare, etc.): Genus *Turdus* -- All species;
- (iv)** Family Zosteropidae (white eyes): Genus *Zosterops* -- All species;
- (v)** Family Emberizidae (buntings, etc.): *Emberiza citrinella* (yellow hammer);
- (vi)** Family Ploceidae (sparrows, weavers, queleas, weaver finches, etc.):
- (I)** Genus *Passer* -- All species except *Passer domesticus* (English house sparrow);
- (II)** *Ploceus capensis* (cape weaver);
- (III)** *Ploceus philippinus* (Baya weaver);
- (IV)** Genus *Quelea* -- All species;
- (vii)** Family Icteridae (blackbirds, grackles, orioles, etc.): Genera *Molothrus*, *Quiscalus*, and *Agelaius* -- All species;
- (viii)** Family Estrildidae (waxbills, ricebirds, munias, weaver finches, etc.): *Padda oryzivora* (Java sparrow);
- (ix)** Family Sturnidae (starlings, mynas, etc.) -- All species except *Sturnus vulgaris* (starling) and *Gracula religiosa* (Hill mynas);
- (x)** Family Corvidae (crows, ravens, etc.) -- All species;
- (3)** Class Amphibia (Order Anura):
- (A)** Family Bufonidae (toads): *Bufo marinus*, *Bufo paracnemis*, *Bufo horribilis* (giant or marine toad group);
- (4)** Class Osteichthyes (bony fish):
- (A)** Order Cypriniformes (Suborder Characoidei): Family Characidae (tetra, piranha):
- (i)** *Astyanax fasciatus* (banded tetra);

- (ii) Genera *Serrasalmus*, *Serrasalmo*, *Pygocentrus*, *Taddeya*, *Rooseveltiella*, *Pygopristis* (piranhas) -- All species;
 - (B) Order Cypriniformes (Suborder Cyprinoidei): Family Cyprinidae (carp, grass carp, orfe, etc.):
 - (i) *Ctenopharyngodon idella* (grass carp);
 - (ii) *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* (silver carp);
 - (iii) *Aristichthys nobilis* (bighead carp);
 - (C) Order Siluriformes:
 - (i) Family Clariidae (air-breathing catfishes) -- All species;
 - (ii) Family Trichomycteridae (parasitic catfishes): Genera *Vandellia* (candiru) and *Urinophilus* -- All species;
 - (iii) Family Heteropneustidae (giant walking catfishes): Genus *Heteropneustes* -- All species;
 - (D) Order Perciformes (Suborder Channoidei) Family Channidae (snakeheads): Genera *Ophicephalus* and *Channa* -- All species;
 - (5) Class Chondrichthyes (cartilaginous fish): Order Rajiformes: Family Potamotrygonidae (fresh-water stingray) -- All species; and
 - (6) All exotic fish which are not held in aquaria or tanks, provided that, as used in this Code section, "aquaria or tanks" means containers for holding fish from which no water is discharged, except during periodic cleaning, and which discharged water is passed through a filtering system capable of removing all fish and fish eggs and is disposed of only in a septic tank permitted by the county or in a waste-water treatment system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division of the department. For purposes of this paragraph, exotic fish are all fish species not native to Georgia. This paragraph shall not apply to any species of fish regulated by any other chapter of this title.
- (c) Any person who on July 1, 1994, possessed a wild animal for which a license or permit was not required prior to July 1, 1994, shall have until January 1, 1995, to apply for a fee-exempt permit, provided that the requirements of this chapter relating to insurance and humane handling, care, and confinement of wild animals are met. Such permits shall only be valid for wild animals possessed prior to July 1, 1994, and shall not authorize breeding, importation, sale, or transfer without specific authorization from the department.

§ 27-5-6. Specifications for humane handling, care, confinement, and transportation of wild animals

It shall be unlawful to import, transport, sell, transfer, or possess any wild animal regulated by this chapter without meeting the specifications expressed in this Code section for the humane handling, care, confinement, and transportation of such animals:

(1) Facilities in general.

- (A) The facility must be constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved. The housing facilities shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect and contain the animals. The facilities shall be designed in such manner, including the inclusion of barriers

of sufficient dimensions and conformation, to safeguard both the animals and the public against injury by direct contact.

- (B) Reliable and adequate electric power, if required to comply with other provisions of this Code section, and adequate potable water shall be available on the premises.
- (C) Supplies of food and bedding shall be stored in facilities which adequately protect the supplies against deterioration, molding, or contamination by vermin. Refrigeration shall be provided for supplies of perishable food.
- (D) Provision shall be made for the removal and disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding, dead animals, trash, and debris. Disposal facilities shall be so provided and operated so as to minimize vermin infestation, odors, and disease hazards. The disposal facilities and any disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding, dead animals, trash, and debris shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to pollution control or the protection of the environment.
- (E) Facilities such as washrooms, basins, showers, or sinks shall be provided to maintain cleanliness among animal caretakers.

(2) *Indoor facilities.*

- (A) Temperature in indoor housing facilities shall be sufficiently regulated by heating or cooling to protect the animals from extremes of temperature, to provide for their health, and to prevent their discomfort. The ambient temperature shall not be allowed to fall below nor rise above temperatures compatible with the health and comfort of the animal.
- (B) Indoor housing facilities shall be adequately ventilated by natural or mechanical means to provide for the health and to prevent discomfort of the animals at all times. Such facilities shall be provided with fresh air either by means of windows, doors, vents, fans, or air conditioning and shall be ventilated so as to minimize drafts, odors, and moisture condensation.
- (C) Indoor housing facilities shall have ample lighting, by natural or artificial means, or both, of good quality, distribution, and duration as appropriate for the species involved. Such lighting shall be uniformly distributed and of sufficient intensity to permit routine inspection and cleaning. Lighting of primary enclosures shall be designed to protect the animals from excessive illumination.
- (D) A suitable sanitary method shall be provided for rapid elimination of excess water from indoor housing facilities. If drains are used, they shall be properly constructed and kept in good repair to avoid foul odors and installed so as to prevent any backup of sewage. The method of drainage shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to pollution control or the protection of the environment.

(3) *Outdoor facilities.*

- (A) When sunlight is likely to cause overheating or discomfort of the animals, sufficient shade by natural or artificial means shall be provided to allow all animals kept outdoors to protect themselves from direct sunlight.
- (B) Natural or artificial shelter appropriate to the local climatic conditions for the species concerned shall be provided for all animals kept outdoors to afford them

protection and to prevent discomfort to such animals. Individual animals shall be acclimated before they are exposed to the extremes of the local climate.

(C) A suitable method shall be provided for rapid elimination of excess water. The method of drainage shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to pollution control or the protection of the environment.

(4) **Space requirements.** Enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow each animal to make normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement. Inadequate space may be indicated by evidence of malnutrition, poor condition, debility, stress, or abnormal behavioral patterns.

(5) **Feeding.**

(A) The food shall be wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain all animals in good health. The diet shall be prepared with consideration for the age, species, condition, size, and type of animal. Animals shall be fed at least once a day except as dictated by hibernation, veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or other professionally accepted practices.

(B) Food and food receptacles, if used, shall be sufficient in quantity and located so as to be accessible to all animals in the enclosure and shall be placed so as to minimize contamination. Food receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary at all times. If self-feeders are used, adequate measures shall be taken to prevent molding, contamination, and deterioration or caking of food.

(6) **Watering.** If potable water is not accessible to the animals at all times, it must be provided as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animal. Frequency of watering shall take into consideration the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal. All water receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary.

(7) **Sanitation.**

(A) Excreta shall be removed from primary enclosures as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals contained therein and to minimize disease hazards and to reduce odors. When enclosures are cleaned by hosing or flushing, adequate measures shall be taken to protect the animals confined in such enclosures from being directly sprayed with the stream of water or wetted involuntarily.

(B) Subsequent to the presence of an animal with an infectious or transmissible disease, cages, rooms, and hard-surfaced pens or runs shall be sanitized either by washing them with hot water (180 degrees Fahrenheit at source) and soap or detergent, as in a mechanical washer, or by washing all soiled surfaces with a detergent solution followed by a safe and effective disinfectant or by cleaning all soiled surfaces with saturated live steam under pressure. Pens or runs using gravel, sand, or dirt shall be sanitized when necessary.

(C) Premises (buildings and grounds) shall be kept clean and in good repair in order to protect the animals from injury and to facilitate the prescribed husbandry practices set forth in this Code section. Accumulations of trash shall be placed in designated areas and cleared as necessary to protect the health of the animals.

(D) A safe and effective program for the control of insects, ectoparasites, and avian and mammalian pests shall be established and maintained.

(8) Employees. A sufficient number of adequately trained employees shall be utilized to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices set forth in this Code section. Such employees shall be under a supervisor who has a background in animal care.

(9) Separation. Animals housed in the same primary enclosure must be compatible. Animals shall not be housed near animals that interfere with their health or cause them discomfort.

(10) Veterinary care.

(A) Programs of disease prevention, parasite control, euthanasia, and adequate veterinary care shall be established and maintained. The pest control programs shall be reviewed for the safe use of materials and methods.

(B) Animals shall be observed every day by the person in charge of the care of the animals or by someone working under his direct supervision. Sick, diseased, stressed, injured, or lame animals shall be provided with veterinary care or humanely destroyed, unless such action is inconsistent with the research purposes for which the animal was obtained and is being held.

(C)

(i) In the case of a research facility, the program of adequate veterinary care shall include the appropriate use of anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs, when such use would be proper in the opinion of the attending veterinarian at the research facility. Such drugs shall be used in accordance with the currently accepted veterinary medical practice as cited in appropriate professional journals or reference guides and shall produce in the individual subject animal a high level of tranquilization, anesthesia, or analgesia consistent with the protocol or design of the experiment.

(ii) It shall be incumbent upon each research facility to provide guidelines and consultation to research personnel with respect to the type and amount of tranquilizers, anesthetics, or analgesics recommended as being appropriate for each species of animal used by that institution.

(iii) The use of these three classes of drugs shall effectively minimize the pain and discomfort of the animals while under experimentation.

(11) Handling.

(A) Handling of animals shall be done expeditiously and carefully so as not to cause unnecessary discomfort, behavioral stress, or physical harm to the animal. Care should be exercised also to avoid harm to the handler.

(B) Animals to which the public is afforded direct contact shall only be displayed for periods of time and under conditions consistent with the animals' health and not leading to their discomfort.

(C) During public display, the animals must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the public with sufficient distance allowed between the animals and the viewing public to assure safety to both the public and the animals. Performing animals shall be allowed a rest period between performances equal to the time for one performance.

(12) Vehicles.

- (A) Vehicles used in transporting animals shall be mechanically sound and equipped to provide the animals adequate fresh air, both when moving and stationary, without injurious drafts or discomfort.
- (B) The animal cargo space shall be so constructed and maintained so as to prevent the ingress of the vehicle's exhaust gases.
- (C) The interior of the animal cargo space shall be kept physically clean.
- (D) The ambient temperature shall be sufficiently regulated by heating or cooling to protect the animals from the extremes of temperature and to provide for their health and to prevent their discomfort. The ambient temperature shall not be allowed to fall below or rise above temperatures compatible with the health and comfort of the animals.

(13) Primary enclosures used to transport animals.

- (A) Primary enclosures, such as compartments used to transport animals, shall be well constructed, well ventilated, and designed to protect the health and assure the safety of the animals. Such enclosures shall be constructed or positioned in the vehicle in such a manner that each animal in the vehicle has access to sufficient air for normal breathing, the openings of such enclosures are easily accessible at all times for emergency removal of the animals, and the animals are afforded adequate protection from the elements.
- (B) Animals transported in the same primary enclosure shall be compatible. Socially dependent animals (e.g., siblings, dam, and young cagemates) must be allowed visual and olfactory contact.
- (C) Primary enclosures used to transport animals shall be large enough to ensure that each animal contained therein has sufficient space to turn about freely and to make normal postural adjustments; provided, however, that certain species may be restricted in their movements according to professionally acceptable standards when such freedom of movement would constitute a danger to the animals or their handlers.
- (D) Animals shall not be placed in primary enclosures over other animals in transit unless each enclosure is fitted with a floor of a material which prevents animal excreta or other wastes from entering lower enclosures.
- (E) Primary enclosures used to transport animals shall be cleansed and sanitized before and after each shipment. All bedding in the vehicle shall be clean at the beginning of each trip.

(14) Food and water requirements.

- (A) Potable water shall be provided to each animal at least once in each 12 hour period except as directed by hibernation, veterinary treatment, or other professionally accepted practices. Those animals which, by common accepted practice, require watering more frequently shall be so watered.
- (B) Each animal shall be fed at least once in each 24 hour period except as directed by hibernation, veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or other professionally accepted practices. Those animals which, by common accepted practice, require feeding more frequently shall be so fed.
- (C) A sufficient quantity of food and water shall accompany the animal to provide food and water for the animal for a period of at least 24 hours, except as directed by

hibernation, veterinary treatment, normal fasts, or other professionally accepted practices.

(15) Care in transit.

- (A) It shall be the responsibility of the attendant or driver to inspect the animals frequently enough to assure the health and comfort of the animals.
 - (B) In the event of a breakdown or delay of the vehicle, it is the responsibility of the animal caretaker or vehicle operator to assure that animals get adequate ventilation and protection from fumes, vehicle exhaust, and extremes in temperature and to assure that the animals are not subjected to undue discomfort.
 - (C) In an emergency concerning the health and welfare of the animals, adequate veterinary care shall be provided without delay.
- (16) Nothing in this Code section shall prevent wild animal license or permit holders from processing for meat or meat products animals that are surplus to the primary purpose of their wild animal business. Such processing must be done in compliance with the provisions of Article 3 of Chapter 2 of Title 26, the "Georgia Meat Inspection Act."

§ 27-5-7. Release or escape from captivity

It shall be unlawful for any person to release from captivity any wild animal as defined in paragraph (75) of Code Section 27-1-2 or to import, transport, sell, transfer, or possess such a wild animal in such a manner so as to cause its release or escape from captivity. In the event a person imports, transports, sells, transfers, or possesses a wild animal in such a manner so as to pose a reasonable possibility that such wild animal may be released accidentally or escape from captivity, the department may revoke the license or permit, or both, of such person pursuant to the procedure set forth in Code Section 27-2-25.

§ 27-5-8. Seizure of wild animals as contraband; civil action to recover animals

- (a) Peace officers authorized to enforce this chapter may seize as contraband any wild animal for which a permit or license, or both, is required and for which no permit or license, or both, has been obtained.
- (b) When any peace officer authorized to enforce this chapter has seized as contraband any wild animal, he shall deliver the same to the department. To recover such wild animal, the owner or the person in possession of the wild animal at the time of seizure may file, in the state or superior court having jurisdiction in the county where the seizure was made, a civil action against the State of Georgia, Department of Natural Resources, within 30 days following such seizure. The person filing the action shall have the burden of proof of showing that the wild animal was not held in violation of this title, and the action shall be tried as other civil cases in such court. The wild animal for which the action has been filed shall be held pending the resolution of the action. Reasonable charges for storage shall be paid to the department by the owner and the person in possession of the wild animal at the time of seizure unless it is determined that the seizure was unlawful.

§ 27-5-9. Seizure of wild animals pursuant to administrative order; appeal

- (a) Authorized personnel of the department may seize any wild animal regulated by this chapter pursuant to an administrative order or an emergency administrative order issued by the department.

- (b) In the event that any person is adversely affected by a seizure pursuant to an administrative order or emergency administrative order issued by the department, such person shall be entitled to appeal such order pursuant to subsection (d) of Code Section 27-1-37.
- (c) Any wild animal seized under this Code section shall be held until the expiration of the time for filing any administrative appeal and, if such an appeal is filed, pending the resolution of this appeal. Reasonable charges for storage shall be paid to the department by the owner and the person in possession of the wild animal at the time of seizure unless it is determined that the seizure was unlawful.

§ 27-5-10. Disposal of wild animals recaptured after escape or seized under this title

- (a) The commissioner may authorize the disposal of any wild animal regulated by this chapter which has escaped and been recaptured or any wild animal which has been seized under this title. Such disposal shall be in the manner determined by the commissioner to be in the best interest of the state and shall not be in violation of this title, provided that no such disposal shall be made until there has been a final adjudication of any civil or administrative proceeding commenced by any person authorized to do so by this title.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, when a wild animal regulated by this chapter has escaped, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may authorize the destruction of the wild animal by employees or agents if it is determined that the wild animal poses a threat to the safety of human beings, threatens the well-being of wildlife populations, or if it is determined that there is very little likelihood that the wild animal can be recaptured.

§ 27-5-11. Wild animal auction license; applications; filing requirements

- (a) As used in this Code section, the term "auction" means a public or private sale of wild animals to the highest bidder.
- (b) No person shall conduct an auction of wild animals without first obtaining a wild animal auction license from the department. Such license shall be good only for a specific auction of not more than seven days in duration at a single location.
- (c) All applications for a wild animal auction license shall include:
 - (1) A \$5,000.00 wild animal auction license fee which shall be refunded if the application is denied;
 - (2) A cash bond or surety bond issued by a surety company authorized to do business in this state in the amount of \$50,000.00 made payable to the commissioner and conditioned upon the applicant's conducting the auction in accordance with this chapter, any regulations issued by the board pursuant to this chapter, and the terms and conditions of the applicant's wild animal auction license;
 - (3) A description by species and number of the wild animals to be sold at auction and plans of the facilities to be used to house such wild animals which include an explanation of which facilities are to house which animals;
 - (4) A certificate or policy of insurance issued to the auctioneer and the owner of the auction facilities meeting all the requirements of subsection (f) of Code Section 27-5-4 if any wild animals inherently dangerous to human beings are to be sold at auction;

- (5) A description of facilities to be provided for the obtainment of any insurance required by subsection (f) of Code Section 27-5-4 for persons who buy wild animals at the auction and an affidavit from an officer or agent of such an insurer that it is ready, willing, and able to provide such insurance;
 - (6) Authorization for the department to inspect the proposed facilities for the auction prior to a determination on the application and, if the application is granted, at any time thereafter until all wild animals have been removed from the premises of the auction;
 - (7) Copies of all materials to be distributed to the public or potential participants about the auction; and
 - (8) Such other information as the commissioner deems necessary for the department to discharge its responsibilities under this Code section.
- (d) No application for a wild animal auction license shall be considered unless it is filed and completed at least 60 days prior to the proposed auction. The department shall have 30 days to respond to a completed application.
- (e) All other provisions of this chapter, including, without limitation, those relating to licensing, insurance, humane handling, care, confinement and transportation of wild animals, and seizure and disposal of wild animals shall be applicable to a wild animal auction and any participants therein.

§ 27-5-12. Shooting of any wild animal held under wild animal permit or farmed deer

It shall be unlawful to shoot, kill, or wound any wild animal held under a wild animal license or permit or any farmed deer for enjoyment, gain, amusement, or sport. This Code section does not prohibit:

- (1) A licensed veterinarian from diagnosing, treating, or performing other duties within the standards of veterinary practice on a farmed deer;
- (2) The slaughter of wild animals or farmed deer in compliance with the provisions of paragraph (16) of Code Section 27-5-6 and with the laws of this state relating to the slaughter of livestock; or
- (3) The recapture or disposal of farmed deer which have escaped and which have become classified as wild animals pursuant to Code Section 4-4-174 or the disposal of wild animals according to Code Section 27-5-10.

Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia

Saltwater Fishing Regulations (391-2-4, et. seq.)

391-2-4-.01 Eel Fishing

- (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of these Rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations based on sound principles of wildlife research and management, establishing the commercial and recreational seasons, days, and places; methods of fishing and disposition; and size, creel, and possession limits for eel.
- (2) **Areas Open to Commercial Eel Fishing.** It shall be lawful to fish commercially for adult eels in the following areas:
- (a) In any salt waters of this state except as specifically prohibited below;
 - (b) In the Savannah River from the saltwater demarcation line to a point one-half mile below the Stevens Creek Reservoir Dam;
 - (c) In the Ogeechee River from the saltwater demarcation line to the U.S. Highway 25 bridge at Millen;
 - (d) In the Altamaha River from the saltwater demarcation line to the confluence of the Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers provided; however, it shall be unlawful to fish commercially for eel in the North Altamaha River, except on the ocean side (downstream) of the mouth of, but not including, Lewis Creek. Such fishing shall also be unlawful in the South Altamaha River, except on the ocean side (downstream) of the uppermost entrance of Hammersmith Creek;
 - (e) In the Oconee River from the confluence of the Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers to a point one-half mile below Lake Sinclair Dam;
 - (f) In the Ocmulgee River from the confluence of the Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers to a point one-half mile below Juliette Dam;
 - (g) In the Satilla River from the saltwater demarcation line to the U.S. Highway 84 bridge at Waycross;
 - (h) In the St. Marys River from the saltwater demarcation line to Georgia Highway 94 bridge near St. George;
- (3) **Seasons.** Fishing for eels shall be open year-round.
- (4) **Gear for Taking Eels.** It shall be lawful to fish commercially for adult eels as follows:
- (a) With rectangular pots no larger than 24 inches x 24 inches x 15 inches or with cylindrical traps no larger than 15 inches nor smaller than 9 inches in diameter and no greater than 36 inches in length. Each gear type must have:
 - 1. A mesh size no smaller than 1 inch x 1/2 inch, except for the throat or muzzle and the end opposite the throat or muzzle of cylindrical traps;
 - 2. A round opening, the size of which shall be limited by a steel ring 2 inches in diameter securely attached to the material of which the muzzle or throat is constructed; and
 - 3. Attached thereto a tag bearing the name, address and commercial fishing license number of the person using such pot or trap and non-green colored float bearing the corresponding commercial fishing license number in one inch letters of contrasting color.
- (5) **Possession of Fish Other than Eels.** All fish other than eels, caught in any trap set for eels shall be returned to the waters of the state immediately after and at the place the trap has been fished. Possession of any fish other than adult eels shall be prima-facie evidence of fishing illegally.

- (6) Commercial Harvest Limits.** Commercial harvest of eels is limited to adult eels which shall mean eels at least nine inches in length. Except as otherwise provided, there shall be no commercial creel limit for the harvest of adult eels.

391-2-4-.02 Shad Fishing

- (1) Purpose.** The purpose of these Rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations based on sound principles of wildlife research and management, establishing the commercial and recreational seasons, days and places; methods of fishing and disposition; and size, creel, and possession limits for shad.

(2) Areas Open to Commercial Shad Fishing.

- (a)** Nets shall be set or fished only in flowing water within the banks of the stream channels. Nets may not under any circumstances be set or fished in waters that are not flowing such as in sloughs or dead oxbow lakes.
- (b)** Waters of the Savannah River system open to commercial shad fishing are the Savannah River downstream of the U.S. Highway 301 bridge, Collis Creek, Albercorn Creek, Front River, Middle River, Steamboat River, McCoy's Cut, Hometown Cut, Back River upstream from Corps of Engineers New Savannah Cut, New Savannah Cut, North Channel Savannah River downstream to a line running due south of the easternmost tip of Oyster Bed Island, South Channel Savannah River downstream to a line running from the southeast tip of Cockspur Island to the mouth of Lazaretto Creek, and Elba Island Cut between North and South Channels of the Savannah River.
- (c)** Reserved.
- (d)** Waters of the Altamaha River system open to commercial shad fishing are the Ohoopie River upstream to the U.S. Highway 1 bridge; the Altamaha River downstream of the from U.S. Highway 1 bridge including Cobb Creek Oxbow, Beards Creek from its mouth upstream to the Long-Tatnall County line (Big Lake), Sturgeon Hole from the Altamaha River to the lower mouth of Harper Slough, Old Woman's Pocket, South Branch, General's Cut, South Altamaha River, Champney River, Butler River, One Mile Cut, Wood Cut, Darien River upstream to the confluence Darien Creek and Cathead Creek, Buttermilk Sound upstream to the mouth of Hampton River, Hampton River, Altamaha sound to the sound/beach boundary (see 391-2-4-.03), Rockdedundy River, Little Mud River, South River, Back River, North River upstream to Hird Island Creek and Doboy Sound from the sound/beach boundary upstream to a line from range F1 R4 sec A across buoy R "178" to Sapelo Island. Old River and Mid Slough of the Penholoway River and Ellis Creek are closed to commercial shad fishing.
- (e)** Reserved.
- (f)** Reserved.

- (3) Commercial Shad Fishing Seasons.** The commercial shad fishing season shall be open as provided in subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this paragraph from 1 January to 31 March; however, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, in accordance with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management, may at his discretion open or close the season 30 days after 31 March on any or all areas open to commercial shad fishing.

- (a)** The Altamaha River system downstream from the Seaboard Coastline Railroad bridge (at Altamaha Park) will be open to commercial shad fishing Monday through Friday each week. Upstream of this point will be open Tuesday through Saturday each week.
- (b)** The Savannah River system downstream from the I-95 bridge will be open to commercial shad fishing Tuesday through Friday each week. Upstream of the I-95 bridge it will be open Wednesday through Saturday each week.
- (c)** Reserved.

(4) Commercial Gear and Methods for Taking Shad.

(a)

1. Set nets and drift nets of at least four and one-half inch stretched mesh or trot lines (in accordance with O.C.G.A. 27-4-91) may be used to commercially fish for shad, provided, however, that only drift nets may be used in the Savannah River system downstream of a line between the mouth of Knoxville Creek and McCoy's Cut at Deadman's Point; Altamaha Sound; and Doboy Sound.
2. Nothing in this section shall preclude the commercial use of pole and line gear.

(b)

1. Set nets must be placed at least six hundred (600) feet apart and shall be limited to one hundred (100) feet in length. All set nets must have one end secured to the stream's bank and be buoyed at the outer (streamward) end so as to be clearly visible to boaters.
2. Set and drift nets must be situated so as to follow one-half the stream width open and free for the passage of fish.
3. Drift nets shall not be fished closer than three hundred (300) feet apart and shall be limited to a maximum of one thousand (1,000) feet in length in saltwaters.

(c) This Rule applies only to American and hickory shad. Game fish other than American shad and hickory shad, and all species of catfish taken in shad nets must be released unharmed into the waters from which they were taken.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, there shall be no possession or creel limit on commercially harvested American shad or hickory shad

(5) Recreational Shad Fishing.

- (a) Recreational shad fishermen are restricted to two poles and lines. Fishermen using more than two poles and lines shall be considered to be fishing commercially.
- (b) Bow nets shall be considered recreational fishing gear and shall have a minimum legal size of 3 /12; inches stretched mesh.
- (c) The maximum recreational daily creel and possession limit shall be eight (8) for any one or a combination of American shad or hickory shad.

391-2-4-.03 Sound/Beach Boundaries

(1) **Purpose.** The purpose of these rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations to regulate the places wildlife can be taken. (O.C.G.A. 27-4-12).

(2) **Designations of Sound/Beach Boundaries.** Sound/Beach boundaries consist of an imaginary line running through coordinates generally located on the southern tip of a barrier island to the northern tip of the next barrier island immediately south.

(a) Estelle Sound (Savannah River). The boundary is from the point located at 32° 02' 04.5" N. Lat./ 80° 51' 03.8" W. Long. at the easternmost end of the south jetty of the Savannah River Entrance to the point located at 32° 01' 48" N. Lat./ 80° 51' 09" W. Long. at the northern tip of Tybee Island.

(b) Wassaw Sound. The boundary is from the point located at 31° 56' 38" N. Lat./80° 55' 45" W. Long. on the southern tip of Little Tybee Island to the point located at 31° 54' 37.5" N. Lat./ 80° 56' 09.5" W. Long., directly in front of the large concrete bunker on the northern tip of Wassaw Island.

(c) Ossabaw Sound. The boundary is from the point located at 31° 51' 27" N. Lat./81° 00' 00" W. Long. on the southern tip of Wassaw Island to the point located at 31° 49' 02" N. Lat./81° 02' 17" W. Long. on the northern tip of Ossabaw Island.

(d) St. Catherines Sound. The boundary is from the point located at 31° 43' 17" N. Lat./81° 8' 13" W. Long. on the southern tip of Ossabaw Island to the point located at 31° 41' 55" N. Lat./81° 8' 23" W. Long. on the northern tip of St. Catherines Island.

- (d) Sapelo Sound. The boundary is from the point located at 31° 33' 20" N. Lat./81°10' 35" W. Long. on the southern tip of St. Catherines Island to the point located 31°31' 50" N. Lat./81° 11' 13" W. Long. on the northern tip of Black Beard Island.
- (e) Doboy Sound and Altamaha Sound. The boundary is from the point located at 31° 22' 55" N. Lat./81° 16' 25" W. Long. on the southern tip of Sapelo Is land to the point located at 31° 21' 50.48" N. Lat./81° 17' 36.63" W. Long. on the northern tip of Wolf Is land then turning south to a point located at 31° 19' 34.12" N. Lat./81° 17' 18.20" W. Long. on the southern tip of Wolf Is land, finally turning southwest to a point located at 31° 17' 21" N. Lat./81° 17' 57"near the northeastern tip of Little St. Simons Island.
- (f) Reserved.
- (g) Hampton River. The boundary is from the point located at 31° 13' 5" N. Lat./81° 18' 7" W. Long. on the southern tip of Little St. Simons Island to the point located at 31° 12' 48" N. Lat./81° 18' 38" W. Long. on the northeastern tip of Sea Island.
 - (i) St.03 Simons Sound. The boundary is from the point located at 31° 08' 01" N. Lat./ 81° 23' 37" W. Long. at the base of the lighthouse on the southern tip of St. Simons Island to the point located at 31° 7' 12" N. Lat./81° 24' 35" W. Long. on the northern tip of Jekyll Island.
 - (j) St. Andrew Sound. The boundary is from the point located at 31° 0' 55" N. Lat./81° 25' 48" W. Long. on the southern tip of Jekyll Island to the point located at 30° 58' 38" N. Lat./81° 24' 49" W. Long. on the northern tip of Little Cumber land Is land.
- (h) Cumber land Sound. The boundary is from the point located at 30° 42' 52" N. Lat./81° 27' 10" W. Long. on the southern tip of Cumberland Island to the point located at 30° 42' 21" N. Lat./ 81° 27' 15" W. Long. at the northern most point of Fort Clinch.
- (3) All ocean facing inlets and creeks on the eastern side of barrier islands such as, but not limited to Tybee and Little Tybee Creek, McQueen's Inlet on St. Catherine's Island, Cabretta Inlet/Blackbeard Creek on Sapelo Island, Beacon Creek on Wolf Island, Gould's Inlet on St. Simons Island, and Christmas Creek on Cumberland Island, shall be considered sounds for the purposes of delineating sound/beach boundaries.

391-2-4-.04 Saltwater Finfishing

- (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of these Rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations based on sound principles of wildlife research and management, establishing the seasons, methods of fishing, and disposition; size, possession, and creel limits; and gear and landing specifications for certain finfish.
- (2) **Definitions.**
 - (a) "Daily creel limit" means the lawful amount of a species of finfish that a person may take in one day or possess at any one time, except at one's place of abode or at a commercial storage facility provided the Board has not prohibited sale of that species.
 - (b) "Minimum size" means the species' specific size in length, specified as fork length, lower jaw fork length or total length, below which size it is unlawful to possess that finfish species.
 - (b.1)"Maximum size" means the species' specific size in length, specified as fork length, lower jaw fork length or total length, above which size it is unlawful to possess that finfish species.
 - (c) "Open Season" means that specified period of time during which one may take from any of the waters of this state certain finfish species.
 - (d) "Sharks" means all species of sharks other than those comprising the small shark composite as defined in subparagraph 2(e), hammerhead sharks as defined in subparagraph 2(g), and prohibited sharks as defined in subparagraph 2(h).
 - (e) "Small Shark Composite" means a group of sharks inclusive of Atlantic sharpnose shark (*Rhizoprionodon terraenovae*), bonnethead (*Sphyrna tiburo*), and spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*).

- (f) "Handline" means a mainline to which no more than two hooks are attached and which is retrieved by hand without the aid of mechanical devices.
- (g) "Hammerhead Sharks" means a group of sharks inclusive of great hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*), scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*) and smooth hammerhead (*Sphyrna zygaena*).
- (h) "Prohibited Sharks" means a group of sharks inclusive of sand tiger (*Carcharias Taurus*), sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*), silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), bigeye sand tiger (*Odontaspis noronhai*), whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), dusky shark (*Carcharhinus obscurus*), bignose shark (*Carcharhinus altimus*), Galapagos shark (*Carcharhinus galapagensis*), night shark (*Carcharhinus signatus*), reef shark (*Carcharhinus perezii*), narrowtooth shark (*Carcharhinus brachyurus*), Caribbean sharpnose shark (*Rhizoprionodon porosus*), smalltail shark (*Carcharhinus porosus*), Atlantic angel shark (*Squatina dumeril*), longfin mako (*Isurus paucus*), bigeye thresher (*Alopias superciliosus*), sharpnose sevengill shark (*Heptranchias perlo*), bluntnose sixgill shark (*Hexanchus griseus*), and bigeye sixgill shark (*Hexanchus nakamurai*).

(3) Seasons, Daily Creel and Possession Limits, Minimum and Maximum Size Limits.The following species may be taken in accordance with the seasons, daily creel and possession limits, and minimum and maximum size limits set forth below, except as otherwise specifically provided herein:

SPECIES	SEASON	Daily Creel and Possession Limit	Minimum Size (inches)
Maximum Size (inches)			
(a) Amberjack	All Year	1	28 FL
(b) Atlantic croaker	All Year	25	
(c) Atlantic sturgeon	No Open Season has been established by the Board of Natural Resources.		
(d) Black drum	All Year	15	14 TL
(e) Black sea bass	All Year	15	12 TL
(f) Blue marlin	No Open Season has been established by the Board of Natural Resources.		
(g) Bluefish	All Year	15	10 TL
(h) Cobia	All Year	2	33 FL
(i) Dolphin	All Year	10 per person not to exceed 60 per boat.	20 FL
1. Headboats with a valid certificate of inspection are allowed 10 dolphin per paying passenger.			
(j) Flounder (<i>Paralichthys spp.</i>)	All Year	15	12 TL
(k) Gag grouper	All Year	2	24 TL
(l) King mackerel	All Year	3	24 FL
(m) Red Drum	All Year	5	14 TL

23 TL			
(n) Red Porgy	All Year	3	14 TL
(o) Red Snapper	All Year	2	20 TL
(p) Sailfish	No Open Season has been established by the Board of Natural Resources.		
(q) Prohibited Sharks	Unlawful to possess.		
(r) Sharks	All Year	1 per person or boat	54 FL
(s) Sheepshead	All Year	15	10 TL
(t) Small Shark Composite	All Year	1	30 FL
(u) Spanish mackerel	All Year	15	12 FL
1. A catch of Spanish mackerel under the minimum size limit is allowed equal to five percent by weight of the total catch of Spanish mackerel on board a trawler.			
(v) Spot	All Year	25	
(w) Spotted sea trout	All Year	15	14 TL
(x) Tarpon	All Year	1	68 FL
(y) Tripletail	All Year	2	18 TL
(z) Weakfish	All Year	1	13 TL
(aa) White marlin	No Open Season has been established by the Board of Natural Resources.		
(bb) American eel	All Year	25	9 TL

(cc)
Hammerhead
Sharks

All Year

1 per person or
boat

78 FL

(4) Restrictions on Sale. It shall be unlawful for any person in this state to sell, purchase, or barter any of the following species or part thereof, except as otherwise specifically provided herein:

- (a) No person operating as a dealer may buy or sell sharks, small shark composite species, and hammerhead sharks caught in state waters without first obtaining a federal Commercial Shark Dealer Permit and when state or federal quotas for species within those groups have been reached.
- (b) Tarpon.
- (c) From April 1 through April 30, no person may sell amberjack harvested from Georgia waters or from the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone. The prohibition on sale during April does not apply to amberjack that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to April 1 and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor. This prohibition also does not apply to a dealer's purchase or sale of amberjack harvested from another management area other than Georgia or the South Atlantic Exclusive Zone, provided such fish is accompanied by documentation of harvest outside of Georgia waters or the South Atlantic.
- (d) From March 1 through April 30, no person may sell gag grouper harvested from Georgia waters or from the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone. The prohibition on sale from March 1 through April 30 does not apply to gag grouper that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to March 1 and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor. This prohibition also does not apply to a dealer's purchase or sale of gag grouper harvested from another management area other than Georgia or the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone, provided such fish is accompanied by documentation of harvest outside of Georgia waters or the South Atlantic.
- (e) From January 1 through April 30, no person may sell red porgy harvested from Georgia waters or from the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone. The prohibition on sale from January 1 through April 30 does not apply to red porgy that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to January 1 and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor. This prohibition also does not apply to a dealer's purchase or sale of red porgy harvested from another management area other than Georgia or the South Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone, provided such fish is accompanied by documentation of harvest outside of Georgia waters or the South Atlantic.

(5) Possession and Landing Specifications.

- (a) All fish subject to restrictions specified in this Rule may be possessed in state waters or landed only with head and fins intact, except that when landed for commercial purposes, all sharks, small shark composite species, and hammerhead sharks may have the heads removed but fins and tail must remain naturally attached.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to transfer at sea in State waters from a fishing vessel to any other vessel or person any fish caught which are subject to the restrictions specified in this Rule.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided by law, it shall be unlawful to fish for sharks, small shark composite species, or hammerhead sharks for recreational purposes with any gear other than rod and reel or handline as defined in subparagraph (2)(f) above.
- (d) Except as otherwise provided by law, trawlers fishing for shrimp for human consumption pursuant to Code Section 27-4-133 shall be exempt from the creel and possession limits for spot and Atlantic croaker.

391-2-4-.05 Shrimp Trawl Gear Specifications. Requirement for Use of Turtle Excluder Devices

- (1) Purpose.** The purpose of these Rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations to regulate the times, methods, ways, means, and devices of taking wildlife which are necessary to protect threatened and endangered sea turtles in state waters.
- (2) Definitions.**

 - (a)** "Qualified turtle excluder device" or "TED" means a device approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service, and described in 50 C.F.R. Section 272.72(e)(4)(ii)(A)-(F), or any additional device approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to 50 C.F.R. Section 272.72(e)(4)(iii).
 - (b)** "Headrope length" means the straightline length of that portion of the top rope of the trawl net from which the net is hung measured between the outermost hanging points.
 - (c)** "Perimeter" means the opening or entrance to the trawl formed and limited by attachment of the net mesh to line, which line is securely attached so as to form a continuous perimeter around the leading edge of the net. The perimeter so formed is measured from point to point along the line forming the leading edge of the net.
- (3) Vessels Required to Use Turtle Excluder Devices.**

 - (a)** All shrimp trawlers which trawl for shrimp consumption in Georgia's sound pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-4-133 must have a qualified turtle excluder device in each net. In addition, all shrimp trawlers which trawl for shrimp for human consumption pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-4-133 in Georgia's offshore waters, seaward of the sounds and south of 31°20' North latitude, must have a qualified turtle excluder device installed in each trawl net during trawling operations during 1 April through 31 December of each year. Shrimp trawlers which trawl for shrimp for human consumption in Georgia's offshore waters, seaward of the sounds and north of 31°20' North latitude, must use a qualified TED in each net during the period 1 April through 30 November of each year.
- (4) Exemptions.**

 - (a)** Vessels using a single net having a headrope length of 30 feet or less and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 82 feet are exempt from the TED requirement.
 - (b)** A single test net, commonly referred to as a trynet, having a headrope length of 20 feet or less is exempt from the TED requirement provided that such net is pulled immediately in front of another net and is not connected to another net in any way.
 - (c)** A trawl being used as part of a public or private experimentation authorized by the Director, Southeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, as provided in 50 C.G.R. Section 227.72(e)(4)(iv) and permitted according to O.C.G.A. Section 27-2-12 is exempt from the TED requirement provided written authorization shall be maintained aboard the shrimp trawler with such a trawl at all times.

391-2-4-.06 Recreational Fishing for Shrimp

- (1) Purpose.** The purpose of these Rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations based on sound principles of wildlife research and management, establishing the recreational seasons, days, and places; methods of fishing and disposition; and size, creel, and possession limits for shrimp.
- (2) Food Shrimp.** For the purpose of recreationally fishing for shrimp to be used for human consumption, any person who has a recreational fishing license may recreationally fish for food shrimp at such times and places as the commissioner has established.

 - (a)** Gear. Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation, it shall be unlawful to recreationally fish for food shrimp in the salt waters of the State of Georgia by any means except the following:

1. Food shrimp cast net as defined in O.C.G.A. 27-1-2 (29.1); or a
 2. Beach seine of a length and mesh size authorized for use in salt waters by 391-2-4-.12.
- (b) Quantity for Cast Nets. No person or group of persons occupying the same boat recreationally fishing for shrimp by means of a food shrimp cast net may take more than 48 quarts of shrimp with heads or 30 quarts of shrimp tails in any day. No such person or group of persons occupying the same vessel may possess at any time more than 48 quarts of shrimp with heads or 30 quarts of shrimp tails.
- (c) Quantity for Seines. No one person recreationally fishing for shrimp solely by means of a seine, whether such person is acting alone or in a group of persons, may take more than 24 quarts of shrimp with heads or 15 quarts of shrimp tails in any day. No such person may possess at any time more than 24 quarts of shrimp with heads or 15 quarts of shrimp tails. If any person or group of persons are in possession of a food shrimp cast net and a seine, such person or group of persons shall be subject to the limits imposed upon taking shrimp by food shrimp cast net.
- (3) Bait Shrimp.** For the purpose of recreationally fishing for shrimp to be used for live bait in this state, any person who has a recreational fishing license may recreationally fish for bait shrimp at such times and places as the commissioner has established.
- (a) Gear. Except as otherwise provided by law or regulation, it shall be unlawful to recreationally fish for bait shrimp in the salt waters of the State of Georgia by any means except the following:
1. Bait shrimp cast net as defined in O.C.G.A. 27-1-2 (5.1).
 2. Food shrimp cast net as defined in O.C.G.A. 27-1-2 (29.1);
 3. Beach seine of a length and mesh size authorized for use in salt waters by 391-2-4-.12; or a
 4. "Ten-foot net" as described in O.C.G.A. 27-1-2-(71.1) and herein. A "ten-foot net" means a trawl net with the following characteristics:
 - i. A cork line not to exceed ten feet from tie-to-tie between the first and last mesh across the mouth of the net, a lead line not to exceed 13 feet from tie-to-tie between the first and last mesh across the mouth of the net, and leg lines of equal length. No webbing shall extend toward the door beyond the original brail lines which run vertically between the first tie at each end of the cork line and the first tie at each end of the lead line.
 - ii. The leg lines of a ten foot net shall not exceed 4 feet from the fastener on the otter board (door) to the first mesh tie on the cork (head) line, and shall not exceed 4 feet 7 inches from the fastener on the otter board to the first mesh tie on the lead (foot) line. Total net width including leg lines and webbing shall not exceed 18 feet on the cork line and 22 feet 2 inches on the lead line.
 - iii. The vertical lines (brails) connecting the head line and the lead line shall not exceed 36 inches in length.
 - iv. The tow lines (bridles) connecting the tow vessel to the otter boards shall not exceed 75 feet from the fasteners on the otter board to the transom of the boat, including all connectors at the otter boards and the tow vessel; on tongue nets the third tow line and all connectors also shall not exceed 81 feet.
 - v. Otter boards shall not exceed 15 inches x 30 inches (height x length) in dimension.
 - vi. Head line floats on standard (tongueless) designs shall not exceed five in number, only one of which may exceed 3/12; inches, but shall not exceed 6 inches in longest measurement. Nets of a tongue or bib design may have a maximum of two floats neither of which may exceed 6 inches in longest measurement.
 - vii. Webbing mesh size shall not be smaller than one inch when stretched nor exceed 13/8 inches when stretched measurement. Total mesh count in the circumference of the bag where it

attaches to the body of the net, and also rearward throughout the construction of the bag shall not exceed 50.

viii. Total net length including the body of the net, the bag, and the cod-end shall not exceed 19 feet 6 inches.

- (b) Time. It shall be unlawful to fish for bait shrimp with a "ten-foot net" at night.
- (c) Quantity for "Ten-foot net". No person fishing for shrimp with a "ten-foot net" shall possess more than two quarts of bait shrimp at any time, no more than one-half pint of which may be dead; but any such person may take a maximum of four quarts of bait shrimp during any 24 hour period. When two or more persons fishing for shrimp under this subsection occupy the same boat; there may be no more than four quarts of bait shrimp on board the boat at any time, no more than one pint of which may be dead; but the persons occupying the boat may take a maximum of eight quarts of bait shrimp during any 24 hour period. Possessing or taking more than the limits prescribed in this subparagraph shall be unlawful. Possessing more than these limits shall be prima-facie evidence that the shrimp were taken for some purpose other than to be used as live bait.
- (d) Quantity for bait shrimp cast net or seine. When food shrimp season is closed, any person fishing for shrimp with a cast net or seine shall possess no more than two quarts of bait shrimp at any time, all of which may be dead; and provided, further, that any such person may take a maximum of four quarts of bait shrimp during any day. When two or more persons taking shrimp under this subparagraph occupy the same boat, there may be no more than four quarts of bait shrimp on board the boat at any time, all of which may be dead; and the persons occupying the boat may together take a maximum of eight quarts of bait shrimp during any day.
- (e) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or otherwise dispose of, for human consumption, any shrimp caught pursuant to this paragraph or to possess such shrimp for the purpose of sale or other distribution for human consumption or personally to consume such shrimp. Possession of shrimp with heads off shall be prima-facie evidence that the shrimp are to be sold for human consumption or are personally to be consumed.

391-2-4-.07 Crabbing

(1) **Purpose.** The purpose of these Rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations to regulate the times, places, numbers, species, sizes, manner, methods, ways, means, and devices of taking, capturing, transporting, storing, selling, and using wildlife so as to conserve marine crabs, primarily of the species *Callinectes sapidus*.

(2) **Definitions.**

- (a) "Escape ring" means a rigid, circular port forming the boundary of an opening placed flush with an outside surface of the wire mesh or other material in the wall of the crab trap so as to create an unobstructed opening through the wall of the trap.
- (b)
 - (i) "Commercial crab trap" means a trap as specified in O.C.G.A. 27-1-2(14) and 27-4-151(i), deployed for the purpose of taking crabs as defined in O.C.G.A. 27-1-2(21) whether such crabs are taken for the purpose of sale or not.
 - (ii) Additionally, a crab trap shall have installed at least two escape rings with unobstructed openings of minimum inside diameter of 2 3/8 inches. Such escape rings shall be positioned in the crab trap on any of the four vertical, outside walls. For purposes of meeting this definition, escape rings shall not be placed on a horizontal outside wall, which forms the ceiling, or top of the trap, or the bottom of the trap.
 - (iii) In addition to the specifications detailed in subsection (i) of O.C.G.A. 27-4-151, effective April 1, 2005 the float attached to any commercial crab trap fished without a commercial fishing license or

a commercial crabbing license pursuant to that subsection of the Code shall be colored fluorescent green or lime green. No commercial crab trap fished for the purpose of sale shall be marked with a fluorescent green or lime green float.

- (c) In addition to the specifications detailed in O.C.G.A. 27-1-2(14), a "commercial peeler crab trap" deployed for the purpose of taking "peeler crabs" as defined in O.C.G.A. 27-1-2(47), whether such peeler crabs are taken for the purpose of sale or not, shall be constructed with a minimum mesh size of one inch, shall have a minimum dimension of 24 inches, by 24 inches, by 24 inches and shall be exempt from the escape ring requirement specified in subparagraph 391-2-4-.07 (2)(b), provided that such a trap is baited only with legal-sized live male blue crabs. Other baits including fish or other organisms which attract crabs into such traps, shall be prohibited and shall be prima-facie evidence of a violation of this paragraph.

(3) Gear for taking Crabs.

- (a) Any person who deploys a crab trap in the waters of the State as provided for in O.C.G.A. 27-4-151 may only use a crab trap as defined in O.C.G.A. 27-1-2(14) and 27-4-151, and in paragraphs (2)(b) and (c) above.

391-2-4-.08 Bycatch Reduction Specifications. Requirement for use of Bycatch Reduction Devices

- (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of these Rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations to regulate the times, methods, ways, means, and devices of taking wildlife which are necessary to conserve living marine resources.

(2) Definitions used in this rule.

- (a) "Centerline" means the seam that runs along the top center of the trawl net. In the absence of a seam, the centerline runs from the center point of the length of the head rope to the furthest distance on top of the cod end of the trawl.
- (b) "Certified bycatch reduction device" or "BRD" means a device specified in subsection 3(a)(i, ii, and iii) or a device certified by the National Marine Fisheries Service.
- (c) "Cod end" means the end of a trawl net which acts as the receptacle for fish and other organisms caught in the net. It is closed and secured, at the extreme end, with a line.
- (d) "Functional tailbag length" means that portion of the cod end forward of the tail rope tie off rings toward the mouth of the trawl net.
- (e) "Headrope" means a rope that is attached to the upper lip (top edge) of the mouth of a trawl net along the forwardmost edge.
- (f) "Headrope length" means the straight line length of that portion of the top rope of a trawl net from which the net is hung measured between the outermost hanging points.
- (g) "Try net" means a net pulled for brief periods of time just before, or during, deployment of the primary net(s) in order to test for shrimp concentrations or determine fishing conditions (e.g. presence or absence of bottom debris, jellyfish, bycatch, seagrass, etc.).

(3) Vessels Required to use Bycatch Reduction Devices.

- (a) Effective June 1, 1996 all shrimp trawlers which trawl for shrimp for human consumption in Georgia saltwaters as permitted by O.C.G.A. 27-4-133 must have a certified bycatch reduction device (BRD) installed in each net, other than an exempt shrimp trawl or try net, at all times of the year. Effective July 1, 1997, all shrimp trawlers must have a certified BRD installed in trawl nets and trynets with a headrope length of greater than sixteen feet. A BRD shall be deemed to be certified if it is one of the types specified herein or is certified by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

1. Fish Eye BRD - This device shall consist of at least one rigid exit opening frame sewn into each trawl net. This frame is to be constructed of no more than four bars creating an apex to orient the exit opening. Each frame shall have an exit opening in the shape of an oval and a minimum of nine inches in length and a minimum of four and one half inches across the opening in the shortest dimension, creating an unobstructed opening with a surface area equal to or greater than twenty square inches facing the direction of the mouth of the trawl net. Each frame shall be installed in the cod end of the trawl net no further forward than seventy two percent of the functional tailbag length from the tail rope tie off rings. The frame shall be installed along the centerline on the top side of the cod end of the trawl net.
2. Eight-Inch Expanded Mesh/Extended Funnel BRD - This device consists of a funnel of small mesh netting within a cylinder of large mesh netting, held open by at least one semi-rigid hoop, and is installed in the trawl net behind a certified Turtle Excluder Device as defined in Rule 391-2-4-.05. One side of the funnel is extended vertically to provide passage for shrimp to the cod end and to create an area of reduced water flow to allow for fish escapement through the larger mesh outer netting. This BRD shall meet the following specifications:
 - (i) The small mesh funnel and large mesh section shall be positioned within extension sections constructed of no smaller than one and five eighths inch stretched-mesh nylon netting, no less than one hundred twenty meshes in circumference. The extension section in front of the large mesh section shall be no less than six and one half meshes long, and the extension section behind the large mesh section shall be no shorter than twenty three meshes in length.
 - (ii) The small mesh funnel shall be constructed of no less than one and one half inch stretched-mesh netting. This component shall have a circumference of no less than one hundred twenty meshes at the leading edge and no more than one hundred four meshes at the trailing edge. The short side of the funnel shall be at least thirty-six inches long, while approximately half of the opposite side of the funnel shall extend at least twenty-two inches further toward the trailing edge of the funnel. The leading edge of the funnel shall be attached no less than three meshes forward of the leading edge of the large mesh. At least seven meshes of the short side of the funnel shall be attached to the back section of extension webbing on the top and bottom at least eight meshes back from the trailing edge of the large mesh section.
 - (iii) The larger mesh outer section shall consist of no smaller than eight-inch stretched-mesh netting and shall be hung on the square. This section shall have a circumference no smaller than nineteen meshes and a length of at least four meshes.
 - (iv) The leading edge of the large mesh section shall be attached to the trailing edge of the front extension section. One semi-rigid hoop constructed of plastic-coated trawl cable with a minimum diameter of thirty inches shall be installed at least five meshes behind the trailing edge of the large mesh section. If a second hoop is used, it shall be installed in the front extension section at least three meshes ahead of the large mesh section.
3. Ten-Inch Expanded Mesh/Extended Funnel BRD - This device consists of a funnel of small mesh netting within a cylinder of large mesh netting, held open by at least one semi-rigid hoop, and is installed in the trawl net behind a certified Turtle Excluder Device as defined in Rule 391-2-4-.05. One side of the funnel is extended vertically to provide passage for shrimp to the cod end and to create an area of reduced water flow to allow for fish escapement through the larger mesh outer netting. This BRD shall meet the following specifications:
 - (i) The small mesh funnel and large mesh section shall be positioned within extension sections constructed of no smaller than one and three eighths inch stretched-mesh nylon netting, no less than one hundred twenty meshes in circumference. The extension section in front of the large mesh section shall be no less than three meshes long, and the extension section behind the large mesh section shall be no shorter than eighteen and one half meshes in length.

- (ii) The small mesh funnel shall be constructed of no less than one and one half inch stretched-mesh netting. This component shall have a circumference of no less than eighty meshes at the leading edge and no less than eighty meshes at the trailing edge. The short side of the funnel shall be at least twenty-seven inches long, while approximately half of the opposite side of the funnel shall extend at least fifteen inches further toward the trailing edge of the funnel. The leading edge of the funnel shall be attached no less than one half mesh forward of the leading edge of the large mesh. The short side of the funnel shall be attached to the back section of extension webbing on the top and bottom at least two meshes back from the trailing edge of the large mesh section.
 - (iii) The larger mesh outer section shall consist of no smaller than ten inch stretched-mesh netting and shall be hung on the square. This section shall have a circumference no smaller than nineteen meshes and a length of at least three meshes.
 - (iv) The leading edge of the large mesh section shall be attached to the trailing edge of the front extension section. One semi-rigid hoop constructed of plastic-coated trawl cable with a minimum diameter of thirty inches shall be installed at least one and a half meshes behind the trailing edge of the large mesh section. If a second hoop is used, it shall be installed in the front extension section at least three meshes ahead of the large mesh section.
4. Diamond Fish Eye BRD - This device shall consist of at least one rigid exit opening frame sewn into each trawl net. This frame is to be constructed of no more than four bars creating an apex to orient the exit opening. Each frame shall have an exit opening in the shape of a diamond and a minimum of six and one half inches in length and a minimum of five and one half inches across the opening in the shortest dimension, creating an unobstructed opening with a surface area equal to or greater than nineteen square inches facing the direction of the mouth of the trawl net no further forward than seventy two percent of the functional tailbag length from the tail rope tie off rings. The center of the exit opening of the frame shall be installed no more than nineteen meshes offset from either side of the centerline on the top side of the cod end of the trawl net.
- (b) Bycatch reduction devices are required in try nets having a headrope length of greater than sixteen feet used for purposes of food shrimping pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-4-133.
 - (c) A BRD shall be used in conjunction with a certified Turtle Excluder Device when such a device is required pursuant to 50 C.F.R. Section 227.72(e)(4) (i, ii and iii) and Section 227.72(e)(2)(ii)(A)(1).

(4) Exemptions.

- (a) A trawl net being used as part of a public or private experimentation authorized by the Department of Natural Resources, as provided in O.C.G.A. 27-2-12, is exempt from the BRD requirement provided written authorization shall be maintained aboard the shrimp trawler with such a trawl at all times.
- (b) Reserved.
- (c) Reserved.

391-2-4-.09 Commercial Fishing. Requirements for Keeping and Reporting Records

(1) Purpose. The purpose of these Rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations to set standards, methods and times for submitting commercial fishing records.

(2) Definitions used in this Rule.

- (a) "Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program" means a cooperative state, regional and federal agency initiative designed to coordinate, improve and standardize commercial and recreational seafood harvest data collection and management for the Atlantic coast.

- (b) "Commercial crab harvester" means anyone who is licensed or authorized by the state to fish for crabs for commercial purposes pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-4-150.
- (c) "Commercial fishing records" means the information on the form approved by, or provided by, the Department to seafood dealers and commercial seafood harvesters who are required to report the purchase, landing or harvest of seafood pursuant to this rule.
- (d) "Commercial seafood harvester" means anyone who sells or barterers any portion of the catch from any fishing trip.
- (e) "Commercial shrimp castnet harvester" means anyone who is licensed by the state to fish for shrimp with castnet gear for commercial purposes pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-4-205.
- (f) "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division.
- (g) "Fishing trip" means the time during which a person is actively engaged in fishing, or in water-based activities in support of fishing, regardless of platform.
- (h) "Marine fishery product" means seafood as defined in O.C.G.A. 27-1-2(63).
- (i) "Seafood dealer" means any person or entity other than the final consumer who purchases, ships, consigns, transfers, barterers, accepts, maintains, or packs any marine fishery products received from commercial seafood harvesters or marine aquaculturists for the first time. Any marine fishery products landed in Georgia must be reported by a dealer or a commercial seafood harvester acting as a dealer. Any commercial seafood harvester or marine aquaculturist who sells, consigns, transfers, or barterers marine fishery products to anyone other than a dealer would himself be acting as a dealer and shall be responsible for reporting as a dealer. This definition is for reporting purposes only and does not define a seafood dealer for purposes of licensing.

(3) Persons required to report commercial fishing records. Effective October 1, 1998 all seafood dealers, commercial crab harvesters, and commercial shrimp castnet harvesters are required to report fishing trip level records on a monthly basis directly to the Department as specified below. All commercial seafood harvesters shall submit fishing trip level records to the seafood dealer at the time of transaction as specified below. Such fishing trip level records must be recorded at the time of the transaction on forms approved by the Department.

(4) Methods. Monthly commercial fishing records are to be submitted on a form supplied by the Department or on an alternate form approved by the Department. All requests for approval of an alternate form must be submitted to the Department in writing with a copy of the proposed alternate form attached or included with the request. The alternate form must provide identical information and follow the same format as the Department form. Upon receipt of a request for approval of an alternate form, the Department will review the form for the required information within 5 days of the receipt of the request. All persons that use an approved alternate form shall be responsible for all costs associated with the printing and use of such forms. Forms approved by participating Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program will be accepted by the Department.

(5) Times. Seafood dealers, commercial crab harvesters, and commercial shrimp castnet harvesters are required to submit written monthly commercial fishing records to the Department by the tenth day of the subsequent month. These records may be hand delivered or submitted via mail, or electronically. Permission to submit records electronically must be obtained from the Department. All other commercial seafood harvesters are required to submit fishing trip level records directly to the seafood dealer at the time of transaction.

(6) Commercial Fishing Record Content.

- (a) Seafood Dealer. At the time of the transaction the seafood dealer is required to record the information referenced below. All information must be complete and accurate. Reporting records of subsequent sales between dealers is not required. The information contained in the record shall include the following:

1. Trip date - date the fishing trip started.
2. Vessel ID - Coast guard documentation or state registration number.
3. Individual ID - Personal commercial fishing license number
4. Trip number - used only if there is more than one fishing trip per day
5. Species - each species landed, sold, or discarded
6. Quantity - the amount of each species landed, sold or discarded
7. Units of measurement - landed units (pounds, each, bushels, etc)
8. Disposition - Commercial food, discards, bait, pet food
9. Ex-vessel value or price - dollar value or price per unit of species sold
10. County or port landed - location where product was unloaded (dock, boat ramp)
11. State landed - state where product was landed
12. Dealer ID - dealer identification number
13. Unloading date - the date of landing at the dealer
14. Market - market category that effects the price (count size etc)
15. Grade - landing condition that affects price (fillet, gutted)
16. Gear - type of gear used to catch landed species
17. Quantity of gear - number of pots etc
18. Days at sea - days from the start of the fishing trip to dock in days and hours
19. Number of crew - number including captain
20. Fishing time - total amount of time gear was in the water
21. Area fished - specific area within water body where fishing occurred
22. Number of sets - total number of sets or tows per trip

(b) Commercial Seafood Harvester. Commercial fishing records for each fishing trip made by commercial seafood harvesters must be submitted to the seafood dealer to whom the product was sold at the time of the transaction. Commercial fishing records submitted to the seafood dealer by commercial seafood harvesters must contain all of the information specified in subparagraphs (6)(a)(1) through (6)(a)(22) above. Any commercial seafood harvester or marine aquaculturist who sells, consigns, transfers, or barter marine fishery products to anyone other than a dealer would himself be acting as a dealer and would therefore be responsible for reporting as a dealer. All information must be complete and accurate.

(c) Commercial Shrimp Castnet Harvester. Written commercial fishing records must be submitted directly to the Department by each commercial shrimp castnet harvester and shall contain the information specified in subparagraphs 6(c)(1) through 6(c)(18) below. Effective January 1, 2000, commercial shrimp castnet harvesters that operate as dealers shall submit records on the dealer forms provided by the Department. Additionally, commercial shrimp castnet harvesters not operating as dealers shall report landings to the seafood dealer at the time of the transaction as specified in subparagraph 6(b) above.

1. Trip date - date the fishing trip started
2. Vessel ID - Coast guard documentation or state registration number
3. Individual ID - Personal shrimp castnet fishing license number
4. Species - each species of shrimp sold (white, brown etc)

5. Quantity - the amount of each species of shrimp landed, sold
6. Units of measurement - landed units (pounds, each, bushels, etc)
7. Disposition - Commercial food or bait
8. Market - market category that affects the price (count size etc)
9. County or port landed - location where product was unloaded (dock, boat ramp)
10. State landed - state where product was landed
11. Retail sales - total daily retail sales in pounds
12. Area fished - river/ sound system fished
13. Fishing time - total hours fished per fishing trip
14. Gear - gear mesh size and diameter/ radius
15. Quantity of gear - number of nets used per trip
16. Dealer ID - dealer identification number - name of dealer including, city and state located, to whom shrimp was sold
17. Number of crew - number of crew including captain

(d) Commercial Crab Harvester. Written commercial fishing records must be submitted directly to the Department by each commercial crab harvester and shall contain the following information:

1. Trip date - date the fishing trip started
2. Vessel ID - Coast guard documentation or state registration number
3. Individual ID - Personal commercial crabbing license number
4. Species - each species landed or sold (i.e. blue crab)
5. Quantity - the amount of crab landed, sold
6. Units of measurement - landed units (pounds, each, bushels, etc)
7. Market - market category that affects the price (#1, #2, etc)
8. County or port landed - location where product was unloaded (dock, boat ramp)
9. Retail sales - total daily retail sales in pounds
10. Area fished - river/ sound system fished
11. Quantity of gear - number of pots fished per fishing trip
12. Fishing time - total hours fished per fishing trip
13. Dealer ID - dealer identification number - name of dealer including, city and state located, to whom crabs were sold
14. Number of crew - number of crew including captain
15. Gear - pots

(7) Penalties. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Sections 27-1-36 and 27-2-25, failure to comply with the provisions of this rule may result in a civil penalty imposed by the commissioner of up to \$1000.00 and/or a suspension of or refusal to renew the person's commercial fishing license for up to two years.

(8) Commercial Crab Harvester License Renewal. Any commercial crab harvester who has not submitted all harvest records for the previous year, as required by this rule, shall be ineligible for license renewal until such time as the required records have been submitted and all penalties paid.

391-2-4-.10 License Lotteries

- (1) Purpose.** The purpose of these Rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations to conduct lotteries for the purpose of issuing commercial fishing licenses.
- (2) Definitions used in this rule.**

 - (a)** "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Law Enforcement Section, One Conservation Way, Suite 201, Brunswick, Georgia.
- (3) Lottery Application.** Individuals interested in obtaining lottery commercial crab licenses or lottery commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses to be issued through a lottery pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-4-150(e)(4) and O.C.G.A. 27-4-206(c) must make application in person to the Department by the times specified in subparagraph 391-2-4-.10 (4) of this Rule. Applications must be submitted on forms provided by the Department. No more than one application per individual may be submitted. Individuals submitting more than one application, or false information, will be disqualified. Incomplete, incorrect or duplicate applications will be rejected. Individuals submitting an application which is disqualified or rejected will be notified of the reason for rejection or disqualification.
- (4) Lottery Application Deadline.** For the 1998/99 license year only applications for lottery commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses must be submitted by the close of business (4:00 p.m.) on October 15, 1998. Beginning on April 1, 1999, applications for lottery commercial crab licenses or lottery commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses to be selected by lottery may be submitted no earlier than April 1 of each license year and must be submitted by the close of business (4:00 p.m.) on June 1 of each license year.
- (5) Random Drawing.** Applicants will be selected through a random computer drawing. All applicants will be listed in numerical order as selected following the drawing.
- (6) Notice of Selection.** Applicants chosen to receive a license will be notified of their selection via certified mail. These applicants must purchase the license by July 1 of that year. The notice of selection must be presented to the Department at the time of purchase. The notice of selection is not transferable.
- (7) Sales of Un-issued Commercial Food Shrimp Cast Netting Licenses.** After August 1 of each year, the Department may offer for sale available commercial food shrimp cast netting licenses on a first-come, first-served basis at the Coastal Regional Headquarters in Brunswick.

391-2-4-.11 Bait Minnow Trapping

- (1) Purpose.** The purpose of these Rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations to regulate the times, places, numbers, species, sizes, manner, methods, ways, means, and devices of taking, capturing, transporting, storing, selling, and using wildlife so as to conserve bait minnows.
- (2) Definitions.**

 - (a)** "Bait Minnow" means any member of the family Fundulidae, including but not limited to mummichog killifishes, commonly known as mud minnows, but not including domestic fish.
 - (b)** "Bait Minnow Trap" means a rectangular or cylindrical cage or structure which is constructed of hardware cloth, wire, plastic or similar material used for catching minnows to be used as bait. Maximum dimensions shall not exceed 24"X18"X9" for rectangular traps, or 24" in length and 30" in circumference for cylindrical traps. A bait minnow trap used commercially shall be constructed of materials with a mesh size no smaller than 1/2" bar mesh; except, however, the funnel or muzzle to the trap shall be constructed of materials of mesh no smaller than 1/4" bar mesh. A bait minnow trap used recreationally shall be constructed of materials with a mesh size no smaller than 1/4" bar mesh. The round throat (opening) of the funnel or muzzle to a bait minnow trap shall not exceed 3/4" in diameter. Each trap must have attached thereto a tag bearing the name and address of the owner of the trap, or must have tethered to each trap a float bearing the name and address of the person using such gear. If

the trap is used for commercial purposes, the tag or float must also include the commercial bait dealer license number of the person using such gear or the license number of the bait dealer employing the person using the gear.

(c) "Department" means the Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division.

(3) Commercial and Recreational Bait Minnow Trapping.

- (a) It shall be lawful to commercially harvest bait minnows of the family Fundulidae using bait minnow traps as defined in paragraph (2)(b) above, in the saltwaters of this state, provided such individual has a valid commercial fishing license pursuant to O.C.G.A. Sections 27-2-23 and 27-4-110, and a valid bait dealer license pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 27-4-171, and provided that such individual meets the requirements for live bait shrimp facilities as specified in O.C.G.A. Section 27-4-171. An individual who is an employee of a licensed bait dealer and who possesses a valid personal commercial fishing license may work the bait minnow traps of his or her employer.
- (i) No holder of a bait dealer license commercially harvesting bait minnows may employ more than 10 traps at any given time.
- (ii) The sale of commercially harvested bait minnows by a properly licensed bait dealer for resale purposes is allowed only to persons possessing a valid wholesale fish dealer license pursuant to O.C.G.A. Sections 27-2-23 and 27-4-76.
- (iii) A licensed bait dealer must maintain at all times a daily record book showing the amount of bait minnows harvested and sold daily. Written reports of such transactions shall be submitted to the Department no later than the fifth day of the subsequent month in a format prescribed by the Department.
- (iv) No licensed bait dealer or licensed wholesale fish dealer may possess more than 100 quarts of bait minnows at any time.
- (b) It shall be lawful to recreationally harvest bait minnows of the family Fundulidae using bait minnow traps as defined in paragraph (2)(b) above, in the saltwaters of this state, provided such individual complies with the recreational fishing license requirements as specified in O.C.G.A. Sections 27-1-2 and 27-2-23.
- (i) No individual recreationally harvesting bait minnows may employ more than 2 traps at any time, except that a United States Coast Guard licensed captain may employ a maximum number of 4 traps at any time, provided that the bait minnows are not sold.
- (ii) No individual recreationally harvesting bait minnows may possess more than 2 quarts of bait minnows at any given time, except that a United States Coast Guard licensed captain may possess no more than 10 quarts of bait minnows at any time, provided that the bait minnows are not sold.

391-2-4-.12 Lawful Fishing Methods and Gear, Generally

- (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of these Rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations based on sound principles of wildlife research and management, establishing the commercial and recreational methods and gear for fishing.
- (2) **Methods Generally.** The following methods shall be lawful in saltwater except as specifically prohibited herein;
- (a) It shall be unlawful to use a gig to take any fish, crustaceans, or mollusks in salt water, except that a gig may be used to take flounder in salt water.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to use any seine in salt water, except that:
1. The use of a seine 12 feet in length or less, with a maximum depth of four feet and a maximum mesh size of one-inch stretched mesh in saltwater, is not prohibited;

2. The use of a seine less than 100 feet in length having a minimum net size of 1/14; inch stretched mesh on any sand beaches on any barrier island of this state is not prohibited. The use of such seines in any inlets or tidal sloughs is prohibited;
 3. The use of seines greater than 100 feet and up to 300 feet in length having a minimum net size of 2/12; inches stretched mesh on the ocean-front side of beaches is not prohibited, provided that such seines may not be used in any inlets or tidal sloughs;
 4. Seines over 300 feet in length are prohibited.
 5. It shall be unlawful to use any seine in salt water in such a manner that it will block more than one-half of the entrance of a tidal river, creek, slough, or inlet to the ocean.
 6. It shall be unlawful to use a beach seine as a gill net. A gill net is defined as a single net or webbing attached to float and lead lines and fished in a stationary manner to ensnare or entangle the fish in the meshes.
- (c) It shall be unlawful to place, deposit, distribute, or scatter any bait of any kind in, on, or over any waters of this state so as to lure, attract, or entice shrimp toward such bait or to cause shrimp to congregate in the area where such bait is placed. It shall also be unlawful to fish for shrimp by any method, including the use of a cast net, in or near any waters which are baited.
- (d) It shall be unlawful to fish for shrimp for commercial purposes at night.
- (3) Gear for Commercial Fishing.** Except as otherwise specifically authorized by law or regulation, it shall be unlawful for any person engaged in commercial saltwater fishing in this state to use any gear other than the following gear, which may only be used for the purposes and in the manner set forth below:
- (a) Power-drawn nets or trawls used to fish for seafood from any of the salt waters of this state in accordance with O.C.G.A. Title 27, chapter 4, Article 4;
 - (b) Commercial crab traps used in accordance with O.C.G.A. Title 27, chapter 4, Article 4;
 - (c) Seines used in salt waters to fish for fish or crustaceans and purse seines used in salt waters to fish for fish or crustaceans, which seines or purse seines are used in accordance herein and with O.C.G.A. Title 27, chapter 4, Articles 3 and 4;
 1. It shall be unlawful for any person other than a licensed commercial saltwater fisherman to use a purse seine. It shall also be unlawful to use a purse seine in any of the salt waters of this state; provided, however, it shall be lawful to use a purse seine in the waters outside, on the seaward side, of the sounds, when such outside waters are opened in accordance with O.C.G.A. Title 27, chapter 4, Article 4. As used in this Code section, "purse seine" means a large seine, supported at the upper edge by floats and weighted at the bottom edge, which is designed to be set by one or more boats around a school of fish and so arranged that after the sides have been brought together the bottom of the net can be closed by drawing the purse line taut.
 - (d) Wire baskets, trotlines, or hoop nets used to fish for catfish in salt water in accordance with 391-2-4.13;
 - (e) Traps and pots used to fish for adult eels in accordance with 391-2-4-.01;
 - (f) Set nets and drift nets used to fish for shad in accordance with 391-2-4-.02;
 - (g) Gigs used to fish for flounder in saltwater;
 - (h) Cast nets;
 - (i) Seines used to fish for seafood along public beaches in accordance with this section;
 - (j) Tongs and dredges used to fish for oysters in accordance with O.C.G.A. Title 27, chapter 4, Article 4;
- (13)** Clam rakes, other hand-held implements, and dredges used to fish for clams in accordance with O.C.G.A. Title 27, chapter 4, Article 4; and
- (14)** Pole and line used to fish for finfish.

391-2-4-.13 Commercial Fishing for Catfish in Saltwater

- (1) Purpose.** The purpose of this Rule is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations based on sound principles of wildlife research and management, establishing the commercial seasons, days, and places; methods of fishing and disposition; and size, creel, and possession limits; gear and landing specifications for catfish in saltwater.
- (2) Areas Open to Commercial Fishing for Catfish in Saltwater.** Except as otherwise provided herein, all salt waters of this state shall be open to the taking of catfish for commercial purposes.

 - (a)** It shall be unlawful to commercially fish for catfish in the North Altamaha River, except on the ocean side (downstream) of the mouth of, but not including, Lewis Creek. Such fishing shall also be unlawful in the South Altamaha River, except on the oceanside (downstream) of the uppermost entrance of Hammersmith Creek.
- (3) Commercial Gear for Taking Catfish in Saltwater.** It shall be unlawful for any person to commercially fish for catfish in the salt waters of this state with any gear except the following:

 - (a)** Trotlines;
 - (b)** Wire baskets meeting the requirements of Code Section 27-4-92 and having a non-green colored float attached bearing the corresponding commercial fishing license number in one inch letters of contrasting color; and
 - (c)** Hoop nets of one inch on the square (two-inches stretch) or larger which do not exceed three and one-half feet in diameter or ten feet in length.
- (4) Minimum Sizes.** It shall be unlawful for any person to commercially fishing for catfish in the salt waters of this state to take and retain any catfish less than nine inches in total length. Any catfish taken and retained by such person shall be deemed to be less than nine inches if it is less than seven inches with head removed or less than six inches with head and tail removed.

391-2-4-.14 Shrimp Bait Dealers

- (1) Purpose.** The purpose of this Rule is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations based on sound principles of wildlife research and management, establishing the seasons, days, and places; methods of fishing and disposition; and size, creel, and possession limits; gear and landing specifications for commercial harvest of bait shrimp.
- (2) General.** It shall be unlawful for any person commercially fishing for shrimp for live bait pursuant to this section to:

 - (a)** Use any power-drawn net which is larger than a 20 foot net or constructed of mesh smaller than one inch or greater than one and three-eighths inches when stretched;
 - (b)** Fish for shrimp pursuant to this Code section at night; or
 - (c)** Have on board the boat used for fishing for shrimp pursuant to this Rule more than 50 quarts of shrimp at any one time, no more than 10 percent of which may be dead;
- (3) Facilities.** All applicants for bait dealer licenses and all licensed bait dealers shall have and maintain facilities meeting the following requirements:

 - (a)** Live bait shrimp facilities must be located within the salt waters of the state, as defined by the salt-water demarcation line described in Code Section 27-4-1, and such facilities must consist of either floating bait containers or tanks with circulating or recirculating systems to provide an exchange of salt waters. Floating bait containers must be permanently affixed to docks or other permanent structures which are attached to high ground above the high water mark and must be constructed with adequate openings to provide for a steady exchange of salt water. Tanks with circulating saltwater systems must include adequate spray outlets to provide aeration as well as sufficient water inlets to create a circulating flow within the bait tank;

- (b) All live shrimp-holding facilities must be constructed of nontoxic materials or materials which have been properly treated with an approved nontoxic substance. The facilities must be maintained in a condition conducive to keeping shrimp alive, which requires regular cleaning and the removal of dead shrimp;
 - (c) Any live bait shrimp dealership which is not within one-half mile of public saltwater angling access shall be required to maintain public access to customers through such services as public launching facilities, public fishing docks or platforms, or other forms of saltwater access during all tidal stages, including without limitation vehicular access and public parking; provided, however, that any live bait dealership which derives at least \$5,000.00 of earned income from the sale of recreational fishing supplies and accessories associated with saltwater angling shall be exempt from the provisions of this paragraph. Any dealer claiming such exemption shall provide such records as the department deems necessary to evidence such sales;
 - (d) No organisms other than shrimp may be held in live shrimp bait tanks; and
 - (e) Freezer storage sufficient to freeze and to keep frozen any shrimp which die while in possession of the dealer and which are to be sold as dead bait must be maintained on the premises of the established bait dealership.
- (4) Condition of Bait Shrimp.** Except as otherwise provided for by law or regulation, it shall be unlawful for any licensed bait dealer to allow shrimp to be removed from the premises of his or her established bait dealership unless it is sold as:
- (a) Live bait in a container of such size as to ensure that all live shrimp therein are covered by a minimum of one inch of salt water; or
 - (b) Dead bait which has been packaged with heads on and frozen. The packages shall contain not more than one quart of dead shrimp and must be clearly marked with letters at least one-half inch in height to read as follows: "SOLD FOR BAIT ONLY." Dead bait purchased for resale must be purchased from a licensed bait dealer and must be packaged and labeled as described.
- (5)** It shall be unlawful for any licensed bait dealer to fail to keep all shrimp in saltwater tanks meeting the standards prescribed in subparagraph (3) of this Rule unless and until such shrimp die, in which case the shrimp shall be promptly frozen and packaged as dead bait. It shall also be unlawful for any licensed bait dealer intentionally to cause or allow live shrimp to die.
- (6)** It shall be unlawful for any person to use, for other commercial fishing purposes, any equipment which has been used for obtaining live bait pursuant to this Code section.
- (7)** It shall be unlawful for any licensed bait dealer or any of his or her employees to have or permit in or on a commercial bait fishing boat owned by the dealer or such employees and used for bait shrimping pursuant to this Rule or to have or permit in or on the premises of the established bait dealership any shrimp caught, sold, to be sold, or to be disposed of for human consumption.
- (8)** It shall be unlawful for a licensed bait dealer to fail to maintain at all times a daily record book showing, for each transaction, the amount of bait shrimp purchased, the person from whom it was purchased, and the date of such purchase, as well as the amount of live shrimp and the amount of dead shrimp sold daily. Any such report shall include, without limitation, any transaction between licensed bait dealers and shall provide the name of the dealership acting as the seller in the transaction. Written reports of such transactions for each month shall be submitted to the department no later than the fifth day of the subsequent month in a format prescribed by the department.
- (9)** It shall be unlawful for any licensed bait dealer or an employee of such person to sell or otherwise distribute to any one person, within a 24 hour period, more than eight quarts of shrimp. It shall also be unlawful for any person to buy, within a 24 hour period, more than eight quarts of shrimp.
- (10)** It shall be unlawful to sell, unload, or otherwise dispose of shrimp taken for bait at any place other than the licensed bait dealership for which the bait was taken. This subparagraph shall not prohibit the transfer from the boat taking such shrimp to an approved vehicle with aeration equipment to keep shrimp alive which will

unload shrimp so taken at a licensed bait dealership so long as the amount of bait being transferred does not exceed 50 quarts.

- (11) It shall be unlawful for any licensed bait dealer to have, at his or her established bait dealership at one time, more than 200 quarts of live shrimp. It shall also be unlawful for more than 10 percent of the shrimp at the dealership or 20 quarts, whichever amount is less, to be dead shrimp unless the dead shrimp in excess of such percentage are promptly frozen and packaged as dead bait as required by subparagraph (4)(b) of this Rule.
- (12) It shall be unlawful for more than one boat to be in use for fishing for shrimp at any one time for an established bait dealer.
- (13) It shall be unlawful for any licensed bait dealer to fail to publicly advertise his or her facility. For the purpose of advertising, each established bait shrimp dealer shall display prominently on the road or drive leading to the facility and on any related dock a sign or signs which shall include the following:
 - (1) "LIVE BAIT FOR SALE" and
 - (2) the hours and days of operation. Signs shall be at least 24 inches by 18 inches in size and shall display letters and numbers at least three inches in height.
- (14) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (10) and (11) of this Rule, it shall be lawful for a licensed bait dealer to sell live bait shrimp taken pursuant to this Rule to another licensed bait dealer if the department has been previously notified of the destination of the shrimp to be sold and the time and approximate amount of the sale and if the department has approved the equipment for transferring such shrimp. Transportation and transfer of live bait shrimp between bait dealers shall not exceed the 200 quart possession limit for commercial bait facilities as provided in subparagraph (11).
- (15) It shall be unlawful for any licensed bait dealer to fail to have and display any current business license required by the county or city in which the bait dealership is located and a sales tax certificate of registration issued pursuant to Code Section 48-8-59.
- (16) Before the Department issues a bait dealer license it shall inspect the bait dealer facilities to determine if the facilities comply with the requirements of this Rule and O.C.G.A. 48-8-59, within 30 days from the time application for license is received.

391-2-4-.15 Protections for horseshoe crabs; catch limits; exceptions

- (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of this Rule is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations based on sound principles of wildlife research and management, establishing the commercial and recreational seasons, days, and places; methods of fishing and disposition; and size, creel, and possession limits; gear and landing specifications for horseshoe crabs.
- (2) **Areas Open to Taking of Horseshoe Crabs.** All salt waters of this state are closed to the taking of horseshoe crabs for bait except during those times when the salt waters or portions thereof are opened to the taking of shrimp, whelk, or blue crab by trawling pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-4-133.
- (3) **Quantity.** It shall be unlawful for any person taking horseshoe crabs pursuant to this Rule to take or possess more than 25 horseshoe crabs at any one time or for there to be on board the boat used for the taking more than 75 horseshoe crabs at any one time, whichever is less; provided, however, that the taking or catching of horseshoe crabs incidentally during legal fishing operations of other marine species shall not be a violation of this Rule if the horseshoe crabs so taken in excess of the limits set forth herein are immediately returned to the water from which they were taken without being intentionally or negligently harmed by the taker or the equipment being used.
- (4) **Biomedical Harvest.** This Rule shall not prohibit the taking or possession of horseshoe crabs for the purpose of collecting horseshoe crab blood for the production of amebocyte lysate or other approved medical uses, so long as the taker and possessor have permits issued by the Department authorizing such taking or possession and the horseshoe crabs are handled so as to minimize injury to the horseshoe crabs.

Horseshoe crabs may be taken and possessed pursuant to a medical takings permit without regard to the possession limit set forth in paragraph (3) of this Rule or whether or not the salt waters from which they are taken are open or closed for the taking of horseshoe crabs for bait. Horseshoe crabs taken and possessed pursuant to a medical takings permit must be returned unharmed to state waters of comparable salinity and water quality as soon as is feasible after collection of their blood.

- (5) This Rule shall not prohibit the interstate import of horseshoe crabs provided that a bona fide bill of lading accompanies such horseshoe crabs as proof that such horseshoe crabs were not taken or transported in violation of this Rule or the laws of the jurisdiction from which the horseshoe crabs originated.

391-2-4-.16 Saltwater Fishing Guide and Saltwater Fishing Pier Operator Reporting

- (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of these Rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations to set such times and manners for submitting records as may be required by the Department.
- (2) **Persons required to report.** Effective January 1, 2014 all persons licensed as salt water fishing guides and all persons operating licensed salt water fish piers pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-2-23.2 shall report such information as may be required by the Department.
- (3) **Methods.** Monthly records are to be submitted on forms supplied by the Department or on an alternate form approved by the Department. All requests for approval of an alternate form must be submitted to the Department in writing with a copy of the proposed alternate form attached or included with the request. The alternate form must provide identical information and follow the same format as the Department form. Upon receipt of a request for approval of an alternate form, the Department will review the form for the required information within 5 days of the receipt of the request. All persons that use an approved alternate form shall be responsible for all costs associated with the printing and use of such forms.
- (4) **Times.** If required by the Department, all salt water fishing guides and salt water fishing pier operators shall submit written monthly records of activity to the Department, whose address for the purpose of reporting shall be the Coastal Resources Division headquarters, by the tenth day of the subsequent month. These records may be hand delivered or submitted via mail, or electronically. Permission to submit records electronically must be obtained from the Department.
- (5) **Penalties.** Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Sections 27-1-36 and 27-2-25, failure to comply with the provisions of this rule may result in a civil penalty imposed by the commissioner of up to \$1000.00 and/or a suspension of or refusal to renew the license for up to two years.

391-2-4-.17 thru 391-2-4-.98 [Reserved]

391-2-4-.99 Repealer

Chapter 260-8, Regulations 391-4-8-.02 and 391-4-8-.07, and Emergency Regulations 391-4-8-0.2, 391-4-8-0.3 and 391-4-8-0.4 and all Administrative Orders issued pursuant thereto are hereby specifically repealed in their entirety. All other regulations or parts of regulations in conflict are hereby repealed.

Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia

Hunting Regulations (391-4-2, et. seq.)

391-4-2-.01 Effective Date

These provisions shall become effective upon compliance with the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act and continue in force and effect until changed.

391-4-2-.02 Definitions

- (1) Except as otherwise specifically defined herein, all words shall be defined in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 27-1-2.
- (2) "Estuarine management area" means a wildlife management area where state owned tidal water bottoms and/or coastal marshlands are managed by the state or lessees for the protection of wildlife and other natural resources.

391-4-2-.03 Harvest Recording and Reporting Requirements

- (1) It is unlawful for any person killing a deer or turkey to remove such carcass from the place of killing without first recording the information required as follows:
 - (a) The date and county of harvest for each turkey harvested on a turkey harvest record.
 - (b) The date, county of harvest, and gender for each deer harvested on a deer harvest record.
- (2) It is unlawful for any person killing a deer or turkey to fail to report the harvest of each deer, on or after September 10, 2016, and each turkey through a department-designated phone number or web application within 72 hours of carcass recovery. It is further unlawful to fail to immediately record the confirmation number generated by the department's harvest reporting system on the harvest record for each deer or turkey killed.
- (3) It is unlawful for any person to transport the carcass (not processed for human consumption) of a deer or turkey killed by another person unless such the following written information is attached to the carcass: name and address of the hunter who killed such deer or turkey, date and county of kill, gender (if deer), and, effective March 19, 2016, the harvest-reporting confirmation number.
- (4) It shall be unlawful for any private or commercial cold storage or processing facility to take possession of a deer carcass without first recording and reporting the following information identifiable for each deer carcass: name of the hunter who killed the deer, date and county of kill, and gender. Effective September 10, 2016, this information shall also include the harvest-reporting confirmation number.
- (5) It shall be unlawful to provide false information while completing a harvest record or reporting a harvest.

391-4-2-.04 Required Clothing

It is unlawful for any person to hunt deer or bears or for any person to accompany another person hunting deer or bears during firearms and primitive weapons deer or bear seasons unless each person shall wear a total of at least 500 visible square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material as an outer garment. Such clothing must be worn above the waistline and may include a head covering.

391-4-2-.09 General

- (1) Hunting seasons or dates on lands within the boundaries of wildlife management areas, other department managed lands, State or Federal Wildlife Refuges, and military reservations may not coincide with statewide, regional, local or general seasons or regulations unless so stated pursuant to 391-4-2-.70 through 391-4-2-.73.

- (2) It is unlawful to hunt any wildlife on that portion of Morgan Falls Lake (Bull Sluice) impoundment lying within Fulton County and that portion lying within Willeo Creek.

391-4-2-.11 Quota Hunts

- (1) Participants for all department regulated quota hunts shall be randomly selected from all valid applications.
- (2) Applicants must complete an online application provided by the department, except as otherwise instructed in Rule 391-4-2-.70. An individual may not submit more than one application for a specific hunt category as determined by the department. Any person submitting more than one application for a specific hunt category or providing false information may be disqualified. Persons applying as a group must complete a group application.
- (3) Group applications are treated the same as an individual application. The entire group shall be selected or rejected. Unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70, group size is limited to a maximum of 5 for deer, State Park, dove, and feral hog hunts; 2 for dog-deer hunts; and 3 for alligator and turkey quota hunts. Group applications shall not be accepted for waterfowl, quail, rabbit and dog-feral hog.
- (4) Annual deadlines for submission of applications are 11:59 P.M. (EST) on: July 31 for alligator hunts; August 15 for dove hunts; September 1 for deer, dog-deer, feral hog, dog-feral hog and state park hunts; October 15 for bobwhite quail, rabbit and waterfowl hunts; and February 15 for turkey hunts.
- (5) Applications not completed or submitted consistent with this Rule may be rejected without notification.
- (6) Applicants not selected will have their online quota hunt accounts credited with a non-selection priority point.
- (7) Only selected applicants will be allowed to hunt, except that selected applicants for waterfowl, quail, and rabbit may bring no more than two hunting guests; selected parties for dog-deer may bring no more than eighteen hunting guests; and selected applicants for dog-feral hog may bring no more than four hunting guests. The individual selected for the hunt shall be present except that if one or both members of a dog-deer party is present, up to eighteen hunting guests may be designated at check-in on the day of the hunt. The total hunting party size shall not exceed 5 for deer, State Park, dove, and feral hog hunts; 20 for dog-deer hunts; and 3 for alligator and turkey quota hunts unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (8) Applicants allocating non-selection priority points when applying for a quota hunt shall be given priority in the selection process for a given hunt category as determined by the department. On group applications, each applicant must allocate an equal number of priority points or the application shall receive no priority preference in the selection process. Priority points are non-transferable.
- (9) Only juveniles, ages 17 and under, may apply for Adult/Child hunts, except that only juveniles, ages 16 and under, may apply for Federal Youth Waterfowl Day hunts.

391-4-2-.12 Trapping

- (1) The trapping season for raccoon, mink, otter, fox, opossum, muskrat, skunk, bobcat and weasel is December 1 through the last day of February.
- (2) There is no closed season on trapping of beaver and coyotes.
- (3) Within thirty (30) days after the close of trapping season, all trappers must report in writing the number of furs, hides or pelts which have been taken during the open season. Such reports may be made to any Game Management Section office. Completion of the annual trapping survey distributed by the department shall meet the reporting requirements herein.
- (4) All bobcats and otters trapped in Georgia and exported out of Georgia shall be tagged with a Federal Export Tag. The tag must be attached to the hide or carcass no later than thirty (30) days after closure of trapping season. A trapper may have the tag attached by department personnel or may have a Federal Export Tag mailed to him/her from the regional Game Management Office where he/she resides.

- (5) Snares may be used for trapping beaver provided that snares are set in water or on land within ten (10) feet of water, including swamps, marshes, and tidal areas. All snares must be marked with the trapper's name or identification number.

391-4-2-.13 Wildlife Management Area License

In addition to the other required licenses and permits, any person, 16 years old or older, hunting or trapping on lands managed by the Department must have a wildlife management area license or a landowner permit provided that persons possessing a valid honorary hunting and fishing license, a sportsman license or a lifetime license are exempt from this requirement. Provided further, any person hunting on a State Park quota hunt is exempt from this requirement. The fee for annual and two-year wildlife management area licenses for Georgia residents shall be \$19.00 and \$38.00, respectively; and the fee for an annual wildlife management area license for non-residents of Georgia shall be \$73.00. A wildlife management area license shall be valid for all hunts on Department managed lands, for which it is required, and shall be effective through the one-, two-, or multi-year anniversary of date of issuance unless revoked in accordance with the provisions of the Game and Fish Code. Provided, however, such license shall not entitle any person to hunt on a quota hunt unless such person is selected, as provided in Regulation 391-4-2-.11. Provided further, such license shall not authorize any person to hunt or trap on any WMA or other State lands, except in accordance with the regulations applicable to such area. Landowner permits may be provided at no cost to the owner of the land that is leased for WMAs. The number of permits provided to each such landowner shall be specified in the lease for such land. Landowner permits shall be valid only for hunting in the area in which such landowner has land leased to the Department of Natural Resources for a WMA.

391-4-2-.16 Possession of Non-game Nonprotected Wildlife

It shall be unlawful to possess live coyotes, armadillos, groundhogs, and beaver except as provided in O.C.G.A. 27-2-12, 27-2-13, and 27-2-22. Coyotes may be held live in accordance with the same provisions for live fox as provided in O.C.G.A. 27-2-22.1, except coyotes trapped for sale to commercial fox hunting preserves may be held at any time for up to five days until sold.

391-4-2-.18 Confinement of White-tailed Deer

- (1) Definitions. As used in these Rules and Regulations, the following term is defined as follows:
 - (a) "Confine" is to capture, possess or impede free egress of white-tailed deer with a fenced enclosure on an area less than 640 contiguous acres.
 - (b) "Contiguous" means a single unit of land that shall not be transected by public roads, creeks, rivers, or rights-of-way of public service corporations.
- (2) It shall be unlawful to confine live white-tailed deer in an enclosure less than 640 contiguous acres except as permitted in O.C.G.A. § 27-2-12, § 27-2-13, AND § 27-2-22 and in enclosures more than 300 but less than 640 acres registered with the Department of Natural Resources as required in paragraph (5).
- (3) White-tailed deer shall be considered to be confined in an enclosure where any portion of the fence is equal to or exceeds six feet in total height. Such fencing includes but is not limited to game fencing, high fencing, deer-proof fencing, game-proof fencing, high tensile wire, woven wire, red top, hog wire or electric wires.
- (4) Anyone installing a high-fence (6 feet or higher) that encloses a contiguous land area less than 640 acres must either ensure:
 - (a) that no deer are captured, on purpose or inadvertently, inside the enclosure;
 - (b) that multiple ground-level locations are provided on all sides of an enclosure for deer to egress; or
 - (c) that no less than 25% of the total length of the fence is 4 feet in height or less.
- (5) Owners of existing enclosures which confine white-tailed deer on more than 300 but less than 640 contiguous acres must register the site with the Department of Natural Resources within ninety days after

the effective date of this regulation. No such enclosure shall be eligible for registration unless it is complete requiring no further expenditure of labor or material. Any enclosure registered with the Department of Natural Resources must be maintained for the registration to remain in effect. If any registered enclosure suffers damage through neglect or due to natural causes and ceases to be effective in confining white-tailed deer for a period exceeding ninety days, the registration becomes invalid and the enclosure cannot be renovated or repaired in the future for the purpose of confining white-tailed deer.

- (6) In the event that a parcel of property including an enclosure, or an enclosure itself, as herein described is sold or transfer of ownership is effected, the new owner shall re-register such enclosure with the Department of Natural Resources within ninety days after the effective date of such sale or transfer.
- (7) It is unlawful to construct any mound, platform, one-way door, one-way gate, or other device designed to allow white-tailed deer into an enclosed area regardless of size of the enclosure.
- (8) Upon registration, the owner or his registering agent shall provide a means of access to the enclosure to law enforcement personnel of the Department of Natural Resources to allow them to exercise their authority to enforce all Game and Fish laws and regulations.
- (9) The provisions of paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) shall not apply to local, state or federally-owned public lands or airport authority on which fences are erected to protect public health, safety or national security.

391-4-2-.20 General Regulations for Hunting Alligators

- (1) No person under twelve (12) years of age may apply for an alligator hunting permit or accompany a permitted alligator hunter during a hunt. Quota hunt application and selection processes are as detailed in 391-4-2-.11.
- (2) A harvest permit and temporary tag will be issued to each selected applicant. Harvest permits are nontransferable and shall be valid only for the management zone and harvest period indicated thereon. Tags issued under this section shall remain the property of the department until affixed as provided herein. Tags issued pursuant to this section may be possessed only by the permittee or his licensed agent prior to use. The permittee shall be strictly liable in ensuring that possession of unused tags is limited to persons authorized under this rule.
- (3) Legal methods for hunting alligators are restricted to the following: hand-held ropes or snares, snatch hooks, harpoons, gigs, or arrows with a restraining line attached. An alligator attached to a restraining line may be killed with a handgun, bangstick, or by severing the spinal cord with a sharp implement. No firearm, except a handgun or a bangstick may be in possession while hunting alligators.
- (4) Alligators may be hunted during day or night.
- (5) The permittee or the permittee's licensed agents may hunt and take alligators as provided in the harvest permit but only in the presence of the permittee.
- (6) Any hunter taking or attempting to take an alligator by any means shall be required to release or dispatch said animal immediately upon capture. Dispatched alligators must be tagged with a department-supplied temporary harvest tag before transporting. Temporary tags shall be locked through the skin of the carcass within six (6) inches of the tip of the tail. The temporary tag shall remain attached to the alligator hide until the carcass is validated by personnel with the Wildlife Resources Division and a CITES tag is issued.
- (7) All alligator carcasses or hides shall be taken during normal working hours to a Wildlife Resources Division, Game Management Office for CITES validation by October 15. CITES tags issued by the department must remain attached to the alligator hide until the hide is tanned, taxidermy mounted, or exported from the state. An alligator harvest report form provided by the department shall be completed by the permittee at the time of validation for each alligator harvested. Temporary and CITES tags shall be used only one time, and the possession of any alligator hide not tagged as prescribed herein is prohibited.

391-4-2-.21 Alligator Seasons, Zones, Quotas and Limits

- (1) The open season for alligators shall be from sunset on the day immediately preceding the 3rd Saturday in August through sunrise the day immediately following the 1st Sunday in October for quota permit holders only.
- (2) Bag limit on alligators shall be one (1), greater than or equal to forty-eight (48) inches in length as measured from the end of the snout to the tip of the tail, per season, except that in Zone 1A it shall be unlawful to harvest an alligator less than ninety-six (96) inches in length as measured from the end of the snout to the tip of the tail.
- (3) For the purpose of hunting alligators, the State shall be divided into ten hunting zones:

ZONE	COUNTY	QUOTA
1	Calhoun, Chattahoochee , Clay, Early, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart, Terrell, and Webster Cos.	35
1A	Lake Walter F. George	30
2	Baker, Decatur, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, and Seminole Cos.	220
3	Crawford, Crisp, Dooly, Dougherty, Houston, Lee, Macon, Peach, Schley, Sumter, Taylor, and Worth Cos.	60
4	Berrien, Brooks, Colquitt, Cook, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Thomas, Tift, and Turner Cos.	85
5	Ben Hill, Bibb, Bleckley, Coffee, Dodge, Jeff Davis, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Trentlen, Twiggs,	100

	Wheeler, Wilcox, and Wilkinson Cos.	
6	Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Echols, Pierce and Ware Cos.	80
7	Appling, Glynn, Long, McIntosh, Tattnall, Toombs, and Wayne Cos.	150
8	Bryan, Bulloch, Candler, Chatham (excluding the Bradley River, Cane Patch Creek, and Rush Creek areas located within the boundaries of Ossabaw Island), Effingham, Evans, and Liberty Cos.	160
9	Burke, Emanuel, Glascocock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Richmond, Screven, and Washington Cos.	80

391-4-2-.22 Bear

- (1) Bears may be taken by archery equipment during the statewide archery deer season, with primitive weapons during the statewide primitive weapons deer season and with firearms during the statewide firearms deer season in Barrow, Carroll, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hart, Jackson, Madison, and Walton counties and all counties north of these counties. No dogs are allowed. Bears must be reported within 24 contiguous hours to the Gainesville or Armuchee Game Management office or the department's published toll-free telephone number (800-241-4113). At a minimum, the hide and skull of any harvested bear shall be taken during normal business hours to any Game Management office listed as open for bear check-in in the annual Hunting Seasons and Regulations guide for tagging by the department within 3 business days of harvest.
- (2) Bears may be taken in Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes and Ware counties on last Thursday of September and the immediate following Friday and Saturday, and the first and second

Thursday, Friday and Saturday in October. Hunting with dogs is allowed except that still hunting only is allowed in Lanier and Lowndes counties. Bears must be checked and tagged at the Georgia Forestry Commission Office at Fargo, the Waycross DNR office, or the Dixon Memorial check station during the hours and dates listed as open for bear check-in in the annual Hunting Seasons and Regulations guide.

- (3) Bears may be taken in Bibb, Houston and Twiggs counties on the second Saturday in December. Hunting with dogs is prohibited. Bears must be checked and tagged at the Oaky Woods WMA check station from 12 noon through 9 p.m. on the day of hunt.
- (4) It is unlawful to kill a female with cubs or kill a cub having a live weight of less than 75 pounds.
- (5) It is unlawful to possess a bear unless it is reported and tagged as stated in subsections (1), (2) and (3) above.
- (6) Bag limit 2; provided, however, that an individual may take no more than 1 bear per season in either Bibb, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Echols, Houston, Lanier, Lowndes, Twiggs or Ware counties.

391-4-2-.24 General Regulations for Hunting Deer

- (1) For the purpose of hunting deer over bait pursuant to O.C.G.A. 27-3-9, the State is divided into a Northern and a Southern Zone. The Northern Zone consists of Troup, Meriwether, Upson, Crawford, Bibb, Jones, Baldwin, Hancock, Glascock, Warren, McDuffie and Richmond counties and all counties north of these. The Southern Zone consists of Harris, Talbot, Taylor, Peach, Houston, Twiggs, Wilkinson, Washington, Jefferson and Burke counties and all counties south of these.
- (2) Deer harvested on WMAs and National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs), when check-out of harvested deer is required, do not count towards the statewide bag limit provided that such deer are tagged with special department-issued tags.
- (3) Still hunting for deer is permitted in any area at any time during the legal season for hunting deer with dogs.
- (4) In Dooly and Macon Cos., antlered bucks may be taken only if they have a minimum outside antler spread of fifteen (15) inches. (6) In Hancock, Harris, Meriwether, Montgomery, Randolph, Talbot, and Troup Cos., antlered bucks may be taken only if they have a minimum of 4 antler points 1 inch or longer on one side of the antlers.

391-4-2-.25 Archery Deer Hunting

- (1) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment in all counties of the state from the second (2nd) Saturday in September through the day preceding primitive weapons deer season, except as may otherwise be specified.
- (2) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment in Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, that portion of Forsyth Co. lying south of Georgia Highway 20 and that portion of Fulton Co. lying north of Georgia Highway 92, from the second (2nd) Saturday in September through the last day allowed by State law.
- (3) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment in that portion of Forsyth Co. lying north of Georgia Highway 20, that portion of Fulton Co. lying south of Georgia Highway 92, Gwinnett and Rockdale counties from Jan. 2 through the last day allowed by State law.

391-4-2-.26 Primitive Weapons Deer Hunting

Deer of either sex may be taken with primitive weapons in all counties except Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb and that portion of Fulton Co. lying north of Georgia Highway 92, from the first Saturday after Oct. 8 through the following Friday.

391-4-2-.27 Firearms Deer Hunting

- (1) Deer may be taken statewide with firearms authorized by law in accordance with the counties, sex, and seasons set forth below, except as otherwise specifically provided herein. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment any day during open firearms deer season, except as may otherwise be specified.

COUNTY	SEX	SEASON	
(a)	All counties, except Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, that portion of Forsyth lying south of GA Hwy 20, that portion of Fulton lying north of GA Hwy 92 and that portion of Glynn lying within Jekyll Island. In that portion of Forsyth lying south of GA Hwy 20, only shotguns and muzzleloaders may be used.	Antlered Bucks	First Saturday after Oct. 15 through second Sunday in Jan.
(b)	Baker, Ben Hill, Bibb, Bleckley, Brooks, Burke, Calhoun, Candler, Chatham, Chattahoochee, Clarke, Clay, Colquitt, Columbia, Crisp, Decatur, Dodge, Dooly, Douglas, Dougherty, Early, Emanuel, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton (South of Hwy. 92), Glascock, Grady, Gwinnett, Hancock, Harris, Henry, Houston, Irwin, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Laurens, Lee,	Either-sex	First Saturday after Oct. 15 through second Sunday in Jan.

Macon,
 Marion,
 Meriwether,
 Miller, Mitchell,
 Montgomery,
 Muscogee,
 Peach,
 Pulaski,
 Quitman,
 Randolph,
 Richmond,
 Rockdale,
 Schley,
 Seminole,
 Stewart,
 Sumter,
 Talbot, Taylor,
 Telfair, Terrell,
 Thomas, Tift,
 Treutlen,
 Troup, Turner,
 Twiggs,
 Washington,
 Webster,
 Wheeler,
 Wilcox,
 Wilkinson, and
 Worth. In that
 portion of
 Forsyth lying
 south of GA
 Hwy 20, only
 shotguns and
 muzzleloaders
 may be used.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (c) | Banks,
Dawson,
Franklin,
Gilmer,
Habersham,
Hart, Lumpkin,
Murray,
Pickens,
Stephens,
White, and
Whitfield. | Either-sex | Oct. 31-Nov. 1,
Nov. 7-8, Nov.
23-29, 2015
and Jan. 1,
2016 & Oct.
29-30, Nov. 5-
6, Nov. 21-27,
2016 and Jan.
1, 2017 |
| (d) | Fannin,
Rabun, Towns,
and Union. | Either-sex | Oct. 31, Nov.
27-29, 2015
and Jan. 1,
2016 & Oct.
29, Nov. 25-
27, 2016 and
Jan. 1, 2017 |
| (e) | Baldwin,
Barrow,
Bartow, Butts,
Catoosa,
Carroll,
Chattooga,
Cherokee, | Either-sex | Oct. 31-Nov.
15 2015 and
Nov. 23 2015 -
Jan. 1 2016, &
Nov. 5-13
2016 and Nov.
21 2016 -Jan. |

Coweta,
 Crawford,
 Dade, Elbert,
 Floyd, Gordon,
 Green,
 Jackson,
 Jasper, Jones,
 Hall, Haralson,
 Heard, Lamar,
 Lincoln,
 Madison,
 McDuffie,
 Monroe,
 Morgan,
 Newton,
 Oconee,
 Oglethorpe,
 Paulding, Pike,
 Polk, Putnam,
 Spalding,
 Taliaferro,
 Upson,
 Walker,
 Walton,
 Warren,
 Wilkes,

(e)

Appling,
 Atkinson,
 Bacon,
 Berrien,
 Brantley,
 Bryan, Bulloch,
 Camden,
 Charlton,
 Clinch, Coffee,
 Cook, Echols,
 Effingham,
 Evans, Glynn
 (except that
 portion lying
 within Jekyll
 Island), Jeff
 Davis, Lanier,
 Liberty, Long,
 Lowndes,
 McIntosh,
 Pierce,
 Screven,
 Tattnall,
 Toombs,
 Ware, and
 Wayne.

Either-sex

Oct. 26 2015 -
 Jan. 10 2016 &
 Oct. 31 2016 -
 Jan. 8 2017

391-4-2-.28 Hunting Deer with Dogs

(1) Dogs may be used to hunt deer pursuant to O.C.G.A § 27-3-17 in the following counties during the seasons set forth below:

COUNTY

SEASON

(a)

Baker,

First Saturday

Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 391-4-2-.55

Brantley, after Oct. 15
Bryan, Bulloch, through
Burke, second
Calhoun, Sunday in Jan.
Camden,
Candler,
Charlton,
Chatham,
Clinch,
Decatur,
Dougherty,
Early, Echols,
Effingham,
Emanuel,
Evans, Glynn
(except that
portion lying
within Jekyll
Island), Grady,
Jenkins, that
portion of
Lanier lying
east of the
Alapaha River
and southeast
of US Hwy
221, Liberty,
Long,
McIntosh, that
portion of
Pierce lying
southeast of
US Hwy 84,
and that
portion lying
northwest of
US Hwy 84
and east of
Scenic Drive,
Screven,
Seminole,
Tattnall,
Thomas, that
portion of
Ware lying
south of US
Hwy 82 and
that portion
lying north of
US Hwy 82
and southeast
of US Hwy 84,
that portion of
Washington
lying north of
GA Hwy 24,
and that
portion of
Wayne lying
north of US
Hwy 341 and
west of

Beard's Bluff
Road, north of
GA Hwy 169
and southeast
of US Hwy 84.

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (b) | Colquitt,
Marion,
Stewart,
Terrell, and
Webster | First Saturday
after Dec. 2
through
second
Sunday in Jan. |
| (c) | That portion of
Atkinson lying
south of US
Hwy 82,
Jefferson, and
that portion of
Johnson lying
east of GA
Hwy 15. | Thanksgiving
Day through
second
Sunday in Jan. |

391-4-2-.29 Permit Requirements for Hunting Deer with Dogs

- (1) Permit Requirements. An owner or owners of such eligible tracts of land or lessee of deer hunting rights for such eligible tracts desiring to hunt deer with dogs may do so only if said owner or lessee shall have first applied for and been issued a permit by the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources. The hunting of deer with dogs subsequent to the receipt of said permit shall be strictly in accordance with the conditions of that permit and shall be authorized only during times and locations as described in 391-4-2-.28.
- (2) Definitions. As used in these Rules and Regulations, the following terms are defined as follows:
 - (a) "Contiguous acres" means a single unit of land described on an application for a permit to hunt deer with dogs that may include multiple ownerships and may be transected by public roads, creeks, rivers, or rights-of-way of any public service corporation.
 - (b) "Eligible tracts" are those tracts of real property that contain a minimum of 1000 contiguous acres or a minimum of 250 contiguous acres owned by the applicant; provided, however, that any eligible tract or any part thereof which was included in an application for a permit pursuant to this Chapter which has been the subject of a revocation or non-renewal pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 27-2-25 shall not be eligible for inclusion in any subsequent application for a permit for a period up to 2 years regardless of a change in the name or membership of the applicant until the expiration period of revocation or non-renewal.
 - (c) "Hunting deer with dogs" shall include the act of placing, releasing or in any other manner causing or procuring the cause of dog(s) to be, or attempting to be, in the pursuit of running, trailing or baying deer, whether such act results in a taking or attempted taking or not. Once the owner of the dog(s), his agents, or permittees place, release or otherwise cause dog(s) to be in the pursuit of running, trailing or baying deer, then the owner, his agents or permittees shall be deemed to be "hunting deer with dogs" until such time that the dog owner, his agents or permittees have regained physical possession and control of the dog(s), or the dog(s) have otherwise ceased in the pursuit or attempted pursuit of running, trailing or baying deer.
- (3) Application for Permit.
 - (a) The applicant must be the landowner or lessee of deer hunting rights, if applicable, for the eligible tract being considered for a permit.
 - (b) An application must be on a form provided by the department. Completed forms must include:

1. Name, social security number or federal identification number if the applicant is a corporation or other entity, address and telephone number of applicant;
2. List of hunters who are allowed to hunt on the permitted property;
3. Printed name and signatures of all persons owning any portion of the eligible tract or an authorized agent thereof. Copies of notarized leases with wording authorizing the use of dogs for hunting deer may substitute for respective signatures on the application form;
4. A written description of the eligible tract boundaries and associated acreage. Acceptable documents are limited to certified plats, recorded deeds, surveys, tax maps or notarized leases;
5. A map showing key features including the boundary of the eligible tract; public roads, streams and rights-of-way on or bordering property, occupied dwellings on adjacent property, and the points of access from public roads that are to be used by hunters and guests.

(4) Issuance of Permits.

- (a)** Complete permit applications must be received at least 30 days prior to the first day for hunting deer with dogs on an eligible tract.
- (b)** The following occurrences shall be a violation of this Chapter:
 1. Entry into or exit from, the permitted property for any purpose other than points of access from public roads marked on the application map without the express written permission of the adjacent landowner upon whose land entry or exit is made. The express written permission of the adjacent landowner or a copy thereof must be carried on the person making the entry or exit.
 2. Failure to control hunting dogs to keep them on the permitted property.
 3. Interference with the right of any person to freely and in an unrestricted manner, travel any public road or stream transecting or bordering the permitted property.
- (c)** Based on the factors set forth in subparagraph (b) above, a permit shall contain limitations or conditions on the following:
 1. All hunters authorized under the permit must insure that all dogs used in hunting deer remain on the permitted property at all times.
 2. Permittee, hunters, and guests may not enter upon properties not covered under the permit while hunting or retrieving hunting dogs without the express written permission of the landowner. The express written permission of the adjacent landowner or a copy thereof must be carried on the person making the entry or exit.
 3. All permittees, hunters, and guests must abide by all applicable rules, regulations and laws governing hunting.
 4. Any person not included on the membership list provided with the application for the permit and hunting under the authority of the permit shall be considered a guest of the permittee and must possess written permission on his or her person from the permittee.

(5) Hunting Deer with Dogs on Permitted Tracts.

- (a)** Any person 16 years of age or older who is engaged in the activity of hunting deer with dogs must possess a valid deer-dog hunting license.
- (b)** The owner of any dog that is used for hunting deer must cause such dog to be identified at all times during the hunt with the owner's name and permit number for the tract being hunted;
- (c)** Any person operating a motor vehicle used in conducting a deer hunt with dogs shall during such hunt clearly display in the front or rear windshield of such motor vehicle a decal or card showing the tract permit number in numerals not less than two inches high. Motor vehicles that lack front or back windshields being used in conducting a deer hunt with dogs shall during such hunt clearly display the

tract permit number in numerals not less than two inches high in a prominent and visible location on the front or back of the vehicle.

- (6) Expiration of Permit. The permit will expire on 30 June next following the date the permit is issued or by the date specified, whichever comes first.
- (7) Violation of Permits. Violation of any of the terms and/or conditions of a permit or of this Chapter, including the submission of false information on said application, shall make said permit invalid and deer hunters hunting under authority of that permit may be considered to be hunting in violation of the Rules and Regulations authorizing the hunting of deer with dogs.
- (8) Revocation and Denial of Permits and Licenses.
 - (a) The commissioner may take action against a permit as provided in O.C.G.A. § 27-2-25 for violations of the provisions of O.C.G.A. Title 27 or of rules and regulations issued pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 27.
 - (b) The commissioner may revoke a deer-dog license of any hunter who, within a single hunting season, commits two or more violations of paragraph (4)(b)(2) of this Chapter.
 - (c) For purposes of this Chapter only, a serious violation or habitual violations of laws, rules and regulations or conditions of a permit while engaged in deer hunting with dog activities on or commencing from permitted tracts provide justification for revocation and or denial of permitted activities.
 - (d) The Commissioner, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-18(c)(1) may, upon a finding that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, incorporate such a finding into his order and order a summary suspension of a permit pending proceedings for revocation or other action, which proceeding shall be promptly instituted and determined. Evidence of physical harm or threats of physical harm to adjacent landowners, interference with the free and unrestricted travel of public roads or streams, significant destruction of the property of adjacent landowners or multiple violations of a permit in a single season shall be sufficient for a finding that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.
 - (e) Revocation or denial of a permit shall be for an eligible tract in its entirety, regardless of size and shall be in effect for a period of up to two years.

391-4-2-.30 Feral Hog Hunting Weapons

Feral hogs may be hunted with any legal weapon as designated in O.C.G.A. 27-3-4 for small and big game.

391-4-2-.31 Fox, Grouse, Opossum, Quail, Rabbit, Raccoon, Squirrel, Bobcat

- (1) The following species may be hunted in accordance with the areas, seasons, and daily bag limits set forth below, except as otherwise specifically provided herein:

Species			
Area	Season	Bag Limit	
(a)	Fox	Statewide	Dec. 1-last day in Feb.
No Limit			
(b)	Grouse	Statewide	Oct. 15-last day in Feb.
Daily: 3			
(c)	Opossum	Statewide	Oct. 15-last day in Feb.

No Limit			
(d)	Quail	Statewide	First Saturday following Nov. 11-last day in Feb.
Daily: 12			
(e)	Rabbit	Statewide	First Saturday following Nov. 11-last day in Feb.
Daily: 12			
(f)	Raccoon	Statewide	Oct. 15-last day in Feb.
Daily: 3			
(g)	Squirrel	Statewide	Aug. 15-last day in Feb.
Daily: 12			
(h)	Bobcat	Statewide	Dec. 1-last day in Feb.
No Limit			

- (2) Hunting with dogs is allowed. Fox and bobcats may be hunted with legal small game weapons by hunters using manual calls only.

391-4-2-.32 Turkey

- (1) Turkeys may be taken from the first Saturday after March 19 through May 15, in all counties of the state.
- (2) The bag limit shall be 3 gobblers per hunter per season.

391-4-2-.33 Special Opportunity Turkey Season

- (1) Mobility impaired persons, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 27-2-4.4(a), and youth (not greater than 16 years of age) may take turkeys on the consecutive Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding the statewide open turkey season as prescribed in Rule 391-4-2-.32.
- (2) Not less than one (1) adult, at least 18 years of age, shall accompany any youth or mobility impaired person participating in this season but such adult may not take or attempt to take a turkey.

391-4-2-.40 General Regulations for Hunting Federally Regulated Migratory Game Birds

- (1) It is unlawful for any person 16 years of age or older to hunt waterfowl unless such person possesses a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp in addition to all other required licenses.
- (2) Legal hours for hunting migratory game birds shall conform to Federal Regulations except as may be otherwise specified in this Chapter.
- (3) Federally approved nontoxic shot size F or smaller is required for all duck and goose hunting; no lead shot may be in possession.
- (4) It is unlawful for any person, without written permission, to hunt waterfowl within 600 feet of a dock, house, structure, bridge, road, boat ramp, marina or open recreation area on Lake Walter F. George and Lake

Lanier (outside the Lula Bridge Tract WMA). On Lake Lanier, these restrictions do not apply to structures within designated closed parks.

- (5) It is unlawful for any person, without written permission, to hunt waterfowl within 300 feet of a dock, house structure, bridge, road, boat ramp, marina or open recreation area on Lake Burton, Lake Oconee, Lake Rabun, Lake Seed, Lake Seminole, Lake Sinclair, Tallulah Falls Lake, Lake Tugalo, Lake Yonah and that portion of Lake Oliver south of the Standing Boy Creek Tract Wildlife Management Area.
- (6) It is unlawful for any person to hunt waterfowl on Lake Sinclair from the confluence of Shoulder Bone Creek north to Wallace Dam except as may otherwise be provided.

391-4-2-.41 Baiting of Federally Regulated Migratory Game Birds

No person shall take migratory game birds by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should have known that the area is or has been baited. As used in this paragraph, "baiting" shall mean the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of grain, salt, or other feed that could serve as a lure, or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them; and "baited area" means any area on which grain, salt, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered if that grain, salt, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them and such area shall remain in a baited area for ten (10) days following complete removal of all such grain, salt, or other feed; "normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation" means a planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; "normal agricultural operation" means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or agricultural practice that is undertaken for purposes other than to produce and gather a crop - such as livestock feeding or wildlife management, and is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; "manipulation" means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. This term does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown; and "natural vegetation" means any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. This term does not include planted millet. However planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation. However, nothing in this paragraph prohibits:

- (1) The taking of any migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas: standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, postharvest manipulation, or soil stabilization practice; and
- (2) The taking of any migratory game birds, except waterfowl, on or over any lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

391-4-2-.43 Canada Geese, Snow Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant

- (1) The open season for hunting Canada Geese shall be September 3-25, October 8-23, November 19-27 and December 10, 2016-January 29, 2017. Snow Geese (including Blue Geese) and White-Fronted Geese may be taken during open dates for hunting Canada Geese except during September. The season is closed on Atlantic Brant.

- (2) The daily bag limits on Canada Geese and White-Fronted Geese combined shall be five (5) per day with a possession limit of fifteen (15) for both species combined. Bag limits on Snow Geese shall be five (5) per day with a possession limit of fifteen (15).

391-4-2-.44 Common Wilson's Snipe

- (1) The open season for hunting snipe shall be from November 15 through February 28.
- (2) The daily bag limit shall be eight (8) and the possession limit shall be twenty-four (24).

391-4-2-.45 Coots

- (1) The open season for hunting coots shall be November 19-27 and December 10, 2016-January 29, 2017.
- (2) The daily bag limit shall be fifteen (15) daily and forty-five (45) in possession.

391-4-2-.46 Crows

- (1) Crows may be taken from the first Saturday in November through the last day in February.
- (2) There is no limit on the number of crows that may be taken.
- (3) Electronic calls may be used.
- (4) Pursuant to 50 CFR 21.43, as now or hereafter amended, crows may be taken outside the dates described herein only when crows are found committing or about to commit depredations upon ornamental or shade trees, agriculture crops, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance.

391-4-2-.47 Ducks

- (1) The open season for hunting ducks shall be November 19-27 and December 10, 2016-January 29, 2017.
- (2) The bag limit on ducks shall be six (6) daily with a possession limit of eighteen (18). This limit shall not include more than three (3) wood ducks daily and nine (9) in possession; nor more than four (4) mallards daily of which no more than two (2) may be hens and twelve (12) in possession of which no more than six (6) may be hens; nor more than one (1) black duck or mottled duck daily and three (3) of both species combined in possession; nor more than two (2) pintail daily and six (6) in possession; nor more than two (2) redheads daily and six (6) in possession; nor more than two (2) lesser or greater scaup in any combination daily and six (6) of both species combined in possession; nor more than one (1) fulvous whistling duck daily and three (3) in possession; nor more than two (2) canvasback daily and six (6) in possession; nor more than four (4) scoters daily and twelve (12) in possession; nor more than four (4) eiders daily and twelve (12) in possession; and nor more than four (4) long-tailed ducks daily and twelve (12) in possession.
- (3) The season is closed for the taking of harlequin ducks.

391-4-2-.48 Extended Falconry Season for Ducks, Coots, Gallinules Common Moorhen, Mergansers and Sea Ducks

- (1) The open season for hunting ducks by means of falconry shall be during the September and October Canada Goose season and November 19-December 5, and December 10, 2016-January 29, 2017.
- (2) Bag limits shall be three (3) daily and nine (9) in possession of a single species or in the aggregate of the above species during falconry season.

391-4-2-.49 Gallinules Common Moorhen

- (1) The open season for hunting gallinules shall be November 19-27 and December 10, 2016-January 29, 2017.
- (2) The bag limit on gallinules shall be fifteen (15) daily and forty-five (45) in possession.

391-4-2-.50 Mergansers

- (1) The open season for hunting mergansers shall be November 19-27 and December 10, 2016-January 29, 2017.
- (2) In addition to the limits applying to other ducks during the regular duck season, the bag limit on mergansers shall be five (5) daily with a possession limit of fifteen (15). This limit shall not include more than two (2) hooded mergansers daily and six (6) in possession.

391-4-2-.51 Mourning Doves

- (1) For the purpose of hunting mourning doves and white-winged doves, the open seasons shall be from the first Saturday in September and 15 days thereafter; the second Saturday in October - October 28; and Thanksgiving - January 15, 2017.
- (2) The daily bag limit shall be fifteen (15) mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate and the possession limit shall be forty-five (45) mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.
- (3) Daily shooting hours shall be from 12 noon until sunset on opening day of the First Season and, thereafter, one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

391-4-2-.52 Rails Marsh Hens

- (1) The open season for hunting rails (marsh hens) shall be September 24-November 10 and November 25-December 16, 2016.
- (2) The daily bag limit on marsh hens (king and clapper rails) shall be fifteen (15) with a possession limit of forty-five (45), either singly or in combination.
- (3) In addition to marsh hens, a daily bag limit of twenty-five (25) sora and Virginia rails may be taken with a possession limit of seventy-five (75), either singly or in combination.

391-4-2-.53 Sea Ducks Scoters, Eiders, Long-tailed Ducks

- (1) The open season for hunting scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks shall be November 19-27 and December 10, 2016-January 29, 2017.
- (2) In addition to the limits applying to other ducks during the regular duck season, bag limits on sea ducks shall be five (5) daily with a possession limit of fifteen (15). This limit shall not include more than four (4) scoters daily and twelve (12) in possession; nor more than four (4) eiders daily and twelve (12) in possession; and nor more than four (4) long-tailed ducks daily and twelve (12) in possession in the special sea duck area for Georgia as defined in Federal regulations.

391-4-2-.54 Teal

- (1) In addition to the open season for hunting ducks, the open season for hunting teal shall include September 10-25, 2016.
- (2) The bag limits on teal during this season shall be six (6) daily with a possession limit of eighteen (18).

391-4-2-.55 Woodcock

- (1) The open season for hunting woodcock shall be from the first Saturday after December 4 through 44 days thereafter.
- (2) The daily bag limit shall be three (3) and the possession limit shall be nine (9).

391-4-2-.56 Youth Waterfowl Season

The open season for youths 15 years of age or less hunting ducks, coots, gallinules (common moorhen), mergansers, sea ducks, Canada Geese and Snow Geese shall be November 12-13, 2016. An adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth into the field during this season but may not hunt.

391-4-2-.60 General Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) It is unlawful for any person to place bait or any wildlife food on a Wildlife Management Area (WMA).
- (2) It is unlawful for any person to consume or use alcoholic beverages on any WMA except in houses or at campsites on these areas; provided, however, that this provision does not apply to national forest lands.
- (3) The use of paintballs, paintball guns and related activities is prohibited on WMAs except on WMAs located on national forest lands.
- (4) Dogs entering WMAs must be kept on a leash or otherwise confined except when hunting or while training dogs during designated seasons and on designated areas. Dog owners are responsible for their dogs and any damage the dogs may do to wildlife not being legally hunted.
- (5) Except for Public Fishing Areas, fishing on WMAs is allowed in accordance with statewide seasons and limits, unless otherwise indicated or posted at the WMA check station.
- (6) Regulations of the U.S. Forest Service shall apply on all wildlife management areas located on national forest lands.
- (7) It is unlawful for any person to unreasonably disturb or annoy others through abrasive, insulting or threatening words or actions, or physically harm or threaten any other person, or disobey any lawful order of a law enforcement official or act in a manner resulting in a breach of the peace.
- (8) Camping, pre-season scouting, hiking, picnicking, horse riding, canoeing, and other recreational uses are allowed year-round unless otherwise indicated or posted at the WMA check station or at a specific recreation site. Specific recreation sites can be closed as needed for management purposes by posting at the site.
- (9) It is unlawful for any unauthorized person to close or restrict access to roads, trails or other access features using unauthorized motor vehicles, signage, or other methods. Roads, trails and other access features may be closed at the discretion of the department.
- (10) It is unlawful for any person to possess or use buckshot except during deer hunts where dogs are allowed.
- (11) It is unlawful to shoot from a motor vehicle.
- (12) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess a loaded firearm in designated camping areas except as provided in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-126.
- (13) O.C.G.A. Section 27-3-1.1 prohibits loaded guns being carried in a motor vehicle on WMAs. A firearm shall be considered loaded if a shell is in the chamber or magazine except that muzzle-loading firearms are considered loaded only if a cap is on the nipple or powder is present on the frizzen pan. Crossbows must be un-cocked when being transported in a vehicle on a WMA.

391-4-2-.61 Camping Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) All camps shall be in designated campgrounds unless otherwise posted at the check station, except that camping is allowed anywhere on National Forest Lands unless otherwise indicated or signed. Forest Service regulations govern outdoor recreation on WMAs located on National Forest Lands.
- (2) Camping, or establishment of a campsite, shall be limited to a period of time not to exceed 14 consecutive days; after which the campsite shall be vacated and all personally owned property or physical features of the camp are removed for a period of not less than 7 days. During that 7-day period a new campsite may not be established within the boundaries of the same WMA or within 1 mile radius of the vacated campsite by the same person(s).
- (3) It is unlawful for any person to use any musical instruments, radios, televisions, generators or other noise making devices after 10:00 p.m. or before 7:00 a.m. in such a manner that such devices may be heard by other WMA visitors.

391-4-2-.62 Vehicle, Horse, ATV and Other Conveyance Use on Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) As used in this Rule, "all-terrain vehicle" or "ATV" means a tracked or wheeled motor vehicle powered by an electrical or motor fuel engine and generally characterized by low-pressure tires, an open operator area, a seat designed to be straddled by the operator or a bench style seat, handlebars, lever arms or steering wheel for steering, and is intended for off-road use by an individual or multiple riders on natural terrain. This includes off-road motorcycles (dirt bikes), utility vehicles, golf carts, 4 and 3-wheeled cycles and other off road vehicles. "Improved roads" shall mean those roads that receive maintenance for purpose of hunter access, and "open roads" shall mean those roads not closed with a gate, sign, earthen berm, or similar device.
- (2) Horses, bicycles and all motor vehicles, including off-road vehicles, are restricted to improved and open roads. Provided, however, that horses and bicycles may also use designated trails or designated areas; bicycles may be used on closed, improved roads for the purpose of hunter access; and horses may be used off roads and trails during permitted field trials.
- (3) Vehicles, including ATVs marked by official license plates or stickers for special handicapped access may be used on roads otherwise closed for vehicular access but specifically designated by the department for handicapped hunter access.
- (4) Motor vehicles must meet safety, insurance, licensing, and registration requirements for use on public roads. However, 3-wheel and 4-wheel All-Terrain Vehicles, (ATVs) need not be licensed (tagged) to be operated on a WMA unless the WMA is on national forest lands.
- (5) All vehicle operators must have appropriate licenses and safety equipment for operating on public roads.
- (6) ATVs may be operated only on open improved roads within WMAs during the period between 2 hours before sunrise and 2 hours after sunset one day prior to and during big game, small game, and special hog only hunts by hunters actively participating in the hunt except where otherwise specified according to 391-4-2-.70. ATV operators must be at least 16 years old.
- (7) Trails and areas open to horses and bicycles may be closed during certain hunting seasons to avoid user conflicts.
- (8) Horses and bicycles may be used on national forest lands not otherwise closed.
- (9) Vehicles and effects are subject to being searched for illegal game or weapons.

391-4-2-.63 Hunting Structures on Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) For purposes of this Rule, "hunting structure" means any portable tree stand, ground blind, stool, chair, bucket, waterfowl blind, or other similar device used for the purpose of hunting.

- (2) For small game hunts, hunting structures may be placed and shall be removed from the WMA only on the day of the hunt, except that on opening day of dove season hunters shall not enter a managed dove field and hunting structures shall not be placed on a managed dove field prior to 10 a.m.
- (3) For big game and feral hog hunts, hunting structures shall not be placed any sooner than one day prior to the hunt and shall be removed from the WMA no later than 12:00 noon the day following the hunt.
- (4) It is unlawful for any person to place any tree stand on utility poles or other structures supporting utility lines.

391-4-2-.64 Youth Hunting on Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) As used in this Rule, "direct supervision" or "directly supervised" means uninterrupted, unaided visual contact and auditory communication of a child by an adult.
- (2) All children under sixteen (16) years of age shall be accompanied by and under direct supervision of an adult eighteen (18) years of age or older when hunting.
- (3) On Adult/Child Hunts for big game, all children (17 years old and under) shall be accompanied and directly supervised by an adult; an adult shall supervise no more than one child.
- (4) On Adult/Child Hunts for small game, one adult may directly supervise no more than two (2) children (17 years old and under).
- (5) Except as otherwise specified in 391-4-2-.70, adults and children may possess firearms and hunt on small game and non-quota big game Adult/Child Hunts provided that an adult hunting on such hunts shall be directly supervising a child who is actively participating in the hunt.
- (6) During Adult/Child big game quota hunts, only one firearm is allowed and only the child may hunt.
- (7) On adult/child hunts for quail, bird dog handlers may accompany adult/child parties provided, however, that such handlers may not possess firearms or hunt with firearms.

391-4-2-.65 Managed Hunts on Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) A managed deer, turkey, bear, or hog hunt is defined as a sign-in hunt lasting less than one week in length or a hunt in which check-in is required.
- (2) As indicated in 391-4-2-.70 for individual WMAs, check-in is required on managed hunts.
- (3) As indicated in 391-4-2-.70 for individual WMAs, sign-in is required on hunts other than managed hunts.
- (4) It is unlawful for any person to fail to check-out any deer, bear, turkey, or hog killed on any big game hunts requiring check-in or sign-in.
- (5) It is unlawful for any hunter to fail to carry on his/her person a copy of the check-in permit on all check-in hunts.
- (6) During managed hog hunts, as indicated in 391-4-2-.70 for individual WMAs, the hunter and each person accompanying the hunter shall wear not less than 500 square inches of visible daylight fluorescent orange material as an outer garment and such material is worn above the waistline and may include a head covering.

391-4-2-.66 Big Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) Two (2) deer may be killed on any one managed hunt. However, on managed hunts when quality buck antler restrictions are in effect, no more than one (1) of the two (2) deer allowed may be an antlered buck.
- (2) On hunts requiring hunter check-in and check-out of harvested deer, hunters should not record deer on the harvest record, but deliver the deer on the date of kill to the Wildlife Resources Division check station on the area where department personnel will provide a special WMA deer tag. On all other deer hunts, the

hunter's deer harvest record must be completed and harvested deer signed out on the date of kill at the Wildlife Resources Division check station, unless otherwise provided.

- (3) All bears killed during open seasons must be checked at the check station on same date as killed. If check station is unmanned, kills must be listed on check-out forms provided at check station and reported within 24 hours to one of the following Game Management offices: Gainesville, Armuchee, or Fitzgerald, or by calling the department's published toll-free telephone number (800-241-4113). No processed bear, except those killed in Federal Wilderness Areas, may be possessed without notifying department personnel.
- (4) It is unlawful for any person to fail to record the harvest of any turkey on a WMA at the check station of such WMA, unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (5) Any person hunting during a big game hunt on a wildlife management area shall possess a valid big game license.
- (6) Man-drives are prohibited during deer hunts. A man-drive is defined as an organized hunting technique involving three (3) or more hunters using a coordinated effort to drive animals from cover to another hunter for the purpose of shooting.

391-4-2-.67 Small Game Regulations on Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) During small game hunts, hunters are allowed to hunt any small game in season subject to state seasons, regulations and bag limits except as may otherwise be provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (2) No check-in is required for small game hunting unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (3) Small game hunting is not allowed during archery and primitive weapons deer hunts, during managed firearms hunts, and the day preceding managed firearms hunts unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (4) Doves and waterfowl may be hunted when in season during archery deer hunts.
- (5) Only waterfowl hunting can take place on managed impoundments during waterfowl hunting dates. Waterfowl on all other WMA locations may be taken any day of the waterfowl seasons whenever the area is open for small game hunting unless otherwise specified.
- (6) On quota waterfowl hunts, hunters must hunt from assigned areas. Shooting hours begin in accordance with applicable federal regulations and end at 12:00 noon except on the last Saturday of the season during which hunters are allowed to shoot until sunset.
- (7) No night hunting is allowed on any WMA except for raccoon, fox, opossum, or bobcat on open dates from 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 noon the following day. When hunting fox or bobcat at night no centerfire weapons of .17 caliber or larger may be used. Raccoon, fox, opossum, or bobcat may not be hunted during firearms deer hunts.
- (8) Raccoon, opossum, fox and bobcat may be hunted within statewide seasons during small game and furbearer dates, unless otherwise specified; electronic calls may not be used.
- (9) Permitted alligator hunters may hunt during day or night on open dates unless otherwise specified according to 391-4-2-.70.
- (10) Coyotes may be taken during all big and small game hunts but weapon types are restricted to only those weapons allowed for the game species in season.
- (11) During special coyote hunts, there are no firearms restrictions unless otherwise specified in Rule 391-4-2-.70. Possession or use of buckshot is prohibited.
- (12) Electronic calls may be used when hunting coyotes, crows and feral hogs.

391-4-2-.68 Training of Hunting Dogs on Wildlife Management Areas

- (1) The training of hunting dogs for hunting any particular species may occur only during dates open for hunting such species on each WMA, unless otherwise specified, and in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 27-3-16.
- (2) There is no limit on the number of trail dogs for rabbit, fox, squirrel, raccoon, bobcat or opossum unless otherwise provided in Rule 391-4-2-.70.
- (3) Trail dogs for rabbit are limited to beagles, bassets and dachshunds only.
- (4) Dogs are not allowed for pursuing big game or for pursuing or catching hogs unless otherwise specified in rules 391-4-2-.70, 391-4-2-.71 and 391-4-2-.73. Hunters whose dogs are found in violation of this regulation shall be deemed in violation of O.C.G.A., Section 27-1-33.
- (5) On bird dog training areas, as indicated in 391-4-2-.70 for individual WMAs, dog training is restricted to designated portions of WMA only and is allowed year-round and during daylight hours only unless otherwise specified in rule 391-4-2-.70. Pen-reared quail or pigeons may be used during training exercises on bird dog training areas in accordance with O.C.G.A. 27-3-16.
- (6) Field trials may be held on wildlife management areas provided the organizer has the proper permit authorized by O.C.G.A. Section 27-2-21. The conditions provided in the permit shall be met. No permits will be issued if there are conflicts with area objectives as determined by the department.
- (7) It is unlawful for any person to fail to remove his/her dog(s) from a WMAs upon his/her departure from such WMA.

391-4-2-.70 Effective 4/6/2017 Wildlife Management Areas and Other State Lands

**391-4-2-.70
Wildlife
Management
Areas and Other
State Lands. The
following species
may be hunted on
State areas in
accordance with
restrictions set
forth below
except as
prescribed in 391-
4-2-.60 through
391-4-2-.68.**

Area	Deer,	Archery	Either-sex Except as Noted
Deer,	Firearms	Antlered	Bucks
Deer,	Firearms	Either-sex	Deer,
Primitive	Weapons	Either-sex	Except as Noted
Bear	Turkey	Small Game and Furbearers	Migratory Birds Special Regulations
Special Regulations For - Raccoon	Fox	Bobcat	Opossum
Feral	Hogs		

ALBANY NURSERY WMA	Dec 12, 2015-Jan 9, 2016 & Dec 10, 2016-Jan 8, 2017;		Sign-In	No Season
Physically Disabled Persons Only:	Nov 5-8, Dec 3-6, 2015 & Nov 3-6, Nov 30 - Dec 4, 2016;		Sign-In,	Shotgun Only
No Season	No season	Physically Disabled Persons only:		Apr 9-15, May 7-13, 2016 and Apr 8-14, May 6-12, 2017; Quota 2, Sign-in
Adult /Child Only Apr 2-8, Apr 23-29, 2016 & Apr 1-7, Apr 22-28, 2017	Quota 1,		Sign-in	Aug 15-Nov 1, 2015, Feb6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 2016 & Aug 15-Oct 30, 2015, Feb 11-12, 18-19, 25-26, 2017; Sign-In, Shotgun Only
Quail: Jan 16, 23, Jan 30, 2016 & Jan 21, 28, Feb 4 2017;	Quota 1 party/hunt, Max. 3 persons/party,		Sign-In	Dove: A, except Sept 5, 2015 & Sept 3, 2016; Quota 35, Sign-In
Waterfowl: State Holidays & Sat Only, Jan 16 through end of statewide season.		C		
albany nursery wma	Physically Disabled hunt for wheelchair hunters only. Physically Disabled hunters should apply by letter by Mar. 10 to Albany Nursery Quota Turkey Hunt, Game Management, 2024 Newton Road, Albany, Georgia 31701. Include a phone number. Each wheelchair hunter may bring an attendant if needed who may provide assistance but not hunt. Bag limit on quota quail hunt is 6 quail/person or 12 quail/party.			
ALEXANDER WMA		C	Sign-in	No Season
State Season through Nov 30;		Sign-In	No Season	No Season

State Season,	Sign-In	D & Q	A
First Sat of dove season;	Quota 50	C	
alexander wma	No Camping in area.		
ALLATOONA WMA	B	Sign-In	Nov 16-22, 2015 & Nov 14-20, 2016; Sign-In
Honorary License, Ladies & Adult/	Child:	Oct 17-18, 2015 & Oct 22-23, 2016;	Sign-In
General Hunt:	Oct 31- Nov 15, Nov 23, 2015-Jan 1, 2016 & Nov 5-Nov 13, 2016, Nov 21, 2016- Jan 1, 2017;	Sign-In	During deer hunts.
State Season,	Sign-In	A	C
Except during managed deer hunts	C		
allatoonawma	No firearms allowed in US Corps of Engineers developed campsites. Horse and bicycle trails and areas are closed all day during managed deer hunts and before 10:00AM EST during other deer seasons and turkey season. ATVs prohibited.		
ALLIGATOR CREEK WMA	No Season	No Season	No Season
No Season	No season	Mar 25-	May 15, 2017;
Sign-In	No Season	No Season	C
alligator creek wma			
ALTAMA PLANTATION WMA	Dec 31, 2015-Jan 10, 2016; Sept 10-Nov 6, 2016, Dec 31, 2016-Jan 8, 2017; Sign-In	No Season	Adult-Child Dec 28-30, 2015 & Dec 28-30, 2016; Check-In
Nov10-12, Dec 1-3, 2016 Quota 50, Sign-in	No Season	No Season	Adult/Child
Apr2-10, 2016& Apr 1-9, 2017, Quota 20.	Apr 15-22, Apr 29-May 6, 2016& Apr 14-21, Apr 28-May	Adult/Child May 7-15, 2016& May 6-14, 2017; Sign-In	Jan 11-Feb 29, Aug 15-Sept 9, Nov 13-Nov 27, Dec 4-25,

	5, 2017 Quota 20; Sign-In		2016, Jan 9-Feb 28, 2017; Sign-In
B	No Season		C
altamaplantationw ma			
ALTAMAHA WMA - BUFFALO SWAMP & LEWIS ISLAND TRACTS	A	Sign-in	Oct 24-Nov 1, Dec 5-13, 2015 & Oct 29-Nov 6, Dec 3- 11, 2016; Sign-In
Oct 8-10, Nov 12- 14, 2015 & Oct 13- 15, Nov 10-12 2016; Check In	Nov 21-29, Dec 19- 27, 2015 & Nov 19- 27, Dec 24, 2016- Jan 1, 2017; Sign in	Oct 11-18, 2015 & Oct 16-23, 2016; Sign-In	No Season
State Season,	Sign-In	B except during firearms deer hunts	B
C and	Dog Hunting Allowed: Jul 31- Aug 2, 2015, Mar 4-6, May 20-22, Aug 5-7, 2016, Mar 3-5, May 19-21, 2017	Sign-in	No dogs allowed: Aug 3-14, 2015, Mar 7-15, May 23- 31, Aug 8-14, 2016, Mar 6-15, May 22- 31, 2017
Sign-in	This area includes those lands part of the Altamaha WMA west of Butler & Champney Islands. Fluorescent orange required during special firearms hog hunts.. Hogs may not be removed from the WMA alive. Reporting location for Check-In hunts will be the Townsend WMA check station located on Townsend-Cox Rd 0.75 miles south of Steel Bridge Rd		
ALTAMAHA WMA -WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA	A &	Oct 10-Nov 10, 2015 and Oct 15- Nov 10, 2016; Sign-In	No Season
No Sesaon	No Season	No Season	No Season
Aug 15-Nov 10 & First day after Waterfowl season until last day in Feb.	Rabbits:	Daily Limit 6/day/person &	Butler Refuge Special Archery Youth only: Jan 16- 18, 2016 & Jan 14- 16, 2017

Waterfowl: Wed/Sat/Sun/State
Holidays; Shooting
hours are until 12
noon & until sunset
on last day of
season.

Butler Island:
Saturday only;

Quota 25,

Check-In 5:00 a.m.
EST.

Doves: A

Snipe: Wed - Sun &
state holidays
during state
season, except on
Butler Island which
opens only after the
last Saturday of
waterfowl season

C

Except waterfowl
impoundments are
open only during
archery deer
hunting dates and
after last Saturday
of waterfowl
season. Special
Hog Hunt: March 1-
May 15. Small
game weapons
only; no center-fire
weapons.
Fluorescent orange
required.. Hogs
may not be
removed from the
WMA alive.

**altamahawma-
waterfowl
management area**

This area includes
Broughton, Butler,
Champney &
Rhett's Islands.
Butler Refuge
(located on Butler
Island east of HWY
17) and Ansley
Hodges MARSH
Project (located just
west of HWY 17 on
Champney Island)
are closed to
firearms at all
times, but open to
hog and deer
hunting during
archery deer
season and rabbit
hunting with
archery equipment
only after last
Saturday of
waterfowl season.
Airboats are
prohibited inside
managed waterfowl
impoundments.
Access to Rhett's

Island at designated crossover sites only. Boats are restricted to one motor of 25 hp or less as determined by the manufacturer's plate. Stand-by hunters will be issued unfilled blinds (for a total of 25 blinds) on quota hunts based on drawing conducted at check station. Maximum of 3 persons per blind area. Rhetts Island is closed to fishing, shrimping, & crabbing during early teal season & the statewide waterfowl season. Butler Island ponds and impoundments closed to cast netting.

ARROWHEAD WMA

Dec 19, 2015 - Jan 3, 2016 & Dec 17, 2016 - Jan 7, 2017.

Sign-In

During deer hunts

April 9-15, 2016; Quota 2; April 16-22, 2016 Quota 2 & April 8-14, 2017 Quota 2; April 15-21, 2017 Quota 2, Sign-In

Sept 5-7, Oct 10-12, Nov 14-15, 2015, Jan 16-17, 2016 & Sept 3-5, Oct 8-10, Nov 12-13, 2016, Jan 21-22, 2017. Sign-In

Doves: B

Waterfowl:

Adult/Child: Sept 12, Dec 12, 2015, Jan 9, 2016 & Sept 10, Dec 10, 2016, Jan 14, 2017;

Sign-In

C

arrowhead wma

Shooting hours for waterfowl hunts until 12:00 noon.

B.F. GRANT

WMA

Quality Buck & Antlerless: Sept 17-20, 24-27, Oct 1-4, 2015 & Sept 15-18, 22-25, Sept 29-Oct. 2, 2016;

Sign-In

Quality Buck & Antlerless: Nov 5-7, Dec 3-5, 2015 & Nov 3-5, Dec 1-3, 2016;

Quota 400, Check-In

Quality Buck and Antlerless: Dec 17-19, 2015 & Dec 15-17, 2016;

Check-in

No Season

Adult/Child	Mar 26-Apr. 3, 2016 & Mar 25-Apr. 2, 2017;	Sign-In	Apr.4-10, 2016 & Apr. 3-9, 2017; Quota 80,
Sign-In	General Hunt:	Apr 11-May 15, 2016 & Apr 10-May 15, 2017;	Sign-In
A	Mandatory sign-in to hunt and sign-out of harvest	A	No Hunting on M.A.R.S.H. Ponds
C			
b.f. grant wma	Only bucks with a 15" outside spread or a 16" main beam are legal. No hunting on pastures.		
BALLS FERRY STATE PARK	C through Jan 1, except during firearms deer hunt.	Sept. 12 -Oct. 8, 2015, Oct. 17, 2015 -Jan. 1, 2016 & Sept 10-Oct 13, 2016, Oct 22, 2016 -Jan 1, 2017	Adult/
Child: Oct 10-16, 2015 & Oct 15-21, 2016	No Season	Adult/Child Firearms: Mar 26-Apr. 3, 2016 & Mar 25-Apr. 2, 2017,	General Hunt Archery
Only: Apr. 4-May 15, 2016 & Apr. 3-May 15, 2017	State Season except during firearms deer hunt	No Season	C
balls ferry state park	On adult/child hunts, only the youth can hunt. Camping prohibited.		
Bartram Forest WMA	C	Sign-In	Statewide Season,
Sign-In	B	C	C
bartram forest wma	Archery Only Area. Bartram Forest is a multiple-use recreation area; other users may be present during open hunting seasons. Gates may be opened or closed at the discretion of the Georgia Forestry Commission. Please see area maps for safety zones. Camping prohibited.		

BEAVERDAM WMA	Sept 12-25; Oct.3-9, 2015 & Sept 10-23; Oct 1-14, 2016;	Sign- In	Nov 26-28, Dec 16-19, 2015 & Nov 24-26, Dec 21-24, 2016;
Sign-In	Adult/	Child:	Sept 26-Oct 2,2015; & Sept 24-30, 2016;
Sign-In	Oct 29-31, 2015 & Oct 27-29, 2016; Check-In	No Season	No Season
State Season, C &	Sign-In Dog Hunts: Aug 8-9, 2015 & Mar 5-6, Aug 6-7 2016 & Mar 4-5 2017; Quota 3, Sign-In	A & Q	A
beaverdamwma	Fluorescent orange required during special firearms hog hunts. Dogs may be used to hunt hogs during the special firearms hog hunt only. Hogs may not be removed from the WMA alive.		
BERRY COLLEGE WMA	C through Jan. 1, except one day prior to & during manageddeer hunts, & except during quail season	Nov4-7, 2015 & Nov 2-5, 2016;	ESL2D,
Quota 1,000,	Check-In	Dec 2-5, 2015 & Nov 30-Dec 3, 2016;	Quota 1,000,
Check-In	Adult/Child & Ladies: Jan 9-10, 2016 & Jan 7-8, 2017; Check-In	During deer hunts	State Season,
Sign-In	A & Q	Small game may be hunted during statewide seasons within archery deer dates.	Sign-In
Training Season: Aug. 1-Mar. 19 except during and one day prior to managed hunts.	Note: Rabbit dogs may also be used on the Bird Dog Training Area	A	Sign-In
No night hunting	C		
berry college wma	ESL2D-Either Sex Last 2 days of each hunt. There is no		

open season for the taking of any wildlife on Berry College Refuge. No firearms or archery equipment allowed on refuge. Hunters may not use the main campus for gaining access. Horse, bicycle, and foot trails and areas are closed all day during firearms deer seasons. Horse and bicycle trails and areas are closed before 10:00AM during deer archery and turkey seasons. ATVs prohibited. Only child may hunt on adult/child deer hunt.

BIG DUKES POND WMA

A

Sign-In

No Season

State Season through Nov 30;

Sign-In

State Season,

Sign-In

No Season

State Season,

Sign-In

Wed -Sat during statewide seasons

Wed & Sat only during statewide seasons until noon.

No Season

C

big dukes pond wma

Camping, ATVs & horses prohibited.

BIG HAMMOCK WMA

B

Sign-In

Nov 6-7, Dec 2-5, 2015 & Nov 4-5, Dec 7-10, 2016;

Sign-In

Oct 21-24, 2015 & Oct 26-29, 2016;

Sign-In

Adult/

Child:

Nov 27- 29, 2015 & Nov 25-27, 2016;

Sign-In

Oct 8-10, 2015 &

Oct 13-15. 2016;

Sign-In

No Season

State Season,

Sign-In

A

B

C &

Dog Hunts: Aug 7-8, 2015 &

Mar 4-5, Aug 5-6, 2016 &

Mar 3-4. 2017; Quota 5, Sign-In

big hammock wma

No hunting from a tree stand within 50 feet of nature trailoff Mack Phillips Rd.If the river stage at the USGS Doctortown gauge is 9 feet or

higher the gates into the WMA will be closed. Fourscentorgange required during special hog hunts. Dogs may be used to hunt hogs during the special firearms hog hunt only. Hogs may not be removed from the WMA alive.

BIG LAZERCREEK WMA

Quality Buck & Antlerless: A & Dec 12-20, 2015 & Dec 10-18, 2016

Sign-In

Quality Buck General Hunt:

Oct 22-24, Nov 12-14, Dec 3-5, 2015 & Oct 20-22, Nov 10-12, Dec 1-3, 2016; ESLD,

Check-In

Quality Buck & Antlerless:

Adult/

Child -

Oct 3-4, 2015 & Oct 1-2, 2016;

Sign-In

Honorary License Holders/

Ladies/Youth :

Nov 15-17, 2015 & Nov 13-15, 2016;

Sign-In

No Season

No Season

Mar 26-Apr 3, Apr 9-17, 23-May 1, 2016 & Mar 25-Apr 2, Apr 8-16, 22-30, 2017;

Quota 50,

Sign-In

May 2-15, 2016 & May 1-15, 2017;

Sign-In

A and Dec. 12-20, 2015 & Dec. 10-18, 2016

Mandatory sign-in to hunt and sign-out of harvest

B

Big Lazer Creek PFA - Waterfowl: Wed & Sat during statewide season until noon.

Coyote: May 16-May 31, 2016 & May 16-31, 2017; Mandatory sign-in & sign-out harvest

C

big lazer creek wma

Antlered bucks must have a minimum of four (4) points (1 inch or longer) on one side of the antlers OR must have a minimum outside spread of 15 inches.ESLD = either-sex last day

BLANTON CREEK WMA

A

Quality Buck & Antlerless Sign-in

General Hunt: Quality Buck & ESLD:

Nov 5-7, 19-21,, 2015 & Nov 3-5, 17-19, 2016;

Quota 200,

Check-In

General Hunt:

Quality Buck & ESLD:	Dec 10-12, 2015 & Dec 8-10, 2016; Check-In	Adult/	Child:
Quality Buck & ES: Oct 10-11, 2015 & Oct 8-9, 2016;	Sign-In	No Season	No Season
Mar 26- Apr 3, Apr 9-17, 2016 & Mar 25- Apr 2, Apr 8-16, 2017;	Quota 35,	Sign-In	Apr 18-May 15, 2016 & Apr 17-May 15, 2017;
Sign-In	A	Mandatory sign-in to hunt and sign-out of harvest	A
Doves: 1st two Saturdays;	Quota 75	No Hunting in M.A.R.S.H. pond posted area	Coyote: May 16-May 31, 2016 & May 16-31, 2017; Mandatory sign-in & sign-out harvest
C			
blanton creek wma	Antlered bucks must have a minimum of four (4) points (1 inch or longer) on one side of the antlers OR must have a minimum outside spread of 15 inches. ESLD = either-sex last day.		
BLUE RIDGE WMA	B	Sign-In	Oct 28 - 31, 2015 & Oct 26 - 29, 2016 Buck Only & Nov 25 - 28, 2015 & Nov 23 - 26, 2016;
ESLD,	Check-In	Oct 7 - 11, 2015; ESL2D & Oct 12-16, 2016; ESL2D,	Sign-In
During deer hunts	State Season,	Sign-In	A
B	C		
blue ridge wma	ESLD-Either Sex Last day of each hunt. ESL2D-Either Sex last 2 days of each hunt.		
BROAD RIVER WMA	Sept 12 - Nov 30, 2015 & Sept 10 - Nov 30, 2016	State Season	A
B	No Season	C	
broad river wma			
BULLARD CREEK WMA	Sept 12-29, Oct 4-16, 2015 & Sept	Sign-In	Ocmulgee

	10-27, Oct 2-14, 2016;			
Tract:	C	Sign-In	Oct 21-24, Dec 17-19, 2015 & Oct 19-22, Dec 22-24, 2016;	
Sign-In	Adult/	Child:	Nov 6-8, 2015 & Nov 4-6, 2016;	
Sign-In	General Hunt:	Nov 25-28, 2015 & Nov 23-26, 2016;	Sign-In	
Oct 1-3, 2015 & Sept 29-Oct 1, 2016;	Check-In	No Season	State Season,	
Sign-In	A - Ocmulgee Tract open after deer season	B	C	
bullard creek wma	<p>Montgomery County Tract only: Access limited to foot or boat travel only and Antlered bucks may be harvested only if they have a minimum of 4 points on one side (Quality Buck##). No firearms deer hunting within designated archery-only areas (Ocmulgee, Montgomery County, and Towns Bluff Tracts) but legal firearms permitted for turkey and small game hunting.</p>			
CEDAR CREEK WMA	B	Sign-In	Oct. 15-17, Nov. 12-14, 2015 & Oct. 13-15, Nov10-12, 2016; ESLD,	
Check-In	Nov. 21-29, Dec. 17-20, 2015 & Nov. 19-27, Dec. 15-18, 2016;	Sign-In	Ladies/Honorary/Youth: Oct. 2-4, 2015 & Sept 30-Oct 2, 2016; Sign-in	
Adult/	Child:	Dec. 26-28,	2015 & 2016;	
Sign-In	No Season	No Season	State Season,	
Sign-In	A	Mandatory sign-in to hunt and sign-out of harvest	A	
Coyote: May 16-May 31, 2016 & May 16-31, 2017;.	C			

Mandatory sign-in
& sign-out harvest

cedar creek wma

ATVs prohibited.

**CEDAR CREEK
WMA - LITTLE
RIVER AREA**

C

Sign-in

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

State Season Sign-
in

B

B

No Season

C

**cedar creek wma
- little river area**

ATVs prohibited.
Camping
prohibited.

**CHATTA-
HOOCHEE BEND
STATE PARK**

No

Season

No

Season

Dec. 8-9, 2015 &
Dec 13-14, 2016;

Quota 100,

Check-In

No Season

No

Season

No

Season

No

Season

No

Season

B

**chattahoochee
bend state park**

Hunters must
attend a pre-hunt
meeting at 7:00
p.m. on, Dec. 7,
2015 and Dec, 12,
2016. Two (2) deer
limit must take doe
first on first day.
Hunt participants
will be charged a
\$30 non-
refundable, non-
transferable park-
hunting fee and a
\$5 ParkPass will be
required. Coyotes
may be taken
during deer hunts.
ATVs prohibited.
Campsites will be
available for hunter
use. Campsites
must be reserved
through the park
office (770-254-
7271). All park
access will be
closed to the
general public from
Dec. 8-9, 2015 and
Dec. 13-14 2016.

**CHATTA-
HOOCHEE WMA**

B

Sign-In

Except during
firearms bear and
hog hunts

Oct 28 - 31, Dec 9 - 12, 2015 Oct 26 - 29, Dec 7 - 10, 2016;	Check-In	Nov 21 - 29, 2015 & Nov 19 - 27, 2016; Sign-In	No Season
During deer hunts & Sept 26 - Oct 3, 2015; Sept 24 - Oct 1, 2016; Sign-in	State Season,	Sign-In	A
B	C &	Dog Hunts: Oct 13 - 16, 2015; Oct 11 - 14, 2016; Quota 10 parties, Sign-In	
chattahoocheewm a	Fluorescent orange required on special season hog hunts; big game weapons may be used; and hogs may not be removed from the WMA alive.		
CHATTAHOOCHEE FALL LINE WMA - ALMO TRACT	Quality Buck/Antlerless: Sept. 12-30, 2015, Dec. 26, 2015-Jan 1, 2016 & Sept 10-30, Dec 26, 2016 - Jan 1, 2017 Sign-In	Quality Buck/Antlerless:	Oct. 29-31, Nov 12-14, 2015 & Oct. 27-29, Nov 10-12, 2016; Quota 100, Check-In
No Season	Mar. 26-Apr 3, Apr. 9-17, 23-May 1, 2016 & Mar 25-Apr 2, 8-16, 22-30, 2017; Quota 50, Sign-In	May 2-15, 2016 & May 1-15, 2017; Sign-in	A, except for quail.
Quail: Dec. 5, 19, 2015, Jan 16, 2016 & Dec 3, 17, 2016, Jan 21, 2017. Quota 3 party/hunt, Max. 3 person/party Limit 6 quail/person or 12 quail/party	Mandatory sign-in and sign-out of harvest.	B	C
chattahoochee fall line - Almo	Only antlered bucks with at least 4 points (1 inch long or longer) on one side of the antlers or a 15 inch outside spread are legal. Hunting of fox squirrels is prohibited.		
CHATTAHOOCHEE FALL LINE WMA - BLACK JACK CROSSING	Quality Buck/Antlerless: C, Fridays through Sundays Only; Sign-In.	No Season	No Season

TRACT

No Season	No Season	State Season; Sign-in.	No Season
No Season	C		
Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA - Black Jack Crossing	Archery only for all hunting. Only antlered bucks with at least 4 points (1 inch long or longer) on one side of the antlers or a 15 inch outside spread are legal. No camping.		
CHATTAHOOCHEE FALL LINE WMA - FORT PERRY TRACT	Quality Buck/Antlerless: Sept. 17-19, 2015 & Sept 15-17, 2016; Quota 35, Check-In	No Season	Adult/
Child: Oct. 2-4, 2015 & Sept 30-Oct 2, 2016; Quota 35, Check-In	Hunt-to-Learn: Oct. 23-25, 2015 & Oct. 28-30, 2016; Quota 10, Check-In	Quality Buck & Antlerless: Nov. 5-7; 19-21, 2015 & Nov. 3-5, 17-19, 2016; Quota 35, Check-In	No Season
No Season	Mar. 26-28, Apr 8-10, 2016 & Mar 25-27, Apr 7-9, 2017; Quota 15, Sign-In	Adult/Child: Apr. 1-3, 2016 & Mar 31-Apr 2, 2017; Quota 15, Sign-in.	Hunt to Learn: Apr. Apr.22-24, 2016 & Apr. 21-23, 2017; Quota 15. Sign-in
General: May 1-15, 2016 & 2017; Sign-in.	A & Q (outside quota hunts), except for quail & rabbit hunt dates	Rabbit: Nov. 29, Dec. 13, 19, 26, 2015, Jan.9, 23, 2016 & Nov 27, Dec 11, 17, 24, 2016, Jan 14, 21, 2017. Quota 5 parties, Max 3 persons/ party, Limit 3 rabbits per person	Quail (quota 3) Nov. 28, Dec. 12, 2015 & Jan. 2, 2016 & Nov 26, Dec 10, 2016 Jan 7, 2017. Quota 3 party/hunt, Max. 3 person/party Limit 6 quail/person or 12 quail/party
Mandatory sign-in and sign-out of harvest.	B	C	
Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA - Fort Perry Tract	Only antlered bucks with at least 4 points (1 inch long or longer) on one side of the antlers or a 15 inch outside spread are legal. Hunting of fox squirrels is prohibited.		
CHESTATEE WMA	B	Sign-In	Oct 21 - 24, 2015 & Oct 12 - 15, 2016; ESLD, Check-In

Nov 18 - 21 and Dec 17 - 20, 2015 &	Nov 16 - 19 and Dec 15 - 18, 2016;	Check-In	No Season
During deer hunts	State Season,	Sign-In	A
B	C		
chestateewma	ESLD-Either Sex Last day of each hunt.		
CHICKASAW-HATCHEE WMA	B &	Sept 12-Oct 9, 2015, Jan 1-10 2016 & Sept 10-Oct 14, 2016, Jan 1-8, 2017;	Sign-In
No Season	Adult/	Child:	Nov 26-29, Dec 26-31, 2015 & Nov 24-27, Dec 26-31, 2016;
Sign-In	Nov 19-21, 2015, & Nov 17-19, 2016;	Quota 350,	Check-In
Dec 3-5, 2015 & Dec 7-9, 2016;	Quota 350, Sign-In	State Season	Sign-in
No Season	Mar 26-Apr 1, Apr 2-8, 2016 & Mar 25-31, Apr 1-7, 2017;	Quota 50,	Sign-In
General Hunt:	Apr 9-May 15, 2016 & April 8-May 15, 2017;	Sign-In	C &
Aug 15-Sept 10, Oct 19-29, Nov 3-19, Nov 24-26, Dec 2-3, Dec 8-24, Jan 1 - Feb 28, 2016 & Aug 15-Sept 8, Oct 23- Nov 17. Nov 23-25, Dec 1-2, Dec 10-24, 2016, Jan 1- Feb 28, 2017	Quail: Jan 23, Feb 6, 20, 2016 & Jan 31, Feb 4, 18, 2017; Quota 3 parties, Sign-In	Quail: 1 party/hunt and 3 persons/party. Bag limit on quail is 6 quail/person or 12 quail/party.	B
Dove: Designated Dove Fields - 1st Saturday of season is quota only;	Quota 40,	Dove season coincides with state season. Dove season closed during firearms deer hunts.	Sign-In
C and Aug. 3-9, 2015, May 17-22, June 5-11, Aug. 2-7, 2016 and May 16-21, 2017			
chickasawhatchee wma	Fluorescent orange required on special season hog hunts; hunting hogs with		

dogs prohibited. All other portions of WMA are open to dove hunting during statewide season concurrent with small game dates.

CLARKS HILL WMA

	Sept 12-23, Sept 28-Oct 9, 2015 & Sept 10-21, Sept 26-Oct 14, 2016;	Sign-In	No Season
Sept 25-27, 2015 & Sept 23-25, 2016; Check-In	Honorary License Holders & Adult/	Child:	Oct 23-25, 2015 & Oct 28-30, 2016;Sign-In
Nov 2-22, 2015 & Nov 7-27, 2016;Sign-In	State Season, Sign-in	No Season	State Season,
Sign-In	A	Sign-In	A
Except during managed deer hunts	1st Sat. of dove season,	Quota 30	Waterfowl hunting allowed any time during state waterfowl season

C and Mar. 5-13; May 16-31, 2016 and Mar. 4-12; May 16-31, 2017

Sign-in

clarks hill wma

Area west of U. S. Hwy. 78/Ga. Hwy. 17 open for hunting during statewide seasons only.

CLAYHOLE SWAMP WMA

	A &	Oct 17-Nov 13, Dec 21, 2015-Jan 10, 2016 & Oct 22-Nov 11, Dec 19, 2016-Jan 8, 2017	Sign-In
Archery	Only Area:	C	Sign-In
Nov 14-20, 2015& Nov 12-18, 2016	Sign-In	Adult/	Child: Sept 18-20, 2015 &Sept 16-18, 2016; Check In
Oct 1-3, 2015 & Sept 29-Oct 1, 2016;	Check-In	Nov 21-22, Dec 14-20, 2015 & Nov 19-20, Dec 12-18, 2016;	Sign-In
State Season	Sign-in	No Season	State Season
Sign-In	A	C	Except during Check-In deer hunts

C and

Aug 1-14, 2015; Mar 1-15, May 16-31, Aug 1-14, 2016; Mar 1-15, May 16-31, 2017; No dogs

Sign-in

allowed:

clayhole swamp wma

Horseback riding prohibited during deer hunts. Archery Only Area: Area west of firebreak along Cowpen Swamp. Fluorescent orange required during special firearms hog hunts. Hogs may not be removed from the WMA alive.

CLYBEL WMA

	Sept 12-30, Nov 7-13, 2015 & Sept 10-30, Nov 5-11, 2016;	Sign-In	Oct 29-31, Nov 19-21, 2015 & Oct 27-29, Nov 17-19, 2016;
Quota 200,	Check-In	Adult/	Child:
Oct 2-4, 2015 & Oct 7-9, 2016;	(youth only can hunt),	Sign-In	&
Dec 18-20, 2015 & Dec 16-18, 2016;	Sign-In	Honorary License Holders/Ladies/Youth:	Nov 27-29, 2015 & Nov 25-27, 2016;
Sign-In	Hunt and Learn: Oct 9-11, 2015 & Oct 14-16, 2016; Quota 15, Sign-In	No Season	Adult/Child Mar 26-Apr. 3, Apr 9-17, 2016 & Mar 25-Apr. 2, Apr 8-16, 2017;
Quota 25,	Sign-In	&	May 9-15, 2016 & 2017; Sign-In
General Hunt:	Apr 18-24, Apr 25-May 1, 2016 & Apr 17-23, Apr 24-30, 2017;	Quota 25,	Sign-In
Hunt and Learn: May 6-8, 2016 & May 12-14, 2017; Quota 15, Sign-In	A	Adult/Child: Nov 14-15, 2015 & Nov 12-13, 2016	Daily limit 3 rabbits/person;
Daily limit 6 quail/person or 12 quail/party.	Hunt and Learn: Squirrel & Rabbit: Nov. 13-15, 2015 & Nov. 11-13, 2016	Hunt and Learn: Squirrel & Quail: Dec 4-6, 2015 & Dec 2-4, 2016	Hunt and Learn: Rabbit & Falconry: Jan 8-10, 2016 & Jan 6-8, 2017
Mandatory sign-in to hunt and sign-out of harvest	A	Dove - 1st Sat of Dove season;	Quota 200
Mandatory sign-in to hunt and sign-out of harvest	C		
clybelwma	The multi-use trail and areas are closed all day during firearms		

deer hunts and before 10:00 am daily during archery and turkey seasons. Multi-use trail users must obey rules posted at trailhead. For the Adult/Child small game weekend only the youth may hunt.

COHUTTA WMA	B	Sign-In	Oct 8-11, Dec 2-6, 2015 & Oct 13-16, Nov 30-Dec 4, 2016;
Check-In	During deer hunts	Sign-in	State Season,
Sign-In	A	B	C
Dog Hunt: Mar 5-11, 2016 & Mar 4-10, 2017; Sign-in			
cohuttawma	Big game weapons may be used during Special Season hog hunt and fluorescent orange required.		
CONASAUGA RIVER WMA	C through Jan. 1 except during waterfowl hunts, Sign-In	No Season	No Season
No Season	During deer hunts	April 9-15, 2016; Quota 2; April 16-22, 2016 Quota 2 & April 8-14, 2017 Quota 2; April 15-21, 2017 Quota 2, Sign-In	A
Closed during waterfowl hunts	Waterfowl: Saturdays only from Dec. 19, 2015 and December 17, 2016 through the end of the respective state waterfowl seasons. Quota 3 parties/hunt, Sign-In; Shooting hours are until 12 noon	No Season	C
conasauga river WMA			
COOPER'S CREEK WMA	B	Sign-In	Except during firearms bear and hog hunts
Dec 9 - 12, 2015 &	Check-In	Adult/	Child:

Dec 7 - 10, 2016;			
Oct 2 - 3, 2015 & Sept 30 - Oct 1, 2016;	Check-In	Nov 4 - 7, 2015 & Nov 2 - 5, 2016;	Check-In
During deer hunts	State Season,	Sign-In	A
B	C &	Dog Hunts: Oct 7 - 10, 2015 & Oct 5 - 8, 2016; Quota 10 parties, Sign-In	
cooper's creek wma	Fluorescent orange worn above the waist is required on special season hog hunts; big game weapons may be used; and hogs may not be removed from the WMA alive.		
COOSA-WATTEE WMA	B	Sign-In	No Season
Adult/	Child:	Nov 6-8, 2015 & Nov 4-6, 2016;	Check-In
General Hunt:	Nov 12-14, 2015 & Nov 10-12, 2016;	Quota 400, Check- In	Dec 17-19, 2015 & Dec 15-17, 2016;
Quota 400,	Check-In	No Season	During deer hunts
State Season,	Sign-In	A & Q	Training Season: Aug 1-Mar. 19 except one day prior to & during managed hunts.
Note: Rabbit dogs may also be used on the Bird Dog Training Area	B	C	
coosawatteewma	ATVs prohibited. Only child may hunt on adult/child deer hunt.		
COOSAWATTEE			
CARTER'S LAKE ARCHERY AREA	Sept 12-Oct 16, Nov 9, 2015-Jan 1, 2016 & Sept 10-Oct 21, Nov 7, 2016- Jan 1, 2017;	Sign-In	No Season
Physically Disabled:	Nov 6-8, 2015 & Nov 4-6, 2016;	Quota 40, Check-In	No Season
During deer hunts	State Season,	Sign-In	A
Rabbit Dog Training Season: On Wed/Fri/SatNov 1-Feb28 (each	B	Waterfowl: Statewide Season	C

year) in designated training areas

coosawattee carter's lake archery area

Physically disabled hunt for wheelchair hunters only: Hunters may apply by letter to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 975 Powerhouse Rd, Chatsworth, GA 30705 from Aug. 15-Sept. 10. ATVs prohibited. Rabbit dog training allowed in designated areas during specified training season.

CORDELE HATCHERY

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

Adult/Child Waterfowl:

Dec 19, 2015, Jan 2, 16, 2016& Dec 17. 31, 2016, Jan 14, 2017;

Quota 3 parties/hunt, Max 3 persons per party

General Waterfowl: Nov 21, Dec 12, 2015& Nov 19, Dec. 10, 2016; Quota 3 parties/hunt, Max 3 persons per party

cordele hatchery

Hunting in designated pond only. Shooting hours end at 12:00 noon. No more than 3 persons total in a party including the permit holder on adult/child waterfowl hunts and 3 persons/party including permit holder on general waterfowl quota hunts. Any unfilled spots will be filled by a drawing of stand-by hunters the morning of the hunt.

CROCKFORD PIGEON MOUNTAIN WMA

C through Jan 1, except one day prior to & during managed deer hunts, & except during quail season;

Sign-In

Nov 12-14, 2016 & Nov 10-12, 2017 ESLD Check-In

Dec 9-12, 2015 and

Check-In

Adult/

Child, Honorary &

Dec 7-10, 2016 BO

Ladies: Oct 17-18,
2015 & Oct 15-16,
2016;

Check-In	During deer hunts	State Season,	Sign-In
A & Q	Small game may be hunted during statewide seasons within archery deer dates. Daily limit of 3 rabbits per person.	Sign-In	Training Season: Aug. 1-Mar. 19 except one day prior to & during managed hunts
Note: Rabbit dogs may also be used on the Bird Dog Training Area.	A	Coyote:	Mar 1-24, 2016 & Mar 1-23, 2017;
Sign-In	C		
crockford- pigeon mountain wma	ESLD-Either Sex Last Day of each hunt. Horse, bicycle, caving, hiking, rock climbing, parasailing and hang-gliding trails and areas are closed all day during firearms deer seasons. Horse and bicycle trails and areas are closed before 10:00AM during deer archery and turkey seasons. Coyotes may be hunted during March season with small game weapons only; no night hunting. ATVs prohibited. Firearms restrictions apply to certain portions of the WMA. Consult WMA map for specific locations.		
DAWSON FOREST WMA	Quality Buck & Antlerless: A Sign-In	Quality Buck Oct 21 - 24, 2015 & Oct 26 - 29, 2016; ESL2D Nov 11 - 14 and Dec 3 - 6, 2015 & Nov 9 - 12 and Dec 1 - 4, 2016;	Check-In
Quality Buck & Antlerless	Adult/ Child:	Oct 10 - 12, 2015 & Oct 8 - 10, 2016;	Check-In
No Season	During deer hunts	State Season,	Sign-In

A	A	Waterfowl:	No hunting on, or within 50 yards of, managed duck impoundment behind horse camp
Coyotes: May 16-23; No night hunting.	C & May 16 - 23		
dawson forest wma	ESL2D: either sex last 2 days of hunt. Quality Buck: Antlered bucks must have a least four (4) points (1 inch or longer) on one side. Roads on the City of Atlanta tract are closed to vehicles daily from 10 PM-6 AM except for individuals legally camping, hunting or fishing on the area. On the City of Atlanta tract, horses and bicycles are restricted to designated trails and times. Other special rules apply to horses and bikes. Rules are posted at the trailhead. Developed trails are closed all day during firearms deer hunts and before 10:00am daily during archery and turkey seasons. Trail permits must be on person and completed to be valid.		
DILANE WMA	Quality Buck & Antlerless: A	Sign-In	No Season
Quality Buck & Antlerless: Oct 8-10, Oct 22-24, 2015 & Oct 13-15, Oct 27-29, 2016;	Quota 400, Check-In	&	Nov 12-14, 2015 & Nov 10-12, 2016; Check-In
No Season	No Season	Adult/Child: Mar 26-Apr 1, 2016 & Mar. 25-31, 2017, Quota 20, Sign-in	Apr 2-8, Apr 9-15, 2016 &
Apr 1-7, Apr 8-14, 2017,	Quota 30, Sign-In	General Hunt:	Apr 16-May 15, 2016 & Apr 15-May

			15, 2017;	
Sign-In	Small Game & Furbearers except Quail:	Aug 15-Sept 11, Oct 11-20, Oct 25-Nov 10, Nov 15-Dec 1, Dec 3-4, 6-8, 10-11, 13-15, 17-18, 20-22, 24-29, 31, 2015, Feb 1-2, 4-28, 2016 and South of Rocky Creek Jan 1-29, 2015		&
Aug 15-Sept 9, Oct 16-25, Oct 30-Nov 8, Nov 13-Dec 2, Dec 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 15-16, 18-20, 22-27, 29-30, 2016, Feb 1-3, 5-28, 2017; Sign-In	See map at check station for additional hunting opportunities.	Quail:		Adult/Child
Jan 30, 2016 & Feb 4, 2017;		Quail:	Wed & Sat in Dec by quota hunters.	Quail:
General Hunt	Dec 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 30, 2015, Feb 3, 2016 & Dec 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 28, 31, 2016, Feb 8, 2017; Quota 8 parties/hunt, Max. 3 persons per party,	Sign-In		Dove:First Sat of dove season ;Field 1, Quota 100 & Field 2, Adult/Child, Quota 75
Sept 12, 19, Oct 17, 31, Nov 26-Dec 1, 2015 and South of Rocky Creek: Jan 1-15, 2016:	Sept 10, 17, Oct 8, 22, Nov 25-Dec 2, 2016 and South of Rocky Creek: Jan 1-15, 2017	Designated fields only		Waterfowl:
Area-wide during state season on dates open for small game		C		
di-lane wma	Only bucks with at least four points on either side are legal. For information on bird dog field trials call 706-595-4222. Bird dog training allowed on wild quail only Nov 20-22, 2015 and Nov 18-20, 2016. Bag limit on quail is 6/person or 12/party. Quail hunters may take woodcock, snipe and other game birds with an open state season.			

DIXON BAY WMA	C through Nov. 13, 2015 & Nov. 11, 2016	Sign-In	No Season
No Season	Nov 14, 2015-end of statewide deer season & Nov 12, 2016-end of deer season; Sign-In	No Season	State Season,
Sign-In	B	Alligator hunting prohibited.	A
No Season	C		
dixon bay wma	Either-sex deer primitive weapons dates follow Screven County either sex dates.		
DIXON MEMORIAL WMA	B	Sign-In	Oct 17-18, 24-27, 2015 & Oct 22-23, 29-Nov 1, 2016;
Sign-In	Nov 5-7, 2015 & Nov 10-12, 2016;	Check-In	Nov 25-29, 2015 & Nov 23-27, 2016;
Sign-In	Dog Hunting - Shotguns with buckshot only:	Nov 14, Dec 5, 2015 & Nov 19, Dec 10, 2016;	Quota 60,
Sign-In	Sept 30-Oct 3, 2015 &	Oct 5-8, 2016;	Check-In
Oct 8-10, 2015 &	Oct 13-15, 2016;	Sign-In	Archery Only:
Sept 24-26, 2015 & Sept 29-Oct 1, 2016;	Sign-In	Primitive Weapons:	Oct 1-3, 2015 & Oct 6-8, 2016; Check-In
Oct 8-10, 2015 & Oct 13-15, 2016; Sign-In	Firearms: Nov 5-7, 2015 & Nov 10-12, 2016;	Check-In	State Season,
Sign-In	State Season Except one day prior to & during Check-In deer hunts	B	C
dixon memorial wma	Airboats prohibited. Alligators may not be taken on Laura S. Walker State Park or the Federal portion of Cowhouse Island. Bears may not be taken on the Federal portion of Cowhouse Island. All dogs used in the dog deer hunt must be marked with the selected hunter's name and phone		

number. The designated dog hunting section of the WMA is closed to all users during dog deer hunts except to hunters with a valid quota permit.

DODGE PFA

Nov 5-8, 11-15, 2015& Nov 3-6, 9-13, 2016; Sign-In.

Adult/Child Apr 1-2, 8-9, 2016& Apr 7-8, 14-15, 2017; Quota 2, Sign-In.

Quail-Adult/Child:

Dec 5, 2015& Jan. 16, 2016; Dec. 3, 2016& Jan. 14, 2017;

Quota 1 party (1adult, 2 children/party), Sign-In.

Alligator Sept 18-20, 2015 & Sept 16-18, 2016;

Sign-In

No Season

dodge pfa

All hunters must sign-in at the PFA office prior to hunting. A party quail limit of 8 birds will apply. Alligators may be hunted at night only.

DOERUN PITCHER PLANT BOG WMA

C

Sign-In

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

Adult /Child Turkey: Mar 26-27, Apr 2-3, 2016 & Mar 25-26, Apr 1-2, 2017

Quota 1

Sign-in

C

B

C

doerunpitcherplant bog wma

Fox squirrel hunting prohibited.

DRY CREEK NATURAL AREA

None

None

None

None

None

None

None

None

None

None

dry creek natural area

Hunting is prohibited on this area.

DUKES CREEK STATE PARK

Sept 18 - 20, Oct 9 - 11, 2015 & Sept 16 - 18, Oct 7 - 9, 2016;

Sign-In

Dec 2 - 5, 2015 & Nov 30 - Dec 3, 2016, Sign-In

Adult/ Child & Honorary License Holders:

Oct 16 - 17, 2015 & Oct 21-22, 2016;

Sign-In

Nov 11 - 14, 2015 & Nov 9 - 12, 2016; ESL2D,

Sign-In	During deer hunts.	Apr 1 - 3, Apr 15 - 17, Apr 29 - May 1, 2016 &	Mar 31 - Apr 2, Apr 14 - 16, Apr 28 - 30, 2017;
Quota 20,	Check-In	Every other Thurs through Sat starting the Thurs after Thanksgiving through the first Sat in Feb except during deer hunts. Hunting by reservation only.	Maximum 25 hunters per hunt period.
Sign in & Sign out.	B	Nighttime furbearer hunting by reservation only during small game dates.	Maximum 10 hunters per hunt period.
Sign in,	Sign out	A	
dukes creek state park	ESL2D - Either Sex Last 2 Days of each hunt. Reserve small game hunt days by telephone (706-878-3087) beginning Nov. 1. Reserve furbearer hunt days by telephone (706 878-3087) beginning Nov. 1.		
ECHECONEE CREEK WMA	C	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	State Season,	Archery Only
A	No Season	No Season	C
echeconee creek wma	Archery Only Area for all hunting.. Camping prohibited.		
ELBERT COUNTY WMA	A	State Season through Jan 1	State Season through Jan 1
State Season	No Season	State Season	D
B	C		
elbert county wma	Beverly tract deer hunting is archery only. Sign-In required for deer and turkey only on Vaughter Tract. Camping prohibited		
ELMODEL WMA	C Sign-In	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	State Season, Sign-In	B & Q, Sign-In

Quail: Dec 19, 2015-Jan 2, 2016, Jan 16-24, Jan 30- Feb 7, 2016 & Dec17, 2016-Jan 1, 2017, Jan 14-22, Jan 28-Feb 5, 2017.	A	No fox or bobcat hunting	C
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ELMODEL WMA

EVANS PFA	Alligator: Sept 11- 13, 2015&	Sept 9-11, 2016;	Sign-In
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Waterfowl- Adult/Child:	Nov 21, Dec 12, 2015& Nov 19, Dec 10,2016;	Quota 3, Sign-In	General Hunt:
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Jan 2, 2016& Jan 7, 2017;	Quota 3,	Sign-In	
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evanspfa

All hunters must sign-in at the PFA office prior to hunting. Maximum of 3 hunters per blind. Shooting hours are until noon. No boats allowed. Hunting allowed in waterfowl impoundment only. Parties must hunt in designated spots, must stay together and must stay within 100 feet of blind marker except when retrieving game. Alligators may be hunted at night only.

F. D. ROOSEVELT STATE PARK	No Season	No Season	Dec 6-7, 2016;
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Quota 150,	Check-In	No Season	No Season
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No Season	No Season	No Season	No Season
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B

**f. d. roosevelt
state park**

Hunters must attend a pre-hunt meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Dec. 5, 2016. Two (2) deer limit. Hunt participants will be charged a \$30 non-refundable, non-transferable park-hunting fee and a

\$5 ParkPass will be required. Coyotes may be taken during deer hunts.

ATVs prohibited. Cabin and campsites will be available for hunter use. Cabins and campsites must be reserved through the FDR park office 706-663-4858. All park facilities will be closed to the general public from Dec 6-7, 2016.

FALL LINE SANDHILLS WMA

	C	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	State Season	B & Q
C	C		

fall line sandhillswma

Bird dog training allowed August 15 - March 15 only. Hunting of fox squirrels is prohibited. Camping prohibited.

FISHING CREEK WMA

	A	Sign-In	State Season through Jan 1;
Sign-In	State Season through Jan 1;	Sign-In	State Season,
Sign-In	No Season	State Season,	Sign-In
D	C	Waterfowl: Wed. & Sat. until noon only during State Season on waterfowl impoundments.	C

fishing creek wma

FLAT CREEK PFA

	C	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	State Season	B & Q
Doves: A	Waterfowl: First two Saturdays of Waterfowl season (excluding Teal season);	Quota 3 parties.	Wed. & Sat during teal season & after quota hunts during statewide season.

C & Aug 15-17, 2015, Jan 29-31, 2016 & Aug 15-17,

2016, Jan 27-29,
2017

flat creek pfa

Bird dog training allowed August 15 - March 15 only. Waterfowl shooting hours end at 12:00 noon. No more than 3 persons total in a party including the permit holder on quota waterfowl hunts. Camping prohibited. Flat Creek PFA is closed Monday & Tuesdays.

FLAT TUB WMA

A

No Season

Oct 17-Nov 30, Dec 26, 2015-Jan. 10, 2016 & Oct 22-Nov 30, Dec 26, 2016-Jan 10, 2017;

Sign-In

State Season

No Season

State season

B

C

Coyote: Mar. 1-15, 2016 & 2017

C

flat tub wma

ATVs prohibited.

FLINT RIVER WMA

Quality Buck & Antlerless: Sept 12-Oct 9, Nov 21-Dec 13, 2015 & Sept 10-Oct 8, Nov 19-Dec 10, 2016; Sign-In

No Season

Quality Buck & Antlerless:

Oct 29-31, Nov 12-14, 2015 & Oct. 27-29, Nov 10-12, 2016; Quota 35, Check-In

Adult Child and physically disabled hunters only::

Oct 16-18, 2015 & Oct 20-22, 2016

Quota 35 (for Adult/Child)

Sign-in

No Season

No Season

State Season,

Sign-In

Aug 15-Sept 10, Oct 11-14, Oct 19-22, Nov 2-11, Nov 15-19, Dec 14, 2015-Feb 28, 2016 & Aug 15-Sept 8, Oct 16-18, Oct 23-25, Oct 30-8, Nov 13-17, Dec 11, 2016-Feb 28, 2017;

Quail: State Holidays, Wed & Sat only during small game dates after Nov. 12, 2015 & Nov 18, 2016.

A

C and Aug. 3-9, 2015, May 17-22, June 5-11, Aug. 2-7, 2016 and May 16-21, 2017

flint river wma

Only bucks with 15"

outside spread or 16" main beams are legal. Fluorescent orange required on special season hog hunts; hunting hogs with dogs prohibited. Physically disabled hunters restricted to wheelchair-bound hunters only. Each wheelchair hunter may bring an attendant if needed who may provide assistance but not hunt.

FORT YARGO STATE PARK

	No	Season	No
Season	Dec. 6-7, 2016;	Quota 85,	Check-In
No Season	No	Season	No
Season	No	Season	No
Season	B		

fort yargo state park

Hunters must attend a pre-hunt meeting at 7:00 P.M. on Dec. 5, 2016. Two (2) deer limit; must take doe first on first day. Hunt participants will be charged a \$30 non-refundable, non-transferable park-hunting fee and a \$5 ParkPass will be required. Coyotes may be taken during deer hunts. ATVs prohibited. Cabins yurts and campsites will be available for hunter use. Cabins and campsites must be reserved through the park office at 770-867-3489, all applicable fees will apply. All park facilities will be closed to the general public from Dec. 6-7, 2016.

GERMANY CREEK WMA

A	Sign-In	State Season through Jan 1
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Sign-In	State Season through Jan 1	Sign-In	State Season
Sign-In	No Season	State Season	Sign-In
D	Sign-In	B	B
C			
germany creek wma	Camping prohibited.		
GRAND BAY WMA	Sept 12-13, 19-20, 26-27, Nov 21-22, Dec 5-6, 19-20, 26-27, 2015, Jan. 2-3, 2016 & Sept 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, Oct 1-2, Nov 19-20, Dec 3-4, 17-18, 24-25, 2016, Dec 31, 2016-Jan. 1, 2017 ;	Sign-In	No Season
Adult/	Child:	Oct 10-11, 2015 & Oct 15-16, 2016;	Sign-In
General Hunt:	Oct 17-18, 2015 & Oct 22-23, 2016;	Check-In	Oct 24-25, Oct 31-Nov 1, 7-8, 14-15, 28-29, Dec 12-13, 2015 & Oct 22-23, Oct 29-30, Nov 5-6, 12-13, 26-27, Dec 10-11, 2016 ;
Sign-In	Oct. 3-4, 2015 & Oct 8-9, 2016;	Sign-In	No Season
Adult/	Child:	Mar 26-27, Apr 9-10, 2016 & Mar 25-26, Apr 8-9, 2017;	Sign-In,
Only the child may hunt	General Hunt:	Apr 16-17, 2016 & Apr 15-16, 2017;	Sign-In
Sat & Sun only. State season except during check-in deer hunts.	No shooting of fox squirrels allowed.	B - Except Ducks may be hunted on Sat. & Sun. only during state season.	Shooting hours for ducks end at 12 noon.
No Season	C		
grand bay wma	ATVs & motorcycles prohibited. No firearms hunting within designated archery-only areas. A valid Moody Air Force Base Hunting and Fishing Permit may be substituted for a WMA license. Alligator hunting Sat. and Sun. only during alligator		

season. Hiking trail beginning at check station is closed to hikers during firearms deer hunts. Harvested deer must be removed from the area whole (no field dressing). Federal lands within the WMA may be closed at any time for military training, see www.georgiawildlife.com/hunting/wildlife-management-areas.

GRIFFIN RIDGE WMA

	B	Sign-In	No Season
Adult/	Child:	Nov 6-8, 2015& Nov 4-6, 2016;	Check-In
Nov 12-14, 2015& Nov 10-12, 2016; Quota 100, Sign-In	Dec 10-12, 2015	&	Dec 8-10, 2016;
Quota 100,	Check-In	Oct 1-3, 2015& Sept 29-Oct1, 2016; Quota 100, Sign-In	No Season
Adult/Child Mar 26-27, 2016 & Mar 25-26, 2017;	Quota 25, Check In	General Hunt: Apr 2-8, Apr 16-22, Apr 30-May 6, 2016	&
Apr 1-7, Apr 15-21, Apr 29-May 5, 2017 Quota 25, Check-In	A	B	No Season

C

griffin ridge wma

ATVs & horses prohibited. Check-In & camping allowed only at Fountain Hole camping area.

HANNA-HATCHEE WMA

	A	Sign-In	State Season; Sign-in
State Season;	Sign-In	State Season; Sign-In	No Season
State Season,	Sign-In	B	B
Coyote: Jun 4-18, 2016 & Jun 3-17, 2017	C &	Aug 3-9, 2015, May 17-22, Jun 7-13, Jun 21-26, 2016 & Aug 1-7, 2016, May 16-21, Jun 6-11, Jun 20-	Sign-In

25, 2017;

hannahatcheewm a	Fluorescent orange required on special season hog hunts; hunting hogs with dogs prohibited.			
HARD LABOR CREEK STATE PARK		No	Season	No
Season	Nov 3-4, 2015 & Nov 1-2, 2016;		Quota 250,	Check-In
No Season		No	Season	No
Season		No	Season	No
Season		B		
hard labor creek state park	Hunters must attend a pre-hunt meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 2, 2015 and Oct. 31, 2016 for their prospective hunts. Two (2) deer limit. I Hunt participants will be charged a \$30 non-refundable, non-transferable hunting fee and a \$5 ParkPass will be required. Coyotes may be taken during deer hunts. ATVs prohibited. Cabins and campsites will be available for hunters to rent. Cabins and campsites must be reserved through the Hard Labor Creek State Park office at 706-557-3001. All park facilities and grounds will be closed to the general public Nov.3-4, 2015 and Nov. 1-2, 2016.			
HART COUNTY WMA		A	Sign-in	Oct. 17 - Nov 12, 2015 & Oct 22 - Nov 10, 2016
Sign-in	Nov 13 - 15, 2015 & Nov 11 - 13, 2016		Sign-in	State Season Sign-in.

During deer hunts	State Season	Sign-in	C & Q
A	A	C	
hart county wma			
HILTONIA WMA	C until Nov. 13, 2015 & Nov. 11, 2016	Sign-In	No Season
No Season	Nov 14, 2015-Jan. 1, 2016 & Nov 12, 2016-Jan 1, 2017;	Sign-In	No Season
State Season,	Sign-In	B	B
No Season	C		
hiltoniawma			
HORSE CREEK WMA	B &	Oct 12-Nov 2, 2015, Jan 1-10 2016 & Oct 10-31, 2016, Jan 1-8, 2017;	Sign-In
Nov 4-7, 2015 & Nov 2-5, 2016;	Sign-In	Honorary License Holders	& Adult/
Child:	Oct 10-11, 2015 & Oct 8-9, 2016;	Sign-In	General Hunt:
Nov 19-21, 2015 & Nov 17-19, 2016;	Check-In	Dec 10-12, 2015 & Dec 15-17 2016;	Sign-In
Sept 24-26, 2015 & Sept 22-24, 2016;	Sign-In	No Season	State Season,
Sign-In	C & Q	B	C
horse creek wma	Small Game and Furbearers may be hunted during January archery deer hunts. No firearms deer hunting within designated archery-only areas, but legal firearms permitted for turkey and small game hunting		
HUGH GILLIS PFA	Nov 5-8, 11-15, 2015 & Nov 3-6, 9-13, 2016; Sign-In.	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	Adult/Child Apr 12, 15-16, 2016 &	Mar 31-Apr 1, Apr 14-15, 2017; Quota 2, Sign-In.
No Season	No Season	C	
hughgillispfa	All hunters must sign-in at the PFA office prior to hunting. Camping		

	area and trail closed during hunts. Hunting in designate areas only.		
INDIAN FORD FARM DOVEFIELDS	Dove: Adult/Child Sept 12, 2015 & Sept 10, 2016;	Quota 50,	Sign-In
indian ford farm dove fields	Foot traffic only. Sign-in at check-in station at 12 P.M. on the day of the hunt. Hunting open only from Noon to 7 P.M. Hunters must use open gates, no climbing on fences.		
J.L. LESTER WMA	Nov 23-29, Dec 25, 2015-Jan 1, 2016 & Nov 21-27, Dec 25, 2016-Jan 1, 2017;	Sign-In	No Season
Adult/	Child:	Oct 3-4, 2015, Jan 9-10, 2016 & Oct 8-9, 2016, Jan 14-15, 2017;	Quota 20,
Check-In	No Season	During deer hunts	State Season,
Sign-In	Q	Training Season: Aug 1 through last day of February except during scheduled field trials, deer hunts, and one day prior to deer hunts.	Note: Rabbit dogs may also be used on the Bird Dog Training Area
Take seasons: Rabbit: Jan 2, Feb 28, 2016 & Jan 7, Feb 26, 2017;	Quota 5 parties, Max 3 persons/ party, Limit 3 rabbits per person/ 9 per party.	Quail Hunts: Jan 3, Feb 27, 2016, & Jan 8, Feb 25, 2017; Quota 4 parties,	Max 3 persons/ party,
Limit 6 quail per person/ 12 per party	Doves: Adult/Child Saturdays only first Season.	Waterfowl: State Season except during field trials & deer hunts.	Coyote:
Mar 12-25, 2016 & Mar 11-24, 2017;	Sign-In	C	
j.l. lesterwma	Coyotes may be hunted during March season with small game weapons only; no night hunting. ATVs prohibited.		
JOE KURZ WMA	Quality Buck & Antlerless: Sept 12-20, Nov 8-15, 2015 & Sept 10-18, Nov.	Sign-In	Quality Buck:

	6-13, 2016;		
Oct 22-24, Nov 5-7, 2015 & Oct 20-22, Nov 3-5, 2016, ESLD;	Quota 100,	Check-In	Mar 26-Apr 3, Apr 9-17, 23-May 1, 2016 & Mar 25-Apr 2, Apr 8-16, 22-30, 2017;
Quota 25,	Sign-In	A, except for quail & Q	Quail: Dec. 26, 2015, Jan 10, 24, 2016 & Dec 26, 2016, Jan 9, 23, 2017. Quota 3 party/hunt, Max. 3 person/party
Daily limit 3 rabbits/person;	Daily limit 6 quail/person or 12 quail/party.	Mandatory sign-in to hunt and sign-out of harvest	A
C			
joe kurzwma	Antlered bucks must have a minimum of four (4) points (1 inch or longer) on one side of the antlers OR must have a minimum outside spread of 15 inches. ESLD - Either-sex last day of each hunt. Bird dog training allowed Aug. 15-Mar. 15 only in designated area.		
JOHN'S MOUNTAIN WMA	C through Jan. 1, except one day prior to & during manageddeer hunts,	Sign-In	Nov 27-29, 2015 & Nov 25-27, 2016
ESLD,	Check-In	Adult/	Child, Honorary, & Ladies: Oct 24-25, 2015 & Oct 29-30, 2016;
Check-In	Dec 27-28, 2015 & Dec 27-28, 2016.	Check-In	No Season
During deer hunts	Statewide Season,	Sign-In	A
Small game may be hunted during statewide seasons within archery deer dates.	B	C	
john's mountain wma	ESLD-Either Sex Last Day of each hunt. ATVs prohibited.		
KEG CREEK	C through Jan 1	Sign-In	No Season

WMA

No Season	No Season	No Season	State Season,
Sign-In	D	B	C

keg creek wma

Camping prohibited.

LAKE RUSSELL WMA

	B	Sign-In	Nov 25 - 28, 2015 & Nov 23 - 26, 2016;
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Check-In	Ladies &	Honorary license holders: Oct 23 - 25, 2015 & Oct 14 - 16, 2016;	Check-In
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Adult/	Child:	Nov 6 - 8, 2015 & Nov 4 - 6, 2016;	Check-In
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Dec 18 - 20, 2015 &	Dec 16 - 18, 2016;	Check-In	During deer hunts
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State Season, Sign-In	A	B	Coyotes: Mar 1 - 7;
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C & March 1 - 7

lake russellwma**LAKE SEMINOLE WMA**

State Season	State Season	State Season	State Season
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State Season	No Season	State Season	D
C	C		

lake seminolewma

No hunting within 200 yards of a house, dock, building or other structure.

LAKE WALTER F. GEORGE

	C	No Season	No Season
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No Season	No Season	State Season	B
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C	C;	Shotgun only during small game dates	
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lake walter f. george

Waterfowl hunting is permitted on portions of the lake in Georgia - except within 200 yards of a public park, road, cabin, or other developed areas.

Areas within Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge have separate regulations.

LITTLE SATILLA WMA

	A	Sign-In	State Season, Sign-In
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State Season, Sign-in	State Season, Sign-In	No Season	State Season,
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Sign-In	D	C	Coyote: May 16-31,
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2016 & May 16-31,
2017;

Sign-in		C		
little satillawma	No camping allowed.			
LOWER BROAD RIVER WMA	C through Jan. 1;		Sign-In	State Season through Jan. 1;
Sign-In	State Season through Jan. 1;		Sign-In	State Season;
Sign-In	No Season		State Season,	Sign-In
D	A		First Sat of dove season;	Quota 30
C and Mar. 5-13; May 16-31, 2016 and Mar. 4-12; May 16-31, 2017	Sign-in			
lower broad river wma	Camping prohibited. Fluorescent orange required during special hog hunts.			
LULA BRIDGE WMA	No Season		No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season		No Season	B
Waterfowl: Statewide Season	No furbearer hunting or training.		No Season	
lula bridge wma				
MAYHAW WMA	A		Sign-In	State Season,
Sign-In	Nov 22-29 & Dec 20-27, 2015 & Nov 20-27 & Dec 18-25, 2016; Sign-In State		State Season, Sign-in	No Season
State Season,	Sign-In		B	C
C				
mayhawwma				
MCDUFFIE PFA	Dove: Sept 5, 12, 19, Oct 10, 17, 24, 31, 2015 & Sept 3, 10, 17, Oct 8, 15, 22, 29, 2016;		Waterfowl:	Saturdays in Dec during statewide waterfowl season.
mcduffiepfa	Waterfowl hunting in designated ponds only. Shooting hours until 12:00 noon.			
MCGRAW FORD WMA	Sept 12-Dec 6, Dec 26, 2015-Jan 1, 2016 & Sept 10-Dec 4, Dec 26,		Sign-In	No Season

2016-Jan 1, 2017;			
No Season	No Season	Archery only during deer hunts	State Season,
Sign-In	A	C	C
mcgraw ford wma	Horse & bicycle trails and areas are closed all day during firearms deer season and before 10:00AM during deer archery and turkey season. ATVs prohibited.		
MEAD FARM WMA	C through Jan 1	Sign-In	No Season
No Season	No Season	No Season	State Season
B & Q	Dove: B	Waterfowl:	Wed & Sat only until 12:00 noon during statewide season dates. Dates open in Nov are Adult/Child only.
No Season	C		
mead farm wma	Foot traffic only.		
MISTLETOE STATE PARK	No	Season	No
Season	Nov. 15-16, 2016	Quota 75, Check-In	No Season
No	Season	No	Season
No	Season	No	Season
B			
mistletoe state park	Hunters must attend a pre-hunt meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Nov 14, 2016. Two (2) deer limit. Hunt participants will be charged a \$30 non-refundable, non-transferable park-hunting fee and a \$5 ParkPass will be required. Coyotes may be taken during deer hunts. ATVs prohibited. Cabin and campsites will be available for hunter use. Cabins and campsites must be reserved through the Mistletoe park		

office at 706-541-0321. All park facilities will be closed to the general public Nov. 15-16, 2016.

MONTEZUMA BLUFFS WMA	C;	Quality Buck & Antlerless;	Sign-In
No Season	No Season	No Season	No Season
Archery Only:	May 1-15, 2016 & May 1-15, 2017;	Sign-In	A
B	C		
montezuma bluffs wma	Only buck with 15" outside spread or 16" main beams are legal. No ATV's or horses allowed.		
MOODY FOREST WMA	No Season	No Season	Nov 1-Dec 15, 2015 & 2016;
Sign-In	No Season	No Season	Adult/Child
Mar 26-27, 2016 & Apr 1-16, 2016 & Mar 31-Apr 15, 2017;	Mar 25-26, 2017;	Sign-In	General Hunt:
Sign-In	Sign-In	Squirrel Only:	Dec 16, 2015-Jan 20, 2016 & Dec 16, 2016-Jan 20, 2017;
Sign-In	No other small game hunting allowed on this area. Hunting of fox squirrels is prohibited.	No Season	C
moody forest wma	ATVs prohibited. Sign in for squirrel hunting at East River Road Kiosk. Hunters should check East River Road Kiosk for current prescribed burning information.		
MORGAN LAKE WMA	C	Sign-in	No Season
No Season	No Season	No Season	State Season, Archery Only, Sign-In
B Archery Only	C Archery Only	C Archery only	
morgan lake wma	Area is archery only for all species. Campground and boat ramp are designated GORP areas.		

OAKY WOODS WMA	B	Sign-In	Oct 29-31, 2015 & Oct 27-29, 2016; Check-in
Dec 3-5, 2015 & Dec 1-3, 2016; ESLD,	Check-In	Dec. 31 2015 - Jan. 2, 2016 & Dec. 29-31, 2016;	Sign-In
Adult/	Child:	Oct 3-9, 2015 & Oct 1-7, 2016;	Sign-In
No Season	State Season,	Sign-In	A
Mandatory sign-in to hunt and sign-out of harvest	A	Coyote: May 16-May 31, 2016 & May 16-31, 2017; Mandatory sign-in & sign-out harvest	C & Special hog hunt Aug 15-17, 2015 & 2016; Sign-In
oaky woods wma	ESLD - Either Sex Last Day of hunt. Adult/Child hunt only the youth can hunt.. No hog hunting during the special coyote hunts.		
OCMULGEE WMA	B	Sign-In	Oct 22-24, 2015 & Oct 20-22, 2016; Check-in
Nov 19-21, 2015 & Nov 17-19, 2016; ESLD,	Check-In.	Dec 17-19, 2015 & Dec 15-17, 2016;	Sign-In
Adult/	Child:	Oct 3-9, 2015 & Oct 1-7, 2016;	Sign-In
No Season	No Season	Mar 26-Apr. 1, Apr. 2-8, 2016 & Mar 25-31, Apr. 1-7, 2017; Quota 120, Sign-In	General hunt: April 9-May 15, 2016 & Apr. 8-May 15, 2017;
Sign-In	A	Mandatory sign-in to hunt and sign-out of harvest	A
C & Special hog hunt Aug 15-17, 2015 & 2016; Sign-In			
ocmulgee w ma	ESLD - Either Sex Last Day of hunt. Adult/Child hunt only the youth can hunt.		
OCMULGEE WMA - GUM SWAMP CREEK TRACT	C	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	State Season,	Archery Only

B &Q	A	C	
ocmulgeewma - gum swamp creek tract	Dog training allowed only in open fields on Gum Swamp Creek Tract from Aug 15-31 & Nov 1-Mar 15. Camping prohibited.		
OCONEE WMA	A &	Nov 16, 2015-Jan. 1, 2016 & Nov 21, 2016-Jan. 1, 2017;	Sign-In
No Season	Oct 17-Nov 15, 2015 & Oct 22-Nov 20, 2016;	Sign-In	State Season, Sign-in
No Season	Mar 26-Apr 1, Apr 2-8, 2016 & Mar 25-31, Apr 1-7, 2017; Quota 30,	Sign-In	Apr 9-May 15, 2016, Apr 8-May 15, 2017; Sign-In
Aug 15-end of Feb. except during primitive weapons & firearms deer hunts.	Dove: A &	1st Sat of season; Quota 60 on managed dove fields,	Check-In
Waterfowl: Adult/Child	1st Sat. after Thanksgiving & Federal Youth Waterfowl Sat;	Quota 3 parties,	Sign-In
General Hunt:	Sat only during state waterfowl season after Nov 30; Impoundment 1: Quota 3 parties/hunt & Impoundment 3: Quota 2 parties/hunt,	Sign-In	C
oconeewma	No fishing or hunting (other than ducks & geese and archery deer hunting during statewide archery and Primitive Weapons season) on waterfowl impoundments. Waterfowl hunting on impoundment #1 open only to hunters selected in quota drawing. Waterfowl hunters are prohibited from entering impoundments before 05:00 AM on		

the day of the hunt and shooting hours end at 12 noon except on the last hunt of the season when shooting hours end at legal sunset. Herndon Pond and Impoundment 2 are closed to hunting. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited on the Oconee River between Wallace Dam and GA Highway 16. Handicapped quota hunters may request assistance by calling (770) 918-6416. Rock Hawk Effigy and Trails Regulations: deer hunting, archery only: statewide season until January 1. Small game hunting, small game weapons: November 15-last day of Feb. Turkey hunting, firearms: during the 2 quota hunt periods only; otherwise, turkey hunting is allowed with archery equipment during regular turkey season.

**OHOOPÉE
DUNES WMA**

C

Sign-In

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

State Season,

Sign-In

B

B

No Season

C

**ohoopee dunes
wma**

ATVs & horses prohibited. Dogs prohibited from Mar 1-Nov 1.

**OLIVER BRIDGE
WMA**

A

Sign-In

No Season

Oct 17-25, Nov 21-29, Dec 12-20, 2015 & Oct 22-30, Nov 19-27, Dec 17-25, 2016;

Sign-In

State Season Sign-In

No Season

State Season Sign-In	State Season except during firearms deer hunts	B	C
oliver bridge wma			
OSSABAW ISLAND WMA	Oct 22-24, 2015 & Oct 20-22, 2016 Quota 100,	Check-In	No Season
Adult/	Child:	Nov 26-28, 2015 & Nov 24-26, 2016;	Quota 75,
Check-In	Nov 12-14, Dec 10-12, 2015 & Nov 10-12, Dec 8-10, 2016;	Quota 100,	Check-In
Nov 5-7, 2015 & Nov 3-5, 2016;	Quota 100,	Check-In	No Season
No Season	No Season	No Season	No Season
B &	Jan 14-16, Feb 18-20, 2016 & Jan 12-14, Feb 16-18, 2017;	Quota 100,	Check-In
ossabaw island wma	<p>No access permitted to Ossabaw Island above the high tide mark. All hunter access to the area will be over the dock facilities at Newell Creek on the south end of the Island. Hunters on Ossabaw Island WMA will be required to furnish their own boat transportation to & from the Island. Limited docking space is available; some boats will have to stream anchor. Hunters may not enter upon Ossabaw Island until 12 noon EST one day prior to check-in. Hunters may check-in at 9:00 a.m. EST one-day prior to hunt & camps must be removed by 12:00 noon EST on the day following the hunt. No motorized vehicles allowed & only permitted activities allowed.</p>		

Hunters or their guests may not bring pets to Ossabaw Island, with exception given to assistance dogs partnered with persons with disabilities. Campfires used by hunters must be contained within the fire rings provided.

OTTING TRACT WMA C until January 1, except during Dec. 5-20, 2015 and Dec. 3-18, 2016 No Season No Season

No Season Archery only during deer hunts. State Season, Sign-In

C Sign-In B C

otting tract wma

PANOLA MOUNTAIN STATE PARK No Season No

Season Nov. 17-18, 2015 & Nov. 8-9, 2016; Quota 40, Check-In

No Season No Season

No Season No Season

No Season No Season

B

panola mountain state park

Hunters must attend a pre-hunt meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 16, 2015 and Nov. 7, 2016 for their respective hunts. Two (2) deer limit, must take doe first on first day. Note: Bag limit may be increased by (1) deer to be tagged by hunter - decision announced at pre-hunt meeting. Hunt participants will be charged a \$30 non-refundable, non-transferable park-hunting fee and a \$5 ParkPass will be required. Coyotes may be taken during deer hunts.

ATVs prohibited.
 Hunting within 50 yards of the PATH Trail is prohibited.
 Campsites may be available, call the park office at 770-389-7801 for more information. All park facilities will be closed to the general public from Nov. 17-18, 2015 and Nov. 8-9, 2016.

PARADISE PFA	No Season	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	No Season	No Season
Dove:	Adult/Child - Sept 5, 2015& Sept 3, 2016;	Sign-In	General Hunt: 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of 1st season, Wednesdays and Saturdays of 2nd and 3rdseasons, 2015& 2016;
Sign-In	Waterfowl:	Dec 17, 2015, Jan 7, 2016 &Dec 15, 2016, Jan 5, 2017;	Sign-In
No Season			
paradise pfa	Dove hunting in specified fields only; shooting hours follow state regulations. Waterfowl hunting allowed for ducks & geese in designated areas only. Shooting hours for waterfowl until 12:00 noon only on days open for hunting.		
PAULDING FOREST WMA	B	Sign-In	Nov 12-15, 2015, & Nov 10-13, 2016 ESL2D;
Check-In	Dec. 11-13, 2015 & Dec. 9-11, 2016 BO;	Sign-In	Adult/ Child:
Oct 10-11, 2015 & Oct 15-16, 2016;	Check-In	No Season	During Deer Hunts
State Season,	Sign-In	A & Q	Training Season: Aug 1-Mar 19 except one day prior to & during managed hunts.
Note: Rabbit dogs may also be used	B	Coyote:	Mar 1-25, 2016 & Mar 1-24, 2017;

on the Bird Dog
Training Area.

Sign-In C

**Paulding forest
wma**

ATVs prohibited.
Horse & bicycle
trails and areas,
except Silver
Comet Trail, are
closed all day
during firearms
deer hunts and
before 10A.M.
during archery deer
and turkey hunts.
Coyotes may be
hunted during
March season with
small game
weapons only; no
night hunting; and
coyote hunting is
prohibited in the
Bird Dog Training
Area. Only child
may hunt on
adult/child deer
hunt.

**PAULK'S
PASTURE WMA**

B

Sign-In

C

Archery Only area,

Sign-In

Oct 17-Nov 3, Nov
9-Nov 17, Nov 18-
24, 2015 & Oct 22-
Nov 1, Nov 7-Nov
15, Nov 16-22,
2016;

ESL2D, Sign-In

Dec 19-30, 2015
Jan 3-10, 2016 &
Dec 17-29, 2016,
Jan 1-8, 2017;

Sign-In

Adult/

Child: Sept 18-20,
2015 & Sept 16-18,
2016; Check In

Oct 1-3, 2015 &

Sept 29-Oct1, 2016
;

Check-In

Dec 13-18, 2015 &
Dec 11-16, 2016;
Sign-In

Dog Hunting:
Shotguns with
buckshot only:

Dec 4-5, Dec 11-
12, 2015, Jan 1-2,
2016 & Dec 2-3,
Dec 9-10, Dec 30-
31, 2016;

Quota 3,

Check-In

State Season,
Sign-In

No Season

State Season,

Sign-In

A

C

Except during
Check-In deer
hunts

C and

Aug 1-14, 2015;
Mar 1-15, May 16-
31, Aug 1-14, 2016;
Mar 1-15, May 16-

Sign-in

31, 2017; No dogs allowed:

paulk's pasture wma

ESL2D - Either-Sex
 Last 2 Days of each hunt.
 Camping is prohibited.
 Horseback riding prohibited during deer hunts. Apply for dog hunts through the online quota hunt system by Sept 1. Dog deer hunting allowed in designated area only. All dogs used in the dog deer hunt must be marked with the selected hunter's name and phone number. All vehicles used in the dog deer hunt must display permit in the windshield or on vehicle dash. A copy of the permit must be carried on person while hunting. The WMA will be closed to all users during dog deer hunts except to hunters with a valid permit. Fluorescent orange required during special firearms hog hunts.

PENHOLOWAY

SWAMP WMA	C	Except during primitive weapons and firearms deer hunts	Sign-In
C	Archery Only Area,	Sign-In	Dec 22-31, 2015 & Dec 22-31, 2016; Sign-In
Adult/ Child:	Sept 25-27, 2015 & Sept 23-25, 2016;	Check-In	Oct 8-10, 2015 & Oct 6-8, 2016;
Check-In	Nov 30-Dec 6, 2015 & Nov 28-Dec 4, 2016;	Sign-In	Oct 11-16, 2015 & Oct 15-21, 2016;
Sign-In	No Season	State Season,	Sign-In
B & Q Except during Check-In	C	Except during	Check-In deer hunts

deer hunts

C and

Dog Hunting
Allowed: Jul 31-
Aug 2, 2015, Mar
4-6, May 20-22,
Aug 5-7, 2016, Mar
3-5, May 19-21,
2017

Sign-in

No dogs allowed:
Aug 3-14, 2015,
Mar 7-15, May 23-
31, Aug 8-14, 2016,
Mar 6-15, May 22-
31, 2017

Sign-in

**penholoway
swamp wma**

Archery Only Area:
Area north of
Paradise Park
Road. Bird Dog
Training Area - Bird
dogs may be
trained in the fields
off of Redman
&Deadend roads.
Idle speed only in
Cogden Lake.
Fluorescent orange
required during
special firearms
hog hunts. Hogs
may not be
removed from the
WMA alive.

**PERRY DOVE
FIELD**

C
Adult/Child;Sunday
s only

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

Saturdays only
during First and
Third season

No Season

B

perry dove field

Special regulations
as specified in
lease agreement.
Camping
prohibited.

**PHINIZY SWAMP
WMA**

C through Jan 1

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

State Season

B

B & Waterfowl:
Wed & Sat Only
until noon during
Statewide Season

C

**phinizy swamp
wma**

Camping
prohibited.

PINE LOG WMA

B

Sign-In

Nov 18-21, 2015 &
Nov 16-19, 2016;
ESLD,

Check-In

Dec 9-12, 2015, &
Dec 7-10, 2016;
Sign-In

No Season

No Season

During deer hunts	State Season,	Sign-In	A & Q
Training Season: Aug 1-Mar 19, except during firearms deer hunts and quota hog hunt.	Note: Rabbit dogs may also be used on the Bird Dog Training Area.	Dove:	Sept. 5, 2015 & Sept. 3, 2016
Quota 100	Otherwise C	Except during managed hunts.	No Season, except Coyote:
Mar 1-25, 2016 & Mar 1-24, 2017;	Sign-In	C &	Aug 7-9, 2015, Jan 8-10, 2016 & Aug 12-14, 2016, Jan 13-15, 2017;
Sign-In	Dog Hunts:	Feb 5-7, 2016	& Feb 3-5, 2017;
Quota,	8 parties		
pine log wma	ESLD - Either-sex last day on check- in hunt. Horse & bicycle trails and areas are closed all day during deer firearms season and before 10:00AM during deer archery and turkey season. ATVs prohibited. Blaze orange required on special season hog hunts. Big game weapons may be used during sign-in hog hunts and no dogs allowed. Coyotes may be hunted during March season with small game weapons only; no night hunting.		
PUBLIC DOVE FIELD	No Season	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	No Season	No Season
A	Unless otherwise specified in lease agreement	No Season	No Season
public dove field			
RAYONIER CORRIDOR LANDS WMA	No Season	No Season	No Season
No Season	No season	No Season	State Season
State Season	State Season	C	

**rayonier corridor
lands wma**

Rayonier Corridor Lands WMA consists of a 300' wide section (41 acres) of contiguous property on the Wayne County side of the Altamaha River extending from river mile 61 (Doe Eddy) for 1.2 miles downriver. WMA stamp is required to hunt. Boundaries are posted with WMA boundary signs & paint. All lands in McIntosh and Long Counties previously listed under this Area are now part of Townsend WMA. See Townsend WMA for season listings. All lands that were part of Boyles Island in Wayne County are now part of the Boyles Island Tract of Penholoway Swamp WMA. See Penholoway Swamp WMA for season listings.

REDLANDS WMA

	A	Sign-In	No Season
State Season through Jan 1, except Dec 1-25;	Sign-In	State Season,	Sign-In
No Season	State Season, Sign-In	D & Q	A
Check-Station dove fields Adult/Child only first Sat,	Quota 100	Waterfowl:	No hunting on Dyars Pasture MARSH pond except for the Saturday of Federal Youth Waterfowl weekend of, 2016-waterfowl season; Quota 3 parties, only youth may hunt; Sign-in

C

redlandswma

Hunting on Dyar's Pasture MARSH Pond by quota only.

REDLANDS WMA- WATSON SPRINGS	C through Jan. 1, except for Dec. 1- 25	Sign-in	No Season
No Season	No season	No Season	State Season
Sign-in	A	B	C
redlandswma - watson springs			
RED TOP MOUNTAIN STATE PARK	No	Season	No
Season	Dec. 1-2, 2015	Quota 50,	Check-In
No	Season	No	Season
No	Season	No	Season
No	Season	No	Season
B			
red top mountain state park	<p>Hunters must attend a pre-hunt meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 30, 2015 Two (2) deer limit take doe first on first day. Hunt participants will be charged a \$30 non-refundable, non-transferable park-hunting fee and a \$5 ParkPass will be required. Coyotes may be taken during deer hunts. ATVs prohibited. Cabin and campsites will be available for hunter use. Cabins and campsites must be reserved through the Red Top Mountain park office by calling 770-975-0055. All park facilities will be closed to the general public from Dec 1-2 2015.</p>		
RICH MOUNTAIN WMA	B	Sign-In	Adult/
Child, Honorary & Ladies: Oct 16-18, 2015 & Oct 21-23, 2016; ESL2D, Check-In	Nov 17-22, 2015 & Nov 15-20, 2016;	ESL2D,	Check-In
No Season	No Season	During deer hunts	State Season,

Sign-In	A	Except during Special Hog Hunts	B
C &	Aug 15-21, 2015 & Aug 15-21, 2016; Sign-In		
rich mountain wma	ESL2D-Either Sex Last 2 Days of each hunt. ATVs prohibited. Blaze orange required on special season hog hunts. Big game weapons may be used during sign-in hog hunts and hunting hogs with dogs is prohibited.		
RICH MOUNTAIN WMA - CARTECAY TRACT	Sept 12-Dec 6, Dec 26, 2015-Jan 1, 2016 & Sept 10- Dec 4, Dec 26, 2016-Jan 1, 2017;	Sign-In	No Season
No Season	No Season	Archery Only during deer hunts.	State Season,
Sign-In	A	B	C
rich mountain wma - cartecay tract	Horse & bicycle trails and areas are closed all day during deer hunts and before 10:00AM during deer archery and turkey season. ATVs prohibited.		
RICHARD RUSSELL STATE PARK	No	Season	No
Season	Dec, 1-2, 2015	Quota 80, and wheel chair only; Quota 20	No Season
No	Season	No	Season
No	Season	No	Season
No Season	B		
richardrussell state park	Hunters must attend a pre-hunt meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 30, 2015. Two (2) deer limit, must take doe first on first day. Wheelchair hunters must apply by letter by Oct 19 to: wheelchair Hunt		

RBR State Park,
 2650 Russell State
 Park Dr., Elberton
 Ga. 30635. Hunt
 participants will be
 charged a \$30 non-
 refundable, non-
 transferable park-
 hunting fee and a
 \$5 ParkPass will be
 required. Coyotes
 may be taken
 during deer hunts.
 ATVs prohibited.
 Cabin and
 campsites will be
 available for hunter
 use. Cabins and
 campsites must be
 reserved through
 the RBR park office
 by calling 706-213-
 2045. All park
 facilities will be
 closed to the
 general public from
 Dec 1-2, 2015.

RICHMOND HILL WMA	A	Sign-In	Archery Only Areas
C	Sign-In	State Season,	Sign-In
State Season, Sign-in	State Season,	Sign-In	No Season
State Season, Sign-In	D & Q	B	No furbearer dog hunting or training in Archery Only areas.
C and March 1-15; still hunting only			
richmond hill wma	Archery Only areas include tracts 8, 9, 10, 12 & 17 and that portion of tract 1 south of Kilkenny Rd. Fluorescent orange required during special hog hunts. No furbearer dog hunting or training in the archery only areas.		
RIVER BEND WMA	A	Sign-In	Nov 5-7, 2015 & Nov 3-5, 2016;
Check-In	Dec 10-12, 2015 & Dec 8-10, 2016;	Sign-In	Adult/
Child:	Oct 24-25, 2015 & Oct 22-23, 2016	Sign-In	Physically Disabled Hunters:

Oct 3-4, 2015 & Oct 1-2, 2016;	Check-In	General Hunt:	Nov 6-7, 2015 & Nov 4-5, 2016;
Check-In	Dec 11-12,2015 & Dec 9-10, 2016;	Sign-In	No Season
No Season	Mar 26-Apr 1, Apr 2-8, 2016 & Mar 25-31, Apr 1-7, 2017;	Quota 15,	Sign-In
Apr 9 - May 15, 2016 & Apr 8 - May 15, 2017;	Sign-In	A	A
Waterfowl may be hunted on impoundment and its surrounding roads/dikes only on Wed, Sat & Sun until noon.	C		
river bend wma	Physically Disabled hunt for wheelchair hunters only.		
RIVER CREEK, THE ROLF AND ALEXANDRA KAUKA WMA	Quality Buck & Antlerless: Sept 19- 27, Oct 10-18, 2015 & Sept 17-25, Oct 8-16, 2016;	Sign-In	No Season
Quality Buck & Antlerless:	Nov 11-14, Dec 2- 5, 2015 & Nov 9- 12, Nov 30-Dec 3, 2016; Quota: 35, Check-In	Adult/	Child,
Quality Buck & Antlerless, Dec 25- 27, 2015 & Dec 30- Jan 1, 2016; Quota 35, Sign-In	Antlerless, Dec 22- 24, 2015 & Dec 20- 22, 2016, Sign-In	No Season	No Season
Adult/Child Apr 1-3, Apr 8-10, 2016 & Mar 31-Apr 2, Apr 7-9, 2017; Quota 5, Sign-In	General Hunt: Apr 15-17, 2016& Apr 14-16 2017; Quota 5, Sign-In	Jan 23- Feb 7, 2016 & Jan 28-Feb. 12, 2017; Sign-In	Adult/Child Dove: Sept 5, 12, 2015 & Sept 3, 10, 2016; Quota 15, Sign-In
Adult/Child Waterfowl: Dec 12, 2015, Jan 9, 16 2016 & Dec 10, 2016, Jan. 14, 21, 2017; Quota 3, Sign-In	C		
river creek, the rolf and alexandrakauka wma	Only bucks with four or more points (1" or longer) on side of the antlers are legal.		
ROCKY	C	through Jan. 1,	Sign-In

MOUNTAIN PFA

No Season	No Season	No Season	No Season
State Season, Archery Only	Archery Only, No Season except waterfowl	Sign-In Waterfowl:	B Antioch Lake- Statewide season open Monday through Saturday during Jan only,
Sign-In B	Heath Lake (Angler Haven Dr.) - Statewide Season, Archery Only	Sign-In	No Season
rocky mountain pfa	Daily use fee (per vehicle) required for all users.		

**ROGERS TRACT
WMA**

	A	Sign-In	State Season,
Sign-In	State Season, Still Hunting Only, Sign- in	State Season, Still Hunting Only,	Sign-in
No Season C	State Season, Coyote: May 16-31, 2016 & May 16-31, 2017	Sign-In C	D

rogers tract wmaNo camping
allowed.**ROGERS STATE
PRISON FARM
DOVE FIELDS**

	No Season	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	No Season	No Season
Sept 5, 12, 19, 2015 & Sept 3, 10, 17, 2016; Sign-In	No Season	No Season	

**rogers state
prison farm dove
fields**Hunters sign-in at
kiosks located at
entrances to fields.
WMA license is not
required to hunt
this property.**RUM CREEK
WMA**

	B & Nov 21-27, 2015 & Nov 19-25, 2016;	Sign-In	Oct 29-31, Nov 12- 14, 2015 & Oct 27- 29, Nov 10-12, 2016; ESL2D,
Quota 200,	Check-In	Adult/Child (youth only as hunter):	Oct 10-11, 2015 & Oct 8-9, 2016;
Sign-In	Honorary License/Ladies:	Oct 16-18, 2015 & Oct 14-16, 2016;	Sign-In
No Season	No Season	Adult/Child Mar 26- Apr. 3, Apr 9- 17,2016 & Mar 25-	Quota 25,

		Apr. 2, Apr 8-16, 2017;	
Sign-In	&	May 9-15, 2016 & 2017; Sign-In	General Hunt:
Apr 18-24, Apr 25- May 1, 2016 & Apr 17-23, Apr 24-30, 2017;	Quota 25,	Sign-In	A and & Nov 21-27, 2015 & Nov 19-25, 2016
Mandatory sign-in to hunt and sign- out of harvest	Doves:	A	Except 1st two Sat, Quota 75
Waterfowl:	Youth Area (between Juliette Rd. & Ebenezer Rd. - only youth can hunt) & Lake Juliette (no motor in excess of 25 hp): Youth Waterfowl Day & Wed -Sun during statewide waterfowl season.	Marsh Pond (North of Juliette Rd - only youth can hunt)Dec. 12, 2015, Jan 9, 2016 & Dec. 10, 2016, Jan. 14, 2017;	Quota 3
Coyote: May 16- May 31, 2016 & May 16-31, 2017; Mandatory sign-in & sign-out harvest	C		
rum creek wma	Shooting hours on all waterfowl areas are until 12:00 noon.		
RUM CREEK WMA -BERRY CREEK AREA	C through January 1	Sign-In	No Season
State Season, Sign-In	B & Falconry permitted same dates.	No Season	C
rum creek wma- berry creek area	Archery only area; falconry permitted for small game hunting during specified season. Camping prohibited.		
SANSAVILLA WMA	B	Sign-In	Archery Only Areas
C	Sign-In	Oct 17-Nov 1, Nov 14-30, 2015 & Oct 22-Nov 5, Nov 12- 28, 2016; ESL2D,	Sign-In
Adult/ Child:	Sept 25-27, 2015 Sept 23-25, 2016;	Check-In	Oct 8-10, 2015 & Oct 6-8, 2016;
Check-In	Dec 19-25, 2015 & Dec 17-23, 2016;	Sign-In	Oct 11-16, 2015 & Oct 15-21, 2016;

Sign-In	No Season	State Season,	Sign-In
C & furbearer dog training allowed Aug 1 through one week prior to archery season	C	Except during Check-In deer hunts	C and
Aug 1-14, 2015; Mar 1-15, May 16-31, Aug 1-14, 2016; Mar 1-15, May 16-31, 2017; No dogs allowed:	Sign-in		
sansavillawma	ESL2D - Either-Sex Last 2 Days of each hunt. Camping prohibited. Fluorescent orange required during special firearms hog hunts. During Check-In hunts, deer should be taken to the Penholoway Swamp WMA check station located at the junction of Paradise Park Rd and River Rd.		
SAPELO ISLAND WMA	North End:	A & Oct 12-20,	Oct 25-Nov 3,
Nov 8-17,	Nov 22-Dec 1, Dec 6 2015-Jan 10, 2016	&Oct 10-18, Oct 23-Nov 1,	Nov 6-15, Nov 20-29, Dec 4, 2016-Jan 8, 2017; Sign-In
South End:	Dec 3-5, 2015 & Dec 1-3, 2016;	Quota 125, Check-In	& Designated Area Only: Dec 6 2015-Jan 10, 2016 & Dec 4, 2016- Jan 8, 2017; Sign-In
No Season	Adult/Child:	Oct 9-11, 2015 & Oct 7-9, 2016;	Quota 75, Check-in
Nov 5-7, Nov 19-21, 2015 &	Nov 3-5, Nov 17-19, 2016;	Quota 125,	Check-In
Oct 22-24, 2015 & Oct 20-22, 2016;	Quota 125,	Check-In	No Season
No Season	B	Except during managed deer and hog hunts & one day prior to managed deer and hog hunts.	B
North & South	C & North End	Special Hog Hunt:	Sign-In

ends.

Only-

Mar 1-May 15,
2016 & March 1-15,
2017;

**sapelo island
wma**

Limited transportation on state boat for Check-In hunts & must be reserved through Sapelo Island Visitors Center (912) 437-3224. Hunter access allowed only at Moses Hammock Dock at head of Duplin River. Limited dock availability; stream anchorage may be required. No motorized vehicles allowed on Islands except by Island landowners & residents. Hunters may check-in at 9:00 a.m. EST one day prior to hunt; camps must be removed by 12:00 noon on the day following hunt. Arrivals & departures from deer hunting must be made from Moses Hammock Campsite. Hunters are required to stay outside safety zone boundaries. Hunting is restricted to the North End of Greater Sapelo Island & Little Sapelo Islands unless otherwise indicated. Fluorescent orange required during special firearms hog hunts.

SHEFFIELD WMA

Sept -12-Dec 1,
Dec 25, 2015-Jan
1, 2016 & Sept 10-
Dec 1, Dec 25,
2016-Jan 1, 2017;

Sign-In

During Deer Hunts

State Season,

Sign-In

C

B

C

sheffieldwma

SILVER LAKE WMA	A	Sign-In	Nov 14-29, 2015, Jan 1-10, 2016 & Nov 19-Dec 4, 2016, Jan 1-8, 2017; Sign-In
Oct 28-31, 2015	Oct 26-29, 2016; Sign-In	Dec 17-20, 2015 & Dec 15-18, 2016; Quota 160, Sign-In	State Season, Sign-In
No Season	Mar 26-Apr 3, 2016 & Mar 25-Apr 6, 2017; Quota 35, Sign-In	Adult/Child Apr 9-17, 2016 & Apr 8-16, 2017; Quota 35, Sign-In	General Hunt: Apr 23-May 15, 2016 & Apr. 22-May 15, 2017;
Sign-In	State Season except during and one day prior to deer and quail hunts;	Sign-In	Quail: Feb 6, 13, 27, 2016, & Feb 4, 11, 25 2017; Quota 3 parties, Sign-In
B	C		
silver lake wma	Quail: 1 party/hunt and 3 persons/party. Bag limit on quail is 6 quail/person or 12 quail/party.		
SOAP CREEK WMA	A	Sign-In	State Season through Jan 1,
Sign-In	State Season through Jan 1,	Sign-In	State Season,
Sign-In	No Season	State Season,	Sign-In
D	B	C	
soap creek wma	Camping prohibited.		
SPIRIT CREEK FOREST WMA	C; through Jan. 1 Sign-In	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	State Season; Archery Only; Sign-In	A; Shotgun and Archery Only; Sign-In
B	No furbearer dog hunting.	C	
spirit creek forest wma	Spirit Creek Forest is a multiple use forest; other users may be present during open hunting seasons. Gates may be opened or closed at the discretion of Georgia Forestry Commission. Please see WMA		

	maps for safety zones. Camping prohibited. No vehicles.		
SPREWELL BLUFF (including Pigeon Creek and Nichols Tracts) WMA	East of Flint River: C through Jan. 1	West of Flint River: C through Jan 1 except during firearms and primitive weapons deer hunts	East of Flint River: No Season
East of Flint River: No Season	West of Flint River: Nov 13-15, Dec 4-6, 2015 & Nov 11-13, Dec 2-4, 2016	East of Flint River: No Season	West of Flint River: Oct 23-25, 2015 & Oct 21-23, 2016
No Season	State Season	East of Flint River: B	West of Flint River: A
B	No Season	C	
sprewell bluff wma	No hunting in Park Day-Use area. No motorized vehicle use on Pigeon Creek tract. Camping is prohibited on the East side of the Flint River. Camping West of the Flint River in designated areas.		
STANDING BOY CREEK STATE PARK	C	Sign-In	No Season
No Season	No Season	No Season	Adult/Child Mar 26-Apr 3, Apr 9-17, 2016 & Mar. 25-Apr 2, Apr 8-16, 2017; Quota 10, Sign-in
General Archery: Apr 23-May 1, 2016 & Apr 22-30, 2017; Quota 10, Sign-in	Nov. 20-22, 27-29, 2015, Jan 15-17, 22-24, 29-31, Feb 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, 26-28, 2016 & Nov 18-20, 25-27, 2016, Jan 20-22, 27-29, Feb 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, 2017, sign-in & sign-out mandatory	Adult/Child Dove: Sept 5, 12, Oct 10, 2015 & Sept 3, 10, Oct 8, 2016; Quota 20	No Season
C	Upon determination by the Commissioner that a person has violated this title or any rule or regulation		

promulgated pursuant to hunting or trespassing on or from Standing Boy Creek Tract, the Commissioner may revoke, suspend, deny, or refuse to renew any license or permit, or both, required by this title which is held by or has been applied for by the person, for a period of up to two years following the determination of such violation. Harvested deer will not be tagged with department tags and must be recorded on the hunter's deer harvest record. Camping prohibited.

SWALLOW CREEK WMA

	B	Sign-In	Nov 19 - 22, Dec 17 - 20, 2015
& Nov 17 - 20, Dec 15 - 18, 2016;	Check-In	During deer hunts	State Season, Sign-In
A	B	No season	C &

Dog Hunts: Jan 6 - 9, 2016 & Jan 4 - 7, 2017; Quota 8 parties, Sign-In

swallow creek wma

Fluorescentorange is required on special season hog hunts; big game weapons may be used; and hogs may not be removed from the WMA alive.

TALLULAH GORGE STATE PARK

	C	through Jan. 1	State Season through Jan. 1
Oct 31, Nov 28, 2015 & Oct 29, Nov 26, 2016	State Season	State Season through Jan. 1	State Season

B	Furbearers may not be hunted during firearms deer hunts	C	No season
---	---------------------------------------------------------	---	-----------

C

**tallulah gorge
state park**

Daily sign-in
required for all big
game hunting.

**TOWNSEND
WMA- NORTH
TRACT, SOUTH
TRACT, AND PINE
ISLAND TRACT**

A

Sign-In

Oct 24-Nov 1, Dec
5-13, 2015 & Oct
29-Nov 6, Dec 3-
11, 2016; Sign in

Oct 8-10, Nov 12-
14, 2015 & Oct 13-
15, Nov 10-12
2016; Check In

Nov 21-29, Dec 19-
27, 2015 & Nov 19-
27, Dec 24, 2016-
Jan 1, 2017; Sign in

Dog Hunting
(Shotguns with
buckshot only):

Dec 2-3, 16-17,
2015, Jan. 6-7,
2016 & Nov 30-Dec
1, Dec 14-15 2016,
Jan. 4-5, 2017;

Quota 3,

Check-In

Oct 11-18, 2015 &
Oct 16-23, 2016,
Sign In

No Season

State Season,

Sign-In

B except during
firearms deer hunts

C except during
firearms deer hunts

C and

Dog Hunting
Allowed: Jul 31-
Aug 2, 2015, Mar
4-6, May 20-22,
Aug 5-7, 2016, Mar
3-5, May 19-21,
2017

Sign-in

No dogs allowed:
Aug 3-14, 2015,
Mar 7-15, May 23-
31, Aug 8-14, 2016,
Mar 6-15, May 22-
31, 2017

Sign-in

**townsendwma-
North Tract, South
Tract, and Pine
Island Tract**

Apply for dog hunts
online at
www.gohuntgeorgia.com
by Sept 1.
Dog deer hunters
must check-in at
new Townsend
WMA check station
located on
Townsend-Cox Rd
0.75 miles south of
Steel Bridge Rd.
Dog deer hunting
allowed in
designated area
only. All dogs used
in the dog deer
hunt must be
marked with the
selected hunter's
name and phone
number. All
vehicles used in the
dog deer hunt must
display permit in
the windshield or
on vehicle dash. A
copy of the permit
must be carried on
person while
hunting. The WMA
will be closed to all

users during dog deer hunts except to hunters with a valid permit. Fluorescent orange required during special firearms hog hunts. Dogs may be used to hunt hogs during the special firearms hog hunt only. Hogs may not be removed from the WMA alive. Townsend WMA check station is located on Townsend-Cox Rd 0.75 miles south of Steel Bridge Rd.

TOWNSEND WMA - BUCK ISLAND TRACT

	A Sign-In	State Season, Sign-In	State Season, Sign-in
State Season, Sign-In	No Season	State Season, Sign-In	A
C	C and	Dog Hunting Allowed: Jul 31-Aug 2, 2015, Mar 4-6, May 20-22, Aug 5-7, 2016, Mar 3-5, May 19-21, 2017	Sign-in
No dogs allowed: Aug 3-14, 2015, Mar 7-15, May 23-31, Aug 8-14, 2016, Mar 6-15, May 22-31, 2017	Sign-in		

townsendwma-buck island tract

Entrance to Townsend WMA-Buck Island Tract is located off HWY 301 approximately 4.75 miles west of Ludowici.

TUCKAHOE WMA

	B & Oct 4-Nov 3, 2015 & Oct 9-Nov 1, 2016;	Sign-In	Adult/ Child:
Sept 18-20, 2015 & Sept 16-18, 2016; Sign-In	Nov 5-7, 2015, Jan 7-9, 2016 & Nov 3-5, 2016, Jan 5-7, 2017; Check-In	Nov 27-Dec 5, 2015 & Nov 25-Dec 3, 2016; Sign-In	Oct 1-3, 2015 & Oct 6-8, 2016; Check-In
No Season	State Season,	Sign-In	A &
Alligator:	(state alligator season for permitted hunters	B	Coyote: May 16-Jun 1; No night hunting.

in zone 9)

A

tuckahoewma

Camping in designated sites only.

TUGALOO STATE PARK

Dec. 4-5, 2015, Dec. 2-3, 2016;

Quota 30,

Check-In

No

Season

No Season

No Season

No

Season

No

Season

No

Season

No

Season

No Season

B

tugaloo state park

Hunters must attend a pre-hunt meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Dec. 3, 2015 and Dec. 1, 2016 for their respective hunts. Two (2) deer limit. Hunt participants will be charged a \$30 non-refundable, non-transferable park-hunting fee and a \$5 ParkPass will be required. Coyotes or feral swine may be taken during deer hunts. ATVs prohibited. Cabin and campsites will be available for hunter use. Cabins and campsites must be reserved through the Tugaloo park office by calling 706-356-4362. All park facilities will be closed to the general public from Dec. 4-5, 2015 and Dec. 2-3, 2016.

WALTON PUBLIC DOVE FIELD

C through Jan. 1,

Sign-In

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

B and Q;

no small game hunting before Oct. 1

Doves only -A

Adult/Child:

First Saturday;

Quota 80 parties

No Season

C

walton public dove field

Bird dog training allowed Oct. 1-July

15 only. Unleashed dogs prohibited except for bird dog training and dove hunting purposes. No rifles or muzzleloaders (except muzzleloading shotguns) of any caliber allowed.

WARWOMAN WMA

B

Sign-In

Except during firearms bear and hog hunts

Nov 12 - 15, Dec 3 - 6, 2015&

Nov 10 - 13, Dec 1 - 4, 2016;

Check-In

No Season

No Season

During deer hunts

&Oct 17 - 25, 2015&Oct. 22 - 30, 2016;

Sign-In

State Season,

Sign-In

A

Except during bear hunts

B

C &

Dog Hunt: Sept 30 - Oct 3, 2015; Sept 28 - Oct 1, 2016; Quota 8 parties,

Sign-in

warwomanwma

500 sq. inches of fluorescent orange worn above the waist is required on special season hog hunts; big game weapons may be used; and hogs may not be removed from the WMA alive.

WEST POINT WMA

Quality Buck &Antlerless:Sept 12-Oct 11, Nov 7-15, 2015 & Sept 10-Oct 9, Nov 5-13, 2016;

Sign-In

Quality Buck :

Oct 15-17, Dec 3-5, 2015 & Oct 13-15, Dec 1-3, 2016; ESLD,

Check In

Quality Buck& Antlerless: Ladies/Honorary License Holders/Youth:

Oct 23-25, 2015 & Oct 21-23, 2016;

Sign-In

Quality Buck & Antlerless: Dec 19-20, 2015 & Dec 17-18, 2016;

Sign-In

Mar 26-Apr 3, 2016 & Mar 25-Apr 2, 2017; Quota 80, Sign-In

General Hunt: Apr 4-May 15, 2016 & Apr 3-May 15, 2017;

Sign-in

C

Mandatory sign-in to hunt and sign-out of harvest

Doves: A

Waterfowl: Daniels

Coyote: May 16-

C

Pond & Pond 1- Youth Waterfowl Days & Sat. only during State Waterfowl Season dates outside of firearms & primitive weapons deer hunts.

May 31, 2016 & May 16-31, 2017; Mandatory sign-in & sign-out harvest

west point wma

Antlered bucks must have a minimum of four (4) points (1 inch or longer) on one side of the antlers OR must have a minimum outside spread of 15 inches. No gasoline outboards allowed on waterfowl ponds. No fishing in waterfowl ponds. Shooting hours on all waterfowl areas are until 12:00 noon. ESLD - Either-sex Last Day.

WEST POINT WMA - DIXIE CREEK AREA

C

Quality Buck & Antlerless

Sign-In

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

Adult/Child Mar 26-Apr 3, 2016 & Mar 25-Apr 2, 2017; Sign-In

General Hunt: Apr 4-May 15, 2016 & Apr 3-May 15, 2017;

Sign-In

B&Q

A

C

west point wma - dixie creek

Antlered bucks must have a minimum of four (4) points (1 inch or longer) on one side of the antlers OR must have a minimum outside spread of 15 inches. Camping prohibited. Dixie Creek Tract bird dog training area: Aug. 15-Mar. 15.

WEST POINT WMA - GLOVERS CREEK AREA

Quality Buck & Antlerless:

C

Sign-In

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

Glovers Creek

Waterfowl hunting

Tract: only: Federal Youth Waterfowl Days (non-quota) & general hunts on Sat. only(Quota 5) during State Waterfowl Season

B	Archery Only			
west point wma - glovers creek area	Antlered bucks must have a minimum of four (4) points (1 inch or longer) on one side of the antlers OR must have a minimum outside spread of 15 inches. Camping prohibited. Only archery deer and waterfowl hunting allowed in Glovers Creek Waterfowl Area. Shooting hours for waterfowl are until 12:00 noon.			
WILSON SHOALS WMA	Oct 3 - Nov. 6, Dec 5 - 12, 2015 & Oct 1 - Nov 4, Dec 3 - 10, 2016;	Sign-In	Nov. 7 - 22, 2015 & Nov. 5 - 20, 2016;	
ESL3D,	Sign-In	No Season	During deer hunts	
Mar 26 - Apr 2, 2016 & Mar 25 - Apr 1, 2017;	Quota 15, Sign-In	Apr 3 - May 15, 2016 & Apr 2 - May 15, 2017;	Sign-In	
A	A &	Doves -	Adult/Child Sept 5, 2015 & Sept 3, 2016;	
Quota 15	C			
wilson shoals wma	ESL3D - Either-sex last three days.			
YUCHI WMA	A	Sign-In	Oct 25-Nov 26, Nov 30-Dec 6, Dec 26, 2015-Jan 1, 2016 & Oct 30-Nov 24, Nov 28-Dec 4, Dec 26, 2016-Jan 1, 2017; Sign-In	
Oct 18-24, Nov 27-29, 2015 & Oct 23-29, Nov 25-27, 2016; Sign-In	Oct 15-17, 2015 & Oct 20-22, 2016; Check-In	Oct 10-14, 2015 & Oct 15-19, 2016; Sign-In	No Season	
State Season, Sign-In	D	Except during either sex firearms and primitive weapons deer	B	

hunts

C

yuchiwma

ZAHND WMA

C through Jan. 1,

Sign-In

No Season

No Season

No Season

Archery Only
during deer hunts

State Season,
Sign-In

A

Sign-In

B

C

zahndwma

391-4-2-.71 Federal Wildlife Areas

The following species may be hunted on Federal Wildlife Areas, in accordance with the restrictions set forth below.

Area	Deer, Archery	Deer, Firearms Antlered Bucks	Deer, Firearms Either-sex
Deer, Primitive Weapons Either-sex Except as Noted	Bear	Turkey	Small Game
Migratory Birds Special Regulations	Raccoon Fox Bobcat Opossum	Feral Hogs	
BLACKBEARD ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	Oct 15-17, Dec 3-5, 2015 & Oct 13-15, Dec 1-3, 2016; Check-In	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	B	
blackbeard island national wildlife refuge	Interested hunters must visit www.fws.gov/refuge/blackbeard_island , or call (843) 784-2468, for detailed hunting information. All hunters 16 years of age or older must purchase a \$25 Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex Annual Hunt Permit at www.savannahcoastalpermits.com .		
BOND SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	Sept. 12- Oct. 31, 2015 & Sept. 10 - Oct. 31, 2016	No Season	Youth Only: Nov. 14-15, 2015 & Nov. 12-13, 2016; Quota 50 General Hunt: Nov. 20-21, Dec. 4-5, 2015 & Nov. 18-19, Dec 2-3, 2016;

No Season	No Season	Mar. 26-27, Apr. 8-9, 2016 & Mar. 25-26, Apr. 7-8, 2017 Quota 25	Quota 100 Squirrel, rabbit & quail only: Dec. 6, 2015 -Jan. 31, 2016 & Dec. 4, 2016 - Jan. 31, 2017
Dec. 11-12, 18-19, 2015, Jan. 8-9, 22-23, 2016 & Dec 9-10, 23-24, 2016, Jan. 6-7, 20-21, 2017. May be taken on big game and small game hunts with applicable weapons restrictions	Quota 20	Shooting hours until 12 noon.	No Season
bond swamp national wildlife refuge	Refuge permits are required for all hunts. Hunters are required to sign out harvested game at refuge check stations. Quota deer and waterfowl application deadline is September 23, 2015 & September 28, 2016. Quota turkey application deadline is February 17, 2016 & February 15, 2017. Contact the Piedmont Refuge office to obtain applications, permits and refuge specific hunting regulations (478-986-5441) or email.		
CHATTA-HOOCHEE NATIONAL FOREST (outside of state wildlife management areas)	state season,	provided that while archery hunting during firearms deer season,	antlerless deer may not be taken except as authorized in this paragraph.
Oct 17 - Dec 26, 2015; Oct 22 - Dec. 26, 2016	Lands east of I-75: Oct. 31 & Nov. 28, 2015 and Oct. 29 & Nov. 26, 2016	Lands west of I-75: Same as county either-sex days through Dec 26.	State Season
State Season during deer dates	Pursuit of bears with dogs for training purposes only: Aug. 1-	State Season	State Season

Thursday
preceding archery
deer season, Jan.
2-Mar. 19 & May 1-
Thursday
preceding Memorial
Day

State Season

State Season

C & Pursuit of hogs with
dogs for training
purposes only:
Aug. 1-Thursday
preceding archery
deer season, Jan.
2-Mar. 19 & May 1-
Thursday
preceding Memorial
Day

**chattahoochee
national forest**

No dog training
June 1- August 14;
except that pursuit
of bears or hogs
with dogs for
training purposes
may occur only
during the time
periods specified
above. Pursuit of
bears or hogs with
dogs for training
purposes may
occur only during
legal daylight hours
and any person
participating or
assisting in such
activity shall do so
in accordance with
rule 391-4-2-.73. All
provisions under
391-4-2-.73 shall
likewise pertain to
pursuit of hogs with
dogs including
licensing and
check-in
requirements. Hogs
may be taken only
during daylight
hours consistent
with regulations
above. Coyotes
may be taken
during bear, deer,
turkey and small
game hunts;
weapons are
restricted to legal
firearms and
archery equipment
for the game
species specified
for a particular hunt

as indicated heretofore; electronic calls may be used; night hunting is prohibited. The use of center-fire firearms at night is prohibited. Placing, leaving, or depositing any food, bait or refuse in a manner likely to attract or concentrate any wildlife, whether for purposes of hunting or viewing animals, is prohibited. It is also prohibited to fail to properly store food or refuse to prevent access by wildlife. For public health and safety, the transportation of a loaded long gun or cocked crossbow in a motor vehicle is prohibited. NOTE: A firearm is considered "loaded" if a round of ammunition is in the chamber or magazine, a percussion cap is on the nipple, or powder is present in the frizzen pan. A "Long gun" is a firearm with an extended barrel, usually designed to be fired braced against the shoulder. It shall include all rifles, shotguns, carbines, muzzleloaders, and/or other such weapons. For public health and safety, the possession of an alcoholic beverage as defined by state law, while hunting, is prohibited.

**CORPS OF
ENGINEERS
Buford Dam Area**

Nov. 17-19, 2015 &

Nov 15-17, 2016;
Quota

No Season

- Lake Lanier

No Season	No Season	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	No Season	B

corps of engineers buford dam area - lake lanier

All facilities will be closed to the general public during the hunts. Limit: 2, only one of which may be antlered. Hunters must apply by letter containing full name, address, phone number, and email address (if available) to Operations Project Manager's Office, Attn: Craig Sowers, P.O. Box 567, Buford, GA 30515-0567 no later than October 15, 4:30 PM. One hunter per letter. Hunters must attend a pre-hunt meeting at 7:00 P.M. the evening before the hunt. Disabled Veterans will receive preference in the quota selection. More information is available online at website <http://go.usa.gov/S E85> File Link Not Available

CORPS OF ENGINEERS ARCHERY ONLY ISLAND HUNTING AREAS - Lake Lanier

Nov. 12-15, Nov. 26-29, & Dec. 10-13, 2015 & Nov. 10-13, Nov. 24-27, & Dec. 8-11, 2016; Quota

No Season	No Season
-----------	-----------

No Season	No Season	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	B	

corps of engineers archery only island hunting areas - lake lanier

Limit: One deer per day. Hunters must record harvest on their deer harvest record. State bag limits and harvest restrictions apply. Hunters must apply by letter containing full name, address, phone number, and

email address (if available) to Operations Project Manager's Office, Attn: Craig Sowers, P.O. Box 567, Buford, GA 30515-0567 no later than October 15, 4:30 PM. One hunter per letter. Hunting areas typically accessible by boat only. More information is available online at website <http://go.usa.gov/S E85> File Link Not Available

CORPS OF ENGINEERS - MOBILE DISTRICT (outside of state wildlife management areas)

State Season

State Season

state season in accordance with county either-sex dates

State Season

State Season on lands in counties open to bear hunting

State Season

State Season

State Season

State Season

C

corps of engineers - mobile district

Hunting is prohibited on some Corps lands for safety reasons, particularly designated public recreation areas and some lease areas except as authorized by the Project Manager. Also, hunting opportunity may vary by area so please contact the appropriate COE office as provided herein. Some areas are designated archery only; firearms are permitted in some areas. Contact the Corps resource manager's office at the appropriate lake project for hunting areas:

Allatoona 678-721-6700, Sidney Lanier 770-945-9531, Walter F. George 229-768-2516, Seminole 229-662-2001, Carter's 706-334-2640, West Point 706-645-2937 OR visit the website <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Recreation/Hunting.aspx>
File Link Not Available

CORPS OF ENGINEERS - SAVANNAH DISTRICT (outside of state wildlife management areas)

State Season

State Season

State Season

state season in accordance with county either-sex dates

State Season on lands in counties open to bear hunting

State Season

State Season

State Season

State Season

State Season*

corps of engineers - savannah district

Hunting is prohibited on some Corps lands for safety reasons, particularly designated public recreation areas and some lease areas except as authorized by the Project Manager.

Also, hunting opportunity may vary by area so please contact the appropriate COE office as provided herein. Some areas are designated archery only; firearms are permitted in some areas. Contact the Corps resource manager's office at the appropriate lake project for hunting areas:

Hartwell 1-888-893-0678 OR <http://www.sas.usa>

ce.army.mil/lakes/h
 artwell/hunting.html
 #hunt File Link Not
 Available areas, J.
 Strom
 Thurmond/Clarks
 Hill 1-800-533-3478
 OR
<http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/thurmond/hunt.html>
 #huntmaps,
 Richard B. Russell
 1-800-944-7207
 OR
<http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/lakes/russell/natres.html>.
 *Contact the
 resource
 manager's office for
 feral hog hunting
 opportunities and
 restrictions outside
 of the firearms deer
 season.

**CUMBERLAND
 ISLAND
 NATIONAL
 SEASHORE**

Oct. 5-7, 2015 &
 Oct. 3-5, 2016;
 Quota 125, Check-
 In,

No season

Adult/Child: Oct 17
 - 18, 2015 & Oct
 22-23, 2016; Quota
 50, Check-In

Nov 2-4, Dec 7-9,
 2015 & Nov 7-9,
 Dec 5-7, 2016;
 Quota 100, Check-
 In,

No season

No season

No season

No season

No season

Jan 4-6, Jan 25-27,
 2016 & Jan 9-11,
 Jan 23-25, 2017;
 Quota 100, Check-
 In

**cumberland
 island national
 seashore**

Call 912-882-4336
 ext 254 for
 information or visit
<http://www.nps.gov/cuis/> for detailed
 information.
 Registration begins
 July 1st, go to
www.pay.gov and
 type "Cumberland"
 in the search box
 located on the left
 hand side of the
 screen under the
 section entitled
 "Find Public
 Forms". From the
 search results,
 select "Cumberland
 Island Managed

Hunt" and follow the onscreen instructions to complete registration. Hunting fee is \$35. No standby hunters; no non-hunters. Cumberland Island Ferry will be available for access to and from the island for a fee. Boat dock space for unloading only. Private boats must stream anchor. All hunter check-in must be at the Plum Orchard hunt camp or Brickhill Campground. Mandatory check-in starts 8:00 am EST one day prior to hunt; On adult-child hunts, hunting is restricted to children ages 10-17 only; children under age 16 must be accompanied by and be under direct adult supervision at all times during the hunt. All National Park Service regulations also apply to hunting areas. On primitive weapons hunts, modern centerfire handguns that meet state regulations may be used. Buckshot prohibited. Bag Limit: 1 antlered buck & one antlerless deer per hunter. No limit on feral hogs.

EUFAULA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

C except portion between Bustahatchee and Rood Creeks: Nov. 1-end of statewide season.

No Season

Oct. 10, 24, 2015 & Oct. 8, 22, 2016; Quota 10, Check-In

No Season

No Season

No Season

No Season

Ducks & Geese Only: Saturdays

Youth Waterfowl: Saturday and one

Adult/Child Hunt (check with Refuge)

No Season

during state season, 2015-2016 & Wednesdays during state season, 2016-2017; Quota 16, Check-In, 25 shell limit

for specific dates)

B

eufaula national wildlife refuge

Portions of Chattahoochee River and Walter F. George Reservoir within the Eufaula NWR boundaries are closed to waterfowl hunting. Contact the refuge office for quota hunt applications. Eufaula NWR, 367 Hwy 165, Eufaula, AL 36027 (334) 687-4065. Apply July 9-August 15 for youth deer hunts; August 1-Sept. 15 for waterfowl hunts. User fees must be prepaid: \$20.00 per waterfowl hunter, \$20.00 per youth deer hunter selected. Eligible ages for all youth hunts (deer and waterfowl) are 10-15 years. A waterfowl permit holder is allowed to bring up to two guests (no more than 3 individuals/blind).

FORT BENNING

state season	Check-In	state season
Check-In	Season	Check-In
State Season	State Season	State Season
Check-In	Check-In	Check -in
State Season	No Season	B
Check -in		

ft. benning

Fort Benning is open only to military personnel and their guests. All hunting at Fort Benning is subject to post regulations.

Check-In with Permit Issuing Officer. For regulations go to <https://www.benning.army.mil/EMD/conservation/wildlife/R200-3.pdf> File Link Not Available or call 706-544-7516. Alligator hunting is prohibited on Fort Benning lands.

FORT GORDON

State Season Quota Check-In

Statewide archery & firearms deer season in bow hunting only area. Quota Check-In

State Season Quota Check-In

Contact Fort

Gordon for firearms either sex hunting. Quota Check-In

State Season Either sex entire season Check-In

No Season

State Season

Quota

Check-In

State Season

Quota

Check-In

State Season

Quota

Check-In

State Season

Quota

Check-In

C

ft. gordon

All hunting subject to Post regulations. NCIC background checks are required for all hunters. Firearms deer hunting limited to shotguns with slugs only or primitive weapons. Hunters not associated with the Military may apply online through the Georgia DNR quota system. Applicants must be at least 18 years old to apply. Permit required to hunt. Access may be restricted due to training requirements. All hunters must possess a Hunter Education Certificate. For more information, call Fort Gordon at (706) 791-2397.

FORT STEWART AND HUNTER

State Season; Quota, Check-In

State Season; Quota, Check-In

Oct 17-18, 31-Nov 1, 14-15, 26-29,

ARMY AIRFIELD

Dec 28-31, 2015 &
 Oct 22-23, Nov 5-6,
 19-20, 24-27, Dec
 27-31, 2016
 Exception: All

<p>Archery Only & Shotgun Only Areas: state season (All deer season); Quota, Check-In</p>	<p>State Season; Quota, Check-In</p>	<p>No season</p>	<p>State Season; Quota, Check-In</p>
<p>State Season; Quota, Check-In</p>	<p>Doves- State Season; Managed Dove Fields available for hunting Wed, Sat, Sun, & Holidays during Dove Season</p>	<p>Waterfowl-State Season, No hunting past 12 Noon; Quota, Check-In</p>	<p>State Season;</p>
<p>Quota,</p>	<p>Check-In</p>	<p>Weapon use limited by season and hunting area restriction</p>	<p>-please check installation hunting</p>
<p>& fishing</p>	<p>SOP &</p>	<p>Policy</p>	<p>Letter for details;</p>
<p>Quota,</p>	<p>Check-In</p>		
<p>ft. stewart and hunter army airfield</p>	<p>Quota on number of hunters in training areas. Phone Check-In required. All hunting is subject to post regulations. Access is not guaranteed due to training requirements. Deer Season Bag Limit is 5 total deer, not more than 2 may be antlered, and not more than 3 may be antlerless (bonus tags for 2). One of antlered bucks must have at least four (4) points on one side of antlers (one inch or longer). In the Quality Deer Management Area (QDMA), both antlered bucks must have at least four (4) points (one inch or longer) on one side of the antlers.</p>		

HARRIS NECK WILDLIFE	Sept 17-19, 2015	No Season	Nov 13, 2015
No Season	No Season	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	B	
REFUGE	&	Sept 15-17,	2016;
Check-in	&	Nov 18,	2016;
Check-In			
harris neck wildlife refuge	Interested hunters must visit www.fws.gov/refuge/harris_neck , or call (843) 784-2468, for detailed hunting information. All hunters 16 years of age or older must purchase a \$25 Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex Annual Hunt Permit at www.savannahcoastalpermits.com .		
KINGS BAY NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE	State Season	State Season	Any day state season
State Season	No season	No season	State season. No fox squirrel hunting
State season	State season	C	
kings bay naval submarine base	Hunting and access to hunting areas may be closed at the discretion of the Commanding officer.		
MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE (ALBANY)	C, Check-In	No Season	No Season
No Season	No Season	No Season	State Season, Q Check-In
State Season Check-In	State Season	C	
marine corps logistics base (albany)	Antler restrictions: All bucks must have either an 18" main beam or a 15" inside spread. Hunting not open to general public. Permit must be		

obtained prior to hunting. All hunting subject to base regulations

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE

A Check-In

State

Season

Check-In

State

Season

Check-In

State Season
Check-In

No Season

State Season
Check-In

State Season
Check-In

No Season

No Season

B

moody air force base

All hunting at the discretion of the Base Commander; permit must be obtained prior to hunting. Hunting not open to general public.

OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST (outside of state wildlife management areas)

State Season

Oct 17 - 23; Oct 26 - Nov 27; Nov 30-Dec 6, 2015 Oct 22-28, Nov 1-25, Nov 28-Dec 4, 2016

Oct 24-25, Nov 28-29 and Dec 26, 2015-Jan 1, 2016 Oct 29-30, Nov 26-27, and Dec 26, 2016-Jan 1, 2017

State Season

No Season

State Season

State Season

State Season

State Season

C &

Pursuit of hogs with dogs for training purposes only: Aug 1-Thurs day preceding archery deer season, Jan 2-Mar 19 & May 1-Thurs. preceding Memorial Day

oconee national forest

No dog training June 1- August 15. Pursuit of bears with dogs is prohibited. Hogs may be taken only during daylight hours consistent with regulations above. Coyotes may be taken during deer, turkey and small game hunts; weapons are restricted to legal firearms and archery equipment for the game species specified for a particular hunt as indicated heretofore;

electronic calls may be used; night hunting is prohibited. Placing, leaving, or depositing any food, bait or refuse in a manner likely to attract or concentrate any wildlife, whether for purposes of hunting or viewing animals, is prohibited. It is also prohibited to fail to properly store food or refuse to prevent access by wildlife. Transportation of a loaded long gun or cocked crossbow in a motor vehicle is prohibited. The use of center-fire firearms at night is prohibited. NOTE: A firearm is considered "loaded" if a round of ammunition is in the chamber or magazine, a percussion cap is on the nipple, or powder is present in the frizzen pan. A "Long gun" is a firearm with an extended barrel, usually designed to be fired braced against the shoulder. It shall include all rifles, shotguns, carbines, muzzleloaders, and/or other such weapons. The possession of an alcoholic beverage as defined by state law, while hunting, is prohibited.

**OKEFENOKEE
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE**

Suwannee Canal
Unit: No Season

Cowhouse Unit:
Dates and
regulations
coincide with those
for Dixon Memorial
WMA

Pocket Unit: Sept
12-Oct 9, 2015 &
Sept 10-Oct 7,
2016; Sign-In &
Sign-Out Required

Suwannee Canal
Unit: No Season

Cowhouse Unit:
Dates and

Pocket Unit: No
Season

Suwannee Canal
Unit: Oct 23-24,

	regulations coincide with those for Dixon Memorial WMA		2015 & Oct 28-29, 2016; Quota 30, Check-In
Wheelchair /Youth Only:	Oct 23-24, 2015 & Oct 28-29, 2016;	Quota 10,	Check-In
Cowhouse Unit: Dates and regulations coincide with those for Dixon Memorial WMA	Pocket Unit: No Season	Suwannee Canal Unit: No Season	Cowhouse Unit: Dates and regulations coincide with those for Dixon Memorial WMA
Pocket Unit: No Season	No Season	Suwannee Canal Unit: No Season	Cowhouse Unit: Dates and regulations coincide with those for Dixon Memorial WMA
Pocket Unit: No Season	Suwannee Canal Unit: No Season	Cowhouse Unit: Dates and regulations coincide with those for Dixon Memorial WMA-quail, rabbits and squirrels only.	Pocket Unit: No Season
No Season	No Season	Suwannee Canal Unit: B	Cowhouse Unit: C. Dates and regulations coincide with those for Dixon Memorial WMA
Pocket Unit: B			
okefenokee national wildlife refuge	Suwannee Canal Unit: Hunt is first-come, first-served and limited to the first 30 hunters (10 additional slots reserved for wheelchair hunters and/or youth hunters). Youth hunters are those 15 and under and supervised by an adult 21 or older. A hunter education certificate is required for youth hunters. Hunters may line up for check-in no earlier than 4:00 AM. Shooting hours close at noon; shotguns with slugs or muzzleloaders only; hunters will be charged a \$15.00		

permit fee; check-out required; hunters are not required to tag deer prior to check out; special bonus tag provided for two harvested deer; hunt area zoned; Chesser Island for wheelchair and/or youth hunters only. No dogs allowed. Cowhouse Island Unit: Foot travel only on ONWR portion of Cowhouse Island; no dogs allowed except pointing dogs for hunting quail; sign-in or check-in at Dixon Memorial WMA; all Dixon Memorial WMA regulations apply. Pocket Unit: Sign-In and sign-out required; foot travel only off paved road. No dogs allowed. Alligator hunting is not allowed. Call 912-496-7836 for more information.

PIEDMONT	Sept. 12-	No	Wheelchair
Oct. 29-31,	No	Mar. 29-	Quail,
No Season	Raccoon &	No	
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	Oct. 4, 2015 & Sept. 10-Oct. 2, 2016	Season	bound only: Oct. 16-17, 2015 & Oct. 14-15, 2016 General Hunt: Nov. 5-7, 12-14, 2015 & Nov. 3-5, 10-12, 2016 Quota 1250
2015 & Oct. 27-29, 2016 Quota 1250	Season	Apr. 2, Apr. 12-16, 26-30, 2016 & Mar. 28-Apr. 1, Apr. 11-15, 25-29, 2017 Quota 300	Squirrel & Rabbit (Only): State season except closed during all refuge deer hunts
Opossum (Only): Jan. 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30, 2016 &	Jan. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28, 2017	Season	
piedmont national wildlife refuge	Refuge permits are required for all hunts. Applications for quota deer	piedmont@fws.gov	

hunts must be received by August 26, 2015 and August 31, 2016. Quota turkey hunts applications must be received by February 24, 2016 and February 22, 2017. Hunters selected for quota hunts will be charged a refuge permit fee. The Hitchiti Experimental Forest is open for hunting only during refuge hunting seasons with a valid Piedmont Refuge hunting permit and in accordance with refuge regulations. Contact the refuge office to obtain applications, permits and refuge specific hunting regulations (478-986-5441) or email

SAVANNAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

	General Hunt: Oct 1-31, 2015 &	Oct 1-31, 2016; (youth-only hunting in designated areas during general hunt)	No Season
General Hunt: Nov 1-30, 2015 & Nov 1-30, 2016	Wheelchair Hunters Only: Nov 3-4, 2015 & Nov 1-2, 2016; Quota	Check-in	No Season
No Season	Youth Hunt and Learn: Apr 1-3, 2016 &	Mar 31-Apr 2, 2017; Quota Check-in	Youth Only
Hunt: Apr 3-7, 2017	Apr 4-8, 2017	2016	&
Apr 9-30, 2017	General	General &	Hunt: Apr 8-29, 2017
31, 2015	&	Hunt: Nov 1-Dec 31, 2016	Nov 1-Dec 31, 2016
General	Waterfowl	Hunt:	State season
Youth	Waterfowl	Hunt:	Nov 21 &
Dec 19, 2015,	Jan 23, 2016	&	Nov 19 &
Dec 17, 2016,	Jan 21, 2017;	Quota	Check-in
No Season	B & Mar	5-19,	2016

<p>&</p> <p>savannah national wildlife refuge</p>	<p>Interested hunters must visit www.fws.gov/refuge/savannah, or call (843) 784-2468, for detailed hunting information. All hunters 16 years of age or older must purchase a \$25 Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex Annual Hunt Permit at www.savannahcoastalpermits.com.</p>	<p>Mar 4-18,</p> <p>2017</p>	
<p>WASSAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE</p>	<p>Oct 22-24, 2015</p>	<p>&</p>	<p>Oct 20-22, 2016</p>
<p>Check-In</p> <p>Dec 8-10, 2016</p> <p>Oct 20-22, 2016</p> <p>No Season</p>	<p>No Season</p> <p>Check-in</p> <p>Check-In</p> <p>No Season</p>	<p>Dec 10-12, 2015</p> <p>Oct 22-24, 2015</p> <p>No Season</p> <p>No Season</p>	<p>&</p> <p>&</p> <p>No Season</p> <p>May be taken during deer hunts with approved hunting weapons</p>
<p>wassaw national wildlife refuge</p>	<p>Interested hunters must visit www.fws.gov/refuge/wassaw, or call (843) 784-2468, for detailed hunting information. All hunters 16 years of age or older must purchase a \$25 Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex Annual Hunt Permit at www.savannahcoastalpermits.com.</p>		

391-4-2-.72 Wildlife Management Areas, Federal Wildlife Areas and Other State Lands Legend

For purposes of interpreting 391-4-2-.70 and 391-4-2-.71, the following legend applies to all Wildlife Management Areas, Federal Wildlife Areas and other state lands:

(a) Deer Archery

A - During statewide archery deer seasons except during deer hunts and one day prior to managed deer hunts.

B - During statewide archery and primitive weapons deer seasons except during deer hunts and one day prior to managed deer hunts.

C - During statewide archery, primitive weapons and firearms deer season.

(b) Feral Hogs

A - Hogs may be taken on small game hunts (with small game weapons only) Nov. 1 through the last day of Feb. and during big game hunts with applicable weapons restrictions. No limit unless otherwise specified.

B - Hogs may be taken on deer hunts only. No limit unless otherwise specified.

C - Hogs may be taken on small game hunts (with small game weapons only) Aug. 15 through the last day of Feb. and during big game hunts with applicable weapons restrictions. No limit unless otherwise specified.

(c) Migratory Birds

A - Dove hunting allowed on Saturday only - First Season; any day second and third seasons during small game dates. Migratory birds other than doves may be hunted during statewide seasons when area is open for small game hunting unless otherwise specified.

B - Statewide seasons during small game dates.

C - Statewide season.

(d) Small Game and Furbearers Raccoons, Fox, Bobcats and Opossums may not be hunted during firearms deer hunts. No dog training unless otherwise specified.

A - State season except during deer hunts and one day prior to managed deer hunts.

B - State season.

C - State season except during deer hunts and one day prior to managed deer hunts and dog training allowed August 1 through March 19 outside of take seasons.

D - State Season and dog training allowed August 1 through March 19 outside of take seasons.

Q - Bird Dog Training areas - Designated portions of this WMA may be used for training pointing, flushing and retrieving dogs. (e) Symbols

- Quality Buck: Antlered bucks must have at least four (4) points (1 inch or longer) on one side.

- Quality Buck: Antlered bucks must have a minimum outside antler spread of 15 inches or 16 inch main beam.

(e) Unspecified or blank information in a particular species heading implies statewide season and bag limits apply.

391-4-2-.73 Pursuit of Bears with Dogs on Wildlife Management Areas, Other State Lands and Federal Areas

- (1)** The purpose of this rule is to establish regulations governing the use of dogs to pursue bears for training purposes on wildlife management areas, other state lands and federal areas.
- (2)** It shall be unlawful for any person to allow their dog(s) to pursue a bear(s) on any wildlife management area, other state land or federal land during any time other than the season(s) specified for such wildlife management area, other state land or federal land in rule 391-4-2-.70 or 391-4-2-.71.
- (3)** On wildlife management areas, other state lands or federal lands that have a season(s) specified for pursuing bears for the purpose of training hunting dogs pursuant to rule 391-4-2-.70 or 391-4-2-.71:
 - (a)** It is unlawful for any person to participate or assist in a lawful open season for pursuing bears for the purpose of training hunting dogs without first procuring a valid hunting license and big game license pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 27, and a wildlife management area license as required pursuant to rule 391-4-2-.13; and
 - (b)** Any person participating or assisting in a lawful open season for pursuing bears for the purpose of training hunting dogs shall comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 27-3-16; and

- (c) It is unlawful for any person participating or assisting in a lawful open season for pursuing bears for the purpose of training hunting dogs to fail to check-in once per season at any one of the following WMA check stations: Rich Mountain, Swallow Creek or Warwoman. Any such person shall maintain a copy their check-in permit on their person any time they are participating or assisting in a lawful open season for pursuing bears for the purpose of training hunting dogs; and
 - (d) It is unlawful for any person to fail to mark each dog used for pursuing bears for the purpose of training hunting dogs with such person's first name, last name, address, and valid telephone number; and
 - (e) It is unlawful for any person to fail to remove their dog(s) from any such area upon departure; and
 - (f) It is unlawful for any person participating or assisting in a lawful open season for pursuing bears for the purpose of training hunting dogs to allow their dog(s) to pursue any bear onto property for which permission has not been granted in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 27-3-1 or onto any wildlife management area, other state land or federal land at any time not specified in rule 391-4-2-.70 or 391-4-2-.71.
- (4) In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 27-2-25, the commissioner may revoke the hunting privileges, big game privileges, and/or wildlife management area privileges of any person who fails to comply with subsections (2) or (3)(a) through (3)(f) of this rule.

391-4-2-.201 Regulation for the Killing of Deer Which Damage Crops.Amended

- (1) **Permit Requirements.** A farmer desiring to kill deer which cause damage to crops may do so only if said farmer shall have first applied for and been issued a permit by the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources. The killing of deer (causing damage to crops) subsequent to the receipt of said permit shall be strictly in accordance with the conditions of that permit.
- (2) **Definitions.** As used in these Rules and Regulations, the following terms are defined as follows:
- (a) "Agricultural crops" are those crops which are planted with the intent to cultivate and harvest for marketing purposes.
 - (b) An "assistant" is a Georgia resident who is either a member of the immediate family of a qualifying applicant; or an employee actively engaged in the farming of the damaged crops; or selected by a permittee who is not able to get assistance from an immediate family member or an employee actively engaged in the farming activity, provided that the individual is at least 18 years old, not a convicted felon and has not been charged with a game violation within the past two (2) years. The activities of this assistant may include such activities as shining a light, driving a vehicle, or shooting.
 - (c) "Damage to crops" is injury that has occurred or is reasonably certain to occur to crops which were planted for agricultural purposes.
 - (d) A "farmer" is an individual who cultivates crops or is immediately responsible for their cultivation, or who is principal owner of the crop, excluding lenders.
 - (e) A "permittee" is the individual who has applied for and has been issued a permit to kill deer pursuant to these Rules and Regulations.
- (3) **Application for Permit.**
- (a) Applicant must be a farmer, as defined above, and must be able to show that crops being damaged were planted for agricultural purposes with intentions of harvesting and marketing said crops or their by-products.
 - (b) Applicant must submit information to the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources. Such information shall include but not be limited to the following information:
 1. Property on which deer may be killed;
 2. Persons authorized to kill deer;

3. Number of deer to be killed;
 4. Sex of deer to be killed;
 5. Crops which may be protected;
 6. Expiration date of permit.
- (c) Applicant may request two (2) assistants, as defined above, or three (3) assistants if the permittee is not capable of participating in the killing of the deer.
- (d) The application information and the alleged damage will be subject to investigation by the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources.
- (e) Prior to issuance of a permit, an applicant must implement any alternative control measure recommended by the Wildlife Resources Division.

(4) Issuance of Permits.

- (a) A permit to kill deer will only be issued when such killing would be justified. In determining whether there is sufficient justification, the Wildlife Resources Division is to consider the following factors:
1. The amount and nature of damage, which has occurred or is reasonably certain to occur in the immediate future;
 2. The type of crops involved and their stage of development;
 3. Number of permits previously issued to said applicant, or on which said applicant was an authorized assistant;
 4. Nature and number of alternative control measures attempted.
- (b) Based on the above factors, the permit shall contain limitations or conditions on the following:
1. Number and/or sex of deer which may be killed; Permits will be issued for antlerless deer only unless the amount or type of damage indicates that antlered bucks must be allowed.
 2. Length of time for which the permit is valid, but in no event shall such time be longer than one (1) year from the date of issuance;
 3. The area of land on which the killing may occur.
- (c) The permit shall also contain the following information:
1. The name of the permittee and any assistants;
 2. Type of crops which are subject to damage.
- (d) At the discretion of the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources, the permit may be issued to the applicant conditioned upon the deer being killed by a designated official of the Department of Natural Resources.

(5) Use of Permit.

- (a) Permittee must have the permit number on his person when the killing of deer occur.
- (b) Permittee may not allow any one to assist or accompany him/ her in the killing of deer, unless that person is specifically named on the permit.
- (c) Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources must be notified before each attempt is made to kill deer at night under this permit.
- (d) Firearms are limited to legal calibers for deer as provided in O.C.G.A. 27-3-4.3. Use of vehicles, lights and shooting hours are not restricted.
- (e) Permittee may not exceed the specified number and sex of deer. The date and sex of each deer killed must be immediately recorded and files maintained for a minimum period of 1 year from date of issuance.

- (f) The deer carcasses may be used by the permittee or transmitted to a family (Household) with income below the federal poverty level or physically disabled or senior citizen or transmitted to a public agency or charitable institution for distribution to families with incomes below the federal poverty level or physically disabled or senior citizens. Spoiled deer must be disposed of using standard sanitary procedures.
- (g) The cropowner must mark all deer in which possession is taken with a tag indicating permit holder's name, telephone number and permit number. This tag must remain on the animal until processed for consumption.
- (h) Shooting deer from public roads is not authorized.

(6) Expiration of Permit.

- (a) The permit will expire on the expiration date, or when the specified number and sex of deer have been taken, whichever comes first. In cases of recurring damage, a permittee must request a renewal or extension of said permit.
- (b) Permittees may be surveyed periodically by the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources to determine information including but not limited to the number and sex of deer taken with said permit.

(7) Violation of Permits. Violation of any of the terms and/or conditions of a permit shall make said permit invalid and deer killed under authority of that permit may be considered killed in violation of the Rules and Regulations authorizing the killing of deer which cause damage to crops.

Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia

Fishing Regulations (391-4-3, et. seq.)

391-4-3-.01 Effective Date

These provisions shall become effective upon compliance with the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act and continue in force and effect until changed or repealed.

391-4-3-.02 Fishing for Non-game Species

Except as otherwise provided by law or rule and regulation, it shall be lawful to take any non-game species of fish.

391-4-3-.03 Seasons and Trout Water Designations

- (1) The season for taking striped bass and for spearfishing shall be November 1 through April 30 in:
 - (a) The Flint River and its tributaries from the Georgia Power Company dams at Albany to the U.S. Highway 84 bridge in Bainbridge;
 - (b) The Chattahoochee River and its tributaries from the Columbia Lock and Dam to the Georgia Highway 91 bridge at the upper end of the Lake Seminole; and
 - (c) Spring Creek and its tributaries down to Georgia Highway 253 in Lake Seminole.
- (2) The season for all fishing shall be from November 1 through April 30 in the marked areas around the following springs in Lake Seminole:
 - (a) Sealey's Spring near Sealey's Point;
 - (b) Whiddon's Spring near Flint River mile 8.2;
 - (c) Wheat Spring near Flint River mile 24;
 - (d) State Dock Spring near Flint River mile 26; and
 - (e) Shackelford Spring near Flint River mile 6.8.
- (3) The following waters and all streams within the following watersheds, excluding any impoundments thereon unless specifically included, are designated, in the counties listed, trout waters and shall be open for trout fishing throughout the year:
 - (a) Bartow County:
 1. Boston Creek watershed upstream from Georgia Highway 20;
 2. Connesena Creek watershed;
 3. Dykes Creek watershed;
 4. Pine Log Creek watershed;
 5. Pyle Creek watershed;
 6. Salacoa Creek watershed;
 7. Spring Creek watershed;
 8. Stamp Creek watershed upstream from Bartow County Road 269;
 9. Toms Creek watershed upstream from Bartow County Road 82;
 10. Two Run Creek watershed; and
 11. Ward Creek watershed;

- (b)** Carroll County: Tallapoosa River watershed north of Interstate Highway 20, not including Little Tallapoosa River watershed;
- (c)** Catoosa County:
 - 1. Dry Creek watershed, which is a part of the East Chickamauga Creek watershed, upstream of Catoosa County Road 257;
 - 2. Hurricane Creek watershed upstream from Peters Branch;
 - 3. Little Chickamauga Creek watershed upstream from Catoosa County Road 387; and Creek watershed;
- (d)** Cherokee County:
 - 1. Bluff Creek watershed upstream from Cherokee County Road 114;
 - 2. Boston Creek watershed;
 - 3. Pine Log Creek watershed;
 - 4. Salacoa Creek watershed;
 - 5. Soap Creek watershed upstream from Cherokee County Road 116;
 - 6. Stamp Creek watershed; and
 - 7. Wiley Creek watershed;
- (e)** Cobb County: Chattahoochee River upstream from the mouth of Peachtree Creek;
- (f)** Dade County:
 - 1. Allison Creek watershed;
 - 2. East Fork Little River watershed;
 - 3. Lookout Creek watershed, upstream from Dade County Road 197; and
 - 4. Rock Creek watershed;
- (g)** Dawson County:
 - 1. Amicalola Creek watershed upstream from Georgia Highway 53;
 - 2. Anderson Creek watershed;
 - 3. Long Swamp Creek watershed;
 - 4. Nimblewill Creek watershed;
 - 5. Shoal Creek watershed upstream from the mouth of Burt Creek; and
 - 6. Sweetwater Creek watershed;
- (h)** Fannin County:
 - 1. Charlie Creek watershed;
 - 2. Conasauga River watershed;
 - 3. Ellijay River watershed;
 - 4. Etowah River watershed;
 - 5. Fightingtown Creek watershed;
 - 6. Flat Creek watershed;
 - 7. Jacks River watershed;
 - 8. Mountaintown Creek Watershed;

9. Owenby Creek watershed;
 10. Persimmon Creek watershed;
 11. Rock Creek Lake;
 12. South Fork Rapiar Mill Creek watershed;
 13. Star Creek watershed;
 14. Toccoa River watershed downstream from Lake Blue Ridge to the Georgia-Tennessee boundary and upstream from the mouth of Stanley Creek;
 15. Tumbling Creek watershed; and
 16. Wilscot Creek watershed;
- (i) Floyd County:
1. Dykes Creek watershed;
 2. Johns Creek watershed upstream from Floyd County Road 212;
 3. Kings Creek watershed;
 4. Lavender Creek watershed upstream from Floyd County Road 893;
 5. Little Cedar Creek watershed;
 6. Mt. Hope Creek watershed;
 7. Silver Creek watershed upstream from Georgia Highway 1E (Floyd County Road 631);
 8. Spring Creek watershed, which flows into Etowah River; and
 9. Toms Creek watershed;
- (j) Forsyth County: Chattahoochee River
- (k) Fulton County: Chattahoochee River upstream from the mouth of Peachtree Creek;
- (l) Gilmer County:
1. Ball Creek watershed;
 2. Cartecay River watershed;
 3. Conasauga River watershed, not including Jacks River watershed;
 4. Coosawattee River from confluence of Cartecay and Ellijay rivers downstream to old Georgia Highway 5 bridge (Gilmer County Road 239);
 5. Ellijay River watershed;
 6. Fightingtown Creek watershed;
 7. Harris Creek watershed;
 8. Johnson Creek watershed;
 9. Mountaintown Creek watershed;
 10. Noontootla Creek watershed;
 11. Sevenmile Creek watershed;
 12. Tails Creek watershed;
 13. Town Creek watershed;
 14. Wildcat Creek watershed; and
 15. All other streams or parts of streams not listed in this subparagraph, except:

- (i) Coosawattee River downstream from old Georgia Highway 5 (Gilmer County Road 239);
 - (ii) Talking Rock Creek; and
 - (iii) Tributaries to Carters Reservoir not listed in this subparagraph;
- (m) Gordon County:
- 1. Johns Creek watershed upstream of Floyd County Road 212;
 - 2. Pin Hook Creek watershed upstream from Gordon County Road 275;
 - 3. Pine Log Creek watershed upstream from Georgia Highway 53;
 - 4. Rocky Creek watershed upstream from Gordon County Road 210;
 - 5. Salacoa Creek watershed upstream from U.S. Highway 411; and
 - 6. Snake Creek watershed;
- (n) Gwinnett County: Chattahoochee River;
- (o) Habersham County:
- 1. Amy's Creek watershed upstream from Georgia Highway 17;
 - 2. Chattahoochee River watershed upstream from the Georgia Highway 255 crossing of the Chattahoochee River;
 - 3. Liberty Creek watershed;
 - 4. Middle Fork Broad River watershed;
 - 5. Nancytown Creek watershed upstream from Nancytown Lake;
 - 6. North Fork Broad River watershed;
 - 7. Panther Creek watershed;
 - 8. Roberts Branch watershed;
 - 9. Soque River watershed upstream from the mouth of Deep Creek; and
 - 10. Toccoa Creek watershed;
- (p) Haralson County:
- 1. Flatwood Creek watershed;
 - 2. Lassetter Creek watershed;
 - 3. Mann Creek watershed upstream from Haralson County Road 162;
 - 4. Tallapoosa Creek watershed; and
 - 5. Tallapoosa River watershed upstream from County Road 222;
- (q) Hart County: Savannah River from Hartwell Dam downstream to Richard B. Russell Lake;
- (r) Lumpkin County:
- 1. Amicalola Creek watershed;
 - 2. Cane Creek watershed upstream from the Georgia Highway 52 bridge;
 - 3. Cavender Creek watershed;
 - 4. Chestatee River watershed upstream from the mouth of Tesnatee Creek;
 - 5. Dockery Lake;
 - 6. Etowah River watershed upstream from Castleberry Bridge;

7. Shoal Creek watershed; and
8. Yahoola Creek watershed upstream from Georgia Highway 52;

(s) Murray County:

1. Conasauga River watershed upstream from the Georgia-Tennessee state line;
2. Holly Creek watershed upstream from the mouth of Dill Creek, including Dill Creek watershed;
3. Jacks River watershed;
4. Mill Creek watershed upstream from Murray County Road 27;
5. Mill Creek (Hasslers Mill Creek) watershed, which is within Holly Creek watershed;
6. North Prong Sumac Creek watershed;
7. Rock Creek watershed, the most southern of two Rock Creek watersheds which are in the Holly Creek watershed, upstream from Murray County Road 4;
8. Rock Creek watershed, the most northern of two Rock Creek watersheds which are in the Holly Creek watershed, upstream from Murray County Road 301;
9. Sugar Creek watershed upstream from Murray County Road 4; and
10. Sumac Creek watershed upstream from Coffey Lake;

(t) Paulding County:

1. Possum Creek watershed upstream from Paulding County Road 64;
2. Powder Creek (Powder Springs Creek) watershed;
3. Pyle Creek watershed;
4. Pumpkinvine Creek watershed upstream from Paulding County Road 231;
5. Raccoon Creek watershed upstream from State Route 2299 (Paulding County Road 471);
6. Tallapoosa River watershed;
7. Thompson Creek watershed; and
8. Ward Creek watershed;

(u) Pickens County:

1. Amicalola Creek watershed;
2. Ball Creek watershed;
3. Bluff Creek watershed;
4. Cartecay River watershed;
5. Clear Creek watershed;
6. Cove Creek watershed upstream from Pickens County Road 294;
7. Fausett Creek watershed;
8. Fisher Creek watershed;
9. Hobson Creek watershed;
10. Little Scarecorn Creek watershed;
11. Long Swamp Creek watershed, including Darnell Creek watershed, upstream from Cove Creek;
12. Mud Creek watershed;
13. Pin Hook Creek watershed;

14. Rock Creek watershed;
15. Salacoa Creek watershed;
16. Scarecorn Creek watershed upstream from Georgia Highway 53;
17. Sevenmile Creek watershed;
18. Sharp Mountain Creek watershed;
19. Soap Creek watershed;
20. Talking Rock Creek watershed upstream from Road S1011 (Georgia Highway 136);
21. Town Creek watershed;
22. Turkey Creek watershed; and
23. Wildcat Creek watershed;

(v) Polk County:

1. Cedar Creek watershed upstream from Polk County Road 121;
2. Lassetter Creek watershed;
3. Little Cedar Creek watershed;
4. Pumpkinpile Creek watershed upstream from Polk County Road 437;
5. Silver Creek watershed;
6. Spring Creek watershed;
7. Swinney Creek watershed;
8. Thomasson Creek watershed; and
9. Thompson Creek watershed upstream of Polk County Road 441;

(w) Rabun County:

1. Bad Branch watershed (flows into Lake Seed);
2. Bad Creek watershed (flows into Tugaloo Lake);
3. Bridge Creek watershed;
4. Chattooga River upstream from the mouth of Warwoman Creek;
5. Crow Creek watershed (flows into Lake Seed; includes Slick Shoal Creek);
6. Dicks Creek watershed (flows into Lake Burton);
7. Dickenson Branch (flows into Lake Burton);
8. Falls Branch watershed (flows into Lake Rabun);
9. Flat Creek watershed;
10. Joe Creek watershed (flows into Lake Rabun);
11. LaCounts Creek watershed (flows into Lake Seed);
12. Little Tennessee River watershed upstream from the North Carolina state line;
13. Moccasin Creek watershed;
14. Popcorn Creek watershed;
15. Seals Creek watershed (flows into Lake Seed);
16. Stekoa Creek watershed;

17. Tallulah River watershed upstream from Lake Burton;
 18. Timpson Creek watershed;
 19. Warwoman Creek watershed;
 20. West Fork Chattooga River watershed;
 21. Wildcat Creek watershed;
 22. Worse Creek watershed (flows into Tugaloo Lake); and
 23. All other streams or parts of streams not listed in this subparagraph, except:
 - (i) The Tallulah River downstream from Lake Burton Dam; and
 - (ii) Tributaries to Burton, Seed, Rabun, Tallulah Falls, Tugaloo and Yonah reservoirs not listed in this subparagraph;
- (x) Stephens County:
1. Little Toccoa Creek watershed;
 2. Middle Fork Broad River watershed upstream from NRCS flood control structure No.44;
 3. North Fork Broad River watershed upstream from NRCS flood control structure No. 1;
 4. Panther Creek watershed; and
 5. Toccoa Creek watershed upstream from Toccoa Falls;
- (y) Towns County:
1. Bearmeat Creek watershed;
 2. Bell Creek watershed;
 3. Brasstown Creek watershed;
 4. Bugscuffle Branch watershed (Allen Mill Creek);
 5. Burch Branch watershed;
 6. Fodder Creek watershed;
 7. Hightower Creek watershed;
 8. Hiwassee River watershed downstream to Towns County Road 87;
 9. Hog Creek watershed;
 10. Shake Rag Branch watershed;
 11. Tallulah River watershed; and
 12. All other streams or parts of streams not listed in this subparagraph, except:
 - (i) Hiwassee River downstream from Towns County Road 87; and
 - (ii) Tributaries to Chatuge Reservoir not listed in this subparagraph;
- (aa) Union County:
1. Bracket Creek watershed;
 2. Brasstown Creek watershed;
 3. Butler Creek watershed;
 4. Camp Creek watershed;
 5. Conley Creek watershed;

6. Coosa Creek watershed;
7. Ivylog Creek watershed;
8. Kiutuestia Creek watershed;
9. Low Creek watershed;
10. Nottely River watershed upstream from Nottely Reservoir
11. Toccoa River watershed;
12. Youngcane Creek watershed; and
13. All other streams or parts of streams not listed in this subparagraph, except;
 - (i) Butternut Creek watershed;
 - (ii) Nottely River downstream from Nottely Dam; and
 - (iii) Tributaries to Nottely Reservoir not listed in this subparagraph;

(bb) Walker County:

1. Allen Creek watershed;
2. Chappel Creek watershed;
3. Chattanooga Creek watershed upstream from Walker County Road 235;
4. Concord Creek watershed;
5. Dry Creek watershed, which is a tributary to East Armuchee Creek;
6. Duck Creek watershed;
7. East Fork Little River watershed, which flows into Dade County;
8. East Fork Little River watershed, which flows into Chattooga County, including Gilreath Creek;
9. Furnace Creek watershed;
10. Gulf Creek watershed;
11. Harrisburg Creek watershed, including Dougherty Creek watershed, upstream from Dougherty Creek;
12. Johns Creek watershed;
13. Left Fork Coulter Branch watershed;
14. Little Chickamauga Creek watershed;
15. Rock Creek watershed, including Sawmill Branch, upstream from Sawmill Branch;
16. Ruff Creek watershed;
17. Snake Creek watershed;
18. West Armuchee Creek watershed; and
19. West Chickamauga Creek watershed upstream from Walker County Road 107;

(cc) White County:

1. Chattahoochee River watershed upstream from the Georgia Highway 255 crossing of the Chattahoochee River;
2. Little Tesnatee Creek watershed upstream from the mouth of Turner Creek;
3. Town Creek watershed upstream from the mouth of Jenny Creek; and
4. Turner Creek watershed, which is the Turner Creek watershed nearest to Cleveland city limits;

(dd) Whitfield County:

1. Coahulla Creek watershed upstream from Whitfield County Road 183;
 2. Dry Creek watershed, which is a part of East Chickamauga Creek watershed;
 3. Snake Creek watershed;
 4. Spring Creek (Deep Spring Creek) watershed;
 5. Swamp Creek watershed upstream from Whitfield County Road 9; and
 6. Tiger Creek watershed.
- (4)** The season for taking lake sturgeon from the Coosa River and its tributaries shall be closed.
- (5)** Except as otherwise provided by law or rule or regulation, all other seasons for taking fish in freshwater shall be open and continuous.

391-4-3-.04 Waters Open to Commercial Fishing

Except as otherwise provided by law or rule and regulation, all waters shall be open to commercial fishing except:

- (a)** The Coosa River, from the confluence of the Etowah and Oostanaula Rivers to the Georgia-Alabama Boundary line and all streams flowing into the Coosa River between those two points shall be closed to commercial fishing;
- (b)** That portion of Lake Weiss located in Georgia shall be closed to commercial fishing;
- (c)** The Oostanaula River from the State Highway 156 bridge to the confluence of the Oostanaula and Etowah Rivers and all streams flowing into the Oostanaula River between those two points shall be closed to commercial fishing; and
- (d)** The Etowah River from the U.S. Highway 411 bridge downstream to the confluence of the Etowah and the Oostanaula Rivers and all streams flowing into the Etowah River between those two points shall be closed to commercial fishing.
- (e)** As to the taking of freshwater mussels, see Rule 391-4-3-.10(4)(a) .

391-4-3-.05 Creel and Possession Limits

In keeping with sound principles of wildlife research and management, creel and possession limits shall be the following:

- (1)** Ten (10) of any one or a combination of the following species, except only one (1) fish may be greater than twenty two (22) inches from Lake Lindsay Grace:
 - (a)** Largemouth bass;
 - (b)** Smallmouth bass;
 - (c)** Shoal bass;
 - (d)** Suwannee bass;
 - (e)** Spotted bass or Kentucky bass;
 - (f)** Redeye or Coosa bass.
- (2)** Eight (8) of any one or a combination of the following species, except only one (1) from Waters Creek:
 - (a)** Rainbow trout;
 - (b)** Brook trout;
 - (c)** Brown trout.

- (3) Fifteen (15) of any one or a combination of the following species; provided, however, only two (2) fish may be twenty-two (22) inches or longer in length:
- (a) White bass;
 - (b) Striped bass;
 - (c) Striped-white bass hybrids.
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (3) to the contrary, from the North Newport River, the Medway River including Mount Hope Creek, the Little Ogeechee River, the Ogeechee River, the Oconee River downstream of Georgia Highway 22 in Milledgeville, the Ocmulgee River downstream of the Georgia Highway 96 bridge between Houston and Twiggs counties, the Altamaha River, and the Satilla River; from the tributaries to such described sections; and from salt water as defined in O.C.G.A. 27-4-1 two (2) of any one or a combination of the following species each of which must be twenty-two (22) inches or longer:
- (a) White bass;
 - (b) Striped-white bass hybrids;
 - (c) Striped bass.
- (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (3) to the contrary, from the Savannah River and its tributaries downstream of J. Strom Thurmond Dam two (2) of any one or a combination of the following species each of which must be twenty-seven (27) inches or longer:
- (a) White bass;
 - (b) Striped-white bass hybrids;
 - (c) Striped bass.
- (6) Fifty (50) of any one or a combination of the game species, as defined by O.C.G.A. 27-1-2 of bream or sunfish;
- (7) Eight (8) walleye (walleyed pike);
- (8) Eight (8) sauger;
- (9) Fifteen (15) of any one or a combination of the following species of pickerel:
- (a) Chain;
 - (b) Grass;
 - (c) Redfin.
- (10) Thirty (30) of any one or a combination of the following species:
- (a) Black crappie;
 - (b) White crappie.
- (11) Eight (8) of any one or a combination of the following species:
- (a) American shad;
 - (b) Hickory shad.

391-4-3-.06 Size Limits

- (1) Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 27-4-10 and in keeping with sound principles of wildlife research and management, fish of the following sizes may not be taken.
- (a) It shall be unlawful to take or possess largemouth bass as follows:
 - 1. Less than fourteen inches (14") in total length from Lake Oconee;

2. Less than fourteen inches (14") in total length from West Point Reservoir;
 3. Less than fourteen inches (14") in total length from all public fishing areas operated by the Department; provided, however, this shall not apply to lakes at public fishing areas which have been posted as having a different length limit for largemouth bass;
 4. Less than fourteen inches (14") in total length from Walter F. George Reservoir;
 5. Less than fourteen inches (14") in total length from Lake Blackshear;
 6. Less than fourteen inches (14") in total length from Lake Lanier; and
 7. From fifteen inches (15") to twenty two inches (22") in total length from Lake Lindsay Grace in Wayne County.
 8. Less than twelve inches (12") in total length from all other waters of this state; provided, however, there shall be no limitations on the sizes of largemouth bass taken from lakes Burton, Juliette on the Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area, and Blue Ridge.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to take or possess spotted bass less than fourteen inches (14") in total length from Lake Lanier.
- (c) It shall be unlawful to take or possess shoal bass less than fourteen inches (14") in total length from Lake Lanier.
- (d) It shall be unlawful to take or possess shoal bass less than twelve inches (12") in total length from the Flint River or any of its tributary streams downstream of Warwick Dam.
- (e) It shall be unlawful to take or possess shoal bass less than fifteen inches (15") in total length from the Flint River or any of its tributary streams upstream of Warwick Dam.
- (f) It shall be unlawful to take or possess brook trout less than eighteen inches (18") in total length or rainbow or brown trout less than twenty-two inches (22") in total length from Waters Creek upstream from its junction with Dick's Creek.
- (g) It shall be unlawful to take or possess mountain trout less than sixteen inches (16") in total length from Noontootla Creek or its tributaries within the Blue Ridge Wildlife Management Area.
- (2) Except as otherwise provided by law, rule or regulation, there shall be no other size limits on freshwater fish species listed in O.C.G.A. § 27-4-10.

391-4-3-.07 Fishing on and Using State Owned or Operated Property

- (1) No person shall fish in that portion of Moccasin Creek from Lake Burton Hatchery water intake downstream to a sign marking the approximate normal pool level of Lake Burton, except those persons under twelve (12) years of age and those persons holding honorary fishing licenses.
- (2) On Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays only, persons may fish in Dukes Creek and its tributaries on the Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area, including the Highway 75 Alternate right-of-way, after obtaining a permit from the Department. Registered guests of the Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area may fish in Dukes Creek and its tributaries on the Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area upstream from the Georgia Highway 75 Alternate Bridge any day they are registered as guests. The Department may close certain portions of Dukes Creek or its tributaries on the Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area, including the Highway 75 Alternate right-of-way, to fishing at any time for fisheries management purposes.
- (3) Persons may not fish from service piers at boat ramps owned or operated by the department which have been posted with a sign stating that fishing is prohibited.
- (4) Open containers of alcoholic beverages are prohibited at boat ramps and fishing piers owned or operated by the department where signs have been posted stating said prohibition. This provision does not apply to national forest lands.

391-4-3-.08 Management Area Trout Streams

- (1) No person shall fish in Waters Creek on the Chestatee Wildlife Management Area except on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. EST (6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. EDT).
- (2) No person shall take more than three (3) trout from Waters Creek from January 1 to December 31 of each year.
- (3) Any person sixteen (16) years of age or older except honorary fishing license holders fishing in Waters Creek must have on their person a valid Wildlife Management Area Stamp as described in 391-4-2-.13.

391-4-3-.09 Public Fishing Areas

- (1) Any person sixteen (16) years of age or older fishing on any public fishing area must have on their person a valid Wildlife Management Area license as provided for in these rules; provided, however, that persons having on their person a valid honorary, sportsman's, or lifetime license, or a valid three-day resident or nonresident hunting/fishing license shall not be required to possess a Wildlife Management Area license; provided further, that drivers of vehicles parking at the Rocky Mountain public fishing area must obtain a daily or annual Rocky Mountain public fishing area parking permit (which is not a Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division Parking Pass), and the driver and all occupants of the vehicle are not required to possess a Wildlife Management Area license.
- (2) On ponds or portions of ponds where fisheries resources are limited, area managers may limit fishing to persons under 16 years of age by posting a sign at the pond which indicates said limitations.
- (3) Except as provided by O.C.G.A. § 27-4-11.1, the creel and possession limits for fish caught from public fishing areas shall be the following:
 - (a) Fifteen (15) of any one or a combination of the game species of bream or sunfish;
 - (b) Five (5) largemouth bass;
 - (c) Five (5) channel catfish;
 - (d) All grass carp must be immediately returned to the waters from which they were caught; and
 - (e) All fish or designated fish species taken from ponds and lakes posted as open only to catch and release fishing must be immediately returned to the waters from which they were taken. Possession of fish or designated fish species in ponds and lakes open only to catch and release fishing is not allowed.
- (4) Camping shall not be allowed on public fishing areas except under the following circumstances:
 - (a) Camps may only be established at developed campsites or in areas designated for primitive camping;
 - (b) Only campers may remain on public fishing areas from 10:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.; provided, however, all persons are restricted to the camping areas from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise;
 - (c) Any activity that disturbs other campers between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. is prohibited;
 - (d) No musical instrument, radio, television or other noise making device may be used after 10:00 p.m. or before 7:00 a.m. in such a manner that it may be heard by other campers;
 - (e) Campers must register for developed campsites when they arrive at the area prior to setting up camp and before 4:00 p.m., except that campers may register later than 4:00 p.m. as designated by the public fishing area manager;
 - (f) Registered campers must check out by 3:00 p.m. on the day of their departure;
 - (g) Unless otherwise designated by the public fishing area manager, developed campsites will be limited to one of the following combinations of vehicle occupancy plus a two-man tent and one boat trailer:
 1. One motor home and one automobile;
 2. One automobile with pop-up trailer (or other type of tent) and one additional automobile;

3. One automobile with travel trailer and one additional automobile;
 4. One pickup with mounted camping rig and one additional automobile;
 5. Two motorized vehicles;
- (h) Occupancy of campsites is limited to fourteen consecutive days;
 - (i) Any camper who has used a campsite for 14 consecutive days must vacate the camping area for a period of not less than 4 days before again occupying a campsite;
 - (j) Any tents, trailers, automobiles, other vehicles or other personal property left unattended at the campsite overnight or beyond the designated time limit shall be removed and any expenses, including towing charges, incurred by such removal shall be paid by the person under whose name the campsite is registered;
 - (k) Dishwashing is prohibited at drinking faucets and at comfort stations;
 - (l) Picnic supplies and other personal property shall not be left unattended in the picnic shelters;
 - (m) Campers may cut only dead and fallen trees for firewood to be used on the area;
 - (n) Persons who wish to camp on areas where gates are usually locked at night must contact area managers in advance to make arrangements for camping; and
 - (o) Rules for camping on wildlife management areas shall apply on areas which are both public fishing areas and wildlife management areas; and
 - (p) Camping on the Rocky Mountain public fishing area is prohibited except from April 1 until October 31, and except at other times as designated by the public fishing area manager for special purposes.
- (5) Persons may not fish with any gear other than pole and line, as the term is defined in O.C.G.A. § 27-1-2(51), and no person shall fish with more than two poles and lines at any public fishing area:
 - (6) Unless night fishing is posted as permitted, persons may not fish at any public fishing area except during the time between sunrise and sunset.
 - (7) Persons may not use or possess live fish for bait at any public fishing area except in lakes or ponds posted as being open to the use of live fish for bait.
 - (8) Except as provided herein, persons may not operate any vessel as defined in O.C.G.A. § 52-7-3 on any public fishing area owned or operated by the department; provided, however, that fishing boats propelled by paddles, oars, or electric motors may be used on ponds or lakes unless they are posted as being closed to the use of such fishing boats, and provided further, that:
 - (a) Persons may operate any fishing boat being propelled by a motor at idle speed on any public fishing area lake designated open to the use of fishing boats with motors; and
 - (b) Personal watercraft (jet skis), sailboats and sailboards are not permitted on any public fishing area lake; and
 - (9) Persons may not utilize the waters of any public fishing area for recreational swimming; provided, however, this subsection shall not apply to the designated beach area at Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area between Memorial Day and Labor Day during the hours designated by the public fishing area manager.
 - (10) No person may consume or use alcoholic beverages on any public fishing area except in houses or at campsites on these areas; provided, however, no alcoholic beverages are allowed on the Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area.
 - (11) No horses are allowed on public fishing areas except in those areas designated as open to equestrian use.
 - (12) Persons may not rappel, rock climb or hang glide on the Rocky Mountain public fishing area.
 - (13) No person shall disobey any lawful order of a law enforcement officer or the area manager.

- (14) If hunting is authorized, hunters may access specified portions of the public fishing area during legal hunting hours for the purpose of hunting.
- (15) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Rule 391-4-3-.09 to the contrary, Department sponsored special events are authorized on public fishing areas twenty-four hours a day, subject to any special conditions for the event established by the Department.

391-4-3-.10 Commercial Fishing

- (1) It shall be lawful to fish with gill nets on Lake Seminole as follows:
 - (a) From November 1 through January 31 in the Flint River Arm from Faceville Landing upstream to but not including the mouth of Big Slough, in the Spring Creek Arm from State Route 253 upstream to U.S. Route 84 and in Fish Pond Drain from State Route 253 upstream to County Road 1659 at the north end of Ray's Lake.
 - (b) Nets may not be set in waters exceeding eight (8') feet in depth or in stream channels.
 - (c) All game fish and catfish taken in gill nets must be released.
 - (d) All gill nets must be marked by visible buoys.
 - (e) Fisherman are limited to three hundred (300) linear feet of netting. Gill net mesh must be two inches (2") on the square.
 - (f) All nets must be clearly labeled with the name and commercial fishing license number of the person fishing them.
 - (g) All other commercial fishing laws and regulations shall apply.
- (2) It shall be lawful to fish with a basket in the Georgia portion of Clark Hill Reservoir, Richard Russell Reservoir, Hartwell Reservoir, Yonah Lake, Tugaloo (Toogaloo) Lake, Stevens Creek Lake and the impounded waters of the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam, which basket is constructed of one inch (1") mesh wire and is not more than seventy-two inches (72") in length and sixty inches (60") in circumference. One throat of such basket shall be located at the extreme front of the basket and a second throat shall be located seventeen inches (17") behind the first. The second throat shall have one inch (1") square mesh webbing attached so that when such mesh is drawn taut by cords attached to each side, a horizontal opening is created which is not more than one inch (1") in height. It shall be unlawful to take any game fish except flathead catfish and channel catfish with such baskets.
- (3) Reserved.
- (4) Commercial fishing for mussels in fresh water.
 - (a) The following waters shall be opened from sunrise to sunset on Monday through Friday of each week from 1 April to 31 August each year, except Memorial Day and Independence Day, to the lawful harvest of mussels:
 - 1. Fresh waters of all streams are open to the lawful harvest of mussels that will not pass through a round ring with an inside diameter of four inches; and
 - 2. Reservoirs over 500 acres in size which are not owned or operated by the Department are open to the lawful harvest of washboard mussels (*Megaloniaias sp.*) that will not pass through a round ring with an inside diameter of four inches and to the harvest of all other mussels whose longest dimension will not pass through said ring.
 - (b) It shall be unlawful to harvest mussels in fresh water by any form of dredging, brailing, pumping, any form of mechanical scooping or by dragging any material over the mussels. Any person violating this provision is subject to the civil penalty provisions of O.C.G.A. Section 27-1-36.

391-4-3-.11 Trout Stream Designation for Water Quality Purposes

Trout streams for water quality purposes shall be designated by the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department. Such designations shall not be amended except after scientific study, coordination with the Environmental Protection Division and approval by the Board of Natural Resources and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

391-4-3-.12 Possession, Sale and Importation of Fish or Fish Eggs

- (1) When the Commissioner finds that a specific shipment of live fish or fish eggs found in the State or sought to be introduced into the State will or may introduce or spread disease or parasites or otherwise be harmful to endemic fish populations he may, by appropriate order, prohibit their possession or sale within the State, or prohibit their entry into the State.
- (2) If the Commissioner finds that any live fish or fish eggs from a specific fish hatchery or geographic area, either within or outside of the State, will or may introduce or spread disease or parasites or otherwise be harmful to endemic fish populations, he may, by appropriate order, prohibit their possession and any further sales thereof within the State or prohibit any future shipments thereof into the State.
- (3) Live fish or fish eggs subjected to regulation under either subsection (1) or (2) above shall remain subject to the order issued thereunder unless and until a fisheries expert, recognized by and acceptable to the Commissioner, has certified the live fish or fish eggs from said shipment or said fish hatchery or geographical area to be free from any such harmful characteristics.
- (4) Any live fish or fish eggs possessed or sold within the State or introduced into the State in violation of any order issued under either subsection (1) or (2) above shall, in the absence of the certificate provided in the subsection (3) above, be presumed to possess the same harmful characteristics upon which the order was based and shall be subject to immediate, summary seizure and destruction by conservation rangers or other duly authorized agents or officials of the Department.

391-4-3-.13 Fishing Methods

- (1) The following streams are declared to be artificial-lure streams:
 - (a) That portion of the Chattahoochee River from Georgia Highway 20 downstream to the boat ramp at the National Park Service Medlock Bridge Park immediately upstream of Georgia Highway 141;
 - (b) Noontootla Creek and its tributaries on the Blue Ridge Management Area;
 - (c) Coleman River and its tributaries from the junction with Tallulah River upstream to Forest Service Bridge No. 54;
(d) Jones Creek and its tributaries on U.S. Forest Service property upstream from the junction with the Etowah River
 - (d) Mountaintown Creek and its tributaries above Mountaintown Creek Watershed Structure No. 2;
 - (e) Stanley Creek and its tributaries on the Rich Mountain Management Area;
 - (f) Hoods Creek and its tributaries on the Warwoman Management Area;
 - (g) Walnut Fork and its tributaries on the Warwoman Management Area;
 - (h) Conasauga River upstream of the Georgia-Tennessee state line and its tributaries to that portion of the river; provided, however, Conasauga River and its tributaries shall not be artificial-lure streams from the last Saturday in March through October 31 of each year; and
- (2) It shall be lawful to fish with or possess only artificial lures with barbless hooks in that portion of Dukes Creek and its tributaries in White County on the Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area, including the Georgia Highway 75 Alternate right-of-way.
- (3) It shall be lawful to fish with only one, and only lawful to possess, artificial lures with a single barbless hook of number six size or smaller in Waters Creek or its tributary streams in Lumpkin County from its junction

with Dick's Creek upstream. A landing net less than two feet in length may be used to land fish legally taken.

- (4) It shall only be lawful to fish with artificial lures with single hooks and only lawful to possess artificial lures with single hooks on the following waters; provided, however, this restriction shall not apply to said waters from May 15 through October 31 of each year:

- (a) Amicalola Creek from County Road 192 (Steele Bridge Road) downstream to Georgia Highway 53;
- (b) Chattahoochee River from Sope Creek (off Columns Drive) downstream to US Highway 41 (Cobb Parkway);
- (c) Chattooga River (in Rabun County) from Georgia Highway 28 upstream to the mouth of Reed Creek (Georgia);
- (d) Smith Creek on Unicoi State Park from Unicoi Dam downstream to the Unicoi State Park property boundary; and
- (e) Toccoa River on U.S. Forest Service land from 0.4 miles above the Shallowford Bridge upstream to a point 450 feet upstream of the Sandy Bottom Canoe Access.

(5) Use of live blueback herring for bait and possession of live blueback herring is prohibited in all freshwaters of the state; provided, however, this provision shall not apply to the following waters:

- (a) Lake Bartlett's Ferry;
- (b) Lake Blue Ridge
- (c) Lake Chatuge;
- (d) Lake Goat Rock;
- (e) Lake Juliette;
- (f) Lake Lanier;
- (g) Lake Nottely;
- (h) Lake Oliver;
- (i) Lake West Point
- (j) Altamaha River watershed downstream of the following dams:
 - 1. Juliette on the Ocmulgee River;
 - 2. **Lake** Juliette on Rum Creek;
 - 2. Lake Tobesofkee on Tobesofkee Creek; and
 - 3. Lake Sinclair on the Oconee River; nor to
- (k) watersheds of all other streams that flow directly into the Atlantic Ocean. The penalties of this paragraph shall be enforceable by all penalties applicable, including civil penalties.

391-4-3-.14 Catch and Release Fishing

- (1) The following streams or portions of streams are declared to be delayed harvest streams, and all mountain trout caught from these streams must be immediately returned unharmed to the waters from which they were caught; provided, however, this restriction shall not apply to said streams or portions of streams from May 15 through October 31 of each year:
- (a) That portion of Amicalola Creek from County Road 192 (Steele Bridge Road) downstream to Georgia Highway 53;
 - (b) That portion of the Chattahoochee River from Sope Creek (off Columns Drive) downstream to US Highway 41 (Cobb Parkway);

- (c) That portion of Chattooga River (in Rabun County) from Georgia Highway 28 upstream to the mouth of Reed Creek (Georgia);
 - (d) That portion of Smith Creek on Unicoi State Park from Unicoi Dam downstream to the Unicoi State Park property boundary; and
 - (e) That portion of the Toccoa River on U.S. Forest Service land from 0.4 miles above the Shallowford Bridge upstream to a point 450 feet upstream of the Sandy Bottom Canoe Access.
- (2) The following stream is declared to be a catch and release stream, and all fish caught from this stream must be immediately returned unharmed to the waters from which they were caught:
- (a) That portion of Dukes Creek and its tributaries flowing through the Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area, including the Georgia Highway 75 Alternate right-of-way;
- (3) Possession of trout while fishing on a catch and release stream is prohibited; and
- (4) Possession of trout while fishing on a delayed harvest stream is prohibited from November 1 through May 14 of each year.

391-4-3-.15 Hours

- (1) It shall be lawful to fish in trout waters designated in Rule 391-4-3-.03(3) 24 hours a day; provided, however, that Waters Creek upstream from its junction with Dick's Creek shall be open to fishing only between 6:30 am and 6:30 p.m. eastern standard time or 7:30 p.m. eastern daylight time; and the Conasauga River watershed upstream of the Georgia-Tennessee state line, that portion of Smith Creek on Unicoi State Park and the Chattahoochee River downstream of Lake Lanier shall be open to fishing only between 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset during daylight hours.
- (2) It shall be lawful to fish in Dockery Lake and Rock Creek Lake only between 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset during daylight hours. Except as otherwise provided by law, rule or regulation, fishing in all other impoundments is permitted 24 hours a day.

Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia

Protected Wildlife Habitats (391-4-7, et. seq.)

391-4-7-.01 Purpose

The purpose of these rules is to implement the authority of the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules and regulations for wildlife protection, preservation, and management pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 27-1-6(1)(B); to protect natural areas as provided by the Georgia Natural Areas Act, O.C.G.A. § 12-3-90 *et seq.*; and pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 27-1-33; and for the management and use of heritage preserves as provided by O.C.G.A. § 12-3-74(a)(1). The purpose also includes the implementation of the Governor's dedication of the islands named in Rule 391-4-7-.03 as heritage preserves.

391-4-7-.02 Definitions

For the purpose of these rules and regulations, "Pet" means those taxa of animals which have traditionally lived in a state of dependence on and under the domination and control of humans and have been kept as tame pets, including cats and dogs.

391-4-7-.03 Shorebird and Sea Bird Habitat Protection

- (1) In order to protect habitat for shorebirds and sea birds, except as provided in paragraph (d) of this subsection (1), no person shall:
 - (a) Enter those natural areas known as Egg Island Bar Natural Area, Satilla River Marsh Island Natural Area, or St. Catherines Island Bar Natural Area at any time.
 - (b) Enter that portion of Williamson Island which has been designated by signs indicating that the area is closed to human access. This closed area will be approximately 1,000 feet in length and of varying width, depending upon the width of the dry sand beach, and will be located at least 50 feet landward of the mean high tide line. The closed area will not include the northern and southern ends of the island or the ocean-facing beach.
 - (c) Enter that portion of Pelican Spit Natural Area which has been designated by signs indicating that the area is closed to human access. This closed area will include the interior portion of the island and the southeastern spit. The closed area will not include the southwestern beach, Hampton River Beach, the northeastern spit, or the ocean-facing beach.
 - (d) The restrictions in this chapter do not apply to the properly authorized actions of contractors and associates of the department when conducting research and monitoring activities for birds on these islands, or when responding to stranded marine mammals or other emergencies.
- (2) Pets.
 - (a) Pets are not permitted on Egg Island Bar Natural Area, Pelican Spit Natural Area, Satilla River Marsh Island Natural Area, St. Catherines Island Bar Natural Area, or Williamson Island.

Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia

General Regulations (391-4-9, et. seq.)

391-4-9-.01 Scientific Collecting Permits

- (1) Purpose. The purpose of this rule is to establish administrative procedures to be followed by applicants and/or holders of scientific collecting permits and to discourage excessive duplication of effort and reduce excess collecting.
- (2) Definition. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms as used in this rule shall have the following meanings:
 - (a) "Collection report" means a summary, prepared by the permittee, which details collections of the previous year and includes data on species collected, dates, numbers, methods, locations, and disposition of specimens;
 - (b) "Master permittee" means a person to whom a scientific collecting permit has been issued, which permit allows him to authorize students, assistants, aides, employees or field workers to assist with collections under his supervision;
 - (c) "Project proposal" means a document which outlines proposed research activities that require scientific collecting permits and justifies the need for scientific collecting. The project proposal shall explain specific objectives, methods, location, frequency of collection, number of individuals needed, and the planned disposition of specimens to be taken;
 - (d) "Scientific collecting permit" means a permit which authorizes one to take, possess, capture, kill, ship or transport any of the wildlife of this State, or the plumage, skin or body thereof, or the nest of eggs of the same for scientific purposes according to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources;
 - (e) "Special purpose permit" means a permit that grants privileges beyond that of a scientific collecting permit, i.e., possession of specimens collected for longer than sixty days following expiration of the scientific collecting permit;
 - (f) "Sub-permittee" means a student, assistant, aide, employee or field worker who is working under the supervision of and is authorized to collect wildlife by a master permittee.
- (3) Application for Permit.
 - (a) A specific request must be made for the issuance of a master permit. Applicants must clearly justify their need for a master permit.
 - (b) Unless otherwise specified on the permit, scientific collecting permits shall be effective from April 1 through March 31.
 - (c) Student collectors must submit a project proposal and a written and signed endorsement thereof by their major professor.
 - (d) A five dollar (\$5.00) fee per permit must accompany the application. Payment must be made by certified check or money order made payable to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.
 - (e) A collection report detailing the previous year's collection activities is required with any renewal application.
- (4) Use of Permit.
 - (a) Permittees and sub-permittees must have their permit in their possession when collecting. Permits are non-transferable, except that a master permittee may designate students, assistants, aides, employees, or field workers assistants in collecting. All such sub-permittees must have on their person a copy of the master permit and a letter of authorization issued by the master permittee to them. The

master permittee shall be responsible for any violations by any such sub-permittees and shall be responsible for maintaining all records.

- (b) Instructors whose class members are directed to collect wildlife are responsible for assuring that only a representative sample of animals are retained and sacrificed for class use.
 - (c) All live specimens retained must be humanely cared for. All collectors are expected to use good judgment when exercising the privileges of their collecting permit. Collectors should be as prudent and humane as possible in collecting and capture activities.
 - (d) The District Law Enforcement Office of the Department of Natural Resources in each area of collection must be notified at least three (3) days in advance of the date and place specimens are to be collected, the species to be collected, the method of collection and the permit number.
- (5) Disposition of Specimens. In order to ensure the maximum use of all specimens collected under the auspices of a scientific collecting permit, the disposition of wildlife, their carcasses, parts, products, or progeny thereof shall be as follows:
- (a) Live, uninjured and unimpaired specimens which could reasonably be expected to survive in the wild, shall be returned to the location of capture and released. Records of such releases shall be indicated on the scientific collection report.
 - (b) All other specimens taken and possessed under authorization of a scientific collection permit must be denoted and transferred to a public, scientific, or educational institution within sixty (60) days following expiration of the permit, unless the permittee has been issued a special purpose permit authorizing possession for a longer period of time. Specimens not suitable for donation must be destroyed. Edible specimens shall be donated to a charitable institution and receipt obtained. Receipts must be attached to annual collection report.
- (6) Reports.
- (a) A collection report detailing the previous year's collecting activities must be submitted with any request for renewal of a permit. Individuals not renewing a permit must submit a report by March 31, or within sixty (60) days after collecting, whichever is later. Data should be provided on species collected, dates, location, and disposition of specimens.
 - (b) A listing of all publications, research papers, theses, progress reports, etc. derived from the study of such collections, shall be submitted with the annual collection report. Copies of such material shall be made available to the Department of Natural Resources upon request.
- (7) State parks, municipal parks, public museums, public zoological parks, and public scientific or educational institutions may possess law-fully acquired wildlife without a permit, provided the wildlife may be acquired only from persons authorized by this paragraph; or persons authorized by permit from this department; or from Federal or State game authorities by the gift of seized, condemned, or sick or injured wildlife; or through salvage of wildlife which have been killed as the result of unintentional accident or an act of nature; and also provided that it shall be unlawful to possess migratory birds without authorization from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

391-4-9-.02 Firing Ranges

- (1) Permissible Firearms:
- (a) Only firearms utilizing single projectile ammunition may be fired on DNR managed firing ranges. However, shotguns utilizing multiple projectile ammunition may be fired at stationary targets for the purposes of assessing shotgun patterns. All targets must be located so that the pellets will strike between the base and halfway up the backstop.
 - (b) Sawed-off shotguns, sawed-off rifles, machine guns, dangerous weapons, and silenced weapons as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-121, and any weapon firing more than once with a single trigger pull are prohibited on DNR firing ranges unless approved by DNR in advance for special events. However, silenced weapons may be used by any person provided that such person has in their possession, at all

times, proof of registration of such silencer consistent with the National Firearms Act and such person is in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 16-11-124(4).

(c) Rifles using centerfire cartridges .50 caliber or larger are prohibited.

(2) General Range Rules:

- (a) No alcoholic beverages (as defined in O.C.G.A. 3-1-2) shall be possessed on any DNR managed firing range.
- (b) No person under the influence of alcohol or drugs is permitted on a DNR firing range.
- (c) No smoking is permitted on or near the firing line.
- (d) Non-shooters must remain at least six feet behind the firing line whenever any shooter is at the firing line, unless they are coaching the shooter - coaches must be 18 years old or older.
- (e) Tracer or any ammunition considered to be incendiary or explosive is prohibited on the firing range.
- (f) Targets must be constructed of paper, cardboard, latex, plastic, ballistics polymer, or similar material that will not cause bullet ricochet. Metal targets may be used for special events if approved by DNR in advance.
- (g) Targets must be positioned so that a bullet will not strike flat ground before the backstop; all targets must be located so that a bullet will strike between the base and halfway up the backstop.
- (h) No shooting at flying or thrown objects is allowed except with shotguns and shot shells in areas specifically designated by DNR for such shooting activities.
- (i) All children (16 years old or younger) must be accompanied and directly supervised by an adult 18 years old or older.
- (j) All objects, trash, targets, and spent cartridge hulls must be removed by firing range users when leaving the range.
- (k) Range use is allowed only in accordance with range hours and dates posted at the firing range.
- (l) Shooters shall fire only at the target directly down range of that person's position.
- (m) Any person using DNR firing ranges must wear hearing and eye protection.
- (n) Double tapping or rapid fire is prohibited. Shooters shall allow at least one second between shots.

(3) Gun Handling Rules:

- (a) Any firearm must be unloaded and either cased or has its action open, except when it is at firing line and is being used for firing.
- (b) In the event of a firearm malfunction, hang-fire, misfire or squib load, the shooter shall keep his/her firearm pointed down range, advise all persons at the firing line of the malfunction, and unload as soon as possible. If the firearm cannot be cleared it must be removed from the range.
- (c) In the event of a malfunction of another shooter's firearm, all firearms must be unloaded with actions open for the duration of the malfunction.
- (d) All firearms on the firing line must be grounded and unloaded, with actions open whenever anyone is downrange.
- (e) Muzzles must be pointed downrange for all firearms on the firing line.
- (f) The muzzle of every firearm when in the firing position must be in front of the front edge of the bench upon which it rests.
- (g) All loading of muzzleloaders must be by single charge dispensers; pouring powder from larger containers directly into a muzzleloader is prohibited.

- (h) Loading muzzleloaders must be done at least six feet behind the firing line whenever another muzzle loading firearm is on the firing line.
- (i) Shooters must be at the firing line before capping or priming muzzle loading firearms.
- (j) Containers of muzzleloader propellant must remain closed except when needed for filling a single charge dispenser.

(4) Range Safety Officers:

- (a) Any person on the range shall obey the range commands of department Range Safety Officers. This includes, but is not limited to: Begin Fire commands, Cease Fire commands, and Resume Fire commands.
- (b) Range Safety Officers may call a Cease Fire at any time an unsafe condition is recognized on the range. Any person on the range shall immediately obey a Cease Fire command by grounding all firearms with actions open.
- (c) It is unlawful for any person on the range to disregard Range Safety Officer warnings concerning failure to obey any range rule.

(5) Shotgun Ranges:

- (a) Shooting is only permitted from the designated shooting stations on the trap, skeet or 5-stand range, in a safe direction down range.
- (b) All guns must be unloaded with the action open until the shooter is at the designated shooting stations on the trap, skeet or 5-stand range. All guns must be unloaded to change stations.
- (c) Any gun, loaded or unloaded, MUST be pointed in a safe direction that does not endanger the range officer, spectators, or shooters.
- (d) No more than two (2) shells may be loaded in a shotgun at any time.
- (e) Waiting shooters or spectators must stand a minimum of 3 feet behind the shooter at the shooting stations at the Trap/Skeet Range and on the 5-Stand Range. Coaches or pullers may stand directly behind the shooter and must remain behind the shooter at all times- coaches or pullers must be 18 years old or older.
- (f) Shot sizes larger than 7 /12; are prohibited. (Use shot sizes 7 /12;, 8 or 9)
- (g) No one is permitted down-range from the shooting stations at any time for any reason, except for Range Safety Officers in accordance with normal duties.
- (h) First time shotgun range users must undergo a safety briefing and range orientation by the Range Safety Officer
- (i) Shotguns capable of holding 2 different gauge shells at the same time are prohibited.

(6) Archery Ranges:

- (a) Arrows may only be nocked onto the bowstring when standing on the shooting line preparing to shoot.
- (b) Archers must shoot directly down range.
- (c) No sky drawing.
- (d) Shoot only from the shooting line/position into the designated targets.
- (e) Bows must be hung on the bowhanger behind the shooting line when waiting to shoot or while archers are down range retrieving arrows.
- (f) Archers are allowed to bring and shoot at a paper face placed on an existing target as long as it is removed from the range or placed in a trash receptacle once an individual has finished shooting. Personal targets are not allowed on range.
- (g) No shooting at flying or thrown objects is allowed.

- (h) All persons are to remain behind the shooting line while shooting is taking place. No shooting shall be allowed while anyone is down range.
- (i) Non-shooters must remain at least six feet behind the archery line/post whenever any archer is shooting, unless they are coaching the shooter - coaches must be 18 years old or older.
- (j) Only arrows with field or target points may be used or possessed on range. No broadheads may be possessed on the range.

391-4-9-.03 Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits

- (1) Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms as used in this Rule shall have the following meanings:
 - (a) Rehabilitation means the action or process of restoring wildlife to a condition of health and shall include maintaining a state of health in young wildlife to an age of independence;
 - (b) Veterinarian means any person possessing a valid license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Georgia;
 - (c) All other terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in Section 27-1-2 of the Game and Fish code.
- (2) Permits - When used.
 - (a) Pursuant to authority granted in Section 27-2-22 of the Game and Fish Code, the Department may issue a rehabilitation permit, conditioned as deemed appropriate to assure compliance with this Rule, to any person determined by the Department to possess the experience or training or both necessary to restore, or in the case of dependent young to maintain the health of ill, injured or dependent wildlife until it may be returned to the wild or otherwise disposed of in a manner approved by the Department. The qualifications for the permittee include, but are not limited to:
 1. Sufficient knowledge of the type(s) of wildlife sought to be rehabilitated to assure identification of the species(s) and familiarity with food preferences thereof.
 2. Training or experience or both in the handling, care and treatment of the type(s) of wildlife (including dependent young) sought to be rehabilitated.
 3. Applicants who are not licensed veterinarians must score a minimum of 80 percent on a general examination on wildlife rehabilitation developed by the Department. Any applicant not achieving this minimum score may retake the test after 30 days. Applicants may be exempted from this testing requirement upon demonstration of sufficient knowledge and skills as determined by the Game Management Regional Supervisor having jurisdiction in the geographical area where rehabilitation is to take place.
 4. Injured or orphaned wildlife that, prior to being rehabilitated, are determined to be nonreleasable to the wild shall be euthanized unless the Department grants an exception for a specific animal. Injured or orphaned wildlife that subsequent to rehabilitation efforts are determined by the Department to be nonreleasable to the wild shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Department.
 - (b) College-level training and experience in the fields of veterinary medicine or wildlife biology are prima facie evidence of qualification. Training or experience as a veterinary assistant, zoo employee or pet shop employee working with animals, or as a falconer, may be some evidence of qualification depending upon the type(s) of wildlife sought to be rehabilitated. Permits for rehabilitation of birds of prey (raptors) may be issued only to veterinarians, falconers possessing a permit under Section 27-2-17 of the Game and Fish Code, or persons who are able to establish that they have had at least two years of experience in holding, training, and caring for raptors. Because of the public health risk associated with rabies infection in bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks, rehabilitation permits for those species will be issued only to veterinarians; or persons that:

1. Have a least two (2) years experience as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and have taken in at least 20 individuals for care.
 2. Score a minimum of 85 percent on a qualifying examination covering all aspects of rabies including symptoms, reporting, and other areas as determined by the Department.
 3. Receive rabies pre-exposure vaccination and can demonstrate rabies antibody levels that are recommended for adequate protection before a permit is issued and at least every five years thereafter.
- (c) The issuance of a rehabilitation permit is further conditioned upon the Department's determining that an applicant's rehabilitation services are needed or are likely to be utilized in the area he/ she proposes to operate.
- (d) Applications for rehabilitation permits shall be submitted, on forms provided by the Department, to the Special Permit Unit at the address indicated on said form.
- (e) Nothing in this rule shall be construed to limit or prohibit a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician from providing emergency care, vaccination or other veterinary care that otherwise falls within the scope of professional and ethical judgment.
- (f) Persons permitted to rehabilitate bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks shall be required to contact the appropriate rabies control authority as prescribed by the Department to report possible rabies exposures; to hold these species in arrival groups and in isolation for the duration of convalescence and release rehabilitated animals only in areas designated by the Department; and to submit for rabies testing all bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks accepted for care which are dead on arrival or which subsequently die during care.
- (3) Permits - Term.**
- (a) Rehabilitation permits may be issued for a period not to exceed five years and shall expire at the end of the fifth calendar year (i.e., December 31).
- (b) Prior to expiration of an initial permit, a permittee may apply for permit renewal. A renewal permit may be granted only if, upon inspection of the reports or records required by Section (6) hereof and reinspection of applicant's facilities, it appears that applicant has complied with Section 27-2-22 of the Game and Fish Code and this Rule and that there is a continuing need for his/her rehabilitation services in the area.
- (c) If the Department determines, in any case wherein a person has notified the Department that such person has found or is holding any recently found ill, injured, or dependent wildlife, that the circumstances clearly indicate it to be in the best interest of the wildlife that treatment or care not be delayed pending assignment to a permitted rehabilitator, it may, at the request of such person, waive such of the qualifications and facilities requirements herein as are necessary and justified under the circumstances and immediately issue to the finder or holder of such wildlife an emergency onetime rehabilitation permit. Such permits will not be issued for any wildlife requiring care of a nature which the Department concludes the wildlife finder or holder is incapable of providing. Such permits shall expire at the earlier of the date the wildlife is fully rehabilitated and released, or the date of expiration stated herein. If an expiration date is specified in the permit, the wildlife shall be surrendered to a Departmental representative for appropriate disposition on or before that date.
- (4) Facilities - Generally.** A rehabilitation permit will be issued only after the Department has inspected the applicant's wildlife holding facilities and has determined that they conform with Section 27-5-6 of the Game and Fish Code. In order to be approved, facilities must also be constructed in a manner sufficient and of a dimension adequate to provide security and protection for both the wildlife held therein and humans or other animals which may be or come in close proximity thereto. The facilities must also be located so as to provide the seclusion necessary for recuperation from illness or injury.
- (5) Facilities for Raptors.** In addition to the requirements of Section (4) above, raptors may be held in facilities that either:

- (a) Allow for the bird(s) to be tethered to a perch when appropriate, with sufficient room in the enclosure to allow full wing extension without breakage of flight feathers; or
 - (b) Area equipped with an appropriate perch for each member of each specie held and with vertical bars over any windows and are free from any other hazards to the health and safety (including plumage) of the birds so held.
- (6) Other Rehabilitation Requirements.
- (a) In all other respects, e.g. relating to feeding, watering, sanitation, veterinary care, handling, separation, and transportation of wildlife, as well as qualifications of employees, permittee's rehabilitation practices must comply with Section 27-5-6 of the Game and Fish Code.
 - (b) Permittee shall maintain complete records on all wildlife held for purposes of rehabilitation, which records shall document at least the following information for each animal held; annually these data shall be compiled into a report which shall be submitted to the Department not later than January 31 following each year in which a permit is held:
 - 1. Date received;
 - 2. Species;
 - 3. Condition requiring rehabilitation;
 - 4. Treatment administered and results;
 - 5. Final disposition and date thereof.
 - (c) In the case of migratory birds, permittees shall also comply with any applicable federal regulations or requirements for rehabilitation.
- (7) Enforcement. Upon determination by the Commissioner that any permittee has violated Section 27-2-22 of the Game and Fish Code, any provision of this or any other applicable Rule of the Department, or any condition of his/her permit, he may, in his discretion, proceed:
- (a) Pursuant to Section 27-1-37 of the Game and Fish Code, to issue an administrative order to the permittee to take corrective action or authorizing other appropriate enforcement action including seizure of wildlife held by permittee; or
 - (b) To initiate criminal prosecution pursuant to Section 27-1-38 or civil penalty proceedings pursuant to Section 27-1-36 of the Game and Fish Code; or
 - (c) To deny, revoke, suspend or refuse to renew the rehabilitation permit pursuant to Section 27-2-25 of the Game and Fish Code.

391-4-9-.04 Wildlife Exhibition Permits

- (1) Purpose. The purpose of these regulations is to protect wildlife and the citizens of Georgia by establishing minimum requirements for obtaining a wildlife exhibition permit and establishing standards for holding and exhibiting wildlife.
- (2) General Regulations. A wildlife exhibition permit shall not be issued unless the following conditions are met:
 - (a) The applicant must be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
 - (b) Facilities for holding and exhibiting wildlife must comply with O.C.G.A. 27-5-6 and must meet minimum requirements as specified by the Department;
 - (c) Applicants proposing to exhibit mammals must first obtain an exhibitor's license from the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS), or provide documentation that the applicant is exempt from USDA/APHIS requirements; and

- (d) Applicants proposing to exhibit migratory birds regulated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) must obtain an appropriate permit from USFWS before obtaining or exhibiting migratory birds. A copy of USFWS permits shall be sent to the Department, Special Permit Unit.
- (3) Fixed facilities. Wildlife exhibition permits for fixed facilities shall not be issued unless the following criteria are met:
- (a) A fixed facility for exhibiting wildlife shall be open to the public for a time no less than 30 hours per week for at least six (6) months each year during reasonable hours of the day. A sign specifying the days and hours the facility is open to the public shall be placed in a prominent location visible to the public and in close proximity to the facility.
- (b) Each cage or pen shall be signed identifying the animal(s) by common and scientific name. Additional information about each species shall be provided through interpretative signs and/or audio-visual material.
- (4) Mobile Educational Programs. For the purpose of this rule, mobile educational program shall mean any educational program using live wildlife and which program is conducted outside of the enclosure where the wildlife is permanently housed. Conditions for conducting mobile educational programs are as follows:
- (a) Residents holding wildlife for use in educational programs shall conduct a minimum of twelve (12) program hours per year. Program hours must be documented and provided at the time of renewal;
- (b) Animals must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the public and animals with sufficient distance allowed between the animals and the viewing public to assure safety to both the public and the animals as determined by the Department. Animals shall not be handled by the public, except that nonvenomous reptiles and amphibians may be handled by members of the public under close supervision of the permittee.
- (5) Exhibition of rabies prone species.
- (a) Bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks shall not be exhibited in mobile educational programs.
- (b) In fixed facilities, the exhibition of bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks will be made in a facility constructed in a manner satisfactory to the Department to ensure that the public cannot gain access to animals which may have exposure to free-living rabies vector species.
- (c) Bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks shall be kept in isolation from contact with other exhibit animals and free-living wildlife for a minimum of 180 days before exhibition in fixed facilities.
- (d) Persons with specific responsibilities related to handling, feeding, or caring for animals at facilities which exhibit bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and skunks shall receive rabies pre-exposure vaccination and must demonstrate rabies antibody levels that are recommended for adequate protection before a permit is issued and at least every five years thereafter.
- (6) Exemptions.
- (a) Educational institutions; federal, state, city, county, or municipal governments or their agencies; or transient circuses, shall receive a wildlife exhibition permit at no cost, provided that such exhibition shall comply with all laws and regulations relating to handling, care, confinement, and transporting of wildlife and rules contained herein.
- (b) Falconers licensed in Georgia shall not be required to purchase a wildlife exhibition permit to conduct mobile educational programs with raptors held under their Georgia State/Federal falconry license.
- (c) Residents exhibiting wildlife at both a fixed facility and at mobile educational programs shall meet the requirements of 391-4-99-.04 (3)(a) or (4)(a), but shall not be required to comply with both paragraphs (3)(a) and (4)(a).
- (d) Persons issued wildlife exhibition permits or licenses prior to passage of this rule shall have until November 1, 1998 to comply with these regulations.

- (e) Nothing in this rule shall be construed to limit or prohibit a licensed veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician from providing emergency care, vaccination or other veterinary care that otherwise falls within the scope of professional and ethical judgment.

(7) Penalties.

- (a) Wildlife exhibitors in violation of this rule shall have their license or permit revoked or suspended by the Department for a period of not less than two (2) years.

391-4-9-.05 Importation of Cervids

It shall be unlawful to import into Georgia, any live member of the Family of Cervidae without prior written approval from the Department.

391-4-9-.06 Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass

- (1) **Purpose.** The purpose of this regulation is to implement a Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass system for individuals and groups using designated sites on wildlife management areas and public fishing areas, exempt certain individuals from the requirement to purchase a Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass, establish fees for Georgia Outdoor Recreation Passes, and provide for the availability of a Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass.
- (2) **Unlawful Activities.** No person age 16 through 64 shall enter upon any designated fee area on a wildlife management area or public fishing area without first obtaining a valid Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass except that any person who possesses a valid wildlife management area license or 3-day hunting and fishing license shall be exempt from this requirement. The posting of signs at the entrance to a wildlife management area or public fishing area designating the places within the wildlife management area or public fishing area at which a Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass is required shall constitute sufficient notice for the entire wildlife management area or public fishing area.
- (3) **Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass.** A Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass (GORP) may be available as individual or group passes.
 - (a) Individual passes are a single-person pass and may be available as a 3-day or annual pass. The cost of a 3-Day GORP shall be \$3.50 and an Annual GORP shall be \$19.00.
 - (b) Small group passes are for groups of not more than eight (8) individuals, may be available as a 3-day or annual pass. The cost of a 3-Day Group GORP shall be \$10.00 and an Annual Group GORP shall be \$35.00.
 - (c) A 3-day GORP is valid for not more than three (3) days from the date of purchase. An Annual GORP is valid for not more than 365 days from the date of purchase.
- (4) **Organized Events.** Any organization or individual who desires to sponsor or conduct an event, activity, or series of events or activities involving more than eight (8) individuals on a wildlife management area or public fishing area may be required to obtain a "Right of Entry" agreement from the department. Such organization or individual shall formally request a "Right of Entry" agreement from the department not less than 30 days prior to the event, activity, or series of events or activities. A "Right of Entry" agreement may restrict the event, activity, or series of events or activities to specific locations, number of participants, and specific times; and may require the posting of damage deposits or bonds. Events that conflict with one or more of the primary uses of a wildlife management area or public fishing area may not be allowed. If the event is approved, the "Right of Entry" agreement may require each participant to obtain a Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass or require the purchase of Georgia Outdoor Recreation Passes commensurate with the number of participants. For WMAs on U.S. Forest Service lands, special use permits, if issued by the U.S. Forest Service shall satisfy the requirement for a "Right of Entry" agreement.
- (5) **Availability.** Georgia Outdoor Recreation Passes shall be issued and sold by the department on forms containing such information as may be prescribed by the department, and may be available for purchase by telephone, on-line, or on-site.

(6) Effective Date. Upon adoption by the Board of Natural Resources, this Rule shall become effective January 1, 2012.

391-4-9-.07 Falconry Permits

- (1) Purpose.** The purpose of this regulation is to implement rules and regulations pertaining to the issuance of falconry permits and practice of falconry in accordance with federal regulations so as to ensure the continuation of the sport of falconry and continue to conserve the state's birds of prey.
- (2) Falconry Permitting and Standards.** Permittees shall comply with all standards, requirements, and limitations as provided in 50 C.F.R. 21.29, as now or hereafter amended.
- (3) Golden Eagles.** It shall be unlawful for any person to trap, transport or possess a golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) unless authorized as provided in 50 C.F.R. Part 22, as now or hereafter amended.
- (4) Raptor Propagation.** Raptor propagation and activities associated with raptor propagation are permitted in accordance with the provisions of 50 C.F.R. Part 21, as now or hereafter amended. No additional state permit is required; provided, however, that all persons engaging in such activities shall submit one copy of each federally required report to the department at the time such report is submitted to federal authorities.
- (5) Importation Permits.** Holders of Georgia falconry permits may transport the raptors held under their permits within this state, may remove the raptors from this state for meets, trials, and hunting in other states, and may bring such raptors back into this state without obtaining a Georgia importation permit; provided, however, that any person transporting a raptor into another state shall obtain any permit or license required for such activities by the state into which the raptor is transported. A falconry permittee may import into this state a legally acquired raptor without obtaining a Georgia wildlife importation permit provided that a properly completed federal Form 3-186A Migratory Bird Acquisition/Disposition Report shall accompany each raptor during importation and the permittee complies with all applicable requirements of the state of origin.

391-4-9-.08 Film Production Wildlife Permit

- (1)** The purpose of this regulation is to protect wildlife and the citizens of Georgia by establishing regulations for the possession and exhibition of wildlife to be used in the film industry. This regulation provides and establishes permit requirements and requirements for animal origin, humane care, use and handling, and reporting.
- (2) Permit Requirements.** A Film Production Wildlife (FPW) permit shall not be issued unless the following conditions are met:
 - (a)** Application for a FPW permit shall be made on an official application form provided by the department. FPW permits are valid upon issuance date and expire annually on March 31.
 - (b)** An applicant wishing to possess or provide mammals must possess a valid U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Welfare Act license and submit a copy of this license with the application for an FPW permit.
 - (c)** An applicant wishing to possess or provide FPW animals which are currently listed in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, or the Endangered Species Act must possess a valid United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) permit and submit a copy of this permit with the application for an FPW permit.
 - (d)** An applicant for a resident FPW permit must be a legal Georgia resident who has a minimum of five years of verifiable film/entertainment industry experience, and who is at least 21 years old. Verifiable experience requires a resume detailing at least five years of professional, documented animal training and handling for film/entertainment industry activities within the previous ten years and must be submitted with the application. Members of the family Cervidae and rabies vector species including: bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons and skunks shall not be imported into Georgia.

- (e) An applicant for a non-resident FPW permit must have a minimum of five years of verifiable film/entertainment industry experience and be at least 21 years old. Verifiable experience requires a resume detailing at least five years of professional, documented animal training and handling for film/entertainment industry activities within the previous ten years and must be submitted with the application. Members of the family Cervidae and rabies vector species including: bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons and skunks shall not be imported into Georgia.
- (f) Anyone who has been convicted of a wildlife or animal welfare violation in Georgia, or the equivalent in another state within the past five years is not eligible for a FPW permit.
- (g) All resident facilities where animals will be housed, maintained or trained shall be inspected by the department prior to issuance of an initial FPW permit. Facilities must comply with the specifications for the humane handling, care, confinement, and transportation of animals set forth in O.C.G.A. § 27-5-6 and must meet minimum requirements as specified by the department.
- (h) The application must contain an animal inventory list of the species and number of animals to be possessed under the permit. Once a FPW permit has been granted by the department, the applicant must obtain department approval prior to acquiring any additions to their inventory possessed under this permit.
- (i) Liability insurance is required for the possession of any wildlife to be utilized under the terms of this permit. Prior to the issuance of a FPW permit, any applicant other than a governmental agency or university research facility must provide proof of liability insurance from a company licensed to do business in this state or an unauthorized insurer if permitted by Chapter 5 of Title 33. Such insurance must be maintained in force and effect and cover claims for injury or damage to persons or property in an amount equal to \$40,000.00 for each animal up to a maximum of \$500,000.00.
- (j) An applicant is responsible for, and shall so indicate on the application, any and all costs associated with the escape, capture and disposition of a permitted animal. This includes any such costs incurred by the Department.

(3) General Rules

- (a) This permit is valid only for wildlife species which are native to Georgia. Species not native to Georgia are considered Wild Animals (OCGA § 27-1-2(75)) and must be held under a valid Wild Animal License (OCGA § 27-5-4).
- (b) Georgia wildlife permitted under these regulations shall not be taken from the wild and no wildlife shall be released into the wild. Permitted animals must have been obtained from a source permitted or approved by the department.
- (c) Persons with specific responsibilities related to handling, feeding, or caring for rabies vector species including bats, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons and skunks shall receive rabies pre-exposure vaccination and shall demonstrate rabies antibody levels recommended for adequate protection before a permit is issued and at least every five years thereafter while the permit is valid.
- (d) Each permitted animal shall have an official health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian. This health certificate shall reference a specific microchip identification tag that has been surgically implanted into the animal by the licensed veterinarian. Veterinary health inspections on all animals possessed under the FWP permit shall be performed annually.
- (e) Permit holder shall allow inspections of premises by department employees for purposes of enforcing these regulations. Inspections may be unannounced and may include, but are not limited to pens, stalls, holding facilities, records and examination of animals as necessary to determine species identification, sex, health and/or implanted microchip number.
- (f) Whenever an animal is present, the specifications for the humane handling, care, confinement, and transportation of animals set forth in OCGA § 27-5-6 must be provided in all FWP facilities, film production locations and venues, educational venues, permanent and temporary housing enclosures, and during transport.

- (g) Animals held under an FWP permit may be utilized in the film production industry, or utilized for educational purposes provided that the specific animal(s) being displayed is/are included in the most current animal inventory list submitted to the department by the applicant. Animals held under an FWP permit may not be used in any photography opportunity with a patron which may allow physical contact between the animal and the patron. Animals held under a FWP permit may not be used in any activity which may allow physical contact between the animal and a member of the general public.
- (h) Animals held under an FWP permit, except rabies vector species, may be displayed at educational program venues by the permit holder or sub-permit holder outside of a secure enclosure provided that these animals are under constant control and immediate physical restraint of the permit holder or sub-permit holder, such restraint precluding any chance of escape or physical contact, intentional or accidental, with any individual other than the permit or a sub-permit holder.

(4) Reporting and Renewal Requirements

- (a) An Annual Report of activities completed under this permit is required when submitting a request for permit renewal. This Annual Report shall be completed on official forms provided by the department.
- (b) FWP permits will not be renewed until all renewal requirements indicated on the renewal application are received. Copies of current USDA, USFWS or other applicable license must also accompany the renewal application.
- (c) Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or other proof of veterinary health examinations for any and all animals held under this permit must be submitted with renewal application.
- (d) A report detailing injuries to any person involving an animal held under this permit, or an injury to any animal held under this permit during the previous year must accompany the renewal application. Reportable injuries include those occurring during housing at primary facility, transport, at temporary housing facilities and during film production activities. Report must contain a narrative describing the circumstances surrounding the injury, identification of remedial measures, conclusive identification of animal(s) involved and disposition of said animals. A reportable injury includes a bite, scratch, or claw wounding, no matter how minor or any other type of injury requiring first aid or more serious medical intervention. For an animal held under this permit, a reportable injury is one that causes unjustifiable physical pain, suffering or death to any living animal, including, but not limited to, any wound, bite, broken bone, damage to organ or tissue, or environment-related stress that requires first aid, veterinary attention, euthanasia or removal from availability for use in film production activities.
- (e) At least 24 hours prior to transporting any permitted animal to a film production or educational venue the FPW permit holder shall notify the Special Permit Unit with details of the job or appearance. These details shall include date, location, type of job, duration of job, travel times, specific animals involved, the permit holder or sub-permit holder involved and any overnight housing/caging facilities to be used. Contact information for the agent or contractor should also be included.
- (f) Notification of any animal escape must be made to the Special Permit Unit immediately upon detection of the escape event. This notification must include date, time, location, the species of animal that escaped, a description of actions taken to recover the escaped animal and the outcome of the event. Escapes may result in suspension or revocation of the permit. Failure to notify the Special Permit Unit of any escape may result in immediate revocation of this permit.
- (g) Once an FPW permit has been granted by the department, the permit holder shall submit and maintain an up to date accurate written inventory list of animals in possession. This inventory list shall include species, sex, and microchip number of specific animals that are actually in possession of the permit holder. Individual animals must be identifiable through microchip implantation. Permit holder shall maintain records of microchip numbers and make such records available to the department upon demand. The Special Permit Unit must be notified within 48 hours of any changes to this animal inventory list. Deletions must be justified and contain the disposition of the animal. Additions to the list of species being held by a permit holder are subject to approval at the discretion of the department, and may require re-inspection of facilities. Failure to maintain an accurate, up to date animal inventory list may subject the permit holder to revocation or suspension of this permit.

- (h)** Any injury (bite, scratch, or claw wounding, no matter how minor, or any other type of injury requiring first aid or more serious medical intervention), accidentally or otherwise incurred by an audience member or any individual of the general public, that is caused by an unpermitted animal, an animal not specifically listed on the most recent inventory submitted to the department, or an animal possessed by an FWP permit holder shall be reported to the department immediately following the incident. Such injuries may subject the permit holder to revocation or suspension of this permit.
- (i)** Any unreported injury (bite, scratch, or claw wounding, no matter how minor, or any other type of injury requiring first aid or more serious medical intervention), accidentally or otherwise incurred by an audience member or any individual of the general public, that is caused by a permitted or unpermitted animal may result in a revocation of this permit.

(5) Penalties.

- (a)** Film Production Wildlife Permit holders in violation of this rule shall be subject to revocation or suspension of their permit in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 27-2-25.

Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia

Protection of Endangered Species (391-4-10, et. seq.)

391-4-10-.01 Purpose

The purpose of these rules and regulations is to establish the organizational structure and administrative procedures to be followed in the protection of endangered species of plant and animal life. The Department of Natural Resources is authorized by the Wildflower Preservation Act of 1973 (Ga. Laws 1973, p. 333, *et seq.*), the Endangered Wildlife Act of 1973 (Ga. Laws 1973, p. 932, *et seq.*), the laws relating to game and fish (Ga. Laws 1955, p. 483, *et seq.*) as amended, in particular by (Ga. Laws 1968, p. 497, *et seq.*) and other laws administered by the Department of Natural Resources, to promulgate rules and regulations for the protection of designated species. The Department of Natural Resources is required by the Endangered Wildlife Act of 1973 and the Wildflower Preservation Act of 1973 to designate all plant and animal species indigenous to the state which are determined by the Department to be "rare", "unusual", or in "danger of extinction". Such species are then "protected species" and subject to the provisions of the above-cited laws and the rules and regulations of the Department of Natural Resources. The Department is required to review periodically its "protected species" list and to make additions or deletions when appropriate.

391-4-10-.02 Definitions

All terms used in these rules and regulations shall be interpreted in accordance with the definitions as set forth in the Acts or as otherwise herein defined.

- (a) The "**Acts**" as used in these rules refer to the "Wildflower Preservation Act of 1973", the "Endangered Wildlife Act of 1973", and other laws relating to game and fish.
- (b) "**Department**" means the Department of Natural Resources.
- (c) "**Person**" means any natural person, firm, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, local government of the state, or other legal entity.
- (d) "**Protected species**" means those species of plants and animal life which the Department shall have designated as such and has made subject to the protection of these Acts. Protected species shall be interpreted to include those classified as follows:
 - 1. "**Endangered species**" means any resident species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, or one which is designated as endangered under the provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-205).
 - 2. "**Threatened species**" means any resident species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range or one that is designated as threatened under the provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-205).
 - 3. "**Rare species**" means any resident species which, although not presently endangered or threatened as previously defined, should be protected because of its scarcity.
 - 4. "**Unusual species**" means any resident species which exhibits special or unique features and because of these features deserves special consideration in its continued survival in the State.
- (e) "**Public lands**" means all those lands within this state which are owned by the State of Georgia.
- (f) "**Resident species**" means any species, sub-species or variety of plant or animal life that is genetically, morphologically, ecologically, or geographically distinct, and which interbreeds freely with its kind at maturity, and which exists in this state, including its waters, in the wild during any part of its life.

- (g) **"Status Undetermined species"** means a resident species which is not afforded protection under these rules and regulations, but should additional research show the need for protection these or any other species may be moved to the protected category.

391-4-10-.03 Determination of Protected Species

- (1) Criteria. The criteria for the determination as to whether any resident species is an endangered, threatened, rare, or unusual species are as follows:
- (a) The present or threatened destruction, modification or curtailment of its habitat.
 - (b) Overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific, or educational purposes.
 - (c) Disease or predation.
 - (d) The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms.
 - (e) Other natural or man-made factors affecting its continued existence.
- (2) Procedures. General procedures for modifying the state "protected species" list are as follows:
- (a) Any member of the public may nominate a species for consideration. An application for nomination, in the form prescribed by the Department, must be submitted to the Department with all supporting data.
 - (b) If the Department determines that review is warranted, additional data is solicited from all relevant sources and notice of the nomination is published in the Department news release.
 - (c) All available scientific and commercial data is evaluated by the Department and tentative determination is made regarding the status of the nominated species.
 - (d) If the nominated species is determined by the Department not to warrant review or not to be endangered, threatened, rare or unusual, the person making the nomination is notified in writing of such determination.
 - (e) If the nominated species is tentatively determined by the Department to be endangered, threatened, rare, or unusual, public notice is given by publishing the proposal in the Department news release and by any other method required by the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act (Ga. Laws, p. 338 *et seq.*) as amended. The Department shall also distribute a public notice to all persons who have requested to be placed on the mailing list. Such request shall be made in writing and shall be renewed in December of each year. Failure to renew the request shall result in the removal of such name from the mailing list.
 - (f) A minimum of 20 days is allowed for public comment, during which time a public hearing may be requested pursuant to the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act.
 - (g) The Department considers public comment and, if necessary, compiles and analyzes additional data.
 - (h) The Department will submit its recommendation to the Board of Natural Resources no later than one year after the initial nomination of the species.
 - (i) The Board will then determine appropriate classification of nominated species by either adopting, modifying and adopting, or rejecting the submitted classification.
- (3) General Procedures for deleting a species from the state "protected species" list are as follows:
- (a) Any member of the public, or the Department on its own initiative, may propose that a protected species be deleted from the state protected species list.
 - (b) If the Department determines that review of such proposed deletion is warranted, additional data is solicited from all relevant sources and notice of the proposed deletion is published in the Department news release.
 - (c) All available scientific and commercial data is evaluated by the Department and tentative determination is made regarding the status of the species proposed for deletion.

- (d) If the species proposed for deletion is determined by the Department not to warrant review the person making the nomination is notified in writing of such determination.
- (e) If a species proposed for deletion has been tentatively determined by the Department as appropriate for deletion from the list as endangered, threatened, rare, or unusual, public notice is given by publishing the proposal in the Department news release and by any other method required by the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act as amended. The Department shall also distribute a public notice to all persons who have requested to be placed on the mailing list. Such request shall be made in writing and shall be renewed in December of each year. Failure to renew the request shall result in the removal of such name from the mailing list.
- (f) A minimum of 20 days is allowed for public comment, during which time a public hearing may be requested pursuant to the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act.
- (g) The Department considers public comment and, if necessary, compiles and analyzes additional data.
- (h) The Department will submit its recommendation to the Board of Natural Resources no later than one year after the initial proposal for deletion of the species.
- (i) The Board will then determine whether the species proposed for deletion should be deleted or its current classification modified.

391-4-10-.04 Land Acquisition

The acquisition of natural areas and/or unique habitats upon which are rare and endangered species depend shall be continued for the purposes of protection, conservation and preservation. Lands or aquatic habitats acquired for these purposes shall be managed or protected with this principal objective in mind. Acquisitions of lands, aquatic habitats, or interest herein may be made pursuant to any of the following:

- (a) through the Georgia Heritage Trust Program of the Department;
- (b) through joint State--Federal agreements;
- (c) by donation of gift to the State, in part, or in full; or
- (d) by any other means or by any combination of the above.

391-4-10-.05 Interagency Cooperation

The Department shall cooperate with other state agencies, authorities, local governments, federal agencies, other states, counties, and organizations in carrying out land acquisitions and management programs for the purpose of conserving any endangered or threatened species.

391-4-10-.06 Prohibited Acts

The following acts regarding protected species of animals and plants are prohibited.

- (a) Protected Animal Species.
 1. Any activities which are intended to harass, capture, kill, or otherwise directly cause death of any protected animal species are prohibited, except as specifically authorized by law or by regulation as adopted by the Board of Natural Resources.
 2. The sale or purchase of any protected animal species or parts thereof is prohibited and the possession of any such species or parts thereof is prohibited unless the possession is authorized by a scientific collecting, wildlife exhibition, or other permit or license issued by the Department.
 3. The destruction of the habitat of any protected animal species on public lands is prohibited.
 4. The authorization to take certain nongame animal species set forth in O.C.G.A. Section 27-1-28 shall not apply to any protected species whether on public or private land.

- (b) Protected Plant Species. Prohibited acts concerning protected plant species include:
1. No person within this State shall cut, dig, pull up or otherwise remove any protected plant species from public land unless such person has secured an appropriate permit from the Department.
 2. No person within this State shall sell or offer for sale, for any purpose, any protected plant species, unless such species was grown on private land and is being sold by the landowner or with the permission of the landowner.
 3. No person within this State shall transport, carry, or otherwise convey any protected plant species from the land of another unless each shipment thereof has affixed a tag supplied by the Department showing that the person so transporting, carrying or conveying such protected species has removed such specimen(s) from the private lands of another person with the permission of such other person and has a written document in his possession evidencing such permission, and further evidencing that such specimen has not been sold in violation of Section 2 above.

391-4-10-.07 Exceptions

- (1) Permits. The Department may issue permits for the collection, transportation, and/or possession of protected plant and animal species. Such permits do not alleviate the responsibility to acquire specific federal permits, if required.
- (2) Protected Crayfish Species. The collection of state protected crayfish species (those species included in 391-4-10-.09) while collecting fishing bait is authorized without permit under the following conditions:
 - (a) State protected crayfish species may not be collected from crayfish burrows (i.e., "crayfish chimneys") in any manner, including burrow excavation or setting traps or other devices within, on or near the entrance to the burrow.
 - (b) State protected crayfish species may not be exported from the state of Georgia.
- (3) Peregrine Falcon Take for Falconry Purposes. The Department may issue up to five
- (4) annual permits for the trapping and possession of wild peregrine falcons for falconry purposes in accordance with the framework established by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and as may be appropriate based on sound wildlife management principles. Trapping will be allowed only during September 20 through October 20 and only within Chatham, Bryan, Liberty, McIntosh, Glynn, and Camden counties. Only wild peregrines trapped during their first year (passage birds) may be kept. Permits shall be issued based upon a random drawing of qualified applicants. Preference shall be given to Georgia residents such that a majority of permits are issued to qualified resident applicants.
 - (a) To qualify, an applicant shall be a licensed Master Falconer, or a licensed General Falconer with at least 5 years of licensed falconry experience, and shall be a resident of Georgia or a resident of a state that has a reciprocal falconry take agreement with Georgia.
 - (b) When trapping or attempting to trap a peregrine falcon, a person shall have on their person a current peregrine falcon take permit from the Department, a valid Georgia hunting license, and a valid falconry license.
 - (c) A peregrine falcon take permit shall not authorize any person possessing said permit to commit any act inconsistent with O.C.G.A. 27-2-17.
 - (d) Said permit may be revoked in accordance with the provisions of the Game and Fish Code.

391-4-10-.08 Penalty

Any person violating these rules and regulations shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished for a misdemeanor.

391-4-10-.09 Protected Species of Plants and Animals

(1) Mammals:

- (a) **Corynorhinus rafinesquii:** Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat (rare)
- (b) **Eubalaena glacialis:** North Atlantic Right Whale (endangered)
- (c) **Geomys pinetis:** Southeastern Pocket Gopher (threatened)
- (d) **Megaptera novaeangliae:** Humpback Whale (endangered)
- (e) **Myotis grisescens:** Gray Bat (endangered)
- (f) **Myotis sodalis:** Indiana Bat (endangered)
- (g) **Neofiber alleni:** Round-tailed Muskrat (threatened)
- (h) **Puma concolor coryi:** Florida Panther (endangered)
- (i) **Sylvilagus obscurus:** Appalachian Cottontail (rare)
- (j) **Trichechus manatus:** West Indian Manatee (endangered)

(2) Birds:

- (a) **Aimophila aestivalis:** Bachman's Sparrow (rare)
- (b) **Ammodramus henslowii:** Henslow's Sparrow (rare)
- (c) **Calidris canutus:** Red Knot (rare)
- (d) **Campephilus principalis:** Ivory-billed Woodpecker (endangered)
- (e) **Charadrius melodus:** Piping Plover (threatened)
- (f) **Charadrius wilsonia:** Wilson's Plover (threatened)
- (g) **Corvus corax:** Common Raven (rare)
- (h) **Dendroica cerulea:** Cerulean Warbler (rare)
- (i) **Dendroica kirtlandii:** Kirtland's Warbler (endangered)
- (j) **Elanoides forficatus:** Swallow-tailed Kite (rare)
- (k) **Falco peregrinus:** Peregrine Falcon (rare)
- (l) **Falco sparverius paulus:** Southeastern Kestrel (rare)
- (m) **Haematopus palliatus:** American Oystercatcher (rare)
- (n) **Haliaeetus leucocephalus:** Bald Eagle (threatened)
- (o) **Mycteria americana:** Wood Stork (endangered)
- (p) **Picoides borealis:** Red-cockaded Woodpecker (endangered)
- (q) **Rynchops niger:** Black Skimmer (rare)
- (r) **Sterna antillarum:** Least Tern (rare)
- (s) **Sterna nilotica:** Gull-billed Tern (threatened)
- (t) **Vermivora chrysoptera:** Golden-winged Warbler (endangered)

(3) Reptiles:

- (a) **Caretta caretta:** Loggerhead Sea Turtle (endangered)
- (b) **Chelonia mydas:** Green Sea Turtle (threatened)

- (c) **Clemmys guttata:** Spotted Turtle (unusual)
 - (d) **Dermochelys coriacea:** Leatherback Sea Turtle (endangered)
 - (e) **Drymarchon couperi:** Eastern Indigo Snake (threatened)
 - (f) **Eretmochelys imbricata:** Hawksbill Sea Turtle (endangered)
 - (g) **Glyptemys muhlenbergii:** Bog Turtle (endangered)
 - (h) **Gopherus polyphemus:** Gopher Tortoise (threatened)
 - (i) **Graptemys barbouri:** Barbour's Map Turtle (threatened)
 - (j) **Graptemys geographica:** Common Map Turtle (rare)
 - (k) **Graptemys pulchra:** Alabama Map Turtle (rare)
 - (l) **Heterodon simus:** Southern Hognose Snake (threatened)
 - (m) **Lepidochelys kempii:** Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle (endangered)
 - (n) **Macrochelys temminckii:** Alligator Snapping Turtle (threatened)
 - (o) **Malaclemys terrapin:** Diamondback Terrapin (unusual)
 - (p) **Ophisaurus mimicus:** Mimic Glass Lizard (rare)
- (4) Amphibians:
- (a) **Ambystoma cingulatum:** Flatwoods Salamander (threatened)
 - (b) **Amphiuma pholeter:** One-toed Amphiuma (rare)
 - (c) **Aneides aeneus:** Green Salamander (rare)
 - (d) **Cryptobranchus alleganiensis:** Hellbender (threatened)
 - (e) **Gyrinophilus palleucus:** Tennessee Cave Salamander (threatened)
 - (f) **Haideotriton wallacei:** Georgia Blind Salamander (threatened)
 - (g) **Notophthalmus perstriatus:** Striped Newt (threatened)
 - (h) **Plethodon petraeus:** Pigeon Mountain Salamander (rare)
 - (i) **Rana capito:** Gopher Frog (rare)
- (5) Fishes:
- (a) **Acipenser brevirostrum:** Shortnose Sturgeon (endangered)
 - (b) **Alosa alabamae:** Alabama Shad (threatened)
 - (c) **Ameiurus serracanthus:** Spotted Bullhead (rare)
 - (d) **Cyprinella caerulea:** Blue Shiner (endangered)
 - (e) **Cyprinella callitaenia:** Bluestripe Shiner (rare)
 - (f) **Cyprinella xaenura:** Altamaha Shiner (threatened)
 - (g) **Elassoma okatie:** Bluebarred Pygmy Sunfish (endangered)
 - (h) **Enneacanthus chaetodon:** Blackbanded Sunfish (endangered)
 - (i) **Erimystax insignis:** Blotched Chub (endangered)
 - (j) **Etheostoma brevirostrum:** Holiday Darter (endangered)
 - (k) **Etheostoma chlorbranchium:** Greenfin Darter (threatened)

- (l) *Etheostoma chuckwachatte*: Lipstick Darter (endangered)
- (m) *Etheostoma ditrema*: Coldwater Darter (endangered)
- (n) *Etheostoma duryi*: Black Darter (rare)
- (o) *Etheostoma etowahae*: Etowah Darter (endangered)
- (p) *Etheostoma parvipinne*: Goldstripe Darter (rare)
- (q) *Etheostoma rupestre*: Rock Darter (rare)
- (r) *Etheostoma scotti*: Cherokee Darter (threatened)
- (s) *Etheostoma tallapoosae*: Tallapoosa Darter (rare)
- (t) *Etheostoma trisella*: Trispot Darter (endangered)
- (u) *Etheostoma vulneratum*: Wounded Darter (endangered)
- (v) *Fundulus bifax*: Stippled Studfish (endangered)
- (w) *Fundulus catenatus*: Northern Studfish (rare)
- (x) *Hemitremia flammea*: Flame Chub (endangered)
- (y) *Hybopsis lineapunctata*: Lined Chub (rare)
- (z) *Ichthyomyzon bdellium*: Ohio Lamprey (rare)
- (aa) *Lucania goodei*: Bluefin Killifish (rare)
- (bb) *Macrhybopsis sp.*: Coosa Chub (endangered)
- (cc) *Micropterus notius*: Suwannee Bass (rare)
- (dd) *Moxostoma carinatum*: River Redhorse (rare)
- (ee) *Moxostoma robustum*: Robust Redhorse (endangered)
- (ff) *Moxostoma sp.*: Sicklefins Redhorse (endangered)
- (gg) *Notropis ariommus*: Popeye Shiner (endangered)
- (hh) *Notropis asperifrons*: Burrhead Shiner (threatened)
- (ii) *Notropis hypsilepis*: Highscale Shiner (rare)
- (jj) *Notropis photogenis*: Silver Shiner (endangered)
- (kk) *Notropis szepticus*: Sandbar Shiner (rare)
- (ll) *Noturus eleutherus*: Mountain Madtom (endangered)
- (mm) *Noturus munitus*: Frecklebelly Madtom (endangered)
- (nn) *Percina antesella*: Amber Darter (endangered)
- (oo) *Percina aurantiaca*: Tangerine Darter (endangered)
- (pp) *Percina aurolineata*: Goldline Darter (endangered)
- (qq) *Percina jenkinsi*: Conasauga Logperch (endangered)
- (rr) *Percina lenticula*: Freckled Darter (endangered)
- (ss) *Percina sciera*: Dusky Darter (rare)
- (tt) *Percina shumardi*: River Darter (endangered)
- (uu) *Percina sp.*: Halloween Darter (threatened)

- (vv) **Percina sp.:** Muscadine Darter (rare)
- (ww) **Percina sp.:** Upland Bridled Darter (endangered)
- (xx) **Percina squamata:** Olive Darter (endangered)
- (yy) **Percina tanasi:** Snail Darter (endangered)
- (zz) **Phenacobius crassilabrum:** Fatlips Minnow (endangered)
- (aaa) **Phenacobius uranops:** Stargazing Minnow (threatened)
- (bbb) **Phoxinus tennesseensis:** Tennessee Dace (endangered)
- (ccc) **Pteronotropis euryzonus:** Broadstripe Shiner (rare)
- (ddd) **Pteronotropis welaka:** Bluenose Shiner (threatened)
- (eee) **Typhlichthys subterraneus:** Southern Cavefish (endangered)

(6) Invertebrates:

- (a) **Alasmidonta arcula:** Altamaha Arcmussel (threatened)
- (b) **Alasmidonta triangulata:** Southern Elktoe (endangered)
- (c) **Amblema neislerii:** Fat Threeridge (endangered)
- (d) **Anodonta heardi:** Apalachicola Floater (rare)
- (e) **Anodontoides radiatus:** Rayed Creekshell (threatened)
- (f) **Cambarus coosawattae:** Coosawatee Crayfish (endangered)
- (g) **Cambarus cryptodytes:** Dougherty Plain Cave Crayfish (threatened)
- (h) **Cambarus cymatilis:** Conasauga Blue Burrower (endangered)
- (i) **Cambarus doughertyensis:** Dougherty Burrowing Crayfish (endangered)
- (j) **Cambarus englishi:** Tallapoosa Crayfish (rare)
- (k) **Cambarus extraneus:** Chickamauga Crayfish (threatened)
- (l) **Cambarus fasciatus:** Etowah Crayfish (threatened)
- (m) **Cambarus georgiae:** Little Tennessee Crayfish (endangered)
- (n) **Cambarus harti:** Piedmont Blue Burrower (endangered)
- (o) **Cambarus howardi:** Chattahoochee Crayfish (threatened)
- (p) **Cambarus parrishi:** Hiwassee Headwaters Crayfish (endangered)
- (q) **Cambarus scotti:** Chattooga River Crayfish (threatened)
- (r) **Cambarus speciosus:** Beautiful Crayfish (endangered)
- (s) **Cambarus strigosus:** Lean Crayfish (threatened)
- (t) **Cambarus truncatus:** Oconee Burrowing Crayfish (threatened)
- (u) **Cambarus unestami:** Blackbarred Crayfish (threatened)
- (v) **Cordulegaster sayi:** Say's Spiketail (threatened)
- (w) **Distocambarus devexus:** Broad River Burrowing Crayfish (threatened)
- (x) **Elliptio arca:** Alabama Spike (endangered)
- (y) **Elliptio arctata:** Delicate Spike (endangered)

- (z) **Elliptio purpurella**: Inflated Spike (threatened)
 - (aa) **Elliptio spinosa**: Altamaha Spiny mussel (endangered)
 - (bb) **Elliptioideus sloatianus**: Purple Bankclimber (threatened)
 - (cc) **Epioblasma metastriata**: Upland Combshell (endangered)
 - (dd) **Epioblasma othcaloogensis**: Southern Acornshell (endangered)
 - (ee) **Fusconaia masoni**: Atlantic Pigtoe (endangered)
 - (ff) **Gomphus consanguis**: Cherokee Clubtail (threatened)
 - (gg) **Hamiota altilis**: Fine-lined Pocketbook (threatened)
 - (hh) **Hamiota subangulata**: Shinyrayed Pocketbook (endangered)
 - (ii) **Leptoxis foremani**: Interrupted Rocksnail (endangered)
 - (jj) **Medionidus acutissimus**: Alabama Moccasinshell (threatened)
 - (kk) **Medionidus parvulus**: Coosa Moccasinshell (endangered)
 - (ll) **Medionidus penicillatus**: Gulf Moccasinshell (endangered)
 - (mm) **Medionidus simpsonianus**: Ochlockonee Moccasinshell (endangered)
 - (nn) **Ophiogomphus edmundo**: Edmund's Snaketail (endangered)
 - (oo) **Pleurobema decisum**: Southern Clubshell (endangered)
 - (pp) **Pleurobema georgianum**: Southern Pigtoe (endangered)
 - (qq) **Pleurobema hanleyianum**: Georgia Pigtoe (endangered)
 - (rr) **Pleurobema pyriforme**: Oval Pigtoe (endangered)
 - (ss) **Procambarus gibbus**: Muckalee Crayfish (threatened)
 - (tt) **Procambarus verrucosus**: Grainy Crayfish (rare)
 - (uu) **Procambarus versutus**: Sly Crayfish (rare)
 - (vv) **Ptychobranhus greenii**: Triangular Kidneyshell (endangered)
 - (ww) **Strophitus connasaugaensis**: Alabama Creek mussel (endangered)
 - (xx) **Strophitus subvexus**: Southern Creek mussel (endangered)
 - (yy) **Toxolasma pullus**: Savannah Lilliput (threatened)
- (7) Plants:
- (a) **Allium speculae**: Flatrock Onion (threatened)
 - (b) **Alnus maritima subsp. georgiensis**: Georgia Alder (threatened)
 - (c) **Amorpha georgiana**: Georgia Indigo-bush (endangered)
 - (d) **Amphianthus pusillus**: Pool Sprite (threatened)
 - (e) **Arabis georgiana**: Georgia Rockcress (threatened)
 - (f) **Arnoglossum diversifolium**: Variable-leaf Indian-plantain (threatened)
 - (g) **Asclepias purpurascens**: Purple Milkweed (rare)
 - (h) **Asplenium heteroresiliens**: Marl Spleenwort (threatened)
 - (i) **Astragalus michauxii**: Sandhill Milk-vetch (threatened)

- (j) **Aureolaria patula:** Spreading Yellow Foxglove (threatened)
- (k) **Balduina atropurpurea:** Purple Honeycomb Head (rare)
- (l) **Baptisia arachnifera:** Hairy Rattleweed (endangered)
- (m) **Berberis canadensis:** American Barberry (endangered)
- (n) **Brickellia cordifolia:** Heartleaf Brickellia (threatened)
- (o) **Calamagrostis porteri:** Porter's Reed-grass (rare)
- (p) **Calamintha ashei:** Ohoopie Wild Basil (threatened)
- (q) **Carex baltzellii:** Baltzell's Sedge (endangered)
- (r) **Carex biltmoreana:** Granite Dome Sedge (threatened)
- (s) **Carex dasycarpa:** Velvet Sedge (rare)
- (t) **Carex misera:** Wretched Sedge (threatened)
- (u) **Carex radfordii:** Radford's Sedge (threatened)
- (v) **Carya myristiciformis:** Nutmeg Hickory (rare)
- (w) **Ceratiola ericoides:** Sandhill Rosemary (threatened)
- (x) **Chamaecyparis thyoides:** Atlantic White-cedar (rare)
- (y) **Chelone cuthbertii:** Cuthbert's Turtlehead (threatened)
- (z) **Clematis fremontii:** Fremont's Leatherflower (endangered)
- (aa) **Clematis socialis:** Alabama Leatherflower (endangered)
- (bb) **Convallaria majuscula:** American Lily-of-the-valley (rare)
- (cc) **Coreopsis integrifolia:** Floodplain Tickseed (threatened)
- (dd) **Coreopsis latifolia:** Broadleaf Tickseed (rare)
- (ee) **Crataegus triflora:** Three-flowered Hawthorn (threatened)
- (ff) **Croomia pauciflora:** Croomia (threatened)
- (gg) **Cuscuta harperi:** Harper's Dodder (endangered)
- (hh) **Cymophyllus fraserianus:** Fraser's Sedge (threatened)
- (ii) **Cypripedium acaule:** Pink Ladyslipper (unusual)
- (jj) **Cypripedium kentuckiense:** Kentucky Ladyslipper (endangered)
- (kk) **Cypripedium parviflorum:** Yellow Ladyslipper (rare)
- (ll) **Desmodium ochroleucum:** Cream-flowered Tick-trefoil (threatened)
- (mm) **Dicanthelium hirstii:** Hirst's Witch Grass (endangered)
- (nn) **Dicerandra radfordiana:** Radford's Mint (endangered)
- (oo) **Draba aprica:** Sun-loving Draba (endangered)
- (pp) **Echinacea laevigata:** Smooth Purple Coneflower (endangered)
- (qq) **Elliottia racemosa:** Georgia Plume (threatened)
- (rr) **Epidendrum conopseum:** Greenfly Orchid (unusual)
- (ss) **Eriocaulon koernickianum:** Dwarf Hatpins (endangered)

(tt) *Evolvulus sericeus*: Silky Morning-glory (endangered)
(uu) *Fimbristylis perpusilla*: Harper's Fimbry (endangered)
(vv) *Forestiera godfreyi*: Godfrey's Wild Privet (endangered)
(ww) *Forestiera segregata*: Florida Wild Privet (rare)
(xx) *Fothergilla gardenii*: Dwarf Witch-alder (threatened)
(yy) *Fothergilla major*: Mountain Witch-alder (threatened)
(zz) *Gentianopsis crinita*: Fringed Gentian (threatened)
(aaa) *Gymnoderma lineare*: Rock Gnome Lichen (endangered)
(bbb) *Habenaria quinqueseta*: Michaux's Spider Orchid (threatened)
(ccc) *Hartwrightia floridana*: Hartwrightia (threatened)
(ddd) *Helianthus verticillatus*: Whorled Sunflower (endangered)
(eee) *Helonias bullata*: Swamp Pink (threatened)
(fff) *Hydrastis canadensis*: Goldenseal (endangered)
(ggg) *Hymenocallis coronaria*: Shoals Spiderlily (threatened)
(hhh) *Illicium floridanum*: Florida Anise (endangered)
(iii) *Isoetes melanospora*: Black-spored Quillwort (endangered)
(jjj) *Isoetes tegetiformans*: Mat-forming Quillwort (endangered)
(kkk) *Isotria medeoloides*: Small Whorled Pogonia (threatened)
(lll) *Jamesianthus alabamensis*: Alabama Warbonnet (endangered)
(mmm) *Jeffersonia diphylla*: Twinleaf (rare)
(nnn) *Kalmia carolina*: Carolina Bog Laurel (threatened)
(ooo) *Leavenworthia exigua* var. *exigua*: Least Gladecress (threatened)
(ppp) *Leiophyllum buxifolium*: Sand-myrtle (threatened)
(qqq) *Leitneria floridana*: Corkwood (threatened)
(rrr) *Lilium michiganense*: Michigan Lily (rare)
(sss) *Lilium philadelphicum*: Wood Lily (endangered)
(ttt) *Lindera melissifolia*: Pond Spicebush (endangered)
(uuu) *Litsea aestivalis*: Pond Spice (rare)
(vvv) *Lotus helleri*: Carolina Trefoil (endangered)
(www) *Lysimachia fraseri*: Fraser's Loosestrife (rare)
(xxx) *Lythrum curtissii*: Curtiss' Loosestrife (threatened)
(yyy) *Macbridea caroliniana*: Carolina Bogmint (rare)
(zzz) *Macranthera flammea*: Hummingbird Flower (threatened)
(aaaa) *Marshallia mohrii*: Coosa Barbara Buttons (threatened)
(bbbb) *Marshallia ramosa*: Pineland Barbara Buttons (rare)
(cccc) *Matelea alabamensis*: Alabama Milkvine (threatened)

(dddd) *Matelea pubiflora*: Trailing Milkvine (rare)

(eeee) *Megaceros aenigmaticus*: Bighorn Hornwort (threatened)

(ffff) *Monotropsis odorata*: Sweet Pinesap (threatened)

(gggg) *Morella inodora*: Odorless Bayberry (threatened)

(hhhh) *Myriophyllum laxum*: Lax Water Milfoil (rare)

(iiii) *Najas filifolia*: Narrowleaf Naiad (endangered)

(jjjj) *Nestronia umbellula*: Indian Olive (rare)

(kkkk) *Nevisia alabamensis*: Alabama Snow-wreath (threatened)

(llll) *Oxypolis canbyi*: Canby Dropwort (endangered)

(mmmm) *Pachysandra procumbens*: Allegheny-spurge (rare)

(nnnn) *Packera millefolia*: Blue Ridge Golden Ragwort (threatened)

(oooo) *Paronychia virginica*: Yellow Nailwort (endangered)

(pppp) *Pedicularis lanceolata*: Swamp Lousewort (endangered)

(qqqq) *Pediomelum piedmontanum*: Dixie Mountain Breadroot (endangered)

(rrrr) *Penstemon dissectus*: Cutleaf Beardtongue (rare)

(ssss) *Pinguicula primuliflora*: Clearwater Butterwort (threatened)

(tttt) *Pityopsis pinifolia*: Sandhill Golden-aster (rare)

(uuuu) *Platanthera integrilabia*: Monkeyface Orchid (threatened)

(vvvv) *Prenanthes barbata*: Barbed Rattlesnake Root (rare)

(wwww) *Pteroglossaspis ecristata*: Crestless Plume Orchid (threatened)

(xxxx) *Ptilimnium nodosum*: Harperella (endangered)

(yyyy) *Quercus oglethorpensis*: Oglethorpe Oak (threatened)

(zzzz) *Rhododendron prunifolium*: Plumleaf Azalea (threatened)

(aaaa) *Rhus michauxii*: Dwarf Sumac (endangered)

(bbbb) *Rhynchospora solitaria*: Solitary Beakrush (endangered)

(cccc) *Rudbeckia auriculata*: Swamp Black-eyed Susan (endangered)

(dddd) *Rudbeckia heliopsis*: Little River Black-eyed Susan (threatened)

(eeee) *Sabatia capitata*: Cumberland Rose Gentian (rare)

(ffff) *Sageretia minutiflora*: Climbing Buckthorn (threatened)

(ggggg) *Sagittaria secundifolia*: Kral's Water-plantain (threatened)

(hhhhh) *Salix floridana*: Florida Willow (endangered)

(iiiiii) *Sanguisorba canadensis*: Canada Burnet (threatened)

(jjjjj) *Sapindus marginatus*: Soapberry (rare)

(kkkkk) *Sarracenia flava*: Yellow Flytrap (unusual)

(lllll) *Sarracenia leucophylla*: Whitetop Pitcherplant (endangered)

(mmmmm) *Sarracenia minor*: Hooded Pitcherplant (unusual)

(nnnnn) **Sarracenia oreophila**: Green Pitcherplant (endangered)
(ooooo) **Sarracenia psittacina**: Parrot Pitcherplant (threatened)
(ppppp) **Sarracenia purpurea**: Purple Pitcherplant (endangered)
(qqqqq) **Sarracenia rubra**: Sweet Pitcherplant (threatened)
(rrrrr) **Schisandra glabra**: Bay Star-vine (threatened)
(sssss) **Schwalbea americana**: Chaffseed (endangered)
(ttttt) **Scutellaria montana**: Large-flowered Skullcap (threatened)
(uuuuu) **Scutellaria ocmulgee**: Ocmulgee Skullcap (threatened)
(vvvvv) **Sedum nevii**: Nevius Stonecrop (threatened)
(wwwww) **Sedum pusillum**: Granite Stonecrop (threatened)
(xxxxx) **Shortia galacifolia**: Oconee Bells (endangered)
(yyyyy) **Sibbaldiopsis tridentata**: Mountain Cinquefoil (endangered)
(zzzzz) **Sideroxylon macrocarpum**: Ohoopsee Bumelia (rare)
(aaaaa) **Sideroxylon thornei**: Swamp Buckthorn (rare)
(bbbbb) **Silene ovata**: Ovate Catchfly (rare)
(ccccc) **Silene polypetala**: Fringed Campion (endangered)
(ddddd) **Silene regia**: Royal Catchfly (endangered)
(eeeeee) **Solidago simulans**: Cliffside Goldenrod (endangered)
(ffffff) **Spiraea virginiana**: Virginia Spirea (threatened)
(ggggg) **Spiranthes magnicamporum**: Great Plains Ladies-tresses (endangered)
(hhhhh) **Stewartia malacodendron**: Silky Camellia (rare)
(iiiiii) **Streptopus lanceolatus**: Rosy Twisted Stalk (threatened)
(jjjjj) **Stylisma pickeringii var. pickeringii**: Pickering's Morning-glory (threatened)
(kkkkk) **Symphotrichum georgianum**: Georgia Aster (threatened)
(lllll) **Thalictrum cooleyi**: Cooley Meadowrue (endangered)
(mmmmm) **Thalictrum debile**: Trailing Meadowrue (threatened)
(nnnnn) **Thaspium pinnatifidum**: Glade Meadowparsnip (endangered)
(ooooo) **Torreya taxifolia**: Florida Torreya (endangered)
(ppppp) **Trientalis borealis**: Starflower (endangered)
(qqqqq) **Trillium persistens**: Persistent Trillium (endangered)
(rrrrr) **Trillium pusillum**: Dwarf Trillium (endangered)
(sssss) **Trillium reliquum**: Relict Trillium (endangered)
(ttttt) **Tsuga caroliniana**: Carolina Hemlock (endangered)
(uuuuu) **Veratrum woodii**: Ozark Bunchflower (rare)
(vvvvv) **Viburnum bracteatum**: Limerock Arrowwood (endangered)
(wwwww) **Waldsteinia lobata**: Barren Strawberry (rare)
(xxxxx) **Xerophyllum asphodeloides**: Eastern Turkeybeard (rare)
(yyyyy) **Xyris tennesseensis**: Tennessee Yellow-eyed Grass (endangered)

Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia

Aquaculture (391-4-14, et. seq.)

391-4-14-.01 Application for Aquaculture Registration

Each applicant for an aquaculture registration shall furnish the following information on their application, in addition to any information required by any other law, rule, or regulation:

- (a) Applicants name, mailing address, and phone number;
- (b) Name and kinds (fish hatchery, catch-out pond, wholesale fish operation, retail fish operation, or other type) of each business, corporation, agency or institution to be covered by the registration;
- (c) The address and location, including county, where each facility is located; and
- (d) The species of fish that will be included under the registration.

391-4-14-.02 Disqualification or Revocation

Possession of state provided fish at the time of application shall disqualify applicant. Falsification of the application as to possession of state provided fish shall constitute grounds for revocation of registration.

391-4-14-.03 Registration Certificates

Registration certificates must be displayed in a prominent location at the place of business, and a copy should be in possession of the owner or his agents when conducting business off the premises.

Legal Ad
The Brunswick News
Savannah Morning News

Public Notice
Georgia Coastal Management Program
Request for Program Changes

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division (CRD) is submitting to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management (OCM) a request for approval of Routine Program Changes (RPC) to the Georgia Coastal Management Program. The request includes changes to the enforceable policies to be used by the state for reviewing federal actions pursuant to the authority provided the state under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The State considers the Program Changes to be routine and not substantial changes to the authorities of the Georgia Coastal Management Program. CRD is seeking OCM's concurrence in this determination.

Program Changes include legislative amendments to the Game and Fish Code and the Aquaculture Development Act; as well as the addition of the Licenses, Permits, and Stamps; Wildlife; Fish; Wild Animals; Saltwater Fishing Regulations; Hunting Regulations; Fishing Regulations; Protected Wildlife Habitats Regulations; General Regulations; Protection of Endangered Species Regulations; and Aquaculture Regulations. A copy of the RPC request may be obtained by contacting the Coastal Resources Division or visiting the web site at <http://coastalgadnr.org/GCMPPProgramDocuments>.

Any comments on whether this request for Program Changes does or does not constitute routine changes must be submitted directly to the NOAA Office for Coastal Management, 1305 East-West Highway (N/OCM6), Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, attention Joelle Gore, Chief, Stewardship Division within three weeks of the issuance of this public notice.

If you have questions regarding the Georgia Coastal Management Program please contact Jan Mackinnon at (912) 264-7128.

Media Contact: Nancy Butler (912) 262.3140 or nancy.butler@dnr.ga.gov

Public Notice
GA DNR Requests Routine Program Changes to
Georgia Coastal Management Program

BRUNSWICK, GA (December 5, 2017) -- The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division (CRD) is submitting to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management (OCM) a request for approval of Routine Program Changes to the Georgia Coastal Management Program. The request includes changes to the enforceable policies to be used by the state for reviewing federal actions pursuant to the authority provided the state under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The State considers the Program Changes to be routine and not substantial changes to the authorities of the Georgia Coastal Management Program. CRD is seeking OCM's concurrence in this determination.

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If you have questions regarding the Georgia Coastal Management Program please contact Jan Mackinnon at (912) 264-7218.

Media Contact: Nancy Butler at (912) 262.3140 or nancy.butler@dnr.ga.gov

Nancy Butler
Ga DNR/CRD
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, GA 31520
912.262.3140
nancy.butler@dnr.ga.gov