

GEORGIA TROUT FISHING REGULATIONS

Trout Season

All designated trout waters are now open year round.

Trout Fishing Hours

- Fishing 24 hours a day is allowed on all trout streams and all impoundments on trout streams **except** those in the next paragraph.
- Fishing hours on Dockery Lake, Rock Creek Lake, the Chattahoochee River from Buford Dam to Peachtree Creek, the Conasauga River watershed upstream of the Georgia-Tennessee state line and Smith Creek downstream of Unicoi dam are 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. Night fishing is not allowed.

Trout Fishing Rules

- Trout anglers are restricted to the use of one pole and line which must be hand held. No other type of gear may be used in trout streams.
- It is unlawful to use live fish for bait in trout streams. Seining bait-fish is not allowed in any trout stream.

Impoundments On Trout Streams

Anglers can:

- Fish for fish species other than trout without a trout license on Dockery and Rock Creek lakes.
- Fish at night, **except** on Dockery and Rock Creek lakes. See Trout Fishing Hours for details.

Impoundment notes:

- If you fish for or possess trout, you must possess a trout license. If you catch a trout and do not possess a trout license you must release the trout immediately.

- **State park visitors** are not required to have a trout license to fish in the impounded waters of the Park. However, those visitors wishing to harvest trout will need to have a trout license in their possession.

Delayed Harvest Streams

Anglers fishing delayed harvest streams must release all trout immediately and use and possess only artificial lures with one single hook per lure from Nov. 1–May 14 annually. The use of additional “dropper” lures on one line is permitted as long as each lure contains one single hook. These restrictions do not apply from May 15–Oct. 31 of each year. The following streams are delayed harvest streams:

- **Amicalola Creek** from County Road 192 (Steele Bridge Road) downstream to GA Hwy 53.
- **Chattahoochee River** from Sope Creek (off Columns Drive) downstream to US Hwy 41 (Cobb Parkway).
- **Chattooga River** from GA Hwy 28 bridge upstream to the mouth of Reed Creek.
- **Smith Creek** on Unicoi State Park from Unicoi Dam downstream to the Unicoi State Park property boundary.
- **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.

Visit www.gofishgeorgia.com to see maps of Delayed Harvest Streams and learn more about this program.

Artificial Lures Only

In streams listed here only artificial lures may be used. It is unlawful to possess any other type bait on an “artificial lures only” stream.

- **Chattahoochee River** from GA Hwy 20 to the boat ramp at the National Park Service Medlock Bridge Park immediately upstream of GA Hwy 141.
- **Coleman River** and its tributaries from its junction with the Tallulah River upstream to Forest Service Bridge No. 54.
- **Conasauga River** and its tributaries (except Jacks River watershed) upstream of the Georgia-Tennessee state line are restricted to using only artificial lures from Nov. 1 through the last Saturday in March of each year.
- **Hoods Creek** and its tributaries on the Warwoman WMA.
- **Jones Creek** and its tributaries on US Forest Service property.
- **Mountaintown Creek** and its tributaries upstream of Mountaintown Creek Watershed Structure No. 2 (Hills Lake).

- **Noontootla Creek** and its tributaries on Blue Ridge WMA. **Note:** All trout less than 16 inches in length caught from this section of Noontootla Creek must be released immediately.
- **Stanley Creek** and its tributaries on the Rich Mountain WMA.
- **Walnut Fork Creek** and its tributaries on the Warwoman WMA.

Other Trout Stream Regulations

Moccasin Creek

That portion of Moccasin Creek between Lake Burton Hatchery water intake and a sign marking the approximate normal pool level of Lake Burton is restricted to anglers under 12 years of age and holders of Honorary Licenses.

Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area

Dukes Creek and its tributaries within the Dukes Creek Conservation Area are open to fishing year round by reservation only. For reservations call 706-878-3087.

- Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used or possessed on the portion of Dukes Creek and its tributaries in White County on the Conservation Area, including the GA Hwy 75 Alternate right-of-way. Possession of any bait, lure, or gear not legal for use on the stream is unlawful.
- All fish caught from Dukes Creek and its tributaries in White County on the Conservation Area, including the GA Hwy 75 Alternate right-of-way, must be immediately released where caught.
- No trout may be possessed while fishing on any stream on the Conservation Area or the GA Hwy 75 Alternate right-of-way.

Waters Creek

Waters Creek, located on the Chestatee WMA, is managed for trophy trout. Waters Creek and its tributaries are open on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (7:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time) with the following restrictions:

- Artificial lures with a single barbless hook no larger than a #6 must be used. Only one lure can be used at a time. You cannot possess lures that do not meet these criteria while on the area.
- Landing nets may not exceed two (2) feet in length.
- Possession of any bait, lure, landing nets or gear not legal for use on the stream is unlawful.
- No night fishing.

Size and possession limits:

- **Size limits:** 22 inches for brown and rainbow trout and 18 inches for brook trout. It is a violation to possess a trout smaller than these limits while fishing on Waters creek.
- **Possession limit:** One (1) trout may be possessed daily. No person may take more than three (3) trout from January 1 to December 31 each year.