



BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 | LITTLE OCMULGEE STATE PARK



**Proposed Amendments
391-2-4-.16 and 391-2-4-.17
Reef Fish Endorsement**

Julie Califf

September 22, 2026



Background – Reef Fish Endorsement

Recreational data are collected via MRIP, a state-federal partnership.

MRIP works satisfactorily for inshore fish species but does not provide accurate estimates for reef and migratory species.

SB 420, passed in the 2026 legislative session, created the Reef and Migratory Fish endorsement to better define the universe of recreational anglers fishing beyond three miles.

The endorsement is an add-on to recreational fishing licenses.

- All anglers required to have the endorsement if landing any of nine species typically caught in federal waters and included in state regs.
- \$10 (residents) and \$20 (non-residents).
- Lifetime, Sportsman's , Paralyzed, Disability, and Honorary licensees will be exempt from the fee.
- Reporting may be required in 2028 and beyond.



Photo Credit: Judy Helmey

Species Included

- Amberjack
- Black Sea Bass
- Cobia
- Dolphin
- Gag Grouper
- King Mackerel
- Red Porgy
- Red Snapper
- Spanish Mackerel



Proposed Amendments 391-2-4-.16

Saltwater Fishing Guide and Saltwater Fishing Pier Operator Reporting

- Title Change: **Reporting; Saltwater Fishing Guide and Saltwater Fishing Pier Operator; Certain Endorsement Holders.**
- 391-2-4-.16(2) **Persons required to report**
 - Adds “persons holding reef/migratory fish endorsements”
- 391-2-4-.16(3) **Methods**
 - Modifies language to specify methods of reporting for each reporting group
 - Adds “saltwater fishing guides and saltwater fishing pier operators shall submit...”
 - Removes “monthly”
 - Adds “reef/migratory fish endorsement holders shall electronically submit records for species listed under the endorsement via an electronic application”
- 391-2-4-.16(4) **Times**
 - Modifies language to provide specific record reporting times
 - Saltwater fishing pier operators: monthly records must be submitted by the 10th of the subsequent month;
 - Saltwater fishing guides: weekly records must be submitted by the following Tuesday;
 - Reef/migratory fish endorsement holders: daily electronic reports must be provided within 24 hours of a completed trip

Proposed Amendment 391-2-4-.17

Commercial Fishing Species Endorsements

- Title change: **Fishing Species Endorsements**
- 391-2-4-.17(1) Purpose.
 - Removes ‘commercial’
- 391-2-4-.17(2) Endorsements.
 - Adds language requiring individuals with a recreational fishing license and a SIP permit to also have a reef/migratory fish endorsement to land species listed in 391-2-4-.17(2)(m).
- New 391-2-4-17(2)(m) Reef/Migratory Fish.
 - Includes: Amberjack, Black Sea Bass, Cobia, Dolphin, Gag Grouper, King Mackerel, Red Porgy, Red Snapper, and Spanish Mackerel

Public Participation Plan

September 22, 2026	CRD presents proposed changes to the Board of Natural Resources, Coastal Committee.
September 23, 2026	Public Notice of the Proposed Rule is advertised through print media, GovDelivery, and the CRD website. Public comment period opens.
October 30, 2026	Public comment period ends.
December 1, 2026	Consideration of public comment and final action on proposed amended rule.

Questions?





Action on Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4

September 22, 2026

Sarah Visser

Purpose and Proposed Changes

The purpose of the proposed changes is to align the Solid Waste Rules with revisions made to the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act, O.C.G.A. 12-8-20 et seq., effective on January 1, 2026.

The following are substantive changes to the draft Rule:

- Clarify requirements for the written verification provided by local governments to demonstrate:
 - Compliance with local zoning and land use regulations
 - Consistency with local government solid waste management plans.
- Clarify that the public participation requirements in the rules also apply to major modifications.
- Revise provisions associated with notification for public meetings to identify the purpose of those meetings.
- Remove the restriction on regional landfills accepting waste outside of its boundaries if located in a significant ground-water recharge area.

Public Comments Received

Comment period began on June 25, 2026 and ended on July 31, 2026

Public hearing was held on July 23, 2026 via Zoom

During the public hearing, we received one verbal comment indicating that written comments would be submitted.

Written comments were received from two commenters:

- Both commenters requested deleting the rule requirement to reaffirm zoning
- One commenter requested to strike the requirement for written verification of consistency with solid waste plans for generating jurisdictions.

These comments were outside the scope of this rule change since we are simply aligning the rules with changes to the Act. EPD will consider these suggestions as part of future rule changes with a stakeholder process.

No changes to the proposed rules are recommended.

Schedule

Date	Milestone
June 23, 2026	Brief the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board
June 25, 2026	Public Comment Period Starts
July 23, 2026	Public Hearing - virtual
July 31, 2026	Public Comment Period Ends
September 22, 2026	Request DNR Board Adoption



Action on Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Lead-Based Paint Hazard Management, Chapter 391-3-24

September 22, 2026

Sarah Visser

Purpose

The purpose is to maintain consistency with the January 13, 2025, amendments to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 745 Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention in Certain Residential Structures (40 CFR 745). Revisions are being proposed to align with changes required and recommended by EPA and to remove references to antiquated policy and correct typographical errors.

Proposed Changes

The following amendments are required by EPA:

- Adding definitions for “Action Levels”, “Housing for the elderly”, and “Reportable level” and removing “Clearance levels”;
- Removing the terms “clearance”, “clearance standards” and “clearance testing” and/or replacing them with the terms “Action levels”, “Dust-Lead Action Levels”, “post-abatement”, “testing”, or “post-abatement testing”;
- Replacing the term “Lead Clearance Levels” with “Dust-Lead Action Levels” throughout the Rules;
- Reducing the “Dust-Lead Action Levels” (formerly “Lead Clearance Levels”) for floors from 10 to $5\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$, for window sills from 100 to $40\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$, and for troughs from 400 to $100\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$; and
- Adding a requirement for abatement reports to include a “dust-lead hazard statement” with specific language when post-abatement dust-lead results meet certain criteria.

Proposed Changes Continued

EPA recommended changes:

- Replacing the term “children age six (6) and under” with “children under age six” to be consistent with 40 CFR 745; and
- Editing definitions and language throughout the Rules for consistency with 40 CFR 745.

EPD recommended changes:

- Removing language referencing antiquated EPD policy requiring payment for duplicate certificates, which can now be printed directly from the user’s online account;
- Removing language referencing antiquated EPD policy that required postmarked mail or hand delivered documents, which are now submitted online; and
- Updating language to address typographical errors and comply with the current Secretary of State Rule Numbering System.

Public Comments Received

Comment period began on June 25, 2026, and ended on August 12, 2026

Public Hearing was held on July 29, 2026, via Zoom

No verbal or written comments were received at the hearing or during the public comment period.

No changes to the proposed rules are recommended.

Schedule

Date	Milestone
June 23, 2026	Brief the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board
June 25, 2026	Public Comment Period Start
July 29, 2026	Public Hearing - virtual
August 12, 2026	Public Comment Period Ends
September 22, 2026	Request DNR Board Adoption



Real Estate Office

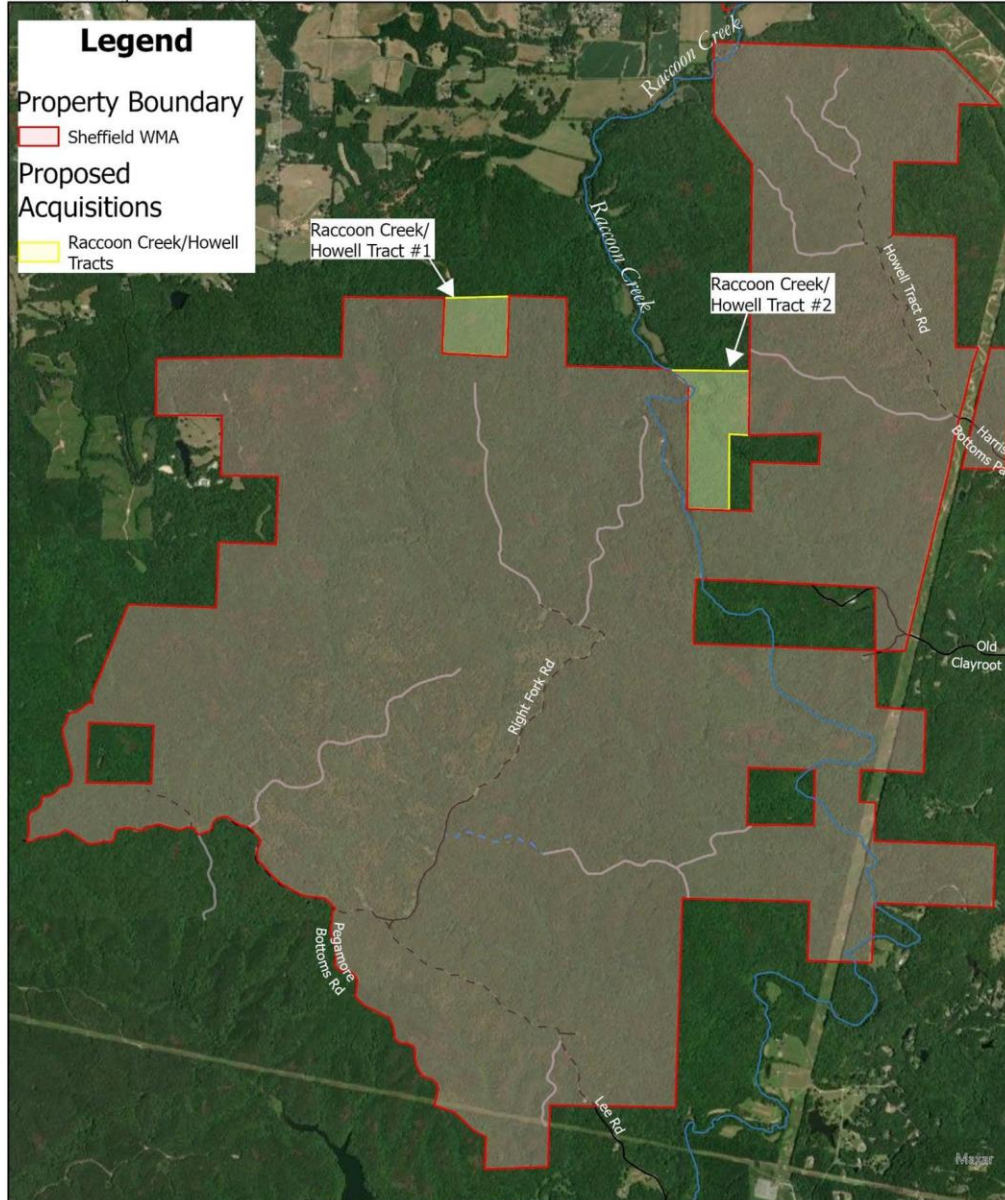
September 22, 2026

Brent Womack

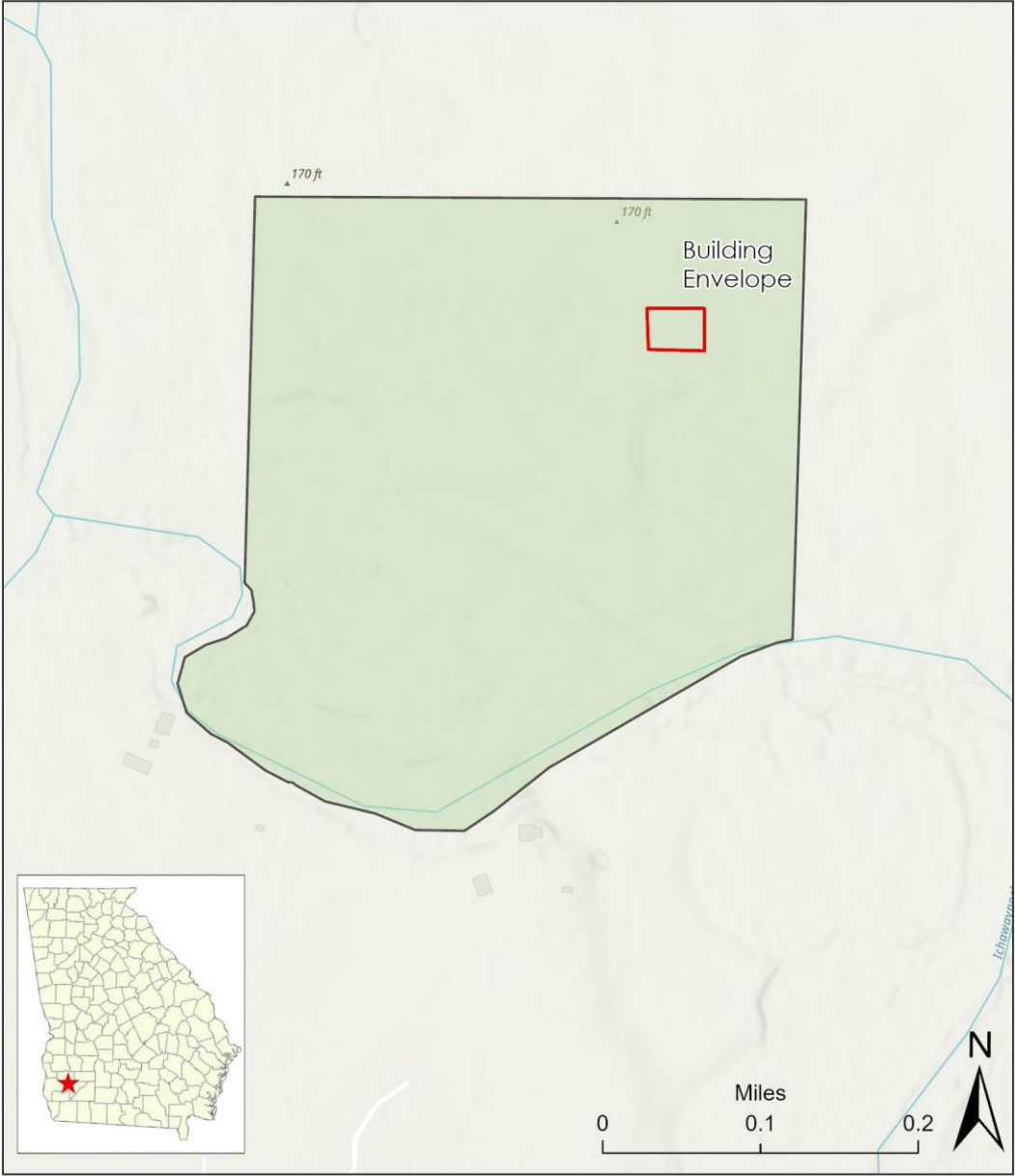


Sheffield Wildlife Management Area

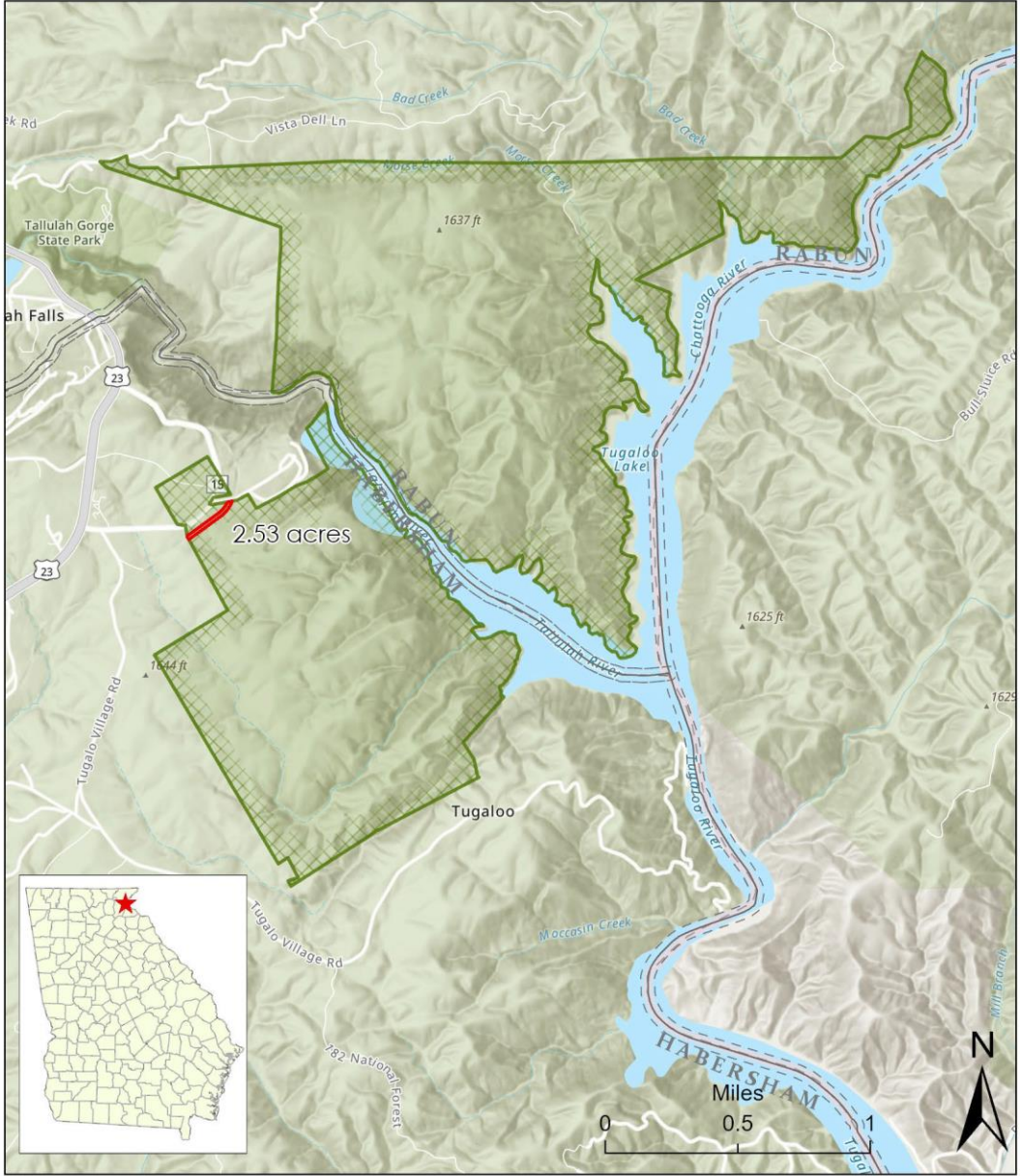
5,516 Acres
Paulding & Polk Counties



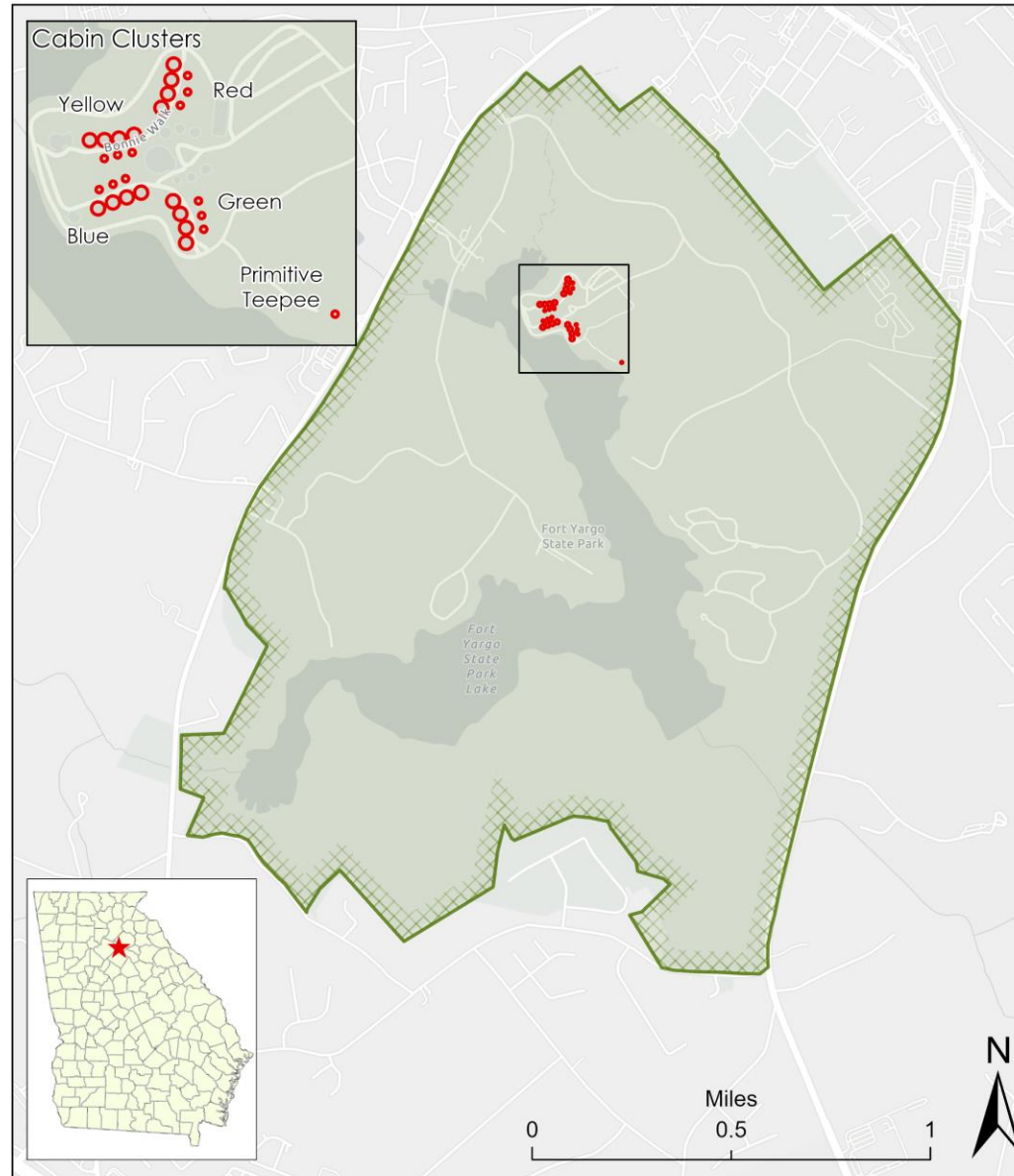
Boring-Kirkman CE
Baker County



Tallulah Gorge WMA Trail Easement
Habersham County



Fort Yargo Cabin and Teepee Proposed Demolition Barrow County



Primitive Tipi



BLLIP #89590

Green Cabin Cluster and Associated Pavilion/Tipi Structures



BLLIP #23367



BLLIP #23366



BLLIP #23365



BLLIP #23364



BLLIP #23057



BLLIP #23384



BLLIP #23385

Red Cabin Cluster and Associated Pavilion/Tipi Structures



BLLIP#23372



BLLIP#23373



BLLIP #23374



BLLIP#23375



BLLIP#23378



BLLIP#23379



BLLIP#23380

Blue Cabin Cluster and Associated Pavilion/Tipi Structures



BLLIP#23368



BLLIP#23369



BLLIP #23370



BLLIP#23371



BLLIP#23381



BLLIP#23382



BLLIP#23383

Yellow Cabin Cluster and Associated Pavilion/Tipi Structures



BLLIP#23360



BLLIP#23361



BLLIP #23362



BLLIP#23363



BLLIP#23058



BLLIP#23059



BLLIP#23060



BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 | LITTLE OCMULGEE STATE PARK



Saltwater Regulatory Update

Doug Haymans

DIRECTOR

Red Drum Regulation Change

- 3 Redfish per person (down from 5)
- 15"-24" TL (up from 14'-23")
- Adopted by DNR Board August
- Effective January 1, 2027

Reef/Migratory Fish Endorsement

- MRIP data questionable
 - Satisfactory for inshore fish species
 - Not so much for rarely encountered or pulse fisheries
- SB 420 (2026) created the Reef and Migratory Fish endorsement
 - Better define the universe of anglers fishing in the EEZ and their catch
- Add-on to recreational fishing licenses
 - Required of anyone landing any of the following species: Amberjack , Black Sea Bass, Cobia, Dolphin, Gag Grouper, King Mackerel, Red Porgy, Red Snapper, Spanish Mackerel
 - Similar to SIP and HIP
- \$10 (residents) and \$20 (non-residents).
 - Lifetime, Sportsman's , Paralyzed, Disability, and Honorary licensees fee exempt.
- Reporting may be required in 2028 and beyond.
- Public Comment thru October 30th.

Exempted Fishing Permit: Red Snapper

- First EFP application withdrawn after federal lawsuit and injunction
- New application submitted to SoC July 10
 - Aims to satisfy questions that previously led to injunction
 - Catch estimate: 10,759 fish
- EFP issued September 21st

State	% of Landings	Harvest level (OFL)	Harvest level (ACL)	Daily catch rate	Max days	Min days
FL	74.23%	83,720	66,778	5,980	14	11
GA	4.31%	4,859	3,875	347	14	11
SC	7.71%	8,695	6,936	621	14	11
Unassigned	13.75%	15,514	12,375			
Total	100.00%	112,788	89,964			

- October 9th – 22nd
 - Extensions possible?
- New Lawsuit?

EO: RESTORING AMERICAN SALTWATER ANGLING AND RECREATION

- Executive Order Signed September 17th
 - Also signed REINVIGORATING AMERICA'S HUNTING HERITAGE
- Federal agencies are directed, consistent with existing law, to:
- **Modernize recreational fisheries data collection** by evaluating outdated survey methods, expanding electronic and mobile reporting and incorporating real-time catch, effort and observational data into federal fisheries management;
- **Strengthen State-Federal partnerships and improve the use of state data**, including consideration of more precise state recreational catch-and-effort data in federal management decisions;
- **Improve recreational fisheries economic data** so the economic value of recreational fishing, for-hire fisheries and shoreside businesses is more fully considered in federal fisheries management decisions;
- **Advance technology-based approaches to marine mammal avoidance**, including directing NOAA to work with the private sector to integrate new technologies that can improve marine mammal detection and avoidance;
- **Fast-track artificial reef and habitat creation**, including establishing a federal Reef-in-Place Program for eligible offshore structures and streamlining permitting for qualifying artificial reef projects, and
- **Address shark and pinniped depredation and their impacts on recreational fishing** by improving research and coordination among federal and state fisheries managers, anglers and the recreational fishing community and advancing management strategies to reduce harmful interactions.
- The order also directs federal agencies to **streamline permitting, remove administrative barriers to recreational fishing and habitat projects, improve the delivery of Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration funds**, and **strengthen coordination of habitat restoration efforts**.

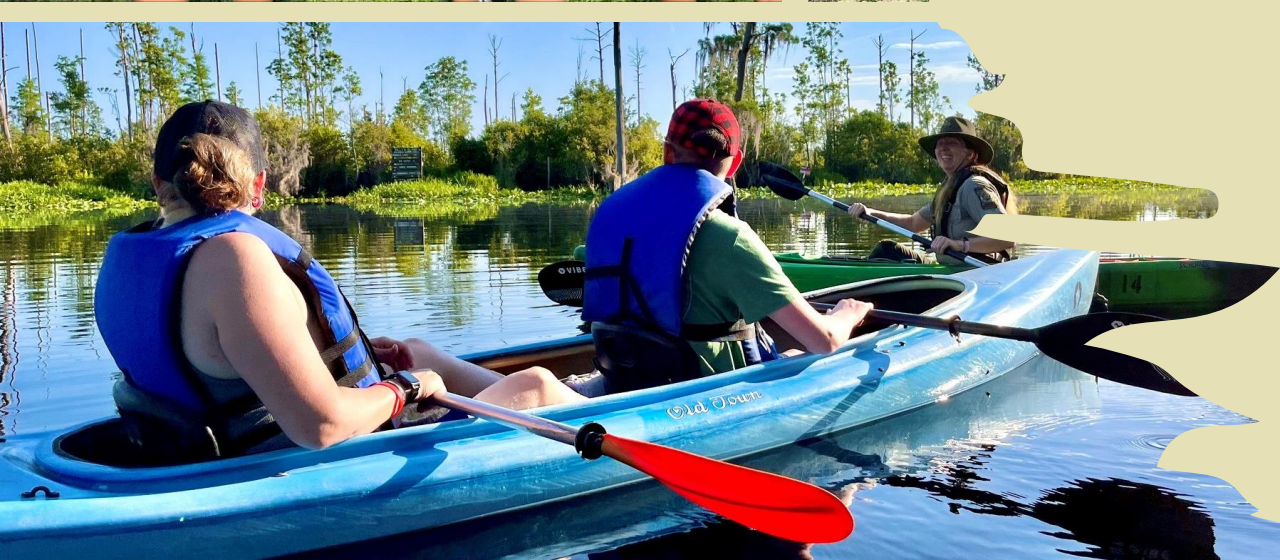
Questions?



Parks & Historic Sites Update

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Angie Johnson, Director



America's 250
Monumental Moments

A NEW WAY TO EXPERIENCE GEORGIA'S GREAT PLACES

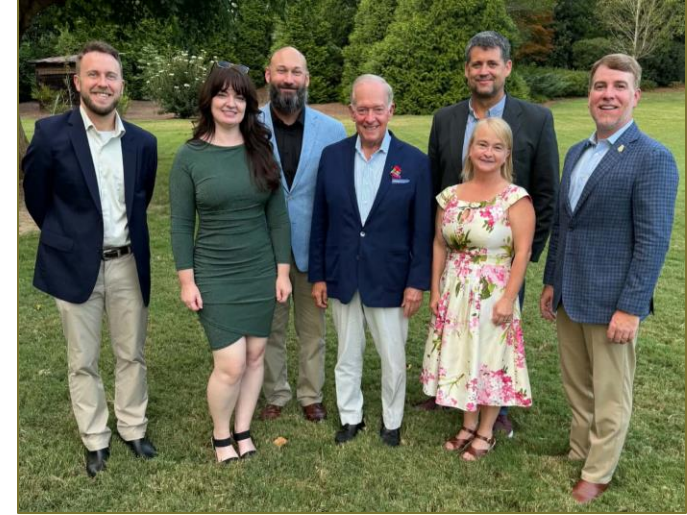
Georgia In Color will make color accessibility glasses available to borrow at Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites.

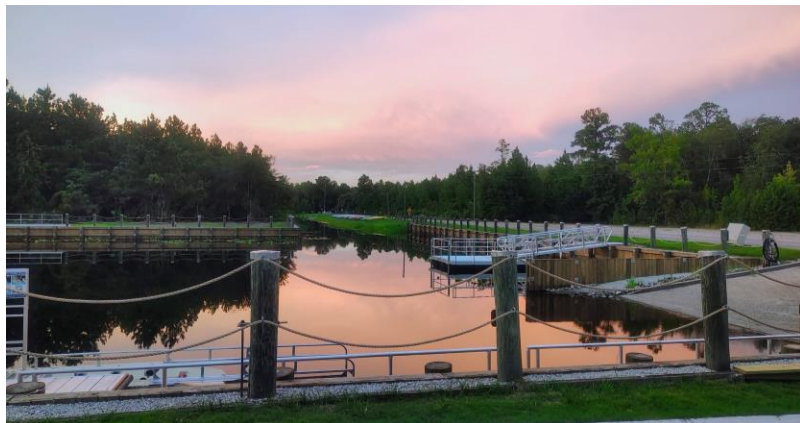


Georgia in Color



Okefenokee State Park





OKE Boat Basin and Cottages

World Ranger Day





New Premium Yurts

National Association of State Park Directors



The 50 State Park Directors of America's State Parks



NASPD



Thank You

Managers Conference Jekyll Island October 5 - 7



Director Angie Johnson
(706) 969-8109
angie.johnson@dnr.ga.gov



Your State Parks Day September 26



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

2026 Boating Season Wrap Up; K-9 Success; 41st GW Academy Update; Dove Season Opening Weekend; POAG Valor Award; GW Awards Banquet



Major Al Greer

Serving Since 1911

September 2026

Boating Season Overview & Comparison

2026 Statewide Boating Stats Memorial Day – Labor Day

Boating incidents – 55

Boating injuries - 25

Boating fatalities - 3

BUIs – 202

Drownings - 28



2025 Statewide Boating Stats Memorial Day – Labor Day

Boating incidents – 78

Boating injuries - 64

Boating fatalities - 6

BUIs – 212

Drownings - 28



K-9 Success

- Recently, one of LED's K-9 Units was requested to assist a local agency with a search for a murder weapon on a 20,000-acre tract of land in middle Georgia.
- The dog and handler followed the scent for approximately 1.5 miles and located the weapon in a drainage structure.
- The case is still under investigation so additional details cannot be shared yet.



41st Game Warden Academy

- 17 Cadets
 - 14 started POST Basic Mandate on August 27th
 - 3 already POST
 - 15 Male
 - 2 Female
- Game Warden Academy begins on January 10, 2027
- Game Warden Academy Graduation – April 16, 2027



Dove Season Opening Weekend

- **Hunters Checked – 3,572**
- **HUI Alcohol - 2**
- **Hunting over bait cases - 289**
- **Possession over the limit cases - 7**
- **Fleeing/attempting to elude - 0**
- **Total dove related cases - 611**
- **Hunting incidents - 2**



Successful young hunters

POAG Valor Award

- The last week of August at the Peace Officers Association of Georgia Annual Conference on Saint Simons Island, Region III Game Warden Wes Freeman was presented with the Valor Award for going above and beyond to save lives.
- On January 18, 2026, Freeman demonstrated extraordinary courage while responding to a call for help along a remote Wilkinson County creek channel.
- Amid very difficult winter conditions, including freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and hazardous waters, he entered the dangerous environment and successfully rescued three victims, whose vessel had capsized after striking a submerged stump.
- His brave, decisive, and selfless actions under extreme conditions prevented a triple fatal tragedy.



13th Annual Game Warden Awards Banquet

- August 15th, 5:00 p.m. - Idlewilde Events Center at Indian Springs
- Award Recipients
 - Supervisor of the Year – Sgt. Bart Hendrix
 - National Wild Turkey Federation Officer of the Year – GWFC Hunter Rush
 - Investigative Game Warden of the Year – Cpl. Jonathan Segars
 - Georgia Boating Officer of the Year – Cpl. Adam Kimbrough
 - Operation Dry Water Officer of the Year – GW Hunter Carson
 - The Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award – GWFC Kyle Kervin
 - Hunter Education Instructor of the Year – Sgt. Levi Thompson
 - The Torch Award – GW Wes Freeman
 - Administrative Professional of the Year – Admin. Asst. III Joyce Holland
 - S. Atlantic Fisheries Marine Council Officer of the Year for Georgia – Cpl. Doug Chambers
 - James R. Darnell Award – GWFC Kyle Kervin



2026 Game Warden of the Year
Corporal Blake Chafin



Questions

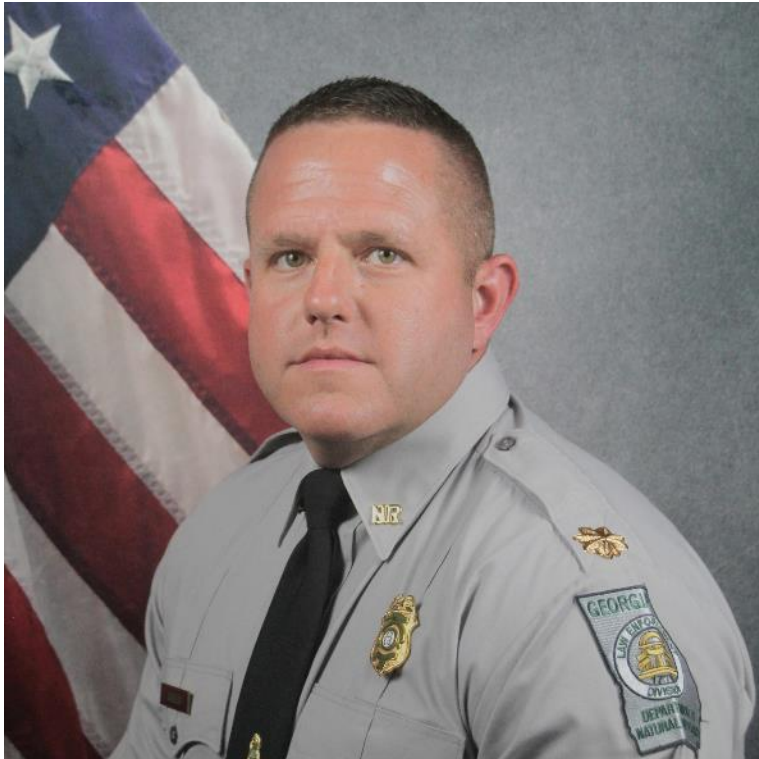


GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Serving Since 1911



Major Al Greer

Law Enforcement Division

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2070 US Highway 278 SE

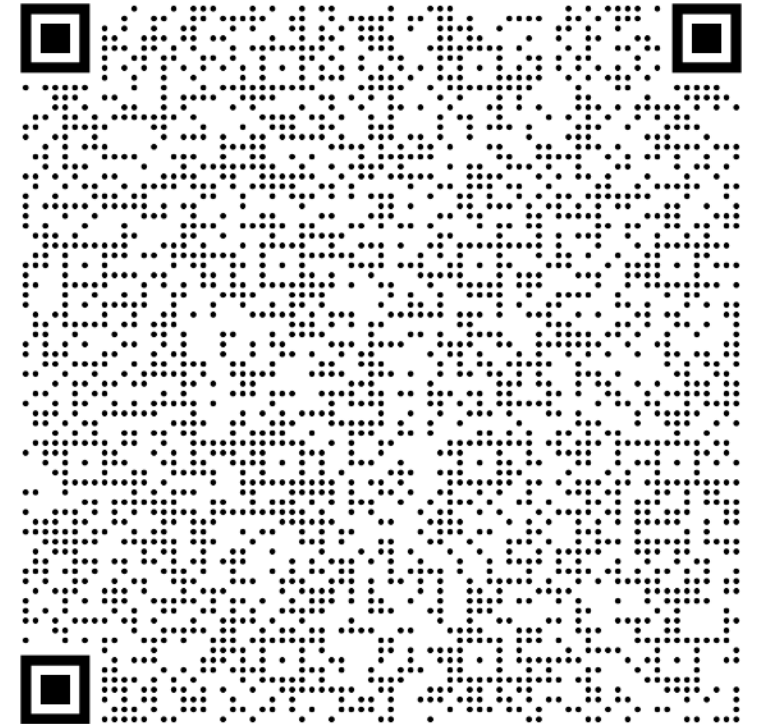
Social Circle, Ga. 30025

Office 770-918-6408

Mobile 404-617-5410

Fax 706-557-3041

Al.Greer@dnr.ga.gov





BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 | LITTLE OCMULGEE STATE PARK