





Proposed Rule Change for 391-2-4-.04 Red Drum

Jared Flowers

August 25, 2026

Mission Statement:

To balance coastal development and protection of the coast's natural assets, socio-cultural heritage and recreational resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Red Drum Management Concerns

ASMFC Red Drum Benchmark 2024 Stock Assessment:

- Determined that the Southern stock of Red Drum, including South Carolina, Georgia, and the east coast of Florida, was overfished and experiencing overfishing
- Reductions in harvest (i.e. fishing mortality) need to be implemented by the states to allow population recovery
- After a thorough process, based on biological information and public input, CRD is proposing a set of regulation changes that satisfy ASMFC requirements and address population concerns
- The final regulations were presented for public comment

Proposed Georgia Options

Five Red Drum Regulations were presented to the public at town hall meetings

- Options approved by the CRD Finfish Advisory Panel
- All options exceeded required harvest reductions

Bag	Slot	Reduction %
4	16" to 25" TL	Achieves F40%
3		Achieves F40%
3	15" to 24" TL	Achieves F35%
2		Achieves F40%
2	14" to 23" TL	Achieves F35%

Proposed Amendments 391-2-4-.04

Saltwater Finfishing

(3) **Seasons, Daily Creel and Possession Limits, Minimum and Maximum Size Limits** - proposed to be amended such that . . .

(m) the daily creel and possession limit is changed to “**3 per person**”, the **minimum size (inches) to “15” TL”, and maximum size to “24” TL”**

Public Comment Summary

Public Comment period open between May 20 through June 30, 2026

- Total of 178 responses
- 9 were deemed non-relevant (did not directly address proposed regulation changes)
- 7 were additional or duplicates
- 60 responses from 2 form letters (52 and 8 responses)

Summarizing comments broadly

- 7% entirely opposed regulation changes
- 4% both supported and opposed individual parts of the proposed regulations
- 89% supported a regulation change
 - 27% supported regulations as proposed
 - 62% supported regulations that were more conservative than proposed

Public Comment Summary

Opinion on Proposed Regulation Change	Count	%
Alternative Slot and Bag	25	15%
Alternative Slot and Oppose Bag	1	1%
Alternative Slot and Support Bag	60	37%
Alternative Slot and Unknown Bag	1	1%
Oppose Slot and Bag	11	7%
Support Slot and Bag	43	27%
Support Slot and Alternate Bag	5	3%
Support Slot and Oppose Bag	5	3%
Support Slot and Unknown Bag	1	1%
Unknown Slot and Bag	1	1%
Unknown Slot and Alternate Bag	5	3%
Unknown Slot and Oppose Bag	1	1%
Unknown Slot and Support Bag	3	2%
Not Relevant	9	--
Additional Comment	7	--
Total Comments	178	
Total Relevant Comments	162	

Proposed Amendments 391-2-4-.04

Saltwater Finfishing

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Questions?





Proposed New Rule Chapter 391-2-1: Private Docks

Jill Andrews

Chief, Coastal Management Section

August 25, 2026





History of Private Dock Rulemaking

Board Briefing: January 2024

Stakeholder Engagement

Public Involvement:

- 2024: Public Hearing
- 2025: Public Town Hall

Board Engagement: May 2026

Board Briefing: June 2026

Public Comment Period: June/July 2026





Private Docks

Chapter 391-2-1

.01 Purpose

.02 Definitions

.03 Issuance of a Revocable License

.04 Standards and Conditions of New Private Docks

.05 Reconstruction and Modification of Existing Private Docks

.06 Maintenance of Existing Private Docks Rule

.07 Variances

.08 General Conditions of Revocable Licenses for Private Docks

.09 Inspections; Revocation, Suspension, or Modification of Revocable License; Penalties





Chapter 391-2-1

.02 Definitions

- Maintenance: expanded definition to define major and minor
- Private dock: edited to more closely mirror CMPA definition
- Serviceable: updated maintenance
- Walkway extension: edited

.03 Issuance of a Revocable License

- Updated licensing requirements to only “certain” maintenance
- Updated for when professional drawings are required



Chapter 391-2-1-.04: New Docks

Fixed Walkways:

- New: 1,000 feet maximum length changed to 1,500 linear feet
- New: spanning waterways greater than 20 feet wide requires a minimum clear span and engineered drawings

Fixed Deck:

- New: increases size of multi-family fixed decks from 400 to 600 square feet

Lighting:

- Updated language for clarity
- New: dock visible from sea turtle nesting beaches may have seasonal lighting requirements



Chapter 391-2-1-.06: Maintenance

Minor Maintenance:

- Aka Board-for-board
- No notification
- No new license

Major Maintenance:

- Notification required (phone, email, letter, etc.)
- CRD will verify serviceability
- Maintenance proceeds
- IF there is no record of the dock, current owner or an updated configuration, a new license will be issued.





Chapter 391-2-1-.07: Variances

Fixed Walkway

- New: changes limit on how much the requested variance can exceed the standard from 10% to unlimited
- New: additional information may be required to review variance, including professional drawings or waterway assessments
- New: variance approvals may be conditioned, on a case by case, with additional requirements to minimize impacts





Chapter 391-2-1-.08

.08: General Conditions

- License Transfer:
 - New: updates process for transferring licenses to new property owners
 - New: clarifies acceptable proofs of ownership
 - New: notification of ownership changes should be made within 90 days

.09: Inspections; Revocation, Suspension or Modification of Revocable License

- New: Eliminated “without prior notice” related to compliance inspections
- New: Eliminated misdemeanor provision, entirely

Public Participation Plan

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| • August 25, 2026 | Board briefing on revised proposed rules |
| • August 26, 2026 | Notice of public comment period |
| • September 30, 2026 | Public comment period closes |
| • October 27, 2026 | Proposed final action by Board |





Thank you

Jill Andrews
Chief, Coastal Management Section
Jill.Andrews@dnr.ga.gov



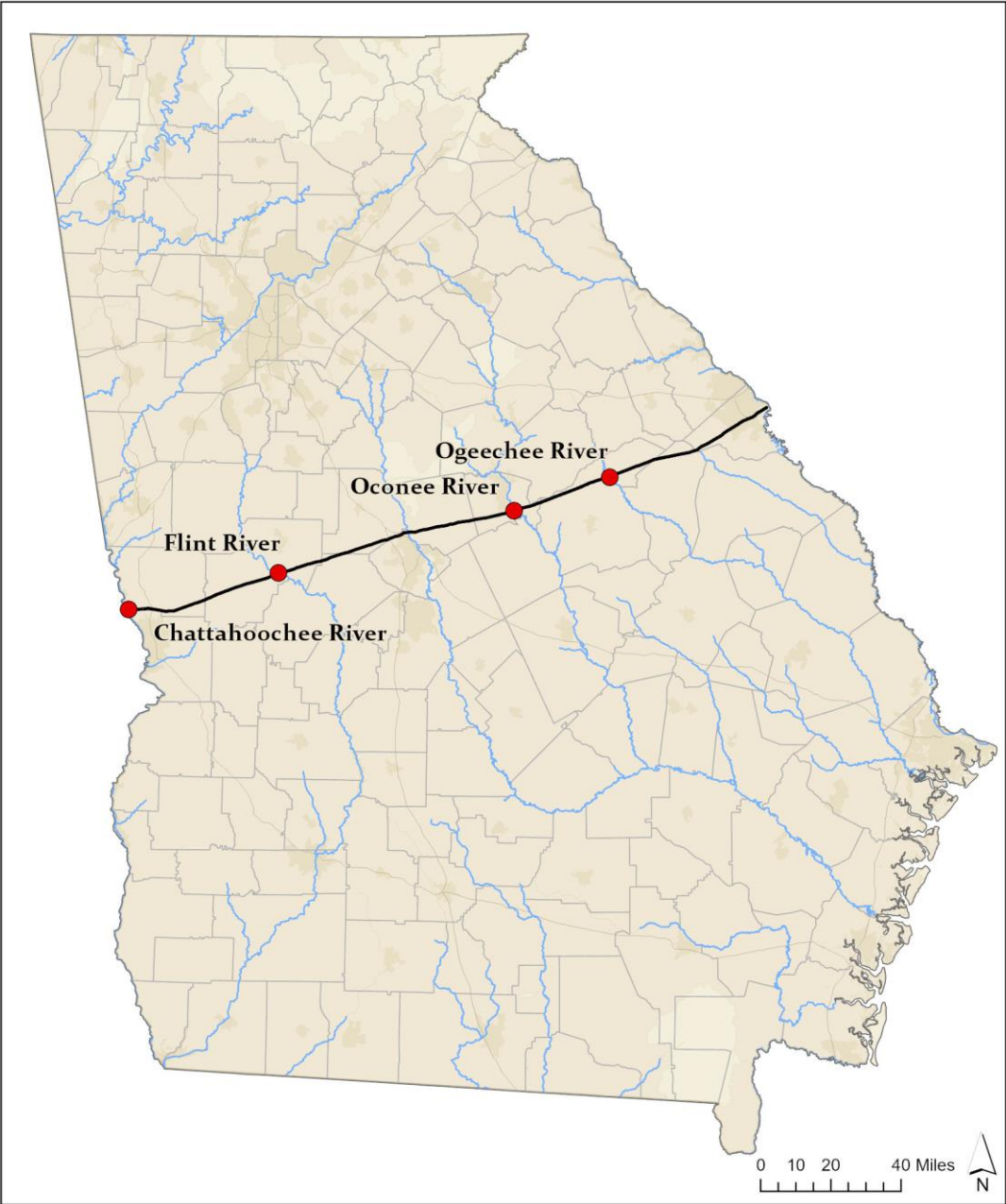


Real Estate Office

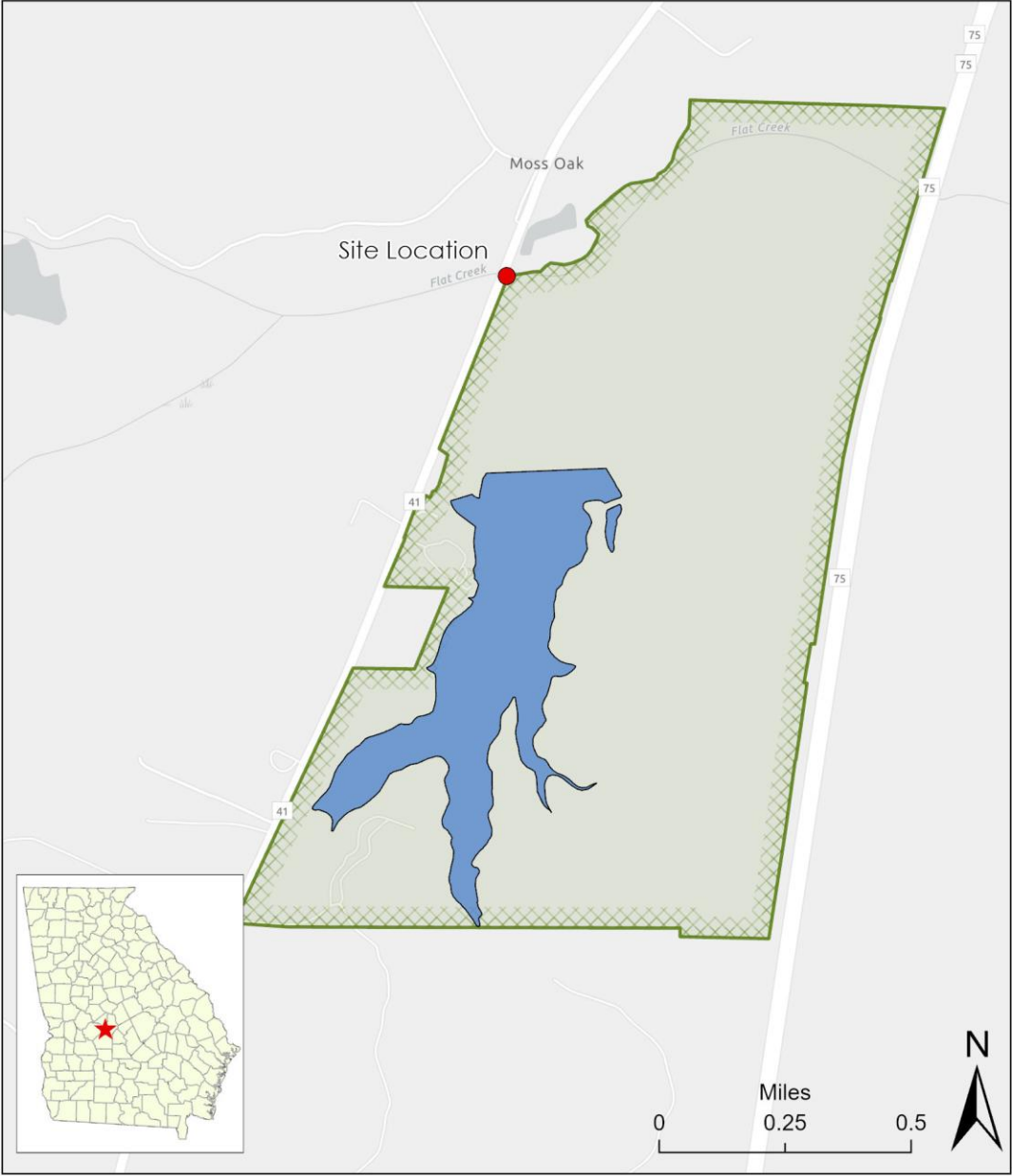
August 25, 2026

Brent Womack

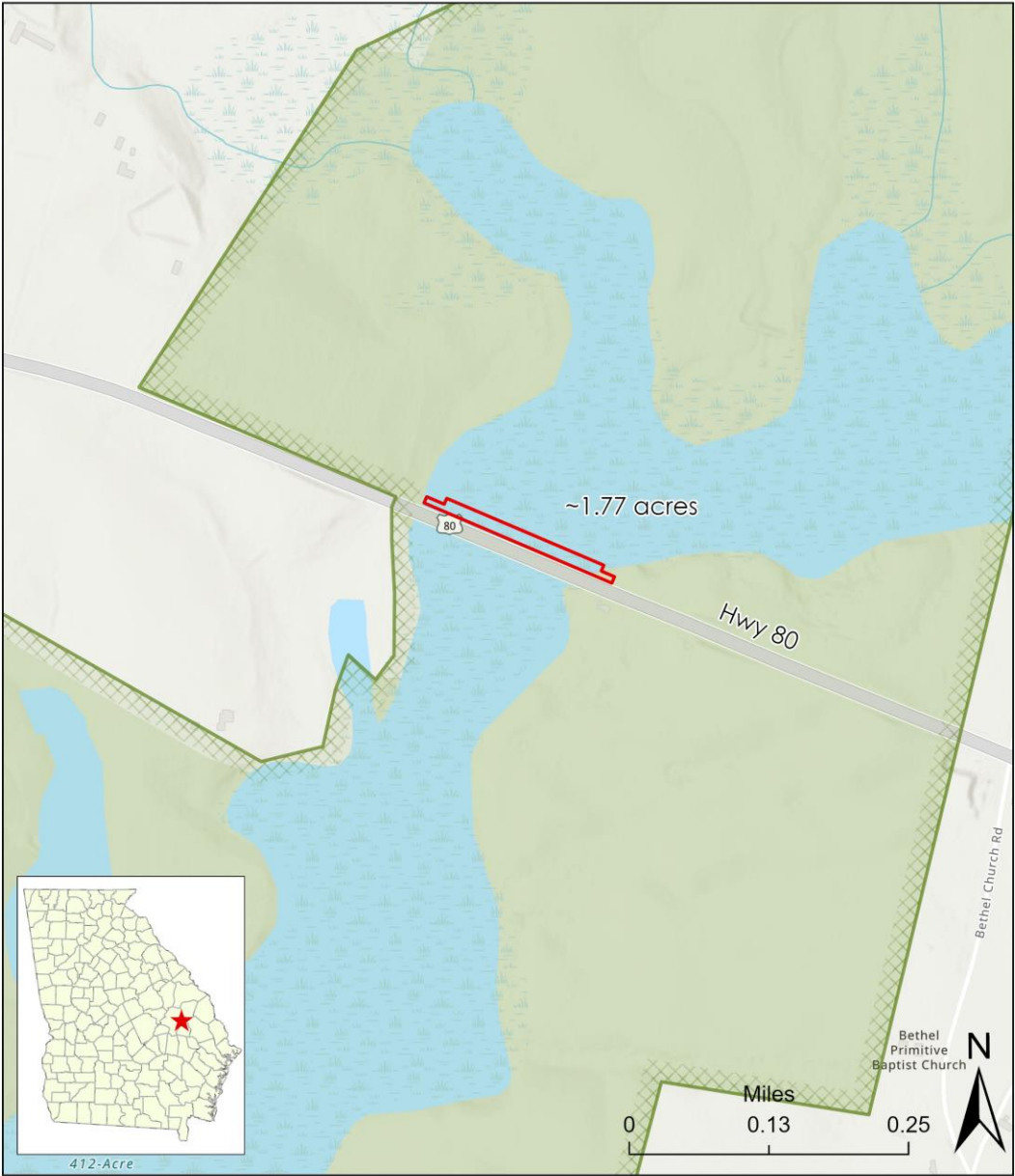
Southern Natural Gas Pipeline



Flat Creek PFA - Bridge Replacement
Houston County



George L. Smith SP
Emanuel County





Briefing on Proposed Rules Pertaining to Protection of Endangered, Threatened, Rare or Unusual Species, Subject 391-4-10

Trina Morris

The 2006 Georgia Protected Species List



- All plant and animal species for which legal protection is provided under the Georgia Endangered Wildlife Act of 1973 or the Georgia Wildflower Preservation Act of 1973.
- Under state law, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has responsibility for periodically reviewing this list and providing recommendations for revisions as needed.
- Criteria for Listing:
 - 1) the present or threatened alteration of its habitat
 - 2) overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific, or educational purposes
 - 3) disease or predation
 - 4) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms
 - 5) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence





Update on 2026 Progress

- SWAP Technical Teams Created Proposed Changes for Public Comment
 - State Wildlife Action Plan Species of Greatest Conservation Need
 - Highest Priority Species Considered First
- Public Nominations were Accepted during June 2026
 - Tech teams reviewed nominations in July
 - Proposed changes to list provided in Board Package



Public Nomination Summary



Facebook

- 32 comments (100% supportive), 190 “likes”, 50 shares
- Most expressed DNR needs to do more to protect species

Instagram

- 209 likes and one positive comment

- Public Nominations
 - 62 official submissions through form (not all nominations)
- Other Suggested Changes
 - Technical teams received additional direct feedback

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Georgia Native Plant Society

ATHENS - EAST PIEDMONT CHAPTER

Native Plant Sale

May 2, 2026 - 10am - 2pm

at Sunrise Nursery

550 Athens Rd, Winterville, GA 30683



Choose from a wide selection of native perennials, grasses, ferns, shrubs, and trees grown locally by Chapter members or by regional native plant nurseries. Plants offered will

Name Change Example

- Listed as Sicklefins Redhorse *Moxostoma* *sp.* in 2006
- Formally described by ichthyologists in 2025 as *Moxostoma ugidatli*
- Ugidatli is the Cherokee word for the species that means “wears a feather” and refers to the shape of the fin.



Sicklefin Redhorse (*Moxostoma ugidatli*)



STATEWIDE ESA PROGRESS

Since Georgia's first Wildlife Action Plan, the Endangered Species Act regulatory burden in our state has been reduced through surveys and monitoring that reveal which species are stable and through work with partners to recover listed species and their habitats.

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**SPECIES
DELISTED**

4

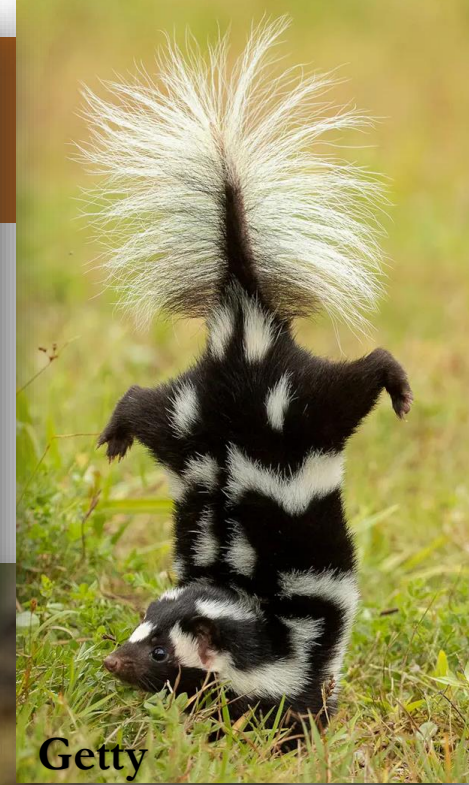
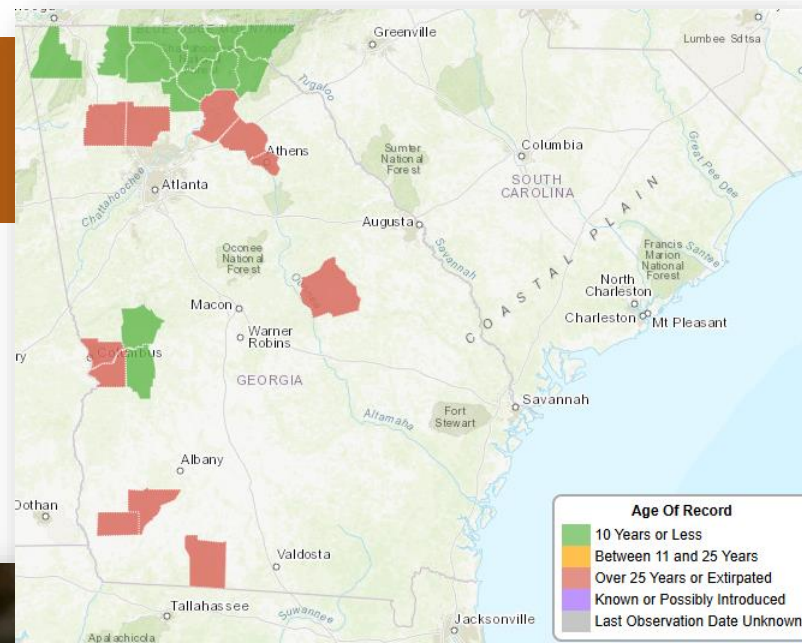
**SPECIES
DOWNLISTED**

77

**AT-RISK SPECIES
NOT LISTED**

Eastern Spotted Skunk

- Skunks managed as a game species
- Furbearers:
 - mink, otter, raccoon, fox, opossum, muskrat, **skunk**, bobcat, & weasel
- Two species of skunks
 - Striped Skunk
 - Eastern Spotted Skunk (rare)
- Cannot control for species during trapping
- Trapper education:
 - Release unharmed (if possible)
 - Report any captures



§ 27-1-28. Taking of nongame species

Universal Citation: GA Code § 27-1-28 (2025) ?

< Previous

Next >

(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.

Ornate Chorus Frog

- Taking of Nongame Species is Unlawful
 - Frogs are one of 14 groups that may be taken by any method except those specifically prohibited by law or regulation
 - GA State listing prevents intentional take



Photos: Savannah River Ecology Laboratory

Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake “Poisonous Snake”

- **Most nominations for a single species (7)**
- **SWAP Top Threats**
 - Habitat Loss, persecution/commercial exploitation
- **Mostly found on public lands**
 - Many too small to conserve viable populations
- **Petitioned for ESA Listing in 2012**
 - Found listing may be warranted
 - Noted in finding - Current Protections in GA Inadequate
- Listing this species under the Georgia Endangered Wildlife Act would decrease the need to list EDB federally





Process Timeline

- ✓ Public Nomination Period
 - ✓ June 1 – June 30, 2026
- Present Revised Rule to Board
 - August 25, 2026
- Public Comment Period
 - Aug 28 – Sept 20, 2026
 - WCScomments@dnr.ga.gov
- Public Hearing, WRD HQ
 - Sept 8, 2026
- Final Board Recommendations
 - October 27, 2026





Life Jackets Save Lives - WEAR IT!
(Los chalecos salvavidas salvan vidas, ¡ÚSALO!)

Supervise **P**revention **L**ife jacket **S**wim lessons **H**ave a plan
Arm's reach with a buddy

Take one - Size it, WEAR it, Return It
(Toma uno: mídetelo, úsalo, devuélvelo)

Life Jacket Loaner Station

GEORGIA
Department of Natural Resources



Division Update

Doug Haymans

DIRECTOR

Food Shrimp Season: June 9th



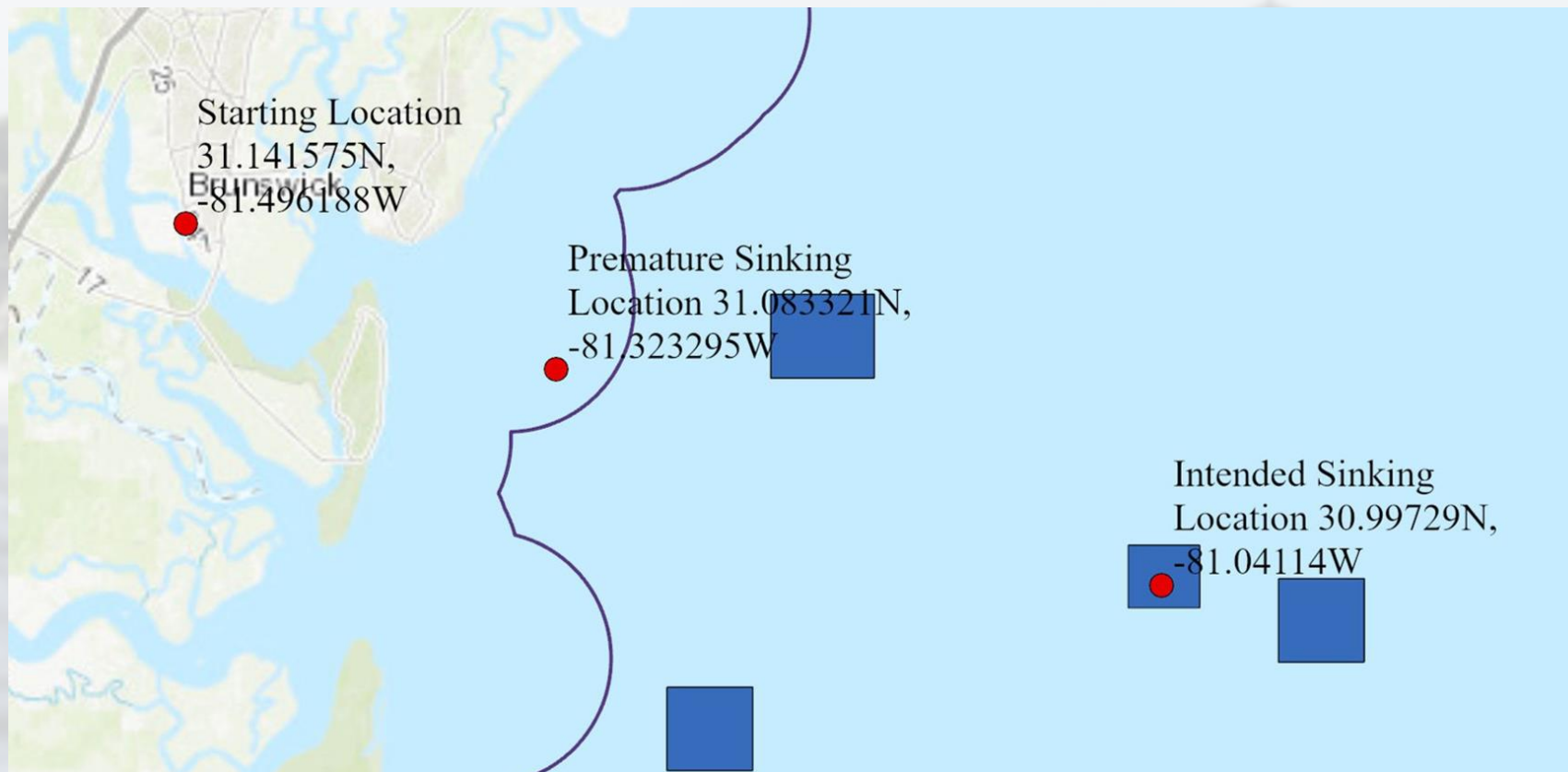
- May: Spawning imminent in more than half of females
- June: Peak spawning before June 9 opening
- Overall abundance below long-term average
 - Likely due to cold spell in preceding winter
- Market-size shrimp were available throughout
- Avg price: \$5.02/lb tails
 - \$4.35 in '25
 - \$3.17 in '24
- 8/20/26: 120 licenses vessels, 78 GA residents
 - 2025: 146 licenses, 99 residents
 - Florida boats (13) and SC boats (12) unload in their respective home states.



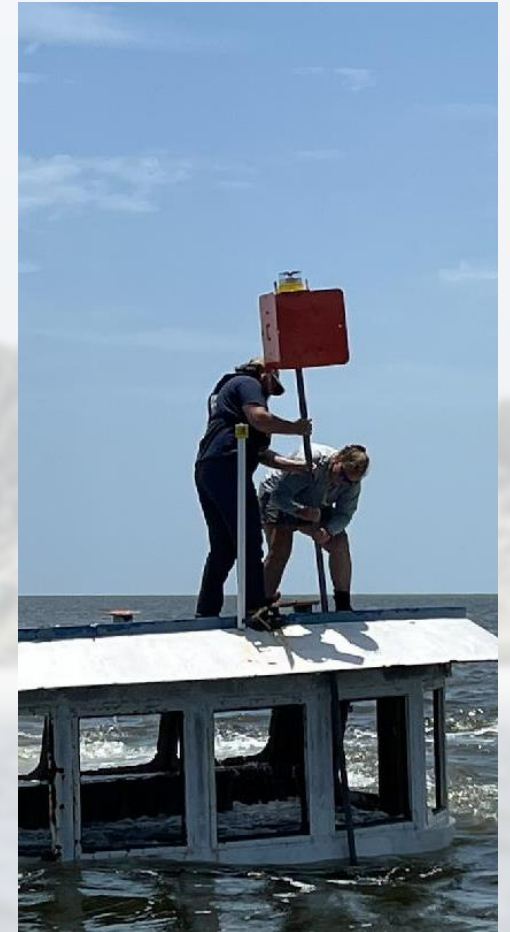
Ahead of Schedule: Tug SEGA



- Prematurely sank in 20ft (MLW) on July 9 during transit to Reef SFC
 - 0.75 miles south of St. Simons Range at Channel Marker 7



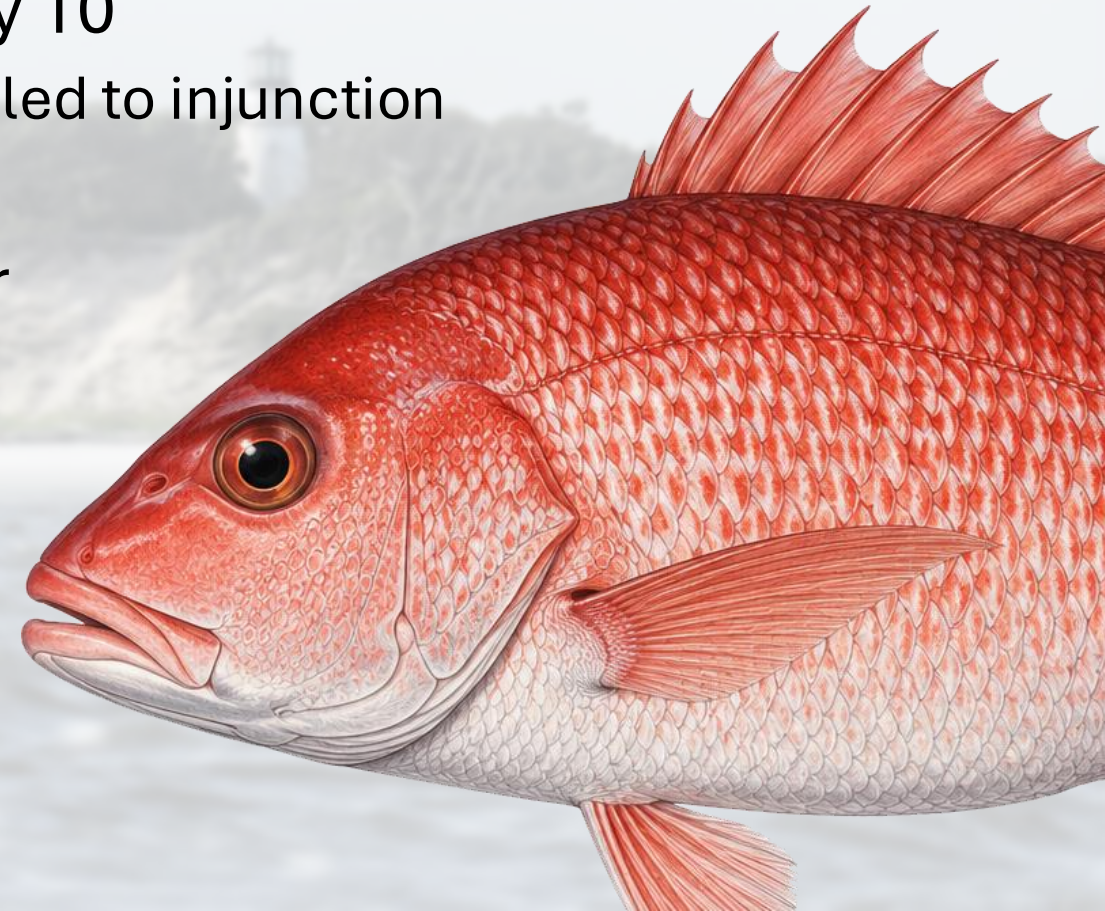
Imagery



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
- Expecting decision in early September
 - Public Comment closes today
 - Potential season in October (Dec?)

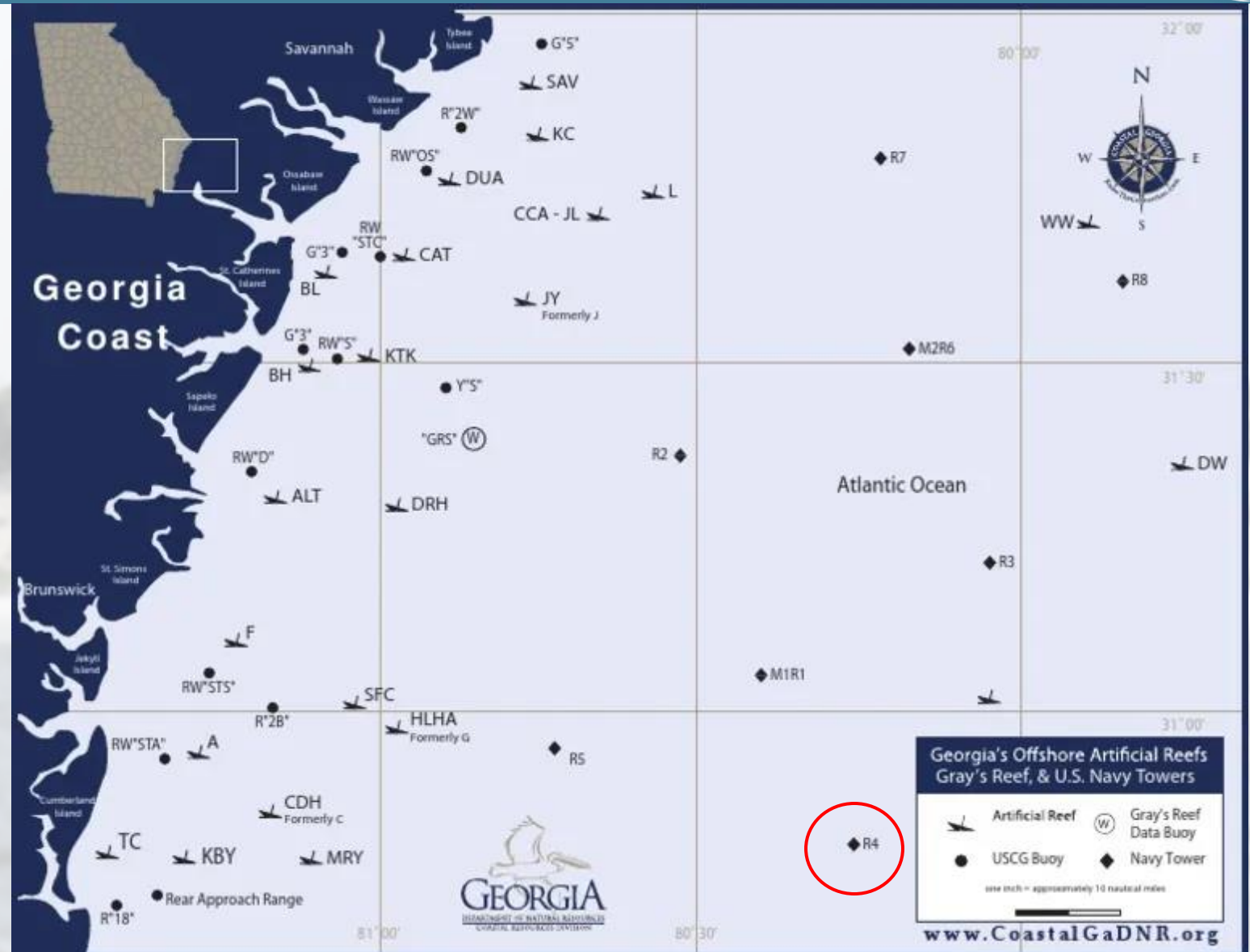
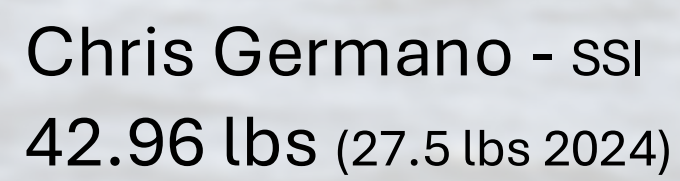


Shellfish: FDA Audit

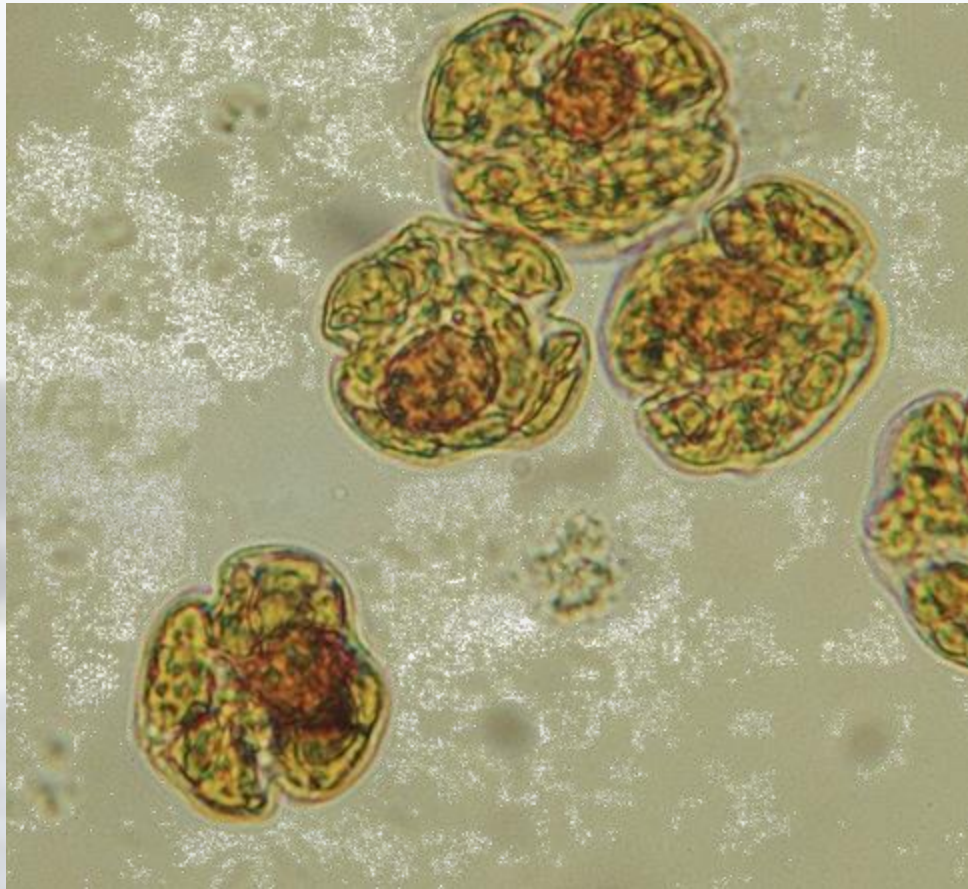


- CRD and LED hosted FDA for a Control of Shellfish Harvest Audit, Aug. 10-14
- Annual - Alternating
 - control of harvest
 - growing area assessments
- LED patrols Shellfish Growing Areas
- FDA provided w/ updated
 - Patrol Policy Document
 - Vibrio Control Plan
 - Full Sanitary Survey of the McIntosh SGA





Red Tide in Georgia???



- Nassau & Duval Co. (FL) Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB)
 - low to medium levels of *Karenia brevis* – 8/10-14
- CRD's HAB Contingency Plan implemented
 - With elevated levels in proximity to Camden Co. CRD initiated water sampling 8/17-21 in the SGA
- CRD will coordinate w/ FWC for analyses
- If HAB levels are above thresholds:
 - CRD will issue a Harvest Area Closure for Hard Clams for all affected growing areas.
- Oyster harvest currently closed coastwide, vibrio control plan; however, summer harvest is open in 3 mariculture zones

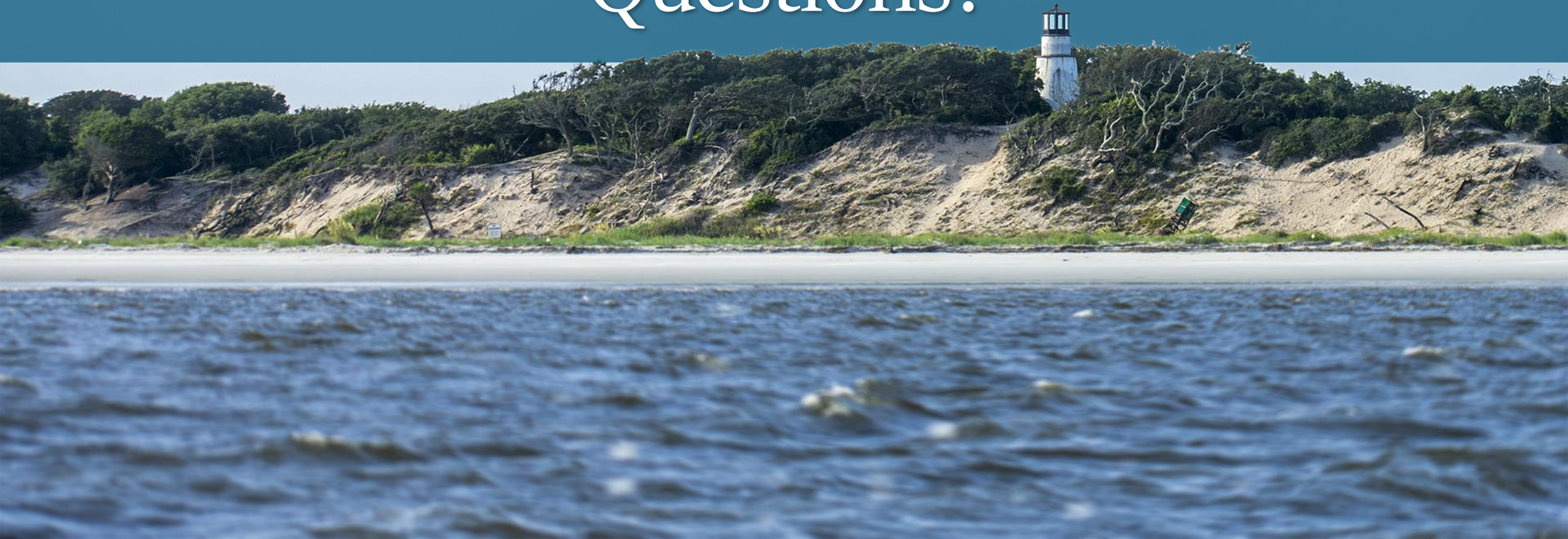
Coastlines Georgia, Vol. 8, Iss. 4



- 13th issue since relaunch, May '22
- Features:
 - Trawl survey
 - Beach water quality testing
 - Education and outreach efforts
 - Red snapper
 - Red drum
 - Dock rules



Questions?





Wildlife Resources Division Board Report



August 2026

Chris Harper, Director

Game Management Section



Bear Feeding Leads to Bear Incidents

One of the most frequently shared BearWise tips for living with black bears, is to not feed them.

Intentionally feeding bears or allowing them to consume non-natural food items (such as dog food, bird seed, garbage, etc.), teaches bears to ignore their natural fear of humans and approach homes and people looking for more easy-to-get free meals.

Two recent close calls in the North Georgia mountains involved food-habituated bears.

Homeowners or visitors who feed bears and ignore the risk for human injuries (or worse) is a concern.

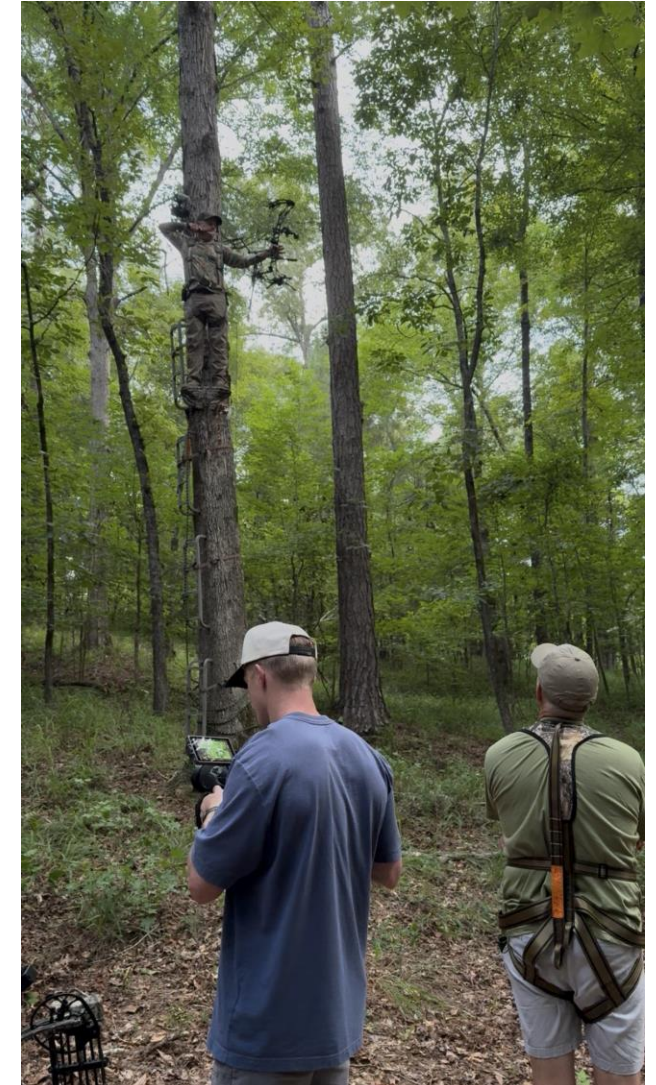
Communications, Education & Outreach Section

Realtree Event

Team Realtree hosted an archery competition with professional hunters from across the country.

Hunter Development Staff had the opportunity to go out and do some filming on tree stand safety for this coming archery season.

Team Realtree Pros that won the archery tournament will be at the Braves game and handing out lifetime hunting and fishing licenses to six lucky kids!



Game Management Section

Alligator Management

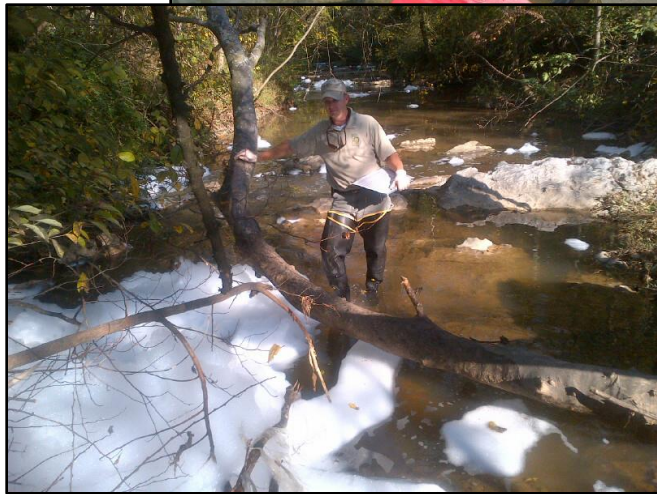
Alligators are found in Georgia typically south of the Fall Line.

Capture, tagging, and GPS tracking of alligators across regions helps staff better understand nesting ecology, habitat use, movement patterns, and reproductive success.

The information collected helps evaluate population trends and inform management decisions.



Fisheries Management Section



Investigating Fish Kills

Fisheries staff investigate fish kills in cooperation with the DNR Environmental Protection Division.

All reports of dead fish in state waters are investigated to determine if a fish kill has occurred.

Let's look at these questions:

- What does a fish kill look like?
- What causes fish kills?
- How are they investigated?

Wildlife Conservation Section

Altamaha Spiny mussel Discovery

In July, on the Ocmulgee River, WRD aquatic biologist Zach Schumber found the first live Altamaha spiny mussel seen in 15 years.

The last previously documented live Altamaha spiny mussel was on the Altamaha near Jesup in 2011, the year the species was federally listed.

This discovery does provide hope that others might be collected and used to learn how to propagate the species and bolster populations.



*WRD aquatic biologist
holds up an Altamaha
Spiny mussel from the
Ocmulgee River.*





BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING

AUGUST 24, 2026 | ATLANTA, GA