

Lake Seminole and Waters Bordering Georgia and Alabama



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

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LAKE SEMINOLE



Site Description

Lake Seminole is a 37,500-acre reservoir located at the juncture of the Florida, Georgia, and Alabama state lines. It was formed by closure of Jim Woodruff Dam at the confluence of the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers near the town of Chattahoochee, FL. The lake has an average depth of 10 feet and its facilities are maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is used for navigation, hydroelectric production, and recreation. Much of the reservoir is flooded timber and hydrilla has expanded to nearly 70% coverage of the lake area. Approximately 80% of Lake Seminole is located in Georgia, although by agreement licensed Florida anglers can fish in specified waters of Lake Seminole. Please see special regulations and map below for a detailed description.





Amenities

Stocking: Lake Seminole is stocked with striped bass and hybrid striped bass (sunshine bass) by Florida, Georgia, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Fishing lodges: Seminole Lodge and Marina (Sneads, FL; 850-593-6886) and Wingate's Lodge Marina and RV Park (Bainbridge, GA; 229-246-0658)

Boat ramps: Several boat ramps provide access to Lake Seminole and the Chattahoochee River. Florida boat ramps can be found using the Florida Boat Ramp Finder. Georgia boat ramps can be found using the Georgia Outdoor Map.

Camping: Three Rivers State Park (Sneads, FL; 850-482-9006) and Seminole State Park (Donalsonville, GA; 229-861-3137)

Canoes can be rented at Three Rivers State Park.

Fish Species Present

Hybrid bass and striped bass: Striper and hybrid striped bass fishing in the lower lake should be good in the winter months as both species will be schooling on shad and skipjack herring. Trolling plugs or casting spoons will be most effective during winter. Watch for diving birds to locate schooling fish. Stripers are likely to be on annual spawning migrations up the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers by early April. Larger striped bass and sunshine bass will seek refuge in springs (which are closed to fishing May 1 to November 1) and cool water creeks to survive the hot summer. By late fall, anglers should begin to look again for schooling fish in the lower part of the lake near the Indian Mounds and along the old river channels down to the dam.

Largemouth bass: Good lures for this popular sport fish include plastic worms, spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and topwater lures. The months of January through April provide the best largemouth bass fishing. Largemouth bass will be located off ledges in the main lake during the cooler months. They will then move to spawn over sandy substrate in backwater areas, rivers, and coves during the late winter and early spring. In the summer, largemouth bass will move toward deeper waters again; try fishing along the edge of vegetation.

Catfish: Channel catfish can be found throughout the reservoir; use stink baits or artificial worms. Blue and flathead catfish are primarily found in the Chattahoochee arm and are often located in deep, flowing areas or behind large snags that are downstream of bends. The optimal bait for flatheads and blue catfish is sunfish, however live sunfish can only be used for bait if collected and fished using hook and line. Sunfish cannot be used as bait on any other fishing gear (e.g., bush hooks or trot lines). A Florida state record Flathead catfish (63.8 pounds) was caught in the Chattahoochee River.

Bluegill and redear sunfish: Spawning beds can be found during spring and summer in shallow areas of 1 to 4 feet. Fishing for redear is particularly good in late May and June. Small worms and crickets work best.



Special Regulations

Rule 68A-23.0131 Special Regulations for Waters Bordering Georgia and Alabama: Lake Seminole

Any person having in his possession a valid and appropriate sport fishing license issued by the State of Georgia or the State of Florida, or persons exempt from such licensure, may take fish by hook and line or rod and reel in the following described waters of Lake Seminole:

Bounded on the west by Florida State Road No. 271 (River Road), on the south by the Jim Woodruff Dam, on the east by a line immediately east of the Chattahoochee Marina, also known as the Booster Club, running northwest across the lake to the tip of land at the junction of the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers, west of Spring Creek; and on the north by the Herman Talmadge Bridge across the Chattahoochee River (Hwy 2).

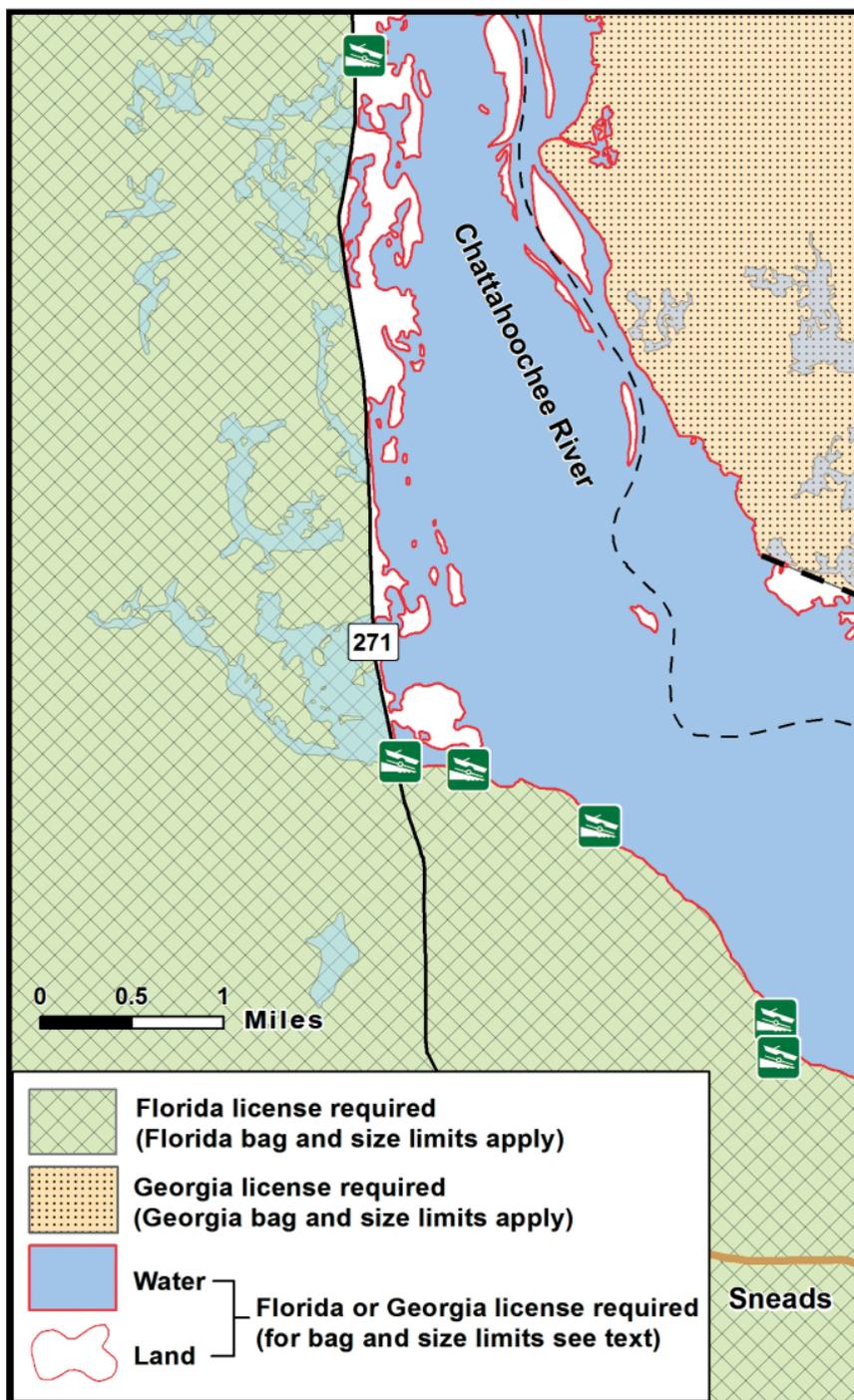
In the above described waters of Lake Seminole, no person shall take, catch or have in possession more than the daily bag limit for any species of game fish, or take, catch or have in possession more than 50 in the aggregate of all species of game fish.

The daily bag limit on the above-described waters for Lake Seminole is as follows:

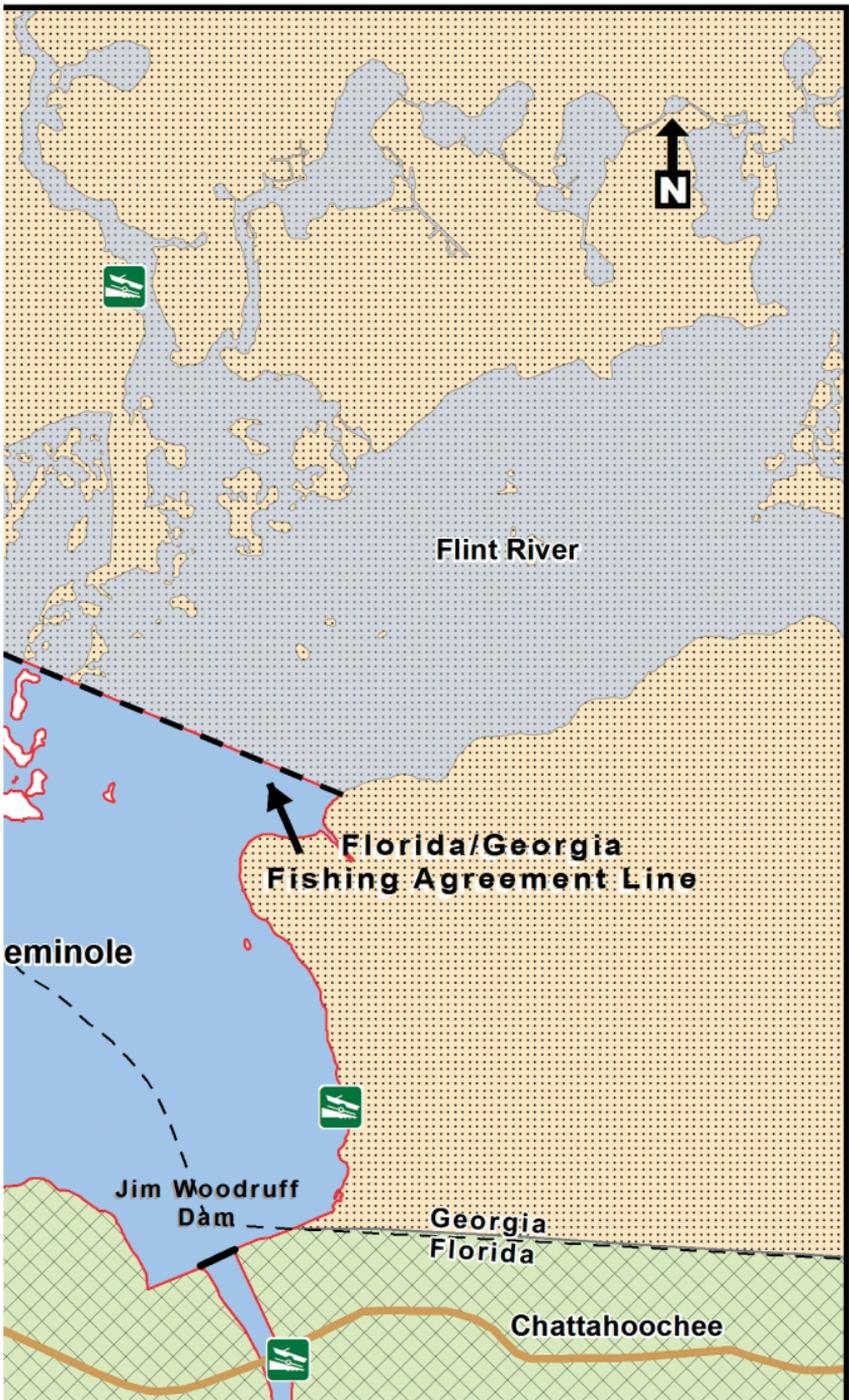
- **Black bass** – 10 (all of which must be 12 inches or greater in total length).
- **Striped bass, striped bass-white bass hybrid and white bass in the aggregate** 15 (only 2 of which may be 22 inches or greater in total length).
- **Bream** – Bluegill, redbreast, and all other species of bream – 50.
- **Crappie** – 30.
- **Pickereel** – Chain, grass and redbfin – 15.

Note: Length and bag limits for black bass, striped bass, hybrid striped bass, white bass, crappie, panfish, catfish and pickereel follow

regulations set forth by Georgia DNR. All fishing, including spear fishing, for any species in the marked areas around five fish refuges in Lake Seminole is prohibited from May 1–October 31 each year. Legal methods of take for nongame fish (methods other than hook and line or rod and reel) are based on state boundaries.



Map showing boundaries of Lake Seminole where agreement between Florida and Georgia and special regulations apply. The northern boundary (not shown on map) is the Herman Talmadge Bridge (Hwy 2) across the Chattahoochee River. License requirements as well as bag and size limits are based on state boundary lines. For example, areas west of Hwy 271 (River Road) in Florida fall under current Florida statewide freshwater fishing regulations.



Contacts:

FL FWC, Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management, Northwest Regional Office, 850-265-3676

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 229-662-2001

GA DNR, Lake Seminole Wildlife Management Area, 229-430-4254

GA DNR, Fisheries Management, Southwest Office, 229-430-4256

Helpful information

- **Fishing Forecasts for the NW region:** myfwc.com/fishing/freshwater/sites-forecast/nw/
- **Wildlife Alert:** If you suspect a fish, wildlife, boating, or environmental law violation, report it to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Reward Program: 888-404-FWCC (3922). Cell phone users can reach us at *FWC or #FWC, depending on your service provider. myfwc.com/contact/wildlife-alert/
- **Big Catch Angler Recognition Program:** myfwc.com/fishing/freshwater/fishing-tips/angler-recognition/
- **Trophy Catch Angler Recognition Program:** myfwc.com/Trophycatch
- **GovDelivery:** Stay in the loop on issues related to Florida's fish and wildlife resources. myfwc.com/contact/auto-alerts/
- **Fish Consumption Advisories:** myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/health-disease/other-wildlife/fish-consumption/
- **Licenses and Permits (including the Largemouth Bass Tournament Exemption Permit for Florida waters):** myfwc.com/license/freshwater
- **Latest Regulations:** myfwc.com/fishingfreshwater/regulations/special/
- **Boat Ramps:** myfwc.com/BoatRamps