

Sportsmen

The Broader Picture

A Report for Georgia Legislators and Policy Makers



When state legislators and policy makers face decisions on wildlife management and sportsmen's issues, they need to be informed about the economic impact of hunters and anglers and their size in numbers and strength as a constituency.

It is important for policy makers to understand public opinions and attitudes on hunting and fishing. Finally, it is crucial that lawmakers be aware of the revenue streams for the fish and wildlife departments with regulatory authority over hunting, fishing, and habitat.

The National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses, in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation, is pleased to present this report to assist legislators and policy makers in making informed decisions in support of achieving a stronger, healthier hunting and fishing tradition in Georgia.

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Sportsmen as a Constituency

One by one hunters and anglers add up and collectively they are a constituency to be reckoned with. They know that their passion for the outdoors must be matched with active participation in the political process. Lawmakers and regulators make decisions everyday that affect their passion and hunters and anglers pay attention, and take those decisions into account when they vote.

1.1 Million

Hunters and Anglers Live in Georgia.

Resident Sportsmen	1,161,000
Resident Anglers	971,000
Resident Hunters	344,000
Non-resident Anglers	136,000
Non-resident Hunters	136,000



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

- Georgia ranks # 10 in the nation for the resident number of sportsmen.
- 1 out of 6 residents hunt or fish.
- Twice as many people hunt or fish in Georgia each year as attend Atlanta Hawks and Falcons games (1.1 million sportsmen vs. 423,000).
- Georgia sportsmen could fill every seat at Atlanta Motor Speedway more than nine times (1.1 million vs. 124,000).

TURNING OUT TO VOTE

Nationwide polling indicates that a huge majority of all sportsmen consider themselves “likely voters” and 8 in 10 say that a candidate’s position on sportsmen’s issues is important in determining whom they will vote for.

If all hunters and anglers living in Georgia voted in the 2004 presidential election, they would have equaled 56% of the entire vote.

Sportsmen as an Economic Force



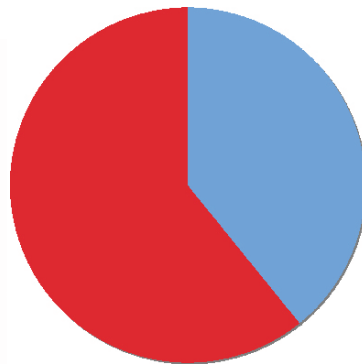
Without hunters and anglers, Georgia's economy would be a lot smaller. \$1.8 billion smaller, in fact. That's how much they spend on their passion for the outdoors. Hunters and anglers keep people working: not just in typical hunting and fishing jobs, but also in vas stations, retail, restaurants and hotels. Not only does their spending generate jobs, it also generates state and local taxes, helping the state's government. It adds up to more than you might think, creating an economic ripple effect reaching every corner and voting district of the state.

\$1.8 Billion

spent annually by sportsmen in Georgia.

Annual Retail Spending

Anglers
\$1.1 Billion



Hunters
\$680 Million

Spending by sportsmen funds:

\$909 million in salaries, wages and income

31,000 jobs in Georgia

Spending by sportsmen results in:

\$198 million state and local tax revenue

\$3 billion ripple effect on the economy

- Hunting and fishing expenditures in Georgia exceed the combined revenues for Air Serv, Ambling Companies, Jackson Healthcare Solutions, FleetCor Technologies, Safeguard Products International, MedAssets, Stratix, The North Highland Company, Global Link Logistics, and PS Energy Group - some of the fastest growing companies in the state (\$1.8 billion vs. \$1.6 billion).
- Sportsmen support as many jobs in Georgia as Delta Airlines and Hewlett Packard, two of the largest employers in the state (31,000 jobs).
- Annual spending by Georgia sportsmen is more than the combined cash receipts for cotton, greenhouse/nursery, eggs, and cattle - 4 of the top 5 agricultural commodities in the state (\$1.8 billion vs. \$1.67 billion).



Sportsmen Pay Georgia Benefits



The cost of managing wildlife across the country is extremely high. Unlike other state government agencies, most fish and game departments receive little support from taxes paid by the general public. Instead, the majority of their operating funds, as much as 75%, come directly from hunters and anglers.

Through license fees and special excise taxes on outdoor equipment, sportsmen contribute more than \$4.7 million each day for the benefit of wildlife nationwide. The knowledge of how this money is gathered and how it is spent contributes to a greater understanding of the overall conservation picture.

License Fees **\$21 Million**

Typically, this is the largest portion of the sportsmen's contribution to state fish and wildlife divisions.

Excise Taxes **\$8.8 Million**

Excise taxes are paid in three categories: hunting equipment and ammunition, fishing and boating equipment, and motorboat fuel. All proceeds from the excise taxes are divided among the 50 state wildlife agencies. Each state's share is based on its land or water area and number of licensed hunters and anglers. The combination of these three taxes has formed one of the best programs ever devised for the benefit of wildlife, game and non-game species alike.

Pittman-Robertson

Passed in 1937, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act requires manufacturers of archery equipment, sporting arms and ammunition to pay a tax on their products. After the taxes are collected from the general treasury, they are apportioned to the states for state wildlife conservation programs.

Dingell-Johnson

Passed in 1950, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act was modeled after the Pittman-Robertson Act to create a parallel program for management, conservation, and restoration of fishery resources. Manufacturers of fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits pay for the fund through an excise tax.

Wallop-Breaux

Passed in 1984, the amendment to the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act established a new Trust Fund, named the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund. Funds are received from import duties on sport fishing equipment, pleasure boats and yachts. Another source of revenue is a tax from motorboat fuel sales.

Ga Wildlife Resources Revenue Sources

2006 Revenues

Approximate Amount

Resident Hunting License Fees	\$6.3 million
Non-Resident Hunting License Fees	\$7 million
Resident Fishing License Fees	\$7 million
Non-Resident Fishing License Fees	\$941,000
Pittman-Robertston/Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	\$4.6 million
Dingle-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration	\$4.2 million
Other Federal Funding	\$1 million
Federal matching grants:	
FWS Section 6 HCP Planning	\$355,000
FWS Section Recovery Land Acquisition	\$2 million
Landowner Incentive Program	\$180,000
FWS Coastal Wetland	\$1.9 million
Appropriations by legislature from general state fund*	\$28 million
State Wildlife Grants	\$1.5 million
License plate revenue	\$2 million
Corporate Funds: Oglethorpe Power Corporation	\$342,134
Income tax check-off	\$344,128
Weekend for Wildlife	\$711,310
Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority	\$127,000



*Licenses fees brought in \$21 million of the amount appropriated by the legislature.

Hunting and Fishing Access

Hunting access ranks as one of the top concerns in the sportsmen's community. Unfortunately, access to public and private land continues to shrink. The National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses is addressing the issue through "No Net Loss" legislation and by encouraging state caucuses to work with fish and game agencies to develop walk-in access programs based on other successful models.

HUNTING ACCESS

Acres of Hunting Land Owned by the State	242,913
Acres of Hunting Land Leased by the State	719,884
Acres of Federal Lands for Hunting	1,100,000

FISHING ACCESS

Number of Boat Ramps	130
Number of Acres of Public Fishing Areas	2,100
Number of Acres of Impoundments	500,000
Approx. Miles of Waterways for Fishing	16,000

License, Tags and Permits Add Up

With licenses, tags, permits and stamps making up the bulk of the sportsmen's contribution to conservation and management of the country's natural resources, it's helpful to see how these dollars are generated.



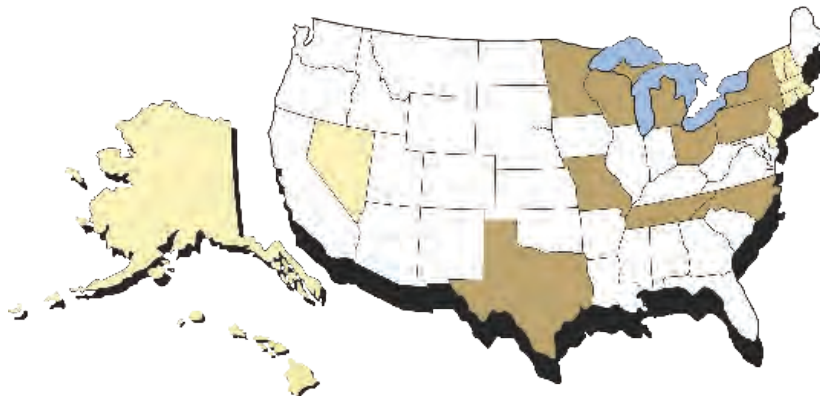
2006 Hunting License Sales

<u>State</u>	<u>Paid Hunting License Holders</u>	<u>Resident Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps</u>	<u>Non-Resident Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps</u>	<u>Total License, Permits & Stamps</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
Alabama	267,354	255,935	46,285	302,220	\$9,340,257
Alaska	98,084	184,860	38,188	223,048	\$8,316,493
Arizona	378,162	353,567	69,255	422,822	\$11,558,603
Arkansas	182,044	356,639	35,334	391,973	\$10,802,988
California	305,962	818,810	15,167	833,977	\$15,961,754
Colorado	318,971	437,720	144,013	581,733	\$54,554,105
Connecticut	54,130	126,748	6,563	133,311	\$2,232,972
Delaware	18,480	25,488	3,480	28,968	\$631,194
Florida	175,067	317,592	6,761	324,353	\$5,308,511
Georgia	314,569	904,205	85,759	989,964	\$13,815,998
Hawaii	8,211	7,924	385	8,309	\$304,685
Idaho	286,607	840,817	122,013	962,830	\$20,165,343
Illinois	250,648	745,227	101,597	846,824	\$21,112,258
Indiana	330,360	1,163,565	58,367	1,221,932	\$17,545,905
Iowa	303,217	486,458	65,677	552,135	\$11,183,328
Kansas	202,274	375,169	95,715	470,884	\$13,006,749
Kentucky	350,544	593,701	61,042	654,743	\$12,935,123
Louisiana	277,108	567,984	34,245	602,229	\$9,707,094
Maine	205,600	212,677	47,685	260,362	\$7,670,701
Maryland	120,914	140,825	27,531	168,356	\$5,644,267
Massachusetts	69,500	228,081	7,036	235,117	\$2,393,180
Michigan	832,835	2,136,866	37,848	2,174,714	\$26,635,311
Minnesota	571,581	1,367,077	30,564	1,397,641	\$29,567,813
Mississippi	234,797	234,614	45,291	279,905	\$9,790,388
Missouri	492,500	1,678,787	63,600	1,742,387	\$18,378,130
Montana	232,869	869,829	137,713	1,007,542	\$26,064,256
Nebraska	165,952	346,686	58,958	405,644	\$9,491,764

<u>State</u>	<u>Paid Hunting License Holders</u>	<u>Resident Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps</u>	<u>Non-Resident Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps</u>	<u>Total License, Permits & Stamps</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
Nevada	58,722	95,176	15,267	110,443	\$4,377,639
New Hampshire	62,587	186,919	36,511	223,430	\$3,721,195
New Jersey	86,588	268,784	149,305	418,089	\$6,877,002
New Mexico	103,968	289,234	49,056	338,290	\$8,812,445
New York	627,749	1,297,015	78,902	1,375,917	\$20,249,675
North Carolina	438,172	474,710	22,857	497,567	\$9,754,920
North Dakota	147,240	439,770	152,862	592,632	\$7,601,066
Ohio	442,214	1,136,798	42,717	1,179,515	\$17,886,738
Oklahoma	341,260	290,249	17,340	307,589	\$7,881,077
Oregon	283,327	1,267,747	64,147	1,331,894	\$21,450,509
Pennsylvania	1,018,664	2,581,408	137,216	2,718,624	\$39,877,828
Rhode Island	9,302	31,124	2,864	33,988	\$460,313
South Carolina	210,136	404,917	52,493	457,410	\$8,137,508
South Dakota	232,053	254,561	115,666	370,227	\$16,723,210
Tennessee	730,495	1,261,792	40,485	1,302,277	\$13,960,929
Texas	1,073,847	1,225,635	69,025	1,294,660	\$34,302,678
Utah	153,501	230,299	12,402	242,701	\$10,953,575
Vermont	317,484	766,583	50,637	817,220	\$11,247,707
Virginia	86,512	150,749	19,931	170,680	\$3,749,295
Washington	193,046	890,629	11,856	902,485	\$12,284,591
West Virginia	254,222	741,278	208,006	949,284	\$10,123,221
Wisconsin	722,803	2,884,857	145,752	3,030,609	\$35,768,454
Wyoming	136,839	163,117	79,026	242,143	\$23,473,387
Total:	14,779,071	33,111,202	3,020,395	36,131,597	\$703,794,135

Most Paid Hunting License Holders

1. Texas
2. Pennsylvania
3. Michigan
4. Tennessee
5. Wisconsin
6. New York
7. Minnesota
8. Missouri
9. Ohio
10. North Carolina



Least Paid Hunting License Holders

1. Hawaii
2. Rhode Island
3. Delaware
4. Connecticut
5. Nevada
6. New Hampshire
7. Massachusetts
8. Vermont
9. New Jersey
10. Alaska

License, Tags and Permits Add Up

With licenses, tags, permits and stamps making up the bulk of the sportsmen's contribution to conservation and management of the country's natural resources, it's helpful to see how these dollars are generated.

Georgia ranks 21st in the nation for the number of paid fishing license holders.



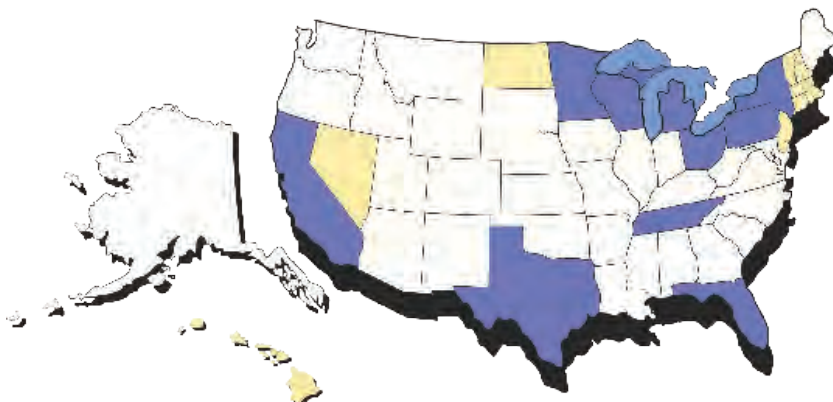
2006 Fishing License Sales

<u>State</u>	<u>Paid Fishing License Holders</u>	<u>Resident Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps</u>	<u>Non-Resident Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps</u>	<u>Total License, Permits & Stamps</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
Alabama	486,877	354,149	117,558	471,707	\$6,534,395
Alaska	468,735	278,811	443,784	722,595	\$13,895,559
Arizona	361,958	376,066	146,326	522,392	\$7,491,401
Arkansas	685,634	503,664	221,595	725,259	\$8,247,948
California	2,024,709	2,944,088	39,349	2,983,437	\$47,967,435
Colorado	668,107	638,412	323,926	962,338	\$10,183,231
Connecticut	148,125	142,418	5,707	148,125	\$2,712,009
Delaware	20,544	21,758	3,893	25,651	\$207,785
Florida	1,296,328	1,406,269	609,234	2,015,503	\$26,145,809
Georgia	667,198	746,092	90,242	836,334	\$8,269,742
Hawaii	5,796	5,902	271	6,173	\$28,274
Idaho	403,741	368,581	169,110	537,691	\$8,888,150
Illinois	713,120	762,054	32,024	794,078	\$9,185,208
Indiana	522,389	471,891	99,743	571,634	\$8,573,587
Iowa	429,689	747,196	54,054	801,250	\$6,844,406
Kansas	265,238	236,458	35,953	272,411	\$4,528,288
Kentucky	580,917	506,167	109,789	615,956	\$8,163,839
Louisiana	639,139	781,164	187,930	969,094	\$9,162,936
Maine	270,698	184,131	76,065	260,196	\$6,423,731
Maryland	362,181	392,019	79,426	471,445	\$5,626,090
Massachusetts	203,139	403,906	22,484	426,390	\$5,375,415
Michigan	1,171,742	1,018,542	276,305	1,294,847	\$21,982,069
Minnesota	1,467,677	1,099,185	282,602	1,381,787	\$27,335,841
Mississippi	369,252	386,079	63,717	449,796	\$4,947,995

<u>State</u>	<u>Paid Fishing License Holders</u>	<u>Resident Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps</u>	<u>Non-Resident Licenses, Tags, Permits and Stamps</u>	<u>Total License, Permits & Stamps</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
Missouri	844,318	1,198,974	172,041	1,371,015	\$12,836,591
Montana	379,252	397,169	346,859	744,028	\$9,545,105
Nebraska	176,619	320,038	44,486	364,524	\$3,976,929
Nevada	124,408	205,872	29,813	235,685	\$3,489,283
New Hampshire	143,835	193,389	92,961	286,350	\$4,964,832
New Jersey	169,418	234,759	15,365	250,124	\$4,709,627
New Mexico	205,291	290,199	101,650	391,849	\$3,862,008
New York	983,812	839,814	159,634	999,448	\$21,336,651
North Carolina	692,257	664,371	59,691	724,062	\$12,887,760
North Dakota	168,497	136,035	38,893	174,928	\$1,647,474
Ohio	917,902	850,913	83,765	934,678	\$12,149,452
Oklahoma	668,924	457,533	91,749	549,282	\$9,731,740
Oregon	666,454	806,250	184,210	990,460	\$19,306,121
Pennsylvania	1,018,756	1,516,715	154,000	1,670,715	\$18,438,757
Rhode Island	26,629	46,221	4,246	50,467	\$561,205
South Carolina	498,088	472,390	110,379	582,769	\$5,551,416
South Dakota	206,349	135,880	73,340	209,220	\$4,681,400
Tennessee	1,028,386	903,399	217,443	1,120,842	\$13,287,893
Texas	1,632,016	2,042,607	81,289	2,123,896	\$42,342,033
Utah	373,834	297,923	94,354	392,277	\$9,120,765
Vermont	121,701	82,361	40,522	122,883	\$3,067,915
Virginia	619,853	689,289	83,812	773,101	\$9,017,659
Washington	691,191	2,032,449	323,314	2,355,763	\$17,615,410
West Virginia	269,727	641,662	155,344	797,006	\$4,541,881
Wisconsin	1,391,173	1,269,067	408,028	1,677,095	\$28,640,850
Wyoming	247,583	112,232	150,479	262,711	\$4,901,873
Total:	28,499,206	31,612,513	6,808,754	38,421,267	\$540,933,776

Most Paid Fishing License Holders

1. California
2. Texas
3. Minnesota
4. Wisconsin
5. Florida
6. Michigan
7. Tennessee
8. Pennsylvania
9. New York
10. Ohio



Least Paid Fishing License Holders

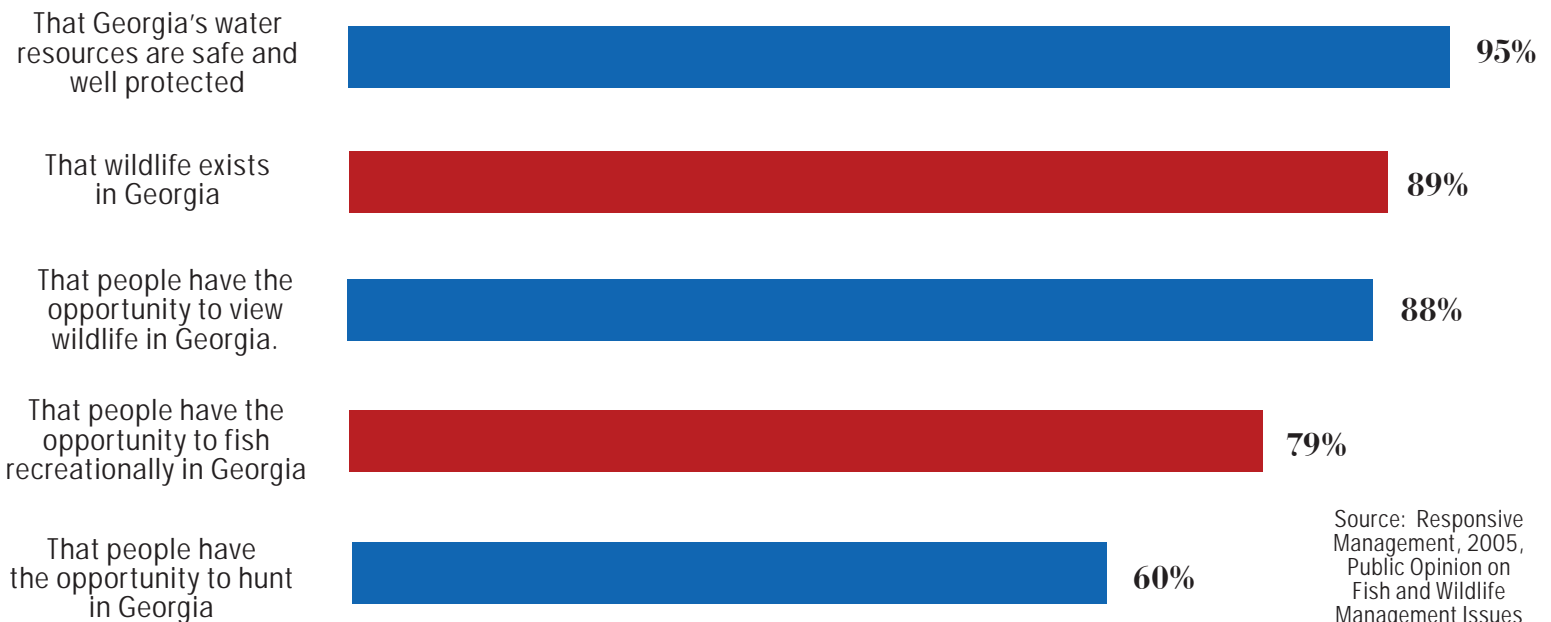
1. Hawaii
2. Delaware
3. Rhode Island
4. Vermont
5. Nevada
6. New Hampshire
7. Connecticut
8. North Dakota
9. New Jersey
10. Nebraska

The Value of Fish & Wildlife



In a statewide survey, Georgia residents were asked to rate the importance of eight values regarding wildlife. The highest ratings were for the following: that Georgia's water resources are safe and well protected (95% rated this very important), that wildlife exists in Georgia (89%), that people have the opportunity to view wildlife in Georgia (88%), and that natural areas exist in Georgia for enjoying and experiencing nature (also 88%).

Percent Who Rate the Following as "Very Important"



Source: Responsive Management, 2005, Public Opinion on Fish and Wildlife Management Issues and the Reputation and Credibility of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in the Southeastern United States: Georgia

Georgia residents overwhelmingly approved of legal hunting (80% approved, with 53% strongly approving) and legal, recreational fishing (92% approved, with 69% strongly approving).

Percent Who Strongly or Moderately Agree with the Following Statements



State Agency Contact Information

In order to give sportsmen the most benefits, it is vital that legislative leaders and state fish and game policy makers regularly communicate and work together.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Commissioner Noel Holcomb

Wildlife Resources Division
 Director Dan Forster

Fisheries Management Section
 Chief John Biagi
 Phone: 770-918-6406
 Email: John_Biagi@dnr.state.ga.us

Game Management Section
 Chief Mark Whitney
 Phone: 770-918-6404
 Email: Mark_Whitney@dnr.state.ga.us

Non Game Section
 Chief Mike Harris
 Phone: 770-761-3035
 Email: Mike_Harris@dnr.state.ga.us

State Legislative Liaison
 Dan Forster, Director
 Email: Dan_Forster@dnr.state.ga.us

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division

2070 US Highway 278, SE
 Social Circle, Ga 30025

Telephone: 770-918-6400
 Facsimile: 706-557-3030
 Website: www.georgiawildlife.com

Mission Statement

To protect, conserve, manage, and improve Georgia's wildlife and freshwater fishery resources; to manage, conserve, and protect endangered wildlife and plants; to administer and conduct the mandatory hunter safety programs; to regulate the possession and sale of wild animals; and to administer and enforce the Georgia Boating Safety Act.

Georgia Board of Game and Inland Fisheries

Number of Members	18
Board Selection and Criteria	Appointed by Governor; one from each congressional district, four at-large, and one costal
Terms of Members	7 years
Meetings per Year	10 meetings per year
Remuneration	Voluntary



About the National Wild Turkey Federation



The National Wild Turkey Federation is a private, nonprofit conservation and education organization founded in 1973 with a mission dedicated to conserving wild turkeys and preserving hunting traditions.

The NWTF's more than 550,000 members and volunteers, along with its wildlife agency and corporate partners, has helped restore and manage North America's current population of more than 7 million wild turkeys. In addition, the NWTF has helped acquire or improve habitat on 13.1 million acres of public, private and corporate lands.

Recognizing the importance of upholding our hunting traditions, the NWTF has supported the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses since its founding in 2004. To date, the NWTF has donated more than \$600,000 to CSF and NASC to protect hunters' interest at both the state and national level.

Phone: 800-THE-NWTF Web: www.NWTF.org
Mail: P.O. Box 530, Edgefield, SC 29824

About the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses



The National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC) unites state legislators in support of hunting, fishing, and trapping, as well as professional wildlife management, in the halls of state government. NASC does this by forming state sportsmen's caucuses within state legislatures; serving as a central and unifying source of information, model legislation, and funding assistance for state sportsmen's caucuses; and providing a venue for focused interaction and idea exchange among state caucuses, sportsmen's groups, industry, media and allied interests.

NASC is the only organization in the United States whose sole purpose is to coordinate and work with legislators and policy makers to protect and promote the rights of sportsmen and women. NASC shares a unique relationship with state sportsmen's caucuses in state capitols across the country with an affiliation of nearly 2,500 state legislators.

Phone: 202-543-6907 Web: www.statesportsmenslink.org
Mail: 110 North Carolina Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20003

NASC would like to acknowledge Responsive Management (www.responsivemanagement.com) for its efforts in collecting information from state fish and game agencies, in addition to their efforts in compiling data from various sources used in this report. These sources include the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation; economic data tables provided by Southwick and Associates, a report previously produced by Responsive Management titled, Public Opinions on Fish and Wildlife Management Issues. In addition NASC would like to acknowledge the assistance of the National Shooting Sports Foundation's Research and Information Department.