



Relicensing Briefing Card

ISSUE: FISHERIES

Brief: Lake Harding supports popular warmwater fisheries providing 5,850 acres of aquatic habitat for species, including largemouth bass, spotted bass, crappie, redear sunfish, channel catfish, striped bass, striped bass-white bass hybrids, and other resident species.

- The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) conduct periodic surveys of the reservoir to monitor the condition of the fishery in their respective waters.
- GDNR and ADCNR are currently tracking the expansion of the spotted bass population. Both states have been successful in marketing the growing spotted bass fishery as an additional angling opportunity.
- GDNR has stocked striped bass in Lake Harding annually since 1992 to support recovery of the native Gulf strain in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River basin. Today, anglers can catch trophy-sized fish of 25 pounds or more at Lake Harding.
- Shoal bass, a black bass species endemic to the ACF basin, is not found in the main reservoir. Shoal bass may occur in some free-flowing tributaries to Lake Harding upstream of the project boundary, and near Riverview Dam.
- The powerhouse tailraces flow directly into the backwaters of the Goat Rock impoundment, which is part of Georgia Power's Middle Chattahoochee Project and supports similar fisheries resources.
- Georgia Power and the GDNR Georgia Wildlife Resources Division recently planted hundreds of cypress and tupelo (black gum) trees around the lower end of the lake. As these trees grow, they will provide habitat for resident littoral-zone fishes.

Bottom Line Take Away: Lake Harding supports a popular warmwater fishery that provides diverse fishing opportunities to area anglers.

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