

# WALLACE DAM



*Lake Oconee*

## FISHERIES BRIEF

- Lake Oconee covers 19,000 acres, has 374 miles of shoreline, and supports a popular fishery for crappie, catfish, largemouth bass, striped bass, hybrid bass, and other warm-water sport fishes. Georgia Power works collaboratively with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) in the agency's management of the fishery.
- The Wallace Dam Project is located on the Oconee River in the Piedmont physiographic province. Impounded waters dominate aquatic habitats within the project boundary. Thus, the principal fisheries inhabiting project waters are reservoir fisheries. The Wallace Dam discharges directly into Lake Sinclair.
- Larger tributary embayments of Lake Oconee include Richland Creek, Apalachee River, Sugar Creek, and Lick Creek. Numerous public access areas and marinas around the lake provide for a wide variety of boat- and bank-fishing opportunities and experiences.
- Lake Oconee is known for spring crappie fishing. Standing timber and man-made brush piles provide abundant cover for crappie and other fish, as well as nursery habitat for important forage species such as threadfin shad.
- A substantial year-round catfish fishery has developed in Lake Oconee and continues to expand. Both blue catfish and flathead catfish have been introduced into the lake in recent years. Anglers now have the opportunity to catch trophy-size catfish, with some blue catfish exceeding 40 pounds.
- Tournament fishing on Lake Oconee is popular and primarily targets largemouth bass. A newly implemented length-limit regulation for largemouth bass on Lake Oconee aims at improving largemouth bass growth and angling experiences.
- GDNR stocks both striped bass and hybrid bass into Lake Oconee. Stocking numbers have been transitioning from a predominance of striped bass to that of hybrid bass based on angler preferences for hybrid bass.
- There are no known occurrences of federally listed aquatic species within the Wallace Dam project boundary. State listed aquatic species occurring in the vicinity in the upper Oconee River basin include robust redhorse (endangered), Atlantic pigtoe (endangered), Altamaha shiner (threatened), and goldstripe darter (rare). However, these species prefer free-flowing streams, and none are currently known to occur within the project boundary.

**Summary: The Wallace Dam waters support popular warm-water reservoir fisheries. Numerous boat ramps and access areas around the lake provide for a wide variety of angling opportunities and experiences.**

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