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SAVANNAH RIVER (below New Savannah Bluff Dam)



Flows are heavily influenced by releases from Clarks Hill Dam. Numerous oxbow lakes along the river provide excellent fishing.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Wildlife Resources Division, Richmond Hill Fisheries office: ph. 912-727-2112

BOAT RAMPS

WRD operates eight boat ramps on the Savannah River. Click [here](#) for more information on WRD-operated ramps.

ABOUT

Angling prospects are compiled by fisheries biologists and are based on sampling efforts of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), knowledge of past fishing trends, angling experience and information provided by anglers and marina owners. For more information, contact the Wildlife Resources Division, Richmond Hill Fisheries office: ph. 912-727-2112.

FISHING QUICK LINKS

- [REGULATIONS](#)
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FISHING PROSPECTS FOR THE SAVANNAH RIVER

BEST BETS: LARGEMOUTH BASS, STRIPED BASS, BLUEGILL, REDEAR SUNFISH & CATFISH

BREAM

Prospect	Bluegill and redear sunfish are abundant. Redbreast and other sunfish also are present, but not as plentiful.
Technique	Crickets and worms fished under a bobber are effective live bait techniques. For artificial lures, consider small beetle spins, rooster tails and popping bugs.
Target	Bluegill are plentiful in backwaters and slower moving sections of the main channel and redear sunfish are often found over submerged sandbars.

LARGEMOUTH BASS

Prospect	The largemouth bass population continues to be healthy in this system. Drought conditions have contributed to slightly slower growth rates over the last few years, but good numbers of large fish are still present. Fishing should be good this spring as water temperatures rise and water levels fall. Look for bites to improve in February as fish prepare to spawn.
Technique	Artificial lures (plastic worms, etc.) are productive around creek mouths. Oxbows are also excellent areas when flooded.
Target	Large numbers of fish can be found in the upper estuary during the fall and around structure in slower moving waters throughout the river system for the majority of the year.

CATFISH

Prospect	Fishing for catfish is excellent in the Savannah. White catfish make up the majority, but channel cats tend to be a bit larger.
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Technique	Typical catfish bait (worms, cut-bait, etc.) fished near the bottom of the river in relatively deep holes will produce good results. Target deep swift-flowing water along the last third of an outside bend. During the day, try fishing outside bends. At night, fish shallow bars and flats where bait fish congregate.
Target	Catfish are well-distributed throughout the river, however larger numbers of white catfish are typically found in the upper estuary (Interstate 95 crossing).

STRIPED BASS	
Prospect	Since 2005, stripers greater than 27 inches have been open to harvest (daily limit: 2). The number of striped bass and the number of legal-size fish have rebounded thanks to the stocking program that began in the 90s. Twenty pounders are common, and the occasional 40 to 50-pound fish is reported.
Technique	Live bait, particularly blueback herring, are highly productive when fished in a free-lined fashion. Artificial baits, including bucktails, topwaters and large jigs, are also very effective when fished around structure (i.e. bridge pilings, submerged trees, water diverters, etc.).
Target	Striped bass seasonally migrate upstream and downstream. Fish tend to be concentrated in areas slightly below the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam from April through June. These fish also become concentrated in estuarine areas near Savannah from November through March.