

# Status of ANS in Georgia

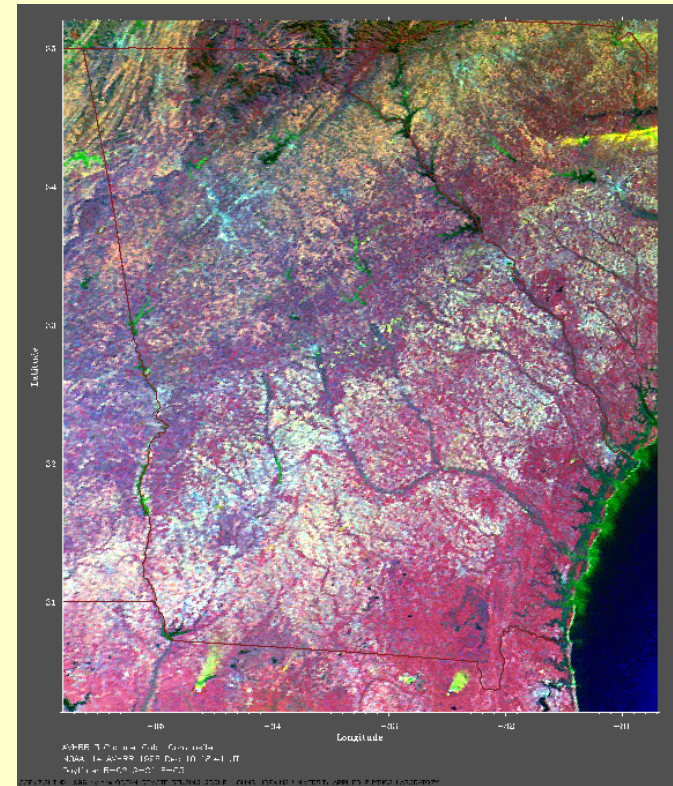
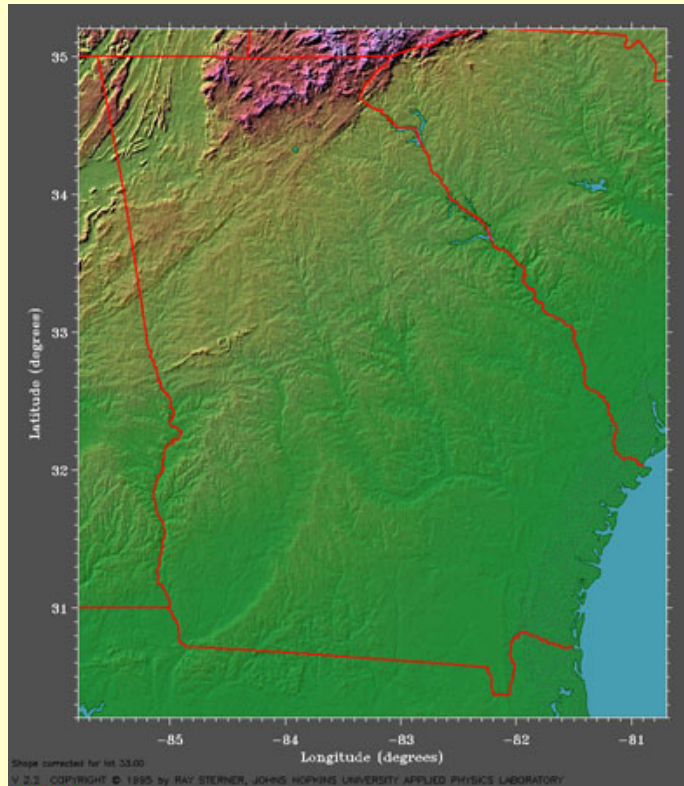


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Gulf ANS Panel Meeting  
November 8-10, 2004



# Georgia

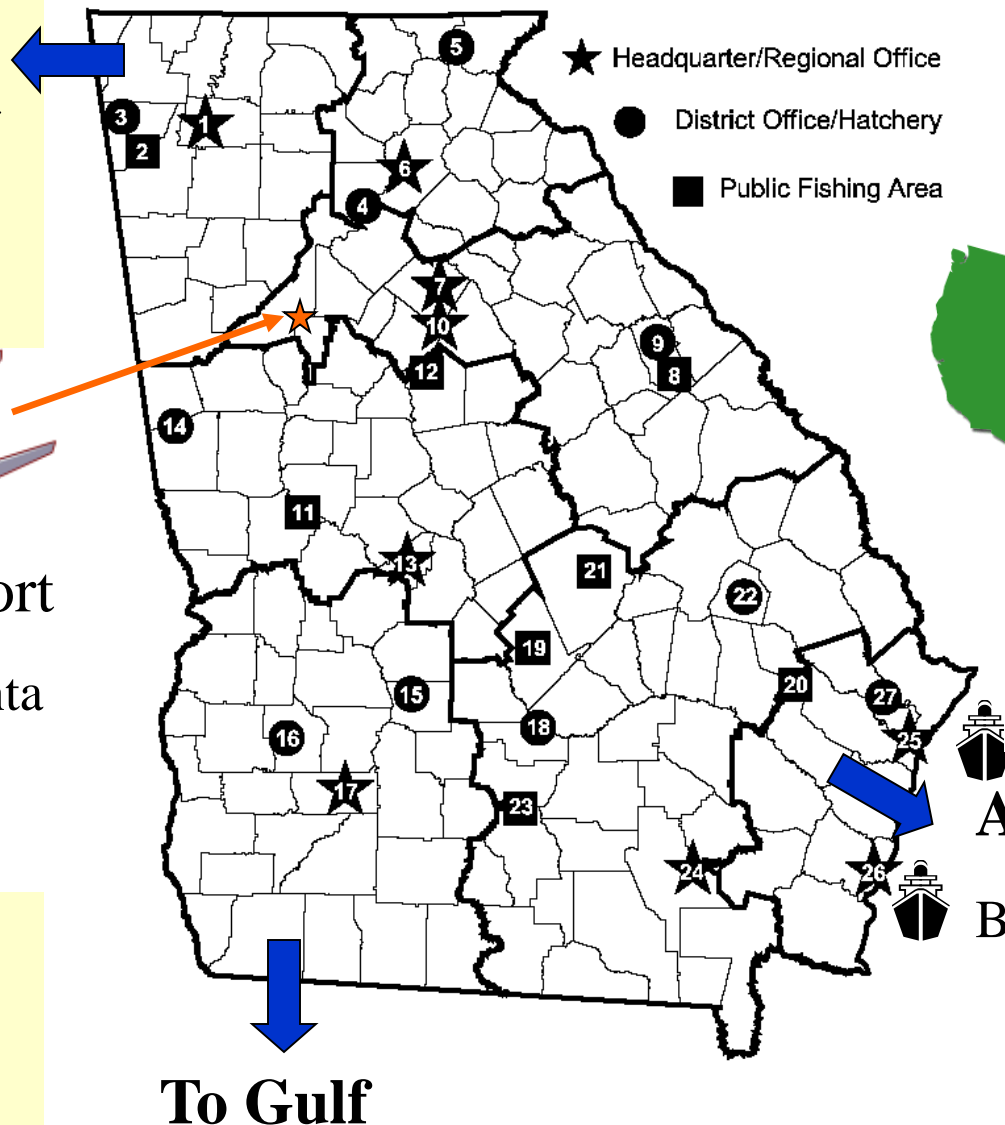


**To Gulf via  
Mississippi  
system**



**Atlanta airport**

- USFWS Atlanta Port
- inspectors



Savannah  
**Atlantic**  
Brunswick



# Georgia Facts

- 250+ species of fish have been collected
- 20+ species of “exotic” and non-indigenous fish species reported in Georgia
  - Rainbow trout to Pacu...
- 10+ species of “exotic” or nuisance aquatic plants found in GA waters
- Other ANS (mussels, inverts, etc)



# Fish

- Pacu
- Oscar
- Grass carp
- Red shiner
- Asian rice/swamp eel
- Tilapia (blue & Mozambique)
- Bighead carp
- Arowana



# Invertebrates and Others

- Asian clam (*Corbicula*)
- Green mussel
- Freshwater jellyfish
- Crawfish sp.
- Lionfish (saltwater)



Source: USGS NAS





# Aquatic plants

- Hydrilla
- Eurasian watermilfoil
- Brazilian elodea
- Water hyacinth
- Giant salvinia
- Common salvinia
- Alligator weed
- Parrot feather



# State Authority

- **Georgia DNR (WRD)**
  - Aquaculture registration
    - “Domestic species”
  - Wild Animal licensing
    - Exotic species
    - Commercial (no pets)
  - Fish dealer licensing
    - Certain exotic
    - Native
- **State Department of Agriculture**
  - Pet trade
  - Food fish sales (dead or processed)
  - Pesticide licensing
  - State veterinarian
  - Processing facilities
  - Plant sales (retail & nurseries)





# Georgia Issues

- Illegal releases
  - Intentional and deliberate establishment
  - “Kind-hearted” dumping
- Angler-related movement
- Escaped ornamentals/exotics
- Commercial transportation
  - Ballast water
- Aquaculture and research
- “Hitchhikers”



# Intentional Illegal Releases?

- **Spotted bass** (compete with largemouth bass)
  - Native to some Georgia Gulf drainages in NW GA
- **Flathead catfish** (predation on other species)
  - Native to extreme NW Georgia
- **Blueback herring** (competition & predation)
  - Native to Atlantic slope drainages in GA
- **Tilapia**
  - Culture? Forage stocking?



# “Kind-hearted” dumping?

- Pacu
  - 25+ locations around the state since 1980s
- Oscar
- Silver arowana



# Escapes?

- **Salvinia** (water gardens?)
- **Hyacinth** (ornamental?)
- **Grass carp** (flood events)
  - Collected since 1970s
- **Tilapia** (research)



# Cast of Characters...



# Challenges Ahead

- Develop ANS/AIS plan
- Funding
- Limited plant regulations/laws
- Coordination with other agencies
- Eradication and control activities
- Education





Georgia DNR, Wildlife Resources Division - Fishing - Microsoft Internet Explorer



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# Fishing

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**Fishing Items**

[Bragging Board - Big Fish From Georgia Waters - NEW!](#)

Proud anglers often bring their catches by Fisheries offices and hatcheries to show them off, have them weighed or get them identified. See what they have been bringing by our offices lately. They may not all be new state records but they are big!

[Fishing Related Links](#)


Other Web sites that you may be interested in.

[Fish Identification](#)

Learn how to identify Georgia's freshwater fish.

[Fishing Tackle Loaner Program](#)

The future of fishing relies on getting people to participate. The



Take a Kid Fishing

**WRD Events Calendar**

Sep 2004

show calendar

**WRD News**

Internet





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