

## Fishing Tips



**Redbreast sunfish** account for over half of all fishing by Satilla anglers. The best redbreast fishing is usually during March-June, or when water levels recede to near 5 ft. at the Waycross gauge. One favorite method of fishing for redbreast is to pitch a small lure such as a beetle spin, rooster tail, or popping bug underneath low-hanging limbs near the shoreline. Crickets pitched against the bank with a bream-buster pole are a natural bait of choice, but earthworms fished on the bottom with a small "BB" sinker behind a larger "egg" sinker also can produce trophy redbreast catches.



The **Bluegill's** aggressive behavior makes them vulnerable to a variety of artificial lures such as small jigs, beetle spins and flies. Bluegill prefer the slow-moving sections of the river and the still waters found in oxbow lakes. Peak bluegill fishing usually occurs in May when water temperatures stabilize above 70°F and remains good throughout the summer.



**Chain pickerel** may be found in the same areas targeted by bass fishermen, particularly when using minnow-type lures or spinner baits.



**Largemouth bass** fishing also picks up in March as water temperatures rise to over 60°F and river levels begin to recede. Some of the better bass fishing occurs in the oxbows of the lower river. Minnow-type lures and spinner baits are baits of choice; however, brightly colored floating worms can also be effective. In the main river channel, bass orient toward cover (fallen trees, brush piles, rocks) that break up the river's current. For best results, lures should be presented as close to cover as possible or just upstream and allowed to drift back to the target before retrieving.



**Spotted sunfish** ("stumpknockers") are smaller than both the redbreast and bluegill (generally less than 6 inches). They are marked with longitudinal rows of brown or black spots. Spotted sunfish orient strongly to bank cover, such as cypress roots, and are most frequently caught using natural baits.



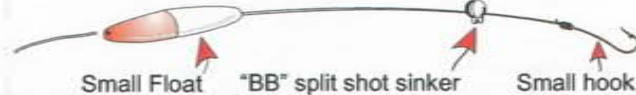
**Channel catfish** and **bullheads** are caught on the bottom with a variety of natural baits during the day and near brush in shallow water adjacent to deeper pools at sunrise, dusk and night.

## Fishing Rigs

**Bottom Rig for Panfish** - Bait with a small worm and fish deep channels or "drops" on outsides of bends.



**Floating Rig** - Flip a cricket or red wiggler underneath limbs to catch redbreast, bluegill and spotted sunfish.



The **Satilla River** is considered to be one of the most scenic and natural rivers in south Georgia. Originating in Ben Hill County, the river takes a free-flowing and winding course for 260 miles before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean. In addition to the river's natural beauty, the Satilla offers opportunities for some great fishing (See **Fishing Tips** inside)!

## BE AN ETHICAL ANGLER

Ethical anglers fish responsibly and consider the rights of others. They portray a positive image and help protect and conserve our natural resources. Be an ethical angler. The future of fishing depends upon it.

- ☑ Show courtesy to others, lend a helping hand whenever possible, and always ask permission before fishing on private property.



- ☑ Know and obey fishing regulations.

- ☑ Report violations and pollution

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(Turn in Poachers)  
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- ☑ Keep only the fish you can use and release all others properly so they will survive. Some fish species are endangered or threatened.



- ☑ Appreciate the environment by not littering, dispose of fishing line properly, and leave a place cleaner than when you found it.



- ☑ Pass on the tradition! [Takemefishing.org](http://Takemefishing.org)

- ☑ Don't transfer fish or plant species between bodies of water. Non-native species can adversely affect existing populations.



The **flathead catfish** was illegally stocked in the Satilla River and threatens the native fishes, particularly redbreast sunfish and other catfishes. Help protect our native fishes by keeping all flatheads caught from the Satilla, and never move live fish or plants from one body of water to another.

Some images courtesy of [The Native Fish Conservancy](http://TheNativeFishConservancy.com).

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# Guide To Fishing The Satilla River



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