

Guide to Fishing the Coosa River



"take me fishing"



The Coosa River forms in Rome where the Oostanaula River meets the Etowah River. From there it flows 30 miles westward before entering Lake Weiss at the Georgia-Alabama state line. There are four public ramps available to provide boat access to the river. Common fish species in the Coosa include: gar, carp, smallmouth buffalo, blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, white bass, yellow bass, striped bass, redbreast sunfish, green sunfish, bluegill, redear sunfish, spotted bass, largemouth bass, black crappie and freshwater drum. Anglers wishing to consume their catch should pay attention to the fish consumption guidelines as described in the sport fishing regulations or at www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/enviro/.

√ Boating Check List

- Each person on board must have a readily accessible U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved Type I, II, III, or V (hybrid) Personal Floatation Device (life jacket) in good condition (no rips/tears). Type V (hybrid) devices are acceptable only when worn and securely fastened. Each vessel, except for Class A vessels, canoes, and kayaks must be equipped with at least one type IV (throwable) device. All children under age 10 must wear an appropriately sized USCG approved life jacket while on a moving boat, whether it is by drifting, sailing, or mechanical power.
- Boats with enclosed areas that may trap gas or vapors are required to be equipped with a USCG approved fire extinguisher.
- Carry your fishing license and boat registration with you.
- Check your boat's trailer, navigation lights, and fuel before leaving home.
- Carry a first aid kit, insect repellent, sunscreen, extra clothing, food, and drinking water.
- Be aware of, and abide by all fishing regulations.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.

BE AN ETHICAL ANGLER!

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

Ethical Anglers:

- # Know and obey the fishing regulations.
- # Keep only the fish they can use and release all others.
- # Pass on the tradition by taking a child fishing.
- # Leave a place cleaner than it was found.
- # Do not transfer fish or plants between bodies of water.
- # Report violations and pollution.
- # Do not litter!
- # Dispose of fishing line properly.
- # Do not trespass.
- # Are courteous of others.
- # Lend a helping hand.

Fishing Tips

Catfish are a favorite Coosa River quarry for many anglers. Blue catfish are the most abundant with the biggest fish (some exceed 40 pounds) generally found in deep holes. Many trophy-fish anglers fish at night using large live fish as bait. Those less interested in trophies can use traditional catfish baits such as worms, chicken livers and stink baits. Anglers fishing for catfish may catch a **lake sturgeon** but they must be released unharmed immediately after being caught. Lake sturgeons are being reintroduced by the DNR into the Coosa River system and cannot be harvested. Sturgeon can be identified by its rounded snout, a toothless mouth on the bottom of its head, four "whiskers" in front of its mouth; bony plates on the side of its body and its shark-like tail. Anglers can help this reintroduction effort by reporting any sturgeon they see by calling the Calhoun Fisheries office at 706-624-1161. More information on this reintroduction project can be found at www.gofishgeorgia.com

White bass and striped bass are a popular quarry in spring when they leave Weiss Reservoir for their annual spawning run. Although somewhat regulated by water temperature, water level and other factors, white bass generally begin their spawning run in early March. Striped bass run somewhat later with mid April being the peak spawning period.

Bass, bream and crappie inhabit the river year round but fishing is best in spring and fall. The backwater creeks near the state line are favored locations by many bass and bream anglers. The Brushy Branch boat ramp is a great access point to pursue these species.

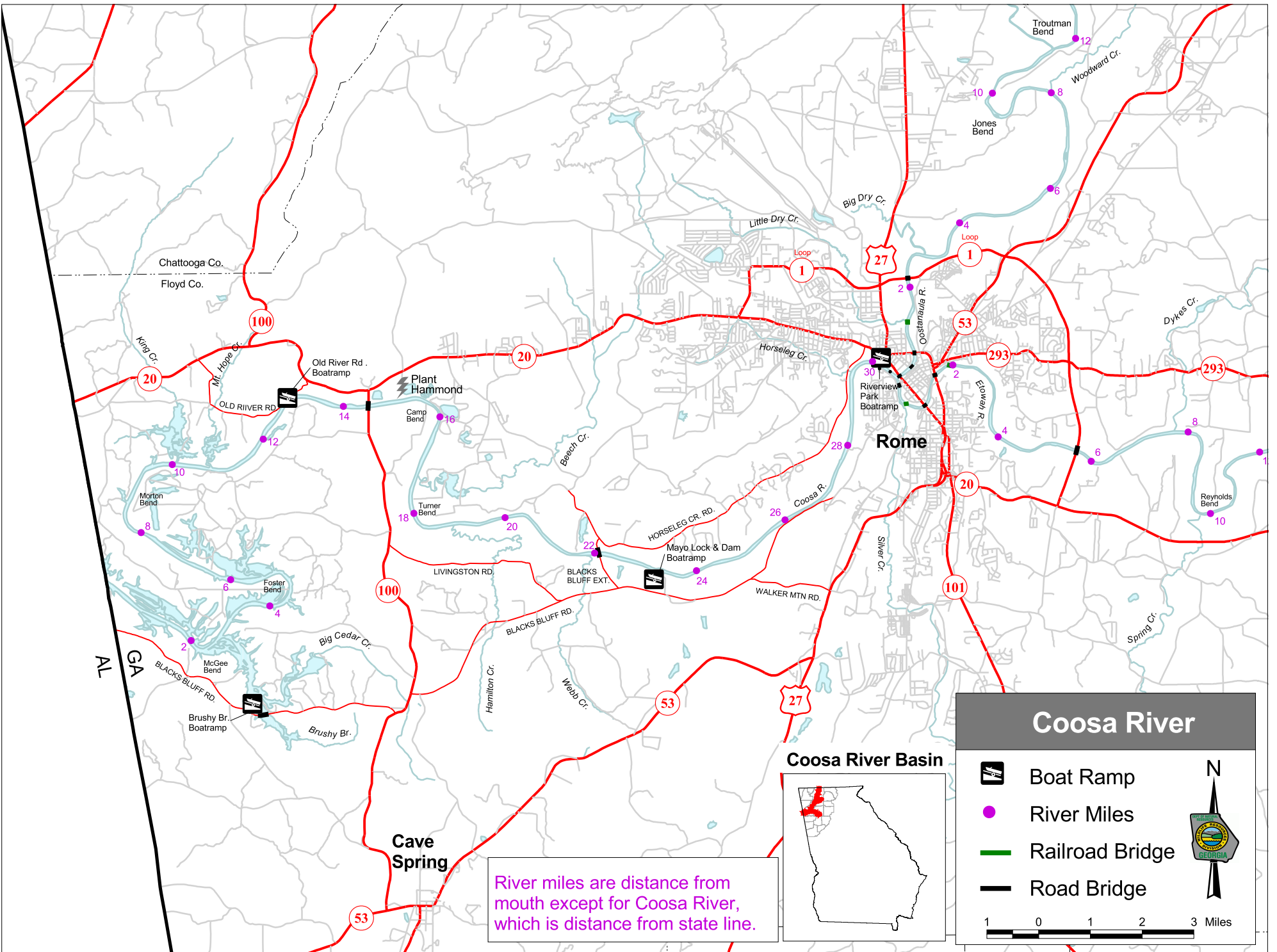
Tips on using the map

- The map is most useful if viewed in color.
- Maps in this series (Coosa, Oostanaula, Etowah, Coosawattee and Conasauga rivers) are of the same scale so they can be pasted together if desired.
- Actual water near Weiss Lake varies by lake level so the water indicated on map may not be accurate for all conditions.
- River mile designations for the Coosa River represent the miles from the state line. For other rivers the mileage labels represent distance from each river's mouth.
- Boaters can use a GPS and the following GPS coordinates to estimate their position on the river.

<u>Mile</u>	<u>Lat</u>	<u>Lon</u>	<u>Mile</u>	<u>Lat</u>	<u>Lon</u>
0	34 11.990	85 26.680	16	N 34 14.720	W 85 19.900
2	34 10.980	85 24.990	18	N 34 13.100	W 85 20.460
4	34 11.560	85 23.390	20	N 34 12.980	W 85 18.570
6	34 12.040	85 24.160	22	N 34 12.380	W 85 16.770
8	34 12.820	85 25.980	24	N 34 12.050	W 85 14.740
10	34 13.990	85 25.310	26	N 34 12.870	W 85 12.980
12	34 14.400	85 23.490	28	N 34 14.090	W 85 11.650
14	34 14.910	85 21.830	30	N 34 15.450	W 85 11.000

Units are in degrees and decimal minutes

For more fishing information visit the Georgia DNR website at www.gofishgeorgia.com or call (706) 624-1161. T.I.P (Turn in Poachers): To report game/fish law violations, fish kills, or hazardous spills: call (800) 241-4113



Chattooga Co.
Floyd Co.

Rome

Cave Spring

River miles are distance from mouth except for Coosa River, which is distance from state line.

Coosa River

Coosa River Basin

Legend:

- Boat Ramp
- River Miles
- Railroad Bridge
- Road Bridge

Scale: 0 to 3 Miles

North Arrow: N

Inset Map: Shows the location of the Coosa River Basin within the state of Georgia.

AL
GA

King Cr.
Mc Hope Cr.
OLD RIVER RD.
Morton Bend
Foster Bend
McGee Bend
Brushy Br.
Brushy Br. Boatramp

Old River Rd. Boatramp
Plant Hammond
Camp Bend
Turner Bend

LIVINGSTON RD.
BLACKS BLUFF EXT.
BLACKS BLUFF RD.
Hamilton Cr.
Webb Cr.

HORSELEG CR. RD.
Mayo Lock & Dam Boatramp
WALKER MTN. RD.

Little Dry Cr.
Big Dry Cr.
Loop
Horseleg Cr.
Coosa R.

Riverview Park Boatramp
Silver Cr.

Troutman Bend
Woodward Cr.
Jones Bend
Dykes Cr.

Reynolds Bend
Spring Cr.

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