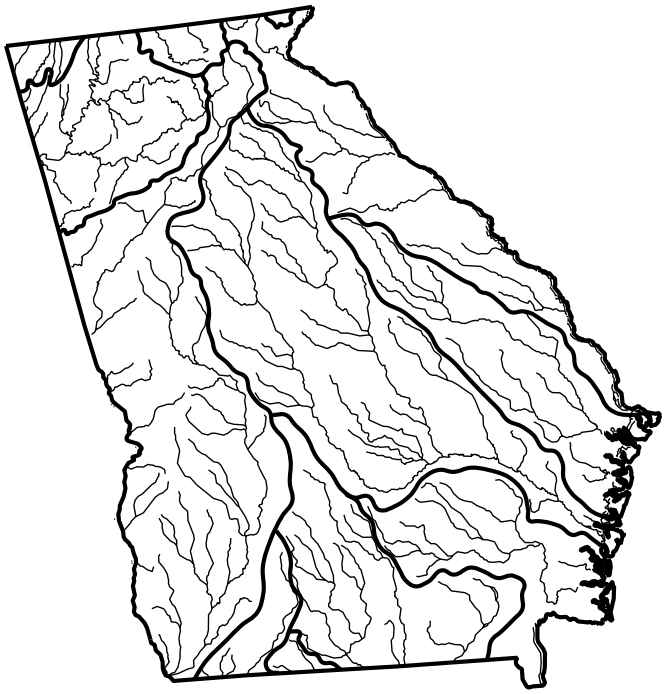
Georgia



Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Georgia 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) reported that, of the river miles assessed, 55% fully support aquatic life use, 30% partially support this use, and 16% do not support aquatic life use. Major causes of impairment for rivers include metals, pathogens, and low dissolved oxygen levels. For lakes, 73% of the assessed acres fully support aquatic life use, 25% partially support the use, and 2% do not support aquatic life use. The major causes of impairment for lakes are metals, acidity, and pathogens. For both rivers and lakes, the major sources of impairment include urban runoff and storm sewers, industrial nonpoint sources, and other nonpoint sources.

Of Georgia's estuarine waters, 88% of the assessed square miles fully support aquatic life use, 12% partially support the use, and less than 1% do not support aquatic life use. Fifty-four percent of the assessed shellfishing area fully supports shellfishing use while 46% does not support this use. Pathogens and low dissolved oxygen levels were the major causes of impairment. Urban runoff and storm sewers, along with other nonpoint sources, are the major sources of impairment to Georgia's estuarine waters.

Georgia did not report on the condition of wetlands.

Ground Water Quality

Georgia's ambient Ground Water Monitoring Network consists of approximately 185 wells sampled periodically. To date, increasing nitrate concentrations in the Coastal Plain are the only adverse trend detected by the monitoring network, but nitrate concentrations are still well below harmful levels in most wells. Additional nitrate sampling in over 5,000 wells since 1991 revealed that nitrate concentrations exceeded EPA's maximum contaminant level in less than 1% of the tested wells. Pesticide monitoring indicates that pesticides do not threaten Georgia's drinking water aquifers at this time.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

During the 1996-1997 reporting cycle, river basin management planning was a priority for the GAEPD. The state completed work

on the final draft basin plans for the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers in 1997, and the plans were adopted in 1998. GAEPD is also working with EPA on a Savannah River Watershed Project and with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Suwannee River Water Management District in Florida to implement basin planning for the Suwannee River basin.

In addition to basin planning, the state also placed emphasis during 1996-1997 on NPDES permitting and enforcement, nonpoint source pollution abatement, monitoring and assessment, Chattahoochee River modeling, fish consumption guidance, stormwater permitting, treatment plant funding, and public participation projects.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

The GAEPD conducts long-term ambient trend monitoring through a fixed station network, toxicity studies, intensive surveys, fish tissue monitoring, lake water quality studies, facility compliance sampling, aquatic toxicity testing at NPDES discharges. In the assessment process, GAEPD also draws upon biotic data from the state's Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR uses the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) to identify impacted fish populations.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.
[a] A subset of Georgia's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.
[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Individual Use Support in Georgia

Designated Use[a]	Total Miles/Acres/Square Miles Assessed	Percent: Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Not Attainable
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 70,150)[b]						
	6,186	55	-	30	16	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5,351	63	-	18	19	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 425,382)						
	399,300	73	-	25	2	-
	361,416	10	-	74	15	-
	399,295	95	-	5	0	-
Estuaries (Total Square Miles = 854)						
	854	88	-	12	<1	-
	854	98	-	0	2	-
	850	54	-	0	46	-
	854	100	-	<1	0	-

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.