

# Public Trust Concepts in Georgia

## Georgia Constitution

“The tradition of fishing and hunting and the taking of fish and wildlife shall be preserved for the people and shall be managed by law and regulation for the public good. Ga. Const. art. I, § 1, ¶ XXVIII”

“Except as otherwise provided in the Constitution, (1) the General Assembly shall not have the power to grant any donation or gratuity or to forgive any debt or obligation owing to the public.” Ga. Const. art. III, § 6, ¶ VI

## Georgia Code

“The General Assembly further finds that the State of Georgia, as sovereign, is trustee of the rights of the people of the state to use and enjoy all tidewaters which are capable of use for fishing, passage, navigation, commerce, and transportation, pursuant to the common law public trust doctrine.” OCGA § 52-1-2.

“Wildlife is held in trust by the state for the benefit of its citizens and shall not be reduced to private ownership except as specifically provided for in this title.” OCGA § 27-1-3(b).

## Public Funds for River Access and Robust Fisheries

DNR uses public funds to build and maintain boat ramps and to stock fish.