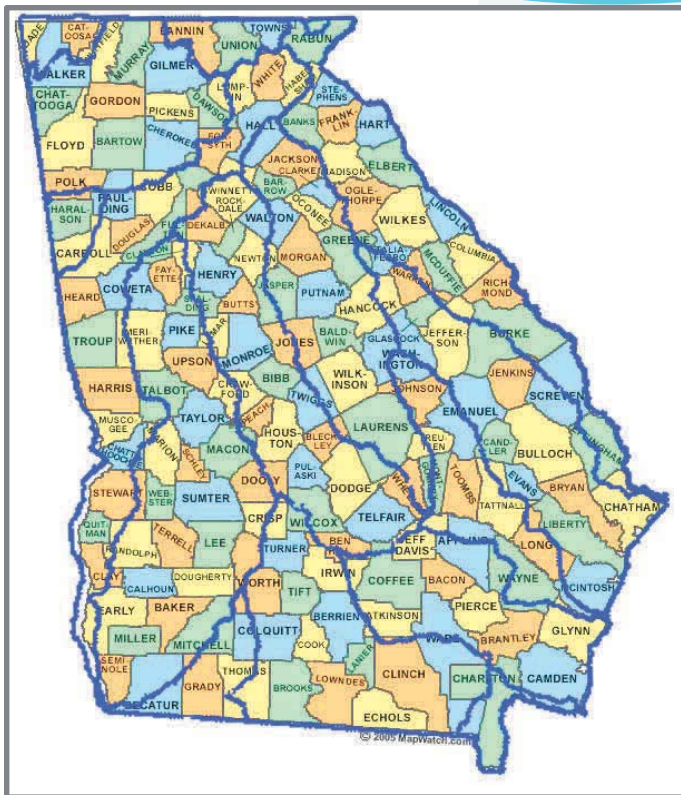


Counties and Watersheds



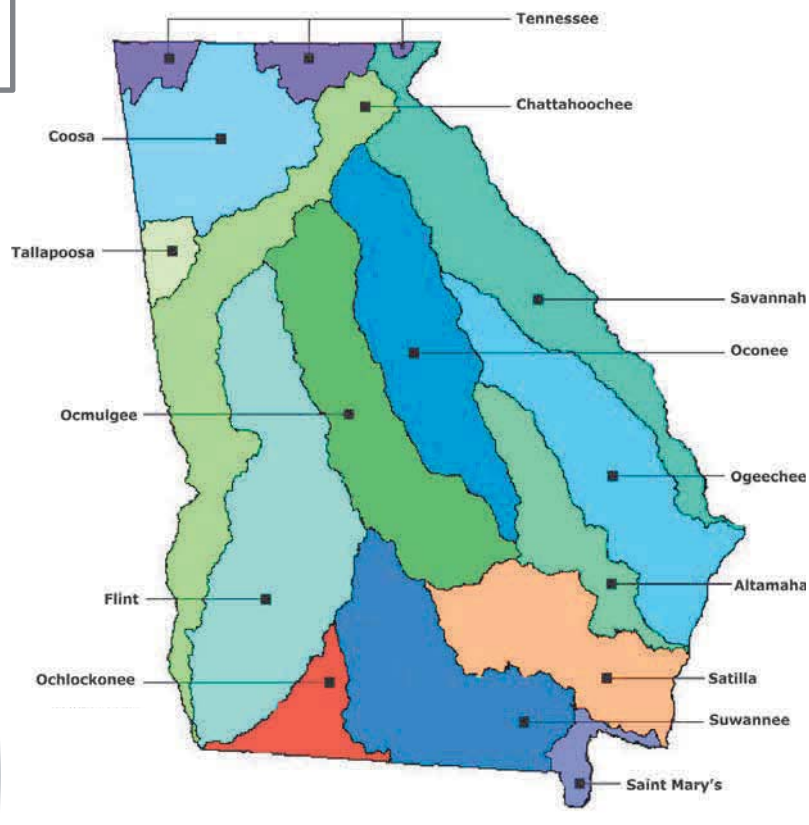
The map above shows each of the 159 counties in Georgia. The blue outlines represent the borders of Georgia's 14 major watersheds.

The map to the right depicts the 14 major watersheds located in Georgia. In which watershed do you live?

What is a Watershed?

Watersheds are divisions or regions that come in random shapes and sizes. As watersheds are dictated by geographical features such as mountain ranges and rivers, they tend to cross state and national boundaries. Due to the connectedness of watersheds, it is important to work along fellow communities, states, or countries as all of the water contained within a watershed flows the same direction eventually ending up in one of the earth's oceans. Pollution or overconsumption by those communities upstream can greatly affect water quality and water availability to the communities downstream.

In Georgia, there are 14 major watersheds (Tennessee, Chatahoochee, Coosa, Tallapoosa, Savannah, Oconee, Ocmulgee, Ogeechee, Altamaha, Flint, Satilla, Ochlockonee, Suwanee, and St Marys).



References and Photo Credits:

Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
<http://www.skiop.peachnet.edu/>

US Census Bureau - http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/maps/georgia_map.html

US EPA - <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/>



Public Service & Outreach
 THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



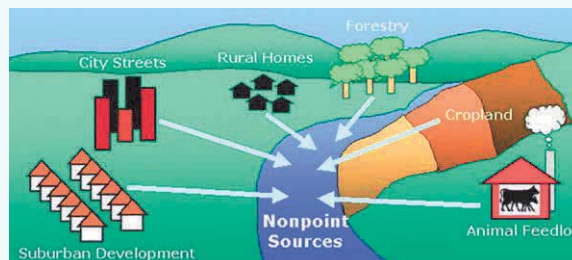


Non-point Source Pollution

Non-point source pollution, unlike point source pollution, comes from many diffuse sources and is difficult to regulate or permit. Whether it comes from cars, pets, yards, or wildlife, non-point source is the leading cause of poor water quality in coastal wetlands. Non-point source pollution enters coastal waters through rainfall events and runoff. With increasing coastal populations and development, there is great concern on preventing non-point source pollution.

Sources of Non-point Source Pollution

- Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from residential areas
- Excess nutrients from animal wastes and fertilizers from agricultural areas
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from vehicles and marine vessels
- Sediment eroded away from improperly utilized land
- Salts from irrigation practices
- Acidic leaching from abandoned mines
- Bacteria from livestock waste, pet waste, and faulty septic systems.



Effects of Non-point Source Pollution

- Closed recreation areas and beaches due to *Enterococci* and *E. coli* levels
- Detergents from washing the car increases nitrate levels which promotes plant and algal growth
- Tainted seafood due to algal blooms from excess nutrients
- Oily film or foul smelling wetlands from leaking boats and cars
- Sick or declining bird populations due to improperly used bug sprays
- Fish dying from sediment clogged gills
- Aquatic invertebrates fleeing or dying due to increased salt levels

WE ALL CAN PREVENT NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION!

- Keep litter and debris out of the environment and out of storm drains
- Apply garden chemicals at the proper time and in the proper dose
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other chemicals properly.
- Control soil erosion by planting ground cover or utilizing silt fences
- Have your septic system inspected and pumped at least every 3-5 years
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of properly in the garbage
- Participate in coastal and local clean up events



References and Photography Credits:

Clean Water Campaign - <http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com>
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website - <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps>



Public Service & Outreach
THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



MAREX
The University of Georgia Marine Extension Service