CHAPTER 14

Waterways, Watercraft and Port Regulations

ARTICLE I

Watercraft

- §14-101 Noise from Outboard Motors Regulated
- \$14-102 Watercraft in Congested Areas
- \$14-103 Congested Areas Designated
- §14-104 Lake Mayer, Gasoline Motors Prohibited

ARTICLE II

Savannah Economic Development Authority

Article II, Savannah Economic Development Authority, Sections 14-201 through 14-241 was deleted in its entirety on December 7, 2001, since the Savannah Economic Development Authority is regulated by state law.

ARTICLE III

Docks

- §14-301 Ten Thousand Pound Limit
- §14-302 Commercial Docking Prohibited
- §14-303 Penalty
- \$14-304 Dumping Prohibited
- §14-305 Violators
- §14-306 Repeal

ARTICLE IV

Bridge Regulations

§14-401	Fishing on Bridges
§14-402	Same; Penalty
§14-403	Same; Purpose
§14-404	Same; Repeal
§14-405	Same; Effective Date
§14 - 406	Unlawful to Jump or Dive from Bridges

ARTICLE V

Crabbing Regulated

- §14-501 Counties Where Applicable
- \$14-502 Definitions
- §14-503 Location of Crab Traps
- \$14-504 Same; Streams 50 to 300 Yards Wide
- §14-505 Same; Streams 25 to 50 Yards Wide
- §14-506 Same; Streams Less Than 50 Yards Wide
- §14-507 Markings
- §14-508 Commercial Crabbing
- §14-509 Penalty

ARTICLE I

Watercraft

\$14-101 Noise from Outboard Motors Regulated. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to operate any outboard motor for the propulsion of any boat or vessel on or along those parts of the rivers, creeks or estuaries in Chatham County, Georgia, which are hereafter named unless the motor by which said boat or vessel is propelled exhausts under water or an efficient muffler is used in the operation of said motor.

The rivers, creeks and estuaries to which this ordinance applies are as follows:

- 1. Skidaway River from its junction with Grimball's Creek to a point which is opposite the western end of Burnt Pot Island.
- 2. Burnside River from its junction with Back River to its junction with Vernon River.
- 3. Vernon River from its junction with Burnside River to its junction with Houston's Creek and from its junction with Houston's Creek to a point opposite the north end of Vernonburg. (#22, 5/24/29)

§14-102 Watercraft in Congested Areas.

- It shall be unlawful for any person, or persons, firm or corporation, to operate any water borne craft of any type, nature, or description in any designated congested area, except as provided hereinafter;
- 2. Said designated congested area shall be marked with signs requiring all water borne craft to reduce or change their speeds to that said craft does not create unsafe or destructive "waves or wakes":
- 3. This section is enacted under authority of a Constitutional Amendment to Paragraph II, Article VI, Section 1, of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, adopted in the General Election of 1952. (#264, 6/7/68)
- \$14-103 Congested Areas Designated. The following areas are designated as "congested areas" and authority is hereby given to erect signs notifying all interested parties that they will be prosecuted if violation occur:

- 1. The waterways immediately adjoining the corporate limits of the Town of Thunderbolt, Chatham County, Georgia, and beginning at a point one-fourth (1/4) of a mile north of the Old Tybee Road (Highway 80), and extending to the south to a point-one fourth (1/4) of a mile south of the city limits.
- Beginning at a point on the Wilmington River at Marker #40 (the point where the Wilmington and Skidaway Rivers merge) on the south to Brickyard Island on the north.
- 3. Burnside River, beginning at a point 500 feet east of Intracoastal Waterway Marker No. 79 to a point 600 feet west of Intracoastal Waterway Marker No. 76.
- 4. Skidaway River, beginning at a point 150 feet north of Intracoastal Waterway Marker No. 48 to a point 400 feet northwest of Intracoastal Waterway Marker No. 46.
- 5. Wilmington River, beginning at a point 1500 feet south of the Islands Expressway draw-bridge at Causton Bluff to a point 100 feet north of Intracoastal Waterway Marker No. 25.
- 6. Turner's Creek, from its mouth at Wilmington River to a point 2500 feet south of the bridge on State Highway Route No. 26.

The sign notifying boat operators of the above notification shall read as follows:

NO WAKE SPEED

and on the reverse of the sign, it shall read as follows:

RESUME SPEED (#263, 6/7/68; #463, 7/6/73)

ARTICLE II

Savannah Economic Development Authority

Article II, Savannah Economic Development Authority, Sections 14-201 through 14-241 was deleted in its entirety on December 7, 2001, since the Savannah Economic Development Authority is regulated by state law.

ARTICLE III

Docks

- §14-301 Ten Thousand Pound Limit. It shall be unlawful for any person, organization or corporation owning or operating any boat or watercraft that weighs over ten thousand (10,000) pounds to use the public boat ramps maintained by Chatham County to load, unload, launch, place into water or take out of water such boat or other watercraft. (7/18/80)
- §14-302 <u>Commercial Docking Prohibited</u>. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to dock at or otherwise use for loading or unloading or entering into or taking out of the water, any boat or watercraft other than private pleasure boats or watercraft. (4/20/79)
- \$14-303 Penalty. Any person violating Section 14-301 of this Ordinance shall be subject to a maximum fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or confinement in the Chatham County Jail for a period of thirty (30) days, either or both, or in any part of either or both, in the discretion of the Judge of Recorder's Court of Police Court of Chatham County, Georgia, or other competent court. (7/18/80)
- \$14-304 <u>Dumping Prohibited</u>. It shall be unlawful for any person or person to dump, deposit, throw or leave, or to cause or permit the dumping, depositing, placing, throwing or leaving of garbage or putrescible waste material on any public boat ramp or public dock, or adjacent public parking area to any public boat ramp or public dock, maintained or owned by Chatham County.
- \$14-305 <u>Violators</u>. Any person violating Sections 14-302 or 14-304 of this Ordinance shall be subject to the payment of a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or confinement in the Chatham County Jail for a period of thirty (30) days, either or both, or in any part of either or both, in the discretion of the Judge of the Recorder's Court of Police Court of Chatham County, Georgia, or other competent court.
- \$14-306 <u>Repeal</u>. All ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. (4/20/79)

ARTICLE IV

Bridge Regulations

- \$14-401 Fishing on Bridges. It shall be unlawful and a misdemeanor for any person to fish at any time from any active bridge where a fishing pier has not been provided and where "No Fishing" signs have been posted.
- \$14-402 Same; Penalty. Any person in violation of this
 Ordinance shall, upon conviction before an appropriate Court
 have jurisdiction thereof be fined \$100.00.
- \$14-403 <u>Purpose</u>. This Ordinance is adopted in the furtherance of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Chatham County.
- \$14-404 Same; Repeal. Any Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.
- \$14-405 Same; Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become
 effective on December 7, 1984.
- \$14-406 Unlawful to Dive or Jump from Bridge. It shall be unlawful for any person to dive, jump or otherwise throw his or her body from a bridge, or any part of said bridge into the waters over which said bridge is erected. For the purpose of this Ordinance the term bridge or any part thereof shall include the roadway portion of said bridge, the side rails or guard rails which parallel the roadway, the piling which supports said bridge, or any other part of the same. (#356, 8/28/70)

ARTICLE V

Crabbing Regulated

- §14-501 <u>Counties Where Applicable</u>. The provisions of this chapter shall only be applicable to all counties of this State having a population of more than 150,000, according to the 1950 United States Census or any future such census. (1959 Ga. Laws 2613, 2614)
- \$14-502 <u>Definitions</u>. The term "crab trap," as used herein, shall include all crab pots, crab traps and any other similar devices used for the taking of crabs.
- 1. The term <u>crab trap float</u>, as used herein, shall mean and include those corks, floats or substances of any and whatever kind attached by a line or chain to a crab trap and which remains on the surface of the water.
- 2. The term <u>crab trap anchor</u>, as used herein, shall mean and include all weights or devices used to anchor the crab trap float into position.
- 3. The term <u>stream</u>, as used herein, means any creek, bay, stream, cut, sound, river or estuary, including the Intracoastal waterway as shown on the Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart of said waterway in this State. (1959 Ga. Laws 2613, 2614)
- \$14-503 Location of Crab Traps. No crab trap float nor crab trap anchor shall be anchored any farther out than twenty (20) yards from the mean low water mark in any stream of three hundred (300) yards or more in width at mean low water; provided, however, that a crab trap may be placed farther out in the said stream, if it is so attached to the crab trap anchor that the line from the crab trap float goes to the bottom of the stream to the crab trap anchor, and a line of non-floating material is laid from the crab trap. (1959 Ga. Laws 2613, 2614)
- \$14-504 Same; Streams 50 to 300 Yards Wide. No crab trap float nor crab trap anchor shall be anchored any farther out than ten (10) yards from the mean low water mark in any stream which is fifty (50) yards or more in width at mean low water. Provided, however, that a crab trap may be placed farther out in the said stream if it is so attached to the crab trap anchor that the line from the crab trap float goes down to the bottom of the stream to the crab trap anchor, and a line of non-floating material is laid from the crab trap anchor

along the bottom of the stream to the crab trap. (1959 Ga. Laws 2613, 2615)

- \$14-505 Same; Streams 25 to 50 Yards Wide. No crab trap, crab trap anchor, or crab trap float shall be placed any farther out than five (5) yards from the mean low water mark of any stream twenty-five (25) yards or more in width at mean low water and less than fifty (50) yards in width at mean low water. (1959 Ga. Laws 2613, 2615)
- \$14-506 Same; Streams Less Than 50 Yards Wide. No crab trap or crab trap float shall be placed in any stream of less than twenty-five (25) yards in width, at mean low water. (1959 Ga. Laws 2613, 2615)
- \$14-507 <u>Markings</u>. Each crab trap float when in position in any stream, must be attached thereto in such manner as to be clearly visible for not less than 100 yards in the daytime, a red flag of not less than 16 square inches, on a staff not less than 18 inches in length. Each crab trap float when in position in any stream, must have attached thereto in such a manner as to adequately reflect light to a distance of not less than 50 yards at night, in all directions, luminous paint, tape, or other reflective substance. Each crab trap float, in such a manner as to be clearly when in position in any stream, distance of not less than 50 yards at night, in all directions, luminous paint, tape, or other reflective substance. Each crab trap and crab trap float when in position in any stream, must have attached, thereto, on both the crab trap and crab trap float, in such a manner as to be clearly legible, the name and address of the owner. (1959 Ga. Laws 2613, 2615)
- \$14-508 <u>Commercial Crabbing</u>. No person shall catch crabs for commercial purposes within 100 yards of the property line of any resident or any extension of his dock. (1959 Ga. Laws 2613, 2615)
- \$14-509 Penalty. Any person violating any provision of this Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as for a misdemeanor. (1959 Ga. Laws 2613, 2616)