

**Table 1.10.** Summary of major state regulations for the fisheries management of southern flounder by state and year, 1956–1999.

State	Year	Regulation
GA	1956	Gill nets prohibited (except for shad).
NC	1979	11-inch TL commercial minimum size limit.
NC	1988	13-inch TL commercial minimum size limit.
SC	1990	12-inch TL minimum size limit (SC Bill S1390).
SC	1991	20-person per day recreational and commercial creel limit for all flounder species; trawlers exempt from limit (SC Bill H3349).
FL	1991	Gill nets and trammel net limited to 600 yards, 6-ISM, limited to two per boat (limited to one net in water at one time).
NC	1992	Escapement panels required in pound nets in certain areas (four panels at least six meshes high and eight meshes long).
FL	1992	Nets must be tended and properly marked.
FL	1993	Hook and line gear to be continually tended, soak times of gill and trammel nets limited to no more than one hour, 3-ISM minimum mesh size for gill and trammel nets, maximum length of 600 yards for all gill and trammel nets and seines, only a single net to be fished by any vessel or individual at any time, no more than two nets to be in possession on a vessel, and requires that the two nets have stretched mesh sizes that differ by at least 1/4 inch or depths that differ by at least 25 meshes, all persons using gill and trammel nets, and seines exceeding either 100 feet in length, 4 feet in depth, or 3/8 inch mesh size to obtain a saltwater products license.
FL	1993	Conservation zone for green sea turtles est. all state waters between Sebastina Inlet and Junpiter Inlet (outside Colregs line), one gill net allowed (max length of 600 yards) outside of conservation zone), prohibited use of trammel nets in conservation zone, prohibit all gill nets and seines in Martin Col and Inland waters south of St. Lucie Inlet.
NC	1994	14-inch TL recreational minimum size limit and 8 fish daily bag limit in ocean waters (0–3 mi), 6-fish daily bag limit in ocean waters (11/1–12/31).
FL	1995	Unlawful to use entangling nets (i.e., gill and trammel).
FL	1996	12-inch TL minimum size limit all harvest, daily recreational bag limit of 10 fish, harvest limited to hook and line, cast net, beach seine, haul seine, and gigs.
FL	1996	Shrimp trawls limited to 50 lb incidental bycatch.
NC	1997	14.5-inch TL recreational minimum size limit and 10 fish daily bag limit in ocean waters (4/1–12/31).
NC	1998	15-inch TL recreational minimum size limit and 8 fish daily bag limit in ocean waters (6/7–12/31).
NC	1998	Unlawful to use pound nets in the flounder fishery without escape panels (NCAC 3J .0107 PN-2-98).
GA	1998	12-inch TL minimum size, 15-fish bag limit.
NC	1999	PSGNRA closed to large mesh gill nets (4-6½-inch stretched mesh) to reduce the number of sea turtle strandings by 50% from 1998 (10/27-12/31).
NC	1999	NMFS emergency rule closed southeastern Pamlico Sound to large mesh gill nets due to interactions with sea turtles for the season (12/16-12/31).
NC	1999	15-inch TL recreational minimum size limit in ocean waters (0-3 mi).

**Table 1.11.** Summary of major state regulations for the fisheries management of southern flounder by state and year, 2000–2005.

State	Year	Regulation
NC	2000	NMFS issued Incidental Take Permit (ITP) to the NCDMF for the gill net fishery. Established the Pamlico Sound Gill Net Restricted Area (PSGNRA) and imposed gill net fishery management measures.
NC	2000	The NCDMF closed the PSGNRA to the use of large mesh gill nets (10/28–12/31).
SC	2000	Unlawful to use gill nets more than one hundred yards in length with a mesh size no smaller than three inches stretched mesh and up to five and one-half inches stretched mesh in those areas of the inlets, sounds, and bays having direct connection to the ocean and designated by the department (i.e., Little River Inlet). Gill nets limited 100 ft. with mesh no smaller than 3-ISM and up to but not including 4.5 ISM, nets must be tended (within 500 ft) [S.C. Marine Resources Act-Article 1 Section 50-5-500 (A2, A10)].
NC	2001	NMFS closed the Pamlico Sound deep water large mesh gill net fishery. The PSGNRA continued to operate under an ITP that included: permitted entry, restricted areas, a 2,000-yard limit for all gill-net operations, weekly fishermen reporting, and mandatory scientific observer coverage (9/1–12/31).
NC	2001	15.5-inch TL <b>recreational</b> minimum size limit and 8 fish daily bag limit in ocean waters (0–3 mi).
SC	2002	14-inch TL minimum size limit, 15-fish per person day not to exceed 30 per boat per day [S.C. Marine Resources Act-Article 1 Sections 50-5-1705(G); 50-5-1710(2)].
NC	2002	Reoccurring closure of Pamlico Sound deep water area established by NMFS (9/1–12/31).
NC	2002	Reoccurring regulations established for PSGNRA: open under sea turtle regs, closed Sept 1 through mid-Sept then open to 24/7 fishing unless interactions with sea turtles exceed ITP thresholds.
NC	2002	14-inch TL minimum <b>recreational</b> daily size limit in inland waters (10/1–12/31).
NC	2003	14-inch TL minimum <b>recreational</b> daily size limit in inland waters.
NC	2003	Three-year ITP granted for the gill-net fishery. Implemented a sea turtle observer and characterization program throughout the PSGNRA from September through December.
NC	2003	15-inch TL <b>recreational</b> minimum size limit in ocean waters (0–3 mi).
NC	2004	14-inch TL <b>recreational</b> minimum size limit in ocean waters (0–3 mi).
NC	2005	14-inch minimum commercial size limit in estuarine waters (through proclamation).
NC	2005	NCDMF applied for and received a six-year ITP for the gill-net fishery
NC	2005	December 1–31 commercial flounder fishery closure period (through proclamation).
NC	2005	Minimum mesh size of 5.5 ISM minimum mesh for large mesh gill nets (rule 15A NCAC 03J .0103(a)(2)).
NC	2005	3,000-yard limit on large mesh gill nets (rule 15A NCAC 03J .0103(i)(1)).
NC	2005	Escape panels of 5.5-ISM minimum mesh required in pound nets in Albemarle Sound west of the Alligator River (rule 15A NCAC 03J .0501(e)(2)).
NC	2005	A minimum tailbag mesh size of 4-ISM minimum mesh size in crab trawls in western Pamlico Sound to minimize bycatch of undersized southern flounder.
NC	2005	8-fish per person daily <b>recreational</b> bag limit in inland waters (4/1–12/31).

**Table 1.12.** Summary of major state regulations for the fisheries management of southern flounder by state and year, 2006–2015.

State	Year	Regulation
NC	2006	8-fish per person daily recreational bag limit in inland waters.
NC	2006	Upper portions of the Neuse, Pamlico, and Pungo rivers closed to shrimp trawling and implemented a maximum combined 90-foot headrope length in the mouths of the Pamlico and Neuse rivers and all of the Bay River to minimize southern flounder bycatch (Rules 15A NCAC 03R .0114).
NC	2007	14.5-inch TL recreational minimum size limit in ocean waters (0–3 mi).
SC	2007	14-minimum TL size limit (SC Bill S0489).
NC	2008	14-inch TL recreational minimum TL size limit in ocean waters south of Brown's Inlet to SC border and 15.5-inch TL minimum size limit in ocean waters north of Brown's Inlet to VA border.
NC	2008	14-inch TL minimum recreational daily size limit in western portions of Albemarle and Pamlico sounds and its tributaries and ocean and estuarine waters south of Brown's Inlet to the SC border; 15.5-inch TL recreational daily minimum size limit in eastern estuarine and ocean waters north of Brown's Inlet to the NC border.
SC	2009	Generators and lights prohibited in Murrell's Inlet / Pawley's Island area, 10-fish personal daily limit and 20-fish boat limit also set for area (SC Bill H3572).
NC	2010	Due to Sea Turtle Lawsuit settlement, large mesh gill nets (except in western Albemarle and Currituck sounds): limited to four nights per week, limited to 15 meshes deep, required to have leaded bottom lines, floats prohibited north of the Highway 58 Bridge, maximum of 2,000 yards north of and 1,000 yards south of Hwy 58 Bridge, limited to 100-yard sections 25-yard spaces.
SC	2010	Generators and lights prohibited in Murrell's Inlet/Pawley's Island area, 10-fish personal daily limit and 20-fish boat limit also set for area; bill eliminates restrictions to covering only summer flounder and redefines location description of the effective geographical area (SC Bill S1043).
NC	2011	15-inch TL minimum recreational size limit and 6-fish per person daily bag limit in inland and ocean waters.
NC	2012	1,000 yards maximum large mesh gill-net length, Beaufort to Hwy 58 Bridge.
NC	2012	2,000 yards maximum gill-net length and must be present at nets by noon each day in Albemarle Sound and its tributaries (to limit sturgeon interactions).
NC	2013	Albemarle, Currituck, Croatan, and Roanoke sounds north and west of Highway 64/264 bridges, Pamlico, Pungo, Bay, and Neuse rivers, and only in January–April for upper New and Cape Fear rivers, limit the use of large mesh gill nets to four nights/week and 2,000 yards, except south of Beaufort Inlet allow five nights/week and maximum 1,000 yards.
SC	2013	Daylight gigging for flounder prohibited in all state waters; daylight is defined as official sunrise to sunset.
SC	2013	15-fish bag limit and 30-per boat per day for flounder taken by means of gig, spear, hook and line, or similar device. Commercial trawling and trapping exempt from limit. 10-fish and 20-fish boat limit remains in place from Pawley's Island to Garden City Beach.