

South Carolina

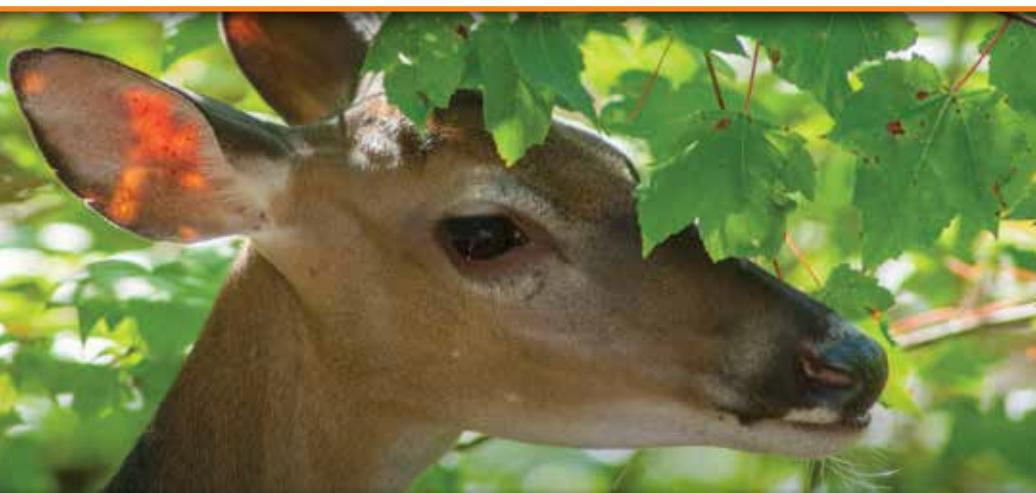
HUNTING & FISHING

THE OFFICIAL STATE REGULATION GUIDE

July 1, 2017-August 14, 2018



**Effective this hunting season, all harvested deer must be tagged.
Be sure to be legal, get your tags before you take the shot.**



NEW

**Deer Tag
Information**

Pg. 57



DNR

South Carolina
Department of Natural Resources

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HUNTING & FISHING

THE OFFICIAL STATE REGULATION GUIDE

July 1, 2017-August 14, 2018

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On the cover:

This year's cover features photography from Edward Walker and Michael Foster.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2017-2018, CHANGES IN LAW

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The information contained in this brochure is provided as summary information. The specific laws governing fish and wildlife may be found in Title 50 SC Code of Laws.

See <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/title50.php>

For individual bill searches see
<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php>

What's New—Hunting

S.443

Night Hunting for Feral Hogs, Coyotes, and Armadillos
Sponsor: Sen. Campsen
Act 88
Effective 5/19/17

This law changes the night hunting provisions related to hunting feral hogs, coyotes, and armadillos, and allows the use of any firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow to hunt feral hogs, coyotes, and armadillos at night so long as the property is registered annually with SCDNR. It is now unlawful to hunt feral hogs, coyotes, and armadillos at night on properties that are not registered, except with a valid SCDNR depredation permit. This law also prohibits hunting feral hogs, coyotes, and armadillos at night with a firearm within 300 yards of a residence without permission of the occupant. The yardage restriction does not apply to the landowner hunting on their own land, or pursuant to a valid SCDNR depredation permit.

H. 3601

Bear Hunting Game Zones 2, 3, & 4
Sponsor: Rep. Clemons
Act 71
Effective 05/19/17

This law removes the requirement for SCDNR to conduct a lottery draw to select hunters who will receive bear tags for Game Zones 2, 3, & 4. Bear tags may now be purchased by anyone to hunt bear in these Game Zones. The Department will establish a bear season, and a quota of bears that may be taken. When the quota of bears is taken for that season, the season will be closed once the department gives 24 hours' public notice. These changes do not effect bear hunting in Game Zone 1.

What's New - Saltwater Fishing

H. 3665

Flounder Size and Catch Limits
Sponsor: Hixon
Act 72
Effective 05/19/17

This law changes existing flounder size and creel limits. It makes it unlawful for a person to take a flounder less than 15" total length; and changes the creel limit for flounder taken by means of gig, spear, hook and line, or similar device in any one day to not more than 10 per person, not to exceed 20 per boat.v



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

Graphic Design:
 Jon Gulley, Dane Fay,
 John Corey, Evelyn Haddad,
 Chris Sobolowski

About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important agency programs.

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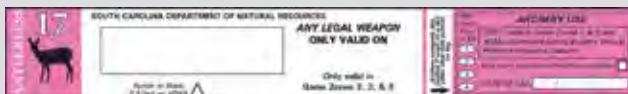
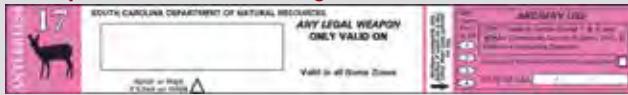


WHAT'S NEW FOR 2017-2018

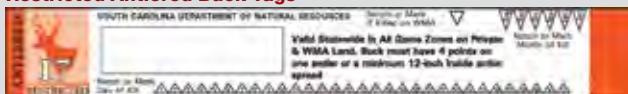
NEW DEER TAGS

Effective deer season 2017, all harvested deer in South Carolina are required to be tagged at the point of kill. See new deer tag information on page 57 or visit www.dnr.sc.gov/deertags/.

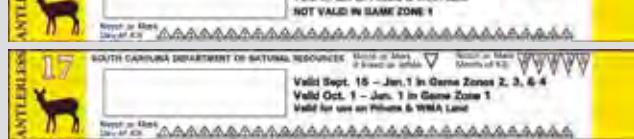
Date Specific Antlerless Deer Tags



Restricted Antlered Buck Tags



Individual Antlerless Tags



Unrestricted Antlered Buck Tags



REGULATIONS

Published July 2017

Property-specific regulations outlined in this booklet could change due to the need for emergency regulations. Such changes will be publicized in local newspapers and on the SCDNR website as any new emergency legislation is passed. Discrepancies between the book and any statute or regulation shall be governed by the statute or regulation. To research laws, visit <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/statustab.php>. The SCDNR News Section will issue news releases to clarify any changes to regulations, errors or omissions in this booklet.

Other information is published only in SCDNR news releases. This includes announcements relative to shrimp baiting, public hearings, SCDNR Board decisions and position statements, new legislation, youth activities, mobility impaired US Dept. of Agriculture cost-share programs, special drawing hunts, schedules for newly acquired areas and many other items of interest. SCDNR news releases are published weekly and distributed free to editors of all regional and local newspapers and are available to the public on the SCDNR website.

SCDNR Diversity Outreach Program

Our work involves educational initiatives that will enable all of South Carolina's residents and visitors to fully enjoy and appreciate the outdoors in a safe and responsible way.

The SCDNR Diversity Outreach Program seeks to increase outdoor recreational opportunities for everyone in South Carolina through programs geared toward the Hispanic and African American communities across the state. Contact us to learn more about the programs of SCDNR and the natural resources of the state.

For general information in Spanish about rules, regulations and licensing, please visit www.dnr.sc.gov/spanish, send an e-mail to informacion@dnr.sc.gov or call us at 803-734-9885.

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DIRECTORY SOUTH CAROLINA DNR

Information

Boating Titling & Registration	803-734-3857
Buy Licenses 24 hours a day	1-866-714-3611
Freshwater Aquatic Education	803-737-8483
Hunter & Boater Education	1-800-277-4301
Hunting & Fishing	803-734-3886
Invasive Aquatic Plants	803-755-2836
Licenses	803-734-3833
Nuisance Wildlife	Call Regional Wildlife Offices
Saltwater Fishing & Shrimp Baiting	843-953-9312
South Carolina Wildlife magazine subscriptions	1-800-678-7227
Shellfish Recycling	843-953-9300
To Report Tagged Fish	1-888-TAGS-4-SC
To Report Violations	1-800-922-5431

Main Office

1000 Assembly St, Columbia, SC 29201	
Mailing Address: PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202-0167	
Boat Titling & Registration	803-734-3857
Geological Survey, 5 Geology Road, Columbia 29210 ..	803-896-7714
Heritage Preserves	803-734-3893
Human Resources	803-734-4400
Land, Water & Conservation Division	803-734-9100
Law Enforcement	803-734-4002
Licenses	803-734-3833
South Carolina Wildlife magazine	803-734-3967
Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries	803-734-3886

Para obtener información en español concerniente a reglas, regulaciones, programas educativos, trámites para licencias de pesca, caza o registro de embarcaciones, por favor visite www.dnr.sc.gov/spanish o llame al 803-734-9885

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Eating Fish Caught in South Carolina

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) believe that fish are a healthy, low-fat source of protein. To make sure that the fish you catch are safe to eat, DHEC tests fish from lakes, rivers and streams throughout South Carolina.

To protect your health, DHEC issues fish consumption advisories in areas where contaminated fish have been found. For more information on the advisories, call DHEC, toll free, at 1-888-849-7241 or go to DHEC's web page at www.scdhec.gov/foodsafety/FishConsumptionAdvisories/.

Natural Shorelines are Good for Fishing

By keeping shorelines natural, you can help protect water quality and improve fish habitat. A shoreline without trees and shrubs can get washed away, making the water muddy and unsuitable for fish. If you live near a lake or a river, plant a buffer strip along the water's edge using trees, shrubs, wildflowers or other native plants. Trees and other vegetation filter pollution and provide shade, shelter, habitat, and food critical for bass, trout, and other fish to thrive and reproduce. Keep your favorite fishing spots well vegetated! For more tips and information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/water-topics>



Regional Offices

Region 1 - Clemson

Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Laurens, Abbeville, Greenwood, Union, Cherokee, McCormick, Edgefield counties	
311 Natural Resources Dr., Clemson, SC 29631	
Mailing Address: 311 Natural Resources Dr., Clemson, SC 29631-3253	
Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, Land, Water & Conservation, Outreach & Support Services, Law Enforcement	864-654-1671

Region 2 - Florence

York, Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Kershaw, Lee, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Williamsburg counties	
295 S. Evander Dr., Florence, SC 29506	

Mailing Address: 295 S. Evander Dr., Florence, SC 29506-4211

Freshwater Fisheries	843-661-4767
Land, Water & Conservation	803-764-9100
Law Enforcement	843-661-4766
Licensing	843-661-4766
Wildlife	843-661-4768

York Office: 510 Annie Alexander Ct., York, SC 29745

Licensing

803-684-4078

Region 3 - Columbia

Newberry, Saluda, Aiken, Lexington, Richland, Calhoun, Orangeburg, Barnwell, Allendale, Bamberg, Sumter, Clarendon counties

1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Mailing Address: PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202-0167

DNR at the Market: 326 Little Brooke Ln. West Columbia, SC 29172
Region 3 Law Enforcement Office: 2762 Wildlife Lane West Columbia, SC 29172

Land, Water & Conservation	803-764-9100
Law Enforcement	803-755-1822
Licensing at the Market	803-734-3833
Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries	803-734-3886

Region 4 - Charleston

Horry, Hampton, Georgetown, Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Colleton, Jasper, Beaufort counties

217 Ft. Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412

Mailing Address: PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC, 29422-2559

Boat Titling & Registration	843-953-9301
Commercial Saltwater Licenses	843-953-9301
Freshwater Fisheries	843-825-3387
Land, Water & Conservation	803-764-9100
Law Enforcement	843-953-9307
Marine Resources	843-953-9300
Wildlife	843-953-9856

THANK YOU!

Manufacturers of hunting and fishing equipment (arms, ammunition and manufactured fishing tackle) support the programs of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources through the collection of an excise tax at the federal level. These taxes are pro-rated to state fish and wildlife agencies to assist in the management and conservation of natural resources throughout the states. For the past 60 years, these funds have achieved results in wildlife management and conservation through a public-and private-sector partnership that includes the Fish and Wildlife Service, state fish and wildlife agencies, firearms, fishing tackle and boating industries, and hunters, shooters, anglers and boaters. THANKS go to the hunting and fishing industries for supporting this important program!



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LICENSES RECREATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING

REQUIRED OF ALL APPLICANTS

Identification

Applicants for all SC hunting & fishing privileges must present a state issued identification document at the time of application. The same information is required for internet/call center transactions. Providing false information is unlawful. The same identification used to obtain your privileges should be in your possession when hunting or fishing. Applicants from other countries may provide their passport in lieu of a state identification document.

Social Security Number

The disclosure of your social security number or alien identification number is required to obtain SC hunting and fishing licenses. This complies with SC Code of Laws Section 63-17-108a and Federal law 42 USCA 666(a) (13), which requires a licensing agency to provide this information to the Child Support Enforcement Unit of the Department of Social Services to establish, modify and enforce child support orders.

Child Support Violations

Should you become non-compliant with your child support payments all recreational and commercial hunting and fishing license privileges will be revoked. Once you become compliant with DSS you will be required to purchase a new license at the current price.

Resident

Resident is a person who is a domiciled (permanent) resident of South Carolina. Proof of residency at license vendors is your unexpired State of South Carolina Driver's license or Identification Card. Other manners of proving residency can be submitted to a SCDNR license office.

A person licensed by another state as a resident for any purpose is not eligible to apply for, obtain, or hold any South Carolina resident license, permit or tag.

Military Personnel

Military personnel and their dependents stationed in SC for thirty days or longer, or who are domiciled in this state, are eligible for resident privileges. Valid military identification must be presented when applying.

Active duty or military personnel who are residents of SC stationed outside of the state and home on leave, may upon presentation of their earnings and leave statement (which must declare SC as their home state), be allowed to fish and hunt throughout the state without purchasing a hunting, freshwater fishing or saltwater fishing license. Permits

are required to hunt big game, migratory birds, migratory waterfowl and hunt on WMA lands. Tags are required to hunt deer and turkey, use nongame fish devices or for taking shrimp over bait.

Students

Students enrolled full time in a SC educational institution are eligible for resident privileges. A valid student ID must be presented when applying for privileges.

International Customers

Upon presentation of a passport or any international government issued documentation, an international customer may purchase hunting and fishing licenses without having to provide a social security number. Nonresident license fees apply.

Nonresident

Nonresident is a person who does not meet the definition of resident.

Change of Resident Status

Any person who lawfully acquires a resident South Carolina license, permit or tag and who then transfers their residency outside of this state may continue to use the privileges until they expire. However, if the licensee applies for privileges not covered by the license, and no longer meets the requirement for a resident, he must purchase the additional licenses as a nonresident.

License in Possession

All licenses, permits, stamps and tags must be in possession of license holder while engaging in activities for which license documents were issued. Identification indicating name and address must also be in possession of privilege holder. Persons hunting on their own lands are required to have all applicable licenses, permits, stamps or tags in their possession.

License Duration

Annual recreational hunting and fishing licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase. 3 year recreational hunting and fishing licenses are valid for three years from the date of purchase.

Hunting tags (deer, bear and turkey) migratory bird permits, migratory waterfowl permits, nonresident alligator hunting fees and shooting preserve permits are valid for the season indicated on your license. Commercial licenses and nongame fish tags are valid from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

It is the responsibility of each person engaging in any hunting or fishing activity to verify they have a valid license, permit, or tag for that activity. Privileges for various licenses may expire on different dates if not purchased at the same time.

Duplicate Licenses

Duplicate licenses are issued upon affidavit from the licensee that the original license was lost or destroyed and payment of a \$3.00 fee. Duplicates are available at all license sales vendors and SCDNR license offices. Duplicate/replacement tags are issued only through SCDNR offices. No duplicates are issued for federal duck stamps; a new stamp must be purchased.

Hunter Education Requirements

All residents and nonresidents, born after June 30, 1979, must successfully complete a SCDNR-approved hunter education course and present the certificate of completion before a hunting or combination license can be obtained.

SCDNR accepts hunter education certifications issued by other states in the United States and Canadian provinces. If you have a certification from another state, your certification meets the hunter education requirement in SC.

A hunter education card alone is not a valid hunting license. For more information on hunter education, call 803-734-3995 or 1-800-277-4301. See page 112.

Apprentice Hunting License

Hunting license applicants who do not have a hunter education certification may use a one time exemption and apply for an annual Apprentice Hunting License. The apprentice hunter must be accompanied by a SC licensed hunter who is not licensed as an apprentice hunter, is at least 21 years of age, has not been convicted of a hunting or hunter education violation or received deferred adjudication of the same, and stays within a distance that enables uninterrupted, unaided, visual and oral communication with the apprentice hunter and provides adequate direction to the apprentice.

If the holder of an apprentice license obtains a hunter education certification prior to the expiration of his apprentice hunting license, his apprentice hunting license will be used as his statewide hunting license. The licensee must have the hunter education certification in his possession while hunting.

Saltwater Fishing License

A Saltwater Fishing License is required when harvesting marine resources, including finfish, oysters, clams, shrimp, and crab. A saltwater recreational fishing license is required unless fishing on a licensed public fishing pier; fishing on a licensed charter vessel while under hire; using 3 or fewer drop nets, 3 or fewer fold-up traps, or 3 or fewer handlines with no hooks and single bait per line (chicken necking); or shrimp baiting (which requires a shrimp baiting license).

Freshwater Fishing License

A Freshwater Fishing License is required unless you are fishing in a privately-owned pond. A license is required when fishing in commercial pay ponds, unless the pond is permitted by the SCDNR.

Georgia & South Carolina Reciprocal License Agreement

All channels of the Savannah River, from its mouth to the confluence of the Tugaloo and the Seneca rivers, and the Chattooga River to the boundary line between Georgia and North Carolina are included in an agreement between Georgia and South Carolina to use valid freshwater sportfishing licenses and permits that have been issued by either state.

This agreement also applies to the following impoundments: Thurmond, Russell, Hartwell, Yonah, Tugaloo, Stevens Creek and the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam, but not to any tributary streams to those impoundments nor tributary streams to the Savannah, Tugaloo and Chattooga rivers.

All persons holding a valid license from Georgia or South Carolina will be allowed to

fish in the waters covered by this agreement.

NOTE: Contact Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division at 770-918-6406 for information on Georgia size and catch limits or visit www.georgiawildlife.com.

Migratory Bird Permit

A harvest information permit survey must be completed to obtain the Migratory Bird Permit. This permit is required of those age 16 and older hunting migratory birds in the state. Hunters 64 years of age or older who hold a SCDNR lifetime hunting, lifetime combination, Senior license, or Gratis license are not required to obtain a migratory bird permit.

Migratory Waterfowl Permit

A Migratory Waterfowl Permit, in addition to a state hunting license, migratory bird permit and Federal Duck Stamp, is required of those age 16 and older hunting waterfowl (brants, ducks and geese) in the state. Hunters who hold a SCDNR lifetime migratory waterfowl hunting add-on, Senior license, Gratis license, Catawba license or Disability license do not need to obtain an annual migratory waterfowl permit, the migratory waterfowl permit is included in each of these licenses.

Tag Requirements

All age groups are required to obtain and possess special tags when engaged in the following activities: hunting deer, hunting bear, hunting turkey, using non-game fish devices or taking shrimp over bait.

Youth Requirements

No child under 16 years of age is required to obtain a hunting or fishing license. If a child engages in the taking of game or fish for commercial purposes or possesses any nongame fishing devices, all licensing requirements apply. Youth are required to have tags for deer, bear and turkey.

Senior Lifetime License

A person who has been a resident of SC for 180 days or longer and has reached the age of 64 may apply for a Lifetime License for \$9.00. The license is valid for Freshwater Fishing, Freshwater Set Hook, Saltwater Fishing, State Hunting, Big Game, WMA and Migratory Waterfowl. No tags are included with this license. Tags must be requested annually.

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PRIVILEGE FEES

SOUTH CAROLINA DNR

PRIVILEGE FEES JULY 1, 2017–JUNE 30, 2018

PRIVILEGE TYPE	DURATION	RESIDENTS	NON RESIDENTS	NOTES, PREREQUISITES (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAGE 8-9)
FISHING PRIVILEGES—FRESHWATER; MORE INFORMATION ON PAGES 18–43				
Freshwater Fishing License	3 Year	30.00	105.00	Valid 3 years from date of purchase.
	Annual	10.00	35.00	Valid 1 year from date of purchase.
	14 Day	5.00	11.00	Valid 14 consecutive days.
Commercial Freshwater License	Annual	50.00	1,000.00	Device quantity limits apply in freshwater bodies, See pages 40–42. Expires June 30, 2018.
NON-GAME FRESHWATER FISHING PRIVILEGES; MORE INFORMATION ON PAGES 36–43				
(A freshwater fishing license or commercial freshwater fishing license is required regardless of age, to use non-game devices)				
Jug Permit	Annual	5.00	50.00	1 permit per licensee; allows up to 50 jugs subjective to body of water. Expires June 30, 2018.
Set Hook Permit	Annual	5.00	50.00	1 permit per licensee; allows up to 50 hooks subjective to body of water. Expires June 30, 2018.
Eel Pot Tag*	Annual	5.00	50.00	Recreational limit 2 pots per licensee. Reporting Requirements apply. Expires June 30, 2018.
Gill Net Tag* (Not for shad or herring)	Annual	5.00	50.00	Recreational limit 3 nets and no more than a total of 100 yds of net. Expires June 30, 2018.
Hoop Net Tag*	Annual	10.00	50.00	Commercial license required. Expires June 30, 2018. 1 recreational net on the Wateree River, licensee 65 years and older.
Trap Tag*	Annual	5.00	50.00	Recreational limit 2 traps per licensee. Expires June 30, 2018.
Trotline Tag*	Annual	2.50	50.00	Recreational limit is 1 trotline with a maximum 50 hooks. Expires June 30, 2018.
FISHING PRIVILEGES—SALTWATER; MORE INFORMATION ON PAGES 46–54				
Saltwater Fishing License	3 Year	30.00	105.00	Valid 3 years from date of purchase.
	Annual	10.00	35.00	Valid 1 year from date of purchase.
	14 Day	5.00	11.00	Valid 14 consecutive days.
Shrimp Baiting License & Tags*	Season	25.00	500.00	Season dates apply, see page 118 for application.
Saltwater Public Fishing Pier	Annual		150.00	100 feet or less in length, license has reporting requirements. Expires June 30, 2018.
	Annual		350.00	More than 100 feet in length, license has reporting requirements. Expires June 30, 2018.
Saltwater Charter Fishing Vessel	Annual		150.00	6 or fewer paying passengers, license has reporting requirements. Expires June 30, 2018.
	Annual		250.00	7-49 paying passengers, license has reporting requirements. Expires June 30, 2018.
	Annual		350.00	50 or more paying passengers, license has reporting requirements. Expires June 30, 2018.

Commercial Saltwater License and Gear Licenses: SCDNR License Office, P.O. Box 12559 Charleston, SC 29422-2559, 843-953-9301.

* Licensee must have the stamp or tag in possession before using this privilege. Fish tags must be secured to the non-game fishing device. Federal Duck Stamps must be signed across the face and in the licensee's possession while hunting.

** Hunter education certification is required for anyone born after June 30, 1979. See page 8.



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PRIVILEGE FEES

PRIVILEGE TYPE	DURATION	RESIDENTS	NON RESIDENTS	NOTES, PREREQUISITES (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAGE 8-9)
COMBINATION FRESHWATER FISHING & HUNTING PRIVILEGES**				
Combination License	3 Year	75.00	n/a	Includes State Hunting, Big Game & Freshwater Fishing. Valid 3 years from date of purchase.
	Annual	25.00	n/a	Includes State Hunting, Big Game & Freshwater Fishing. Valid 1 year from date of purchase.
Junior Sportsman License	Annual	16.00	n/a	Includes State Hunting, Big Game, Wildlife Management Areas & Freshwater Fishing, for applicants 16-17 years of age. Remains valid, regardless of age until expiration. Expires 1 year from date of purchase.
Sportsman License	3 Year	150.00	n/a	Includes State Hunting, Big Game, Wildlife Management Areas & Freshwater Fishing, valid 3 years from date of purchase.
	Annual	50.00	n/a	Includes State Hunting, Big Game, Wildlife Management Areas & Freshwater Fishing. Valid 1 year from date of purchase.

HUNTING PRIVILEGES; MORE INFORMATION ON PAGES 8-9**

State Hunting License	3 Year	36.00	n/a	Hunting license, valid 3 years from date of purchase.
	Annual	12.00	125.00	Hunting license, valid 1 year from date of purchase.
	10 Day	n/a	75.00	Hunting license, valid 10 consecutive days.
	3 Day	n/a	40.00	Hunting license, valid 3 consecutive days.
Apprentice License (Small Game Only)	Annual	12.00	125.00	Hunting license applicants born after June 30, 1979, who do not hold a hunter education certification may take this one time exemption from the hunter education certification requirement. See page 8 for other requirements.
Big Game Permit	3 Year	18.00	n/a	Required to hunt bear, deer or turkey, 3 Year or Lifetime Hunting License and tags required, valid 3 years from date of purchase.
	Annual	6.00	100.00	Required to hunt bear, deer or turkey, hunting license and tags required. Valid 1 year from date of purchase.
Wildlife Management Area	3 Year	91.50	n/a	Required to hunt on WMA lands, hunting license or Lifetime Hunting License required. Valid 3 years from date of purchase.
	Annual	30.50	76.00	Required to hunt on WMA lands, hunting license required.
Shooting Preserve Permit	Annual	8.50		For hunting specified released species only on licensed shooting preserves. Expires June 30, 2018.

* Licensee must have the stamp or tag in possession before using this privilege. Fish tags must be secured to the non-game fishing device. Federal Duck Stamps must be signed across the face and in the licensee's possession while hunting.

** Hunter education certification is required for anyone born after June 30, 1979. See page 8.

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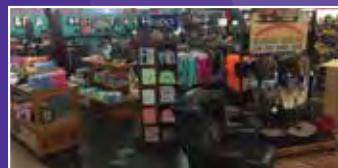
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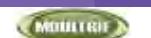
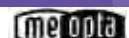
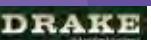
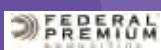
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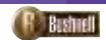
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PRIVILEGE FEES

PRIVILEGE TYPE	DURATION	RESIDENTS	NON RESIDENTS	NOTES, PREREQUISITES (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAGE 8-9)
Nonresident Alligator Hunting Fee	Season	n/a	200.00	Required for all nonresidents 16 yrs of age or older who participate in any alligator management program, hunting license required. Must also possess an alligator harvest tag and permit or accompany another person that possesses an alligator tag and permit. Expires June 30, 2018.
Deer Tags*	Season	No Cost	n/a	Required in addition to a hunting license and big game permit to hunt deer. 11 tags total. 8 date specific antlerless deer tags and 3 unrestricted antlered (buck) tags.
Individual Antlerless Deer Tags* (Optional)	Season	5.00	10.00	Maximum 4 tags per hunter, hunting license and big game permit required, season dates apply.
Restricted Antlered (Buck) Deer Tags* (Optional)	Season	5.00	n/a	Maximum 2 tags per hunter, hunting license and big game permit required. Size restriction of 4 pts on one side or 12" inside minimum spread.
Unrestricted Antlered (Buck) Deer Tag*	Season	n/a	50.00	Maximum 1 tag. Must purchase \$50.00 tag before additional antlered (buck) tags may be purchased. No size restriction on buck. Hunting license and big game permit required.
Unrestricted Antlered (Buck) Deer Tag*	Season	n/a	20.00	Maximum 1 tag. \$50.00 unrestricted antlered tag required before this tag may be purchased. No size restriction on buck. Hunting license and big game permit required.
Restricted Antlered (Buck) Deer Tags*	Season	n/a	20.00	Maximum 2 tags. \$50.00 unrestricted tag required before these tags may be purchased. Restrictions of 4 pts on one side or 12" inside minimum spread. Hunting license and big game permit required.
Bear Tag*	Season	25.00	100.00	Required to take a bear in addition to the required hunting license and big game permit season dates apply, see page 118 for application. Youth 15 years old or younger are required to obtain Youth Tags for bear from SCDNR designated offices at no cost.
Migratory Bird Permit (HIP)	Season	No Cost		Season dates apply, hunting license required. Expires June 30, 2018.
Migratory Waterfowl Permit (State Duck Stamp)	Season	5.50		Season dates apply, Migratory Bird Permit required, Federal Duck Stamp required.
Federal Migratory Bird Hunting & Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp)*	Season	27.50		Season dates apply, State Migratory Waterfowl Permit required to use in SC. The electronic federal duck stamp is valid for 45 days from date of purchase. Your stamp will be mailed within 45 days. If you do not receive your stamp call 803-734-3833. Price includes \$1.50 processing fee for the USFW vendor. Available at select US Post Offices, by phone at 1-800-STAMP-24 (1-800-782-6724), online at www.duck-stamp.com and SCDNR Offices.
Trapping and Commercial Fur Harvest License	Annual	25.00	200.00	Required to sell or trade furbearers taken during the hunting season, or to trap for sport, sale or trade during the trapping season. Required to possess 6 or more furbearers or their pelts. Hunting license required. License has reporting requirements. Expires June 30, 2018.
Turkey Tags*	Season	No Cost	No Cost	Required in addition to a hunting license and big game permit. Tags issued in person at SCDNR offices only. Tags can be requested online, through the call center or at a license sales vendor. Tags must be in your possession before hunting turkey.

* Licensee must have the stamp or tag in possession before using this privilege. Fish tags must be secured to the non-game fishing device. Federal Duck Stamps must be signed across the face and in the licensee's possession while hunting.

** Hunter education certification is required for anyone born after June 30, 1979. See page 8.

WHERE TO BUY HUNTING & FISHING PRIVILEGES

- Internet – www.dnr.sc.gov/purchase.
- Toll Free 1-866-714-3611, available 24-hours, 7 days a week.
- 500 license agents throughout the state, see website for a listing by county.
- SCDNR offices in Charleston, Clemson, Columbia, Florence, York & SCDNR at the SC State Farmer's Market.

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- ◆ From the convenience of your personal computer or smart phone, you can purchase your hunting or fishing license, permits or tags, apply for a lottery hunt or renew your watercraft registration.
- ◆ You may hunt or fish immediately using your SC.GOV order number. Hunting tags, nongame fish tags and shrimp licenses must be in your possession before participating in the activity.
- ◆ You may operate your boat for up to 10 days with a copy of your online purchase receipt.
- ◆ Licenses, tags and watercraft renewal decals will be mailed within 2 to 3 business days after your purchase.

When a license is purchased online or through the call center a transaction or sc.gov order number is given to the purchaser. That number is only valid for 14 days. A hard copy of the license, permits and/or tags will be mailed within 3-5 business days. If tags are purchased, they must be in your possession before the privilege can be used.

The online service provider, SC.GOV, charges a \$3.00 fee per transaction.

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FRESHWATER GAME FISHING REGULATIONS



Freshwater Game Fish

Freshwater game fish are: Bream: bluegill, flier, green sunfish, pumpkinseed, redbreast, redear (shellcracker), spotted sunfish, warmouth; Black Bass: largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, redeye bass (coosae bass); striped bass or rockfish; white bass; hybrid striped bass; white crappie; black crappie; Trout: rainbow, brown and brook; chain pickerel (jackfish); redfin pickerel; sauger, walleye and yellow perch.

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Methods and Devices

- Game fish may be caught with only hook and line, pole, artificial pole, or rod and reel. Not more than 4 of these devices may be used by any fishermen at the same time, except when fishing in a boat. An unlimited number of lawful fishing devices may be used if all persons in the boat sixteen years and older have valid fishing licenses.
- Cast nets for catching nongame bait fish may be in possession while fishing for game fish.
- No game fish may be used as bait to catch fish recreationally except for bream (excluding redbreast). Trout may be used as bait only on Lakes Hartwell, Russell, Thurmond, Tugaloo, Yonah, Stevens Creek Reservoir and the Savannah River. When using game fish as bait to catch fish recreationally they must be included in the daily creel limit.

Seasons

No closed freshwater game fish season except in the following areas:

- Striped bass have exceptions, see Freshwater Fish Size and Possession limits page 30.
- All watercraft and fishing are prohibited Nov. 1 through Feb. 28 on Cantey Bay, Black Bottom and Savannah Branch in Lake Marion.
- Hatchery WMA on Lake Moultrie is closed to fishing each Saturday until 12:00 noon and all day the last Saturday of the waterfowl season.
- Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area is closed to public access and fishing one week prior to and two weeks after the Federal Waterfowl Season.

Selling and Importing

- No freshwater game fish may be sold in this state except by a SCDNR permitted aquaculturist, a SCDNR wholesale aquaculture licensee, a SCDNR aquaculture game fish retail licensee or a private pond owner selling less than \$2500 in product annually.
- It is illegal to possess, import or sell any fish species that is not native to SC waters without a SCDNR permit.
- Sterile grass carp may only be sold, purchased or possessed under a SCDNR permit.
- Native freshwater mussels cannot be taken without a permit from SCDNR, except for Asian clams also known as Corbicula. Contact the Freshwater Fisheries Section at 803-734-3891 for a permit.
- It is unlawful to take, harm, or kill grass carp from public waters. Any grass carp taken must be returned immediately to the water from which it was taken.
- It is unlawful to use any nonindigenous fish as bait that is not already established in the water body being fished except the following minnows: fathead minnows, golden shiners, and goldfish, including 'black salties'.

Prohibited Practices

- Game or nongame fish may not be taken by explosives, electrical devices, poison or similar means.

FREE FISHING DAYS

Memorial Day, May 28, 2018
& July 4, 2018

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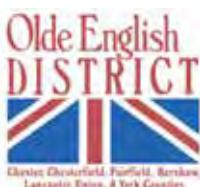
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What are Aquatic Invasive Species?

- Non-native organism that lack natural predators or disease that help keep their growth in check. These species typically reproduce rapidly and negatively impact waterways and native aquatic organisms.

Aquatic Invasive Species Laws

- Anyone caught spreading nuisance aquatic weeds, intentional or unintentional, can be fined up to \$500 and/or imprisoned.
- Except for research or under a permit, it is not lawful to possess, sell or place into any waters many water plants including hydrilla, water hyacinth, water lettuce, giant Salvinia, and any other plant on the state or federal Noxious Weed List.
- Except bait lost incidental to fishing or fish released into the waters from which they were taken, it is unlawful to intentionally release any aquatic species, regardless of the stage of its



life cycle, into the waters of this State without a permit from the department. It is unlawful to use any nonindigenous fish as bait that is not already established in the water body being fished except the following minnows: fathead minnows, golden shiners, and goldfish, including 'black salties'. A person who is guilty upon conviction of either of these may be fined a minimum of \$500 and/or 30 days in jail.

- A person may not possess, sell, offer for sale, import, bring, or cause to be brought or imported into this State or release anywhere in this State the following species at any stage of its life cycle: carnero or candiru catfish, freshwater electric eel, white amur or grass carp, walking catfish, piranha, stickleback, Mexican banded tetra, sea lamprey, rudd, snakehead, rusty crayfish and other nonindigenous species. SCDNR may issue special import permits to qualified persons for research and education only. A person violating this provision may be fined a minimum of \$500 and/or 30 days in jail.
- It is unlawful to take, harm, or kill grass carp from public waters. Any grass carp taken must be returned immediately to the water from which it was taken. Anyone convicted of doing so may be fined a minimum of \$500 and/or 30 days in jail. Sterile grass carp may only be sold, purchased or possessed under a SCDNR permit.

What You Can Do to Help!

- Remove any visible mud, sand, plants or plant fragments from your boat, wading gear, clothing and or fishing equipment before leaving a water body to prevent transporting any potential hitchhikers.

- Eliminate all water from your motor, live well, boat hull, gear and clothing.
- Don't dump your bait bucket! Dispose of live bait properly in a trash receptacle or on one's compost heap. Not only is it illegal, but live bait introduced into a system even if the live bait is native can introduce disease to an aquatic ecosystem.
- Dispose of shrimp parts and oyster shells properly. Shrimp heads and shells need to be disposed of in the trash and not thrown in the water because non-native shrimp parts can also spread disease. Oyster shells can be taken to a nearby recycling facility.
- Wading gear can be cleaned by either allowing it to dry 100% and remain dry for 5 days before using it again or dip the gear in a 3% bleach solution, rinsed well and allowed to dry thoroughly. Instead of a bleach solution, anglers can instead soak waders in a 100% vinegar solution or a 1% salt solution for 20 minutes.
- Pets allowed to swim should be rinsed, towel dried and brushed well after each fishing or wading trip.
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless that is the water body from which they came.

Taking time to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers will help assure the resources are protected from harmful, exotic species and save millions of public and private dollars in control costs!



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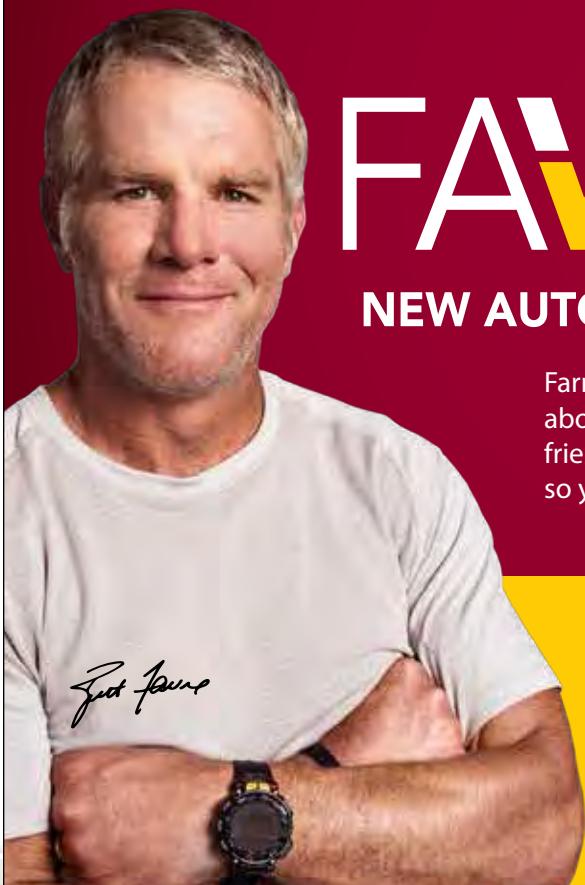
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FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

Habitat Improvement Ups Your Chance of Landing the Big One

Catching a fish sometimes isn't as simple as dropping your line in the water. The aquatic habitat has to be suitable for popular game fish to find shelter, food and spawning grounds. "Fish Attractors" utilize recycled Christmas trees and other brush to create underwater diversity. Habitat enhancement in major South Carolina freshwater bodies has been an ongoing effort to provide improved fish habitat and fishing opportunities.

Habitat improvement takes place from the shoreline out to deeper waters marked by buoys. Long-term enhancement along the shoreline includes live plantings, which can help reduce erosion and create a natural habitat. More fish-friendly improvements include gravel and rocks to create spawning grounds.



Shoreline enhancement utilizing brush and rocks at Lake Hartwell in 2014

Funding from a Natural Resource Damage Assessment is supporting a large scale habitat enhancement project at Lake Hartwell. Many of the techniques mentioned above were used at Lake Hartwell. The first site, a cove adjacent to the Cherry Farm at Clemson University, was completed in 2015. Twelve additional sites are currently being evaluated for the next phase of the project.

A recent joint project between the Santee Cooper Public Service Authority, Santee Cooper Promotions Board and the Department of Natural Resources

brings new freshwater artificial reefs to Lake Moultrie and Lake Marion. Concrete structures were donated by Concrete Pipe & Precast of North Charleston and General Pre Cast manufacturing Company of Moncks Corner. The concrete fish attractors differ from the brush piles, which are typically used in the lakes, in that they will provide more diverse and long lasting habitat. Each site is marked with a buoy and will provide better fishing opportunities for anglers not familiar with the lakes.

To find out more information and view maps of habitat restoration visit:

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/fish/fishattract/fishattr.html>



Beginning of habitat enhancement at Lake Hartwell in 2008



Offshore enhancement creating diversity at greater depths at Lake Marion and Moultrie in 2014

State Lake Enhancements Underway

Like many small ponds and lakes, SCDNR's State Lakes need to be drained periodically and restocked in order to produce good fishing. This process, referred to as renovation, involves draining the lake, removing any fish left in the lake, adding wood structures and gravel spawning areas to the lake bottom and is finalized by refilling and restocking. The process takes two years to complete. This lake renovation process was just completed at Lake Hartwell in Union County and the lake reopened on July 1, 2015. Lake Olliphant in Chester County and Sunrise Lake in Lancaster County closed July 1 in order to begin the renovation process and are scheduled to reopen in July 2017.

Background Photo Shoreline placement of gravel is used to create suitable spawning substrate (at Lake Hartwell in 2014)



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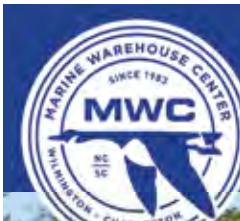
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Redeye Bass Species Profile



Redeye bass can display individually unique and beautiful colorations. (Photo by Steve Sammons)

(Alabama bass) into the reservoirs of the upper Savannah Basin has led to the spread of that species throughout that system. The impact of this non-native species to redeye bass has been catastrophic in those reservoir habitats. Most recent survey work done by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has shown that through hybridization between the two species, redeye bass have been eliminated from Lakes Keowee and Russell and are in sharp decline in Jocassee and Hartwell. Except for isolated tributary streams separated from reservoirs, pure redeye populations may no longer exist.

The continued presence of redeye bass in South Carolina depends on populations in their native Piedmont streams. Movement of spotted and smallmouth bass from one body of water to another presents the greatest current threat to redeye bass. Conserving the current populations and their habitats is critical to the continued existence of this unique native fish. You can help conserve redeye bass and other native species by following the law and never releasing aquatic organisms into waters other than that from which they were caught. Also remember, it is unlawful to release your bait bucket contents unless the bait was collected from the waterbody that you are fishing. Please be responsible when fishing with live bait.

The redeye bass is valued not only as a species of concern, but also because it is an excellent game fish. It is a hard fighting fish and even small individuals are a lot of fun to catch on light tackle. The unique angling opportunities of redeye bass offer an exciting fishing experience in some of South Carolina's most scenic settings. Fly fishing for redeye on the Chattooga River has become popular in the summer months. Wading or paddling any of the beautiful Piedmont streams where this fish is found is a great way to spend time outdoors. Please review the regulations for redeye bass and all game fish before fishing (black bass found on page 26).



South Carolina has two native black bass. Most are familiar with the well-known largemouth bass which is native statewide. The other is the lesser known redeye bass, also referred to as Bartram's bass. It is the only 'shoal loving' black bass native to South Carolina and occupies an important ecological niche in the streams where it is found as a top predator.

The redeye bass is a species of Highest Conservation concern in the South Carolina Wildlife Action Plan. Threats facing this native bass are primarily from introduced species. The redeye will hybridize with smallmouth and spotted bass. The offspring typically have traits of both parents. The unauthorized release of spotted bass



Anglers seek redeye bass in the scenic Chauga River in Oconee County.

Quick Stats

Redeye Bass (Bartram's Bass)

Micropterus coosae

- Identification: The eyes are sometimes, but not always red. Slender bronze-olive body that fades into white on the belly, dark distinct lateral blotches or bars along the side typically numbering twelve or less and horizontal rows of spots on the lower side, which can vary from black to pale green in color. Distinguishing white edges along the upper and lower edges of the caudal (tail) fin. The mouth is large and extends to the rear edge of the eye, but not beyond. Teeth are usually present on the tongue. Often has turquoise coloration around the gill and eye.
- Range: Northwestern parts of the state, primarily in the Savannah river basin, it is also present in tributaries of the upper Saluda and Broad river in the Santee basin.
- Habitat: Small to moderate size upland streams in riffles or pools with some flow, some lakes around rocky substrates. Appear to prefer shoal habitats and generally associated with cool water streams
- Average Length and Size: 6-9 inches and 6 oz.–1 lb.
- Food Preferences: Terrestrial insects, crayfish, small fish, salamanders and aquatic insects
- Similar Species: Largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass.
- Threats: Hybridization with non-native species, primarily spotted bass and smallmouth bass, and the expansion of the range of non-native species in South Carolina. Increase in water temperature and poor water clarity from loss of surrounding vegetation and tree coverage.



Redeye bass collected from the Little River during one of SCDNR's sampling trips.

Background Photo Ideal redeye bass habitat on the Chauga River.



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SPECIES IDENTIFICATION**Crappie**

Black Crappie



White Crappie

**Black Bass**

Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Spotted Bass



Redeye Bass

**Pickerel**

Chain Pickerel



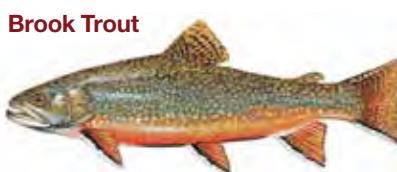
Redfin Pickerel

**Perch**

Yellow Perch

**Coldwater Trout**

Brook Trout



Brown Trout



Rainbow Trout

**AQUATIC EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Aquatic Education Section of SCDNR offers FREE education programs on recreational fishing techniques, opportunities and angler ethics.

Here are some of the unique, fun fishing and learning opportunities available:

Family Fishing Clinics

Family Fishing Clinics are an introductory class to fishing. Families with kids ages 4 and up can learn how to tie fishing knots, rig a rod and reel, cast and try their hand at fishing.

Fishing Tackle Loaner Program

The tackle loaner program has sites all around the state in various state and county parks that allow adults, kids and families to try their hand at fishing. Checking out a rod, reel and tackle is free. Bring your own bait and pay the park entry fee and the fishing fun is free!

Youth Fishing Rodeos

Fishing Rodeos are designed to provide youth with opportunities to catch fish and spend time with family outdoors. Rodeos are recommended for kids ages 5-15 years old.

Trout in the Classroom

Teachers Take Note! Expose your students to a world of wonder. Let your students raise trout from eggs to fingerlings.

Youth Bass Fishing Clubs

The SCDNR, The Bass Federation of SC and B.A.S.S. have teamed up to help bring youth bass fishing clubs to schools around the state. Students can establish school bass fishing clubs to compete for prizes, scholarships and more on a club, state and national level.



To learn more about these education programs,

[visit **www.dnr.sc.gov/aquaticed**](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/aquaticed)

or call 803-737-8483

or email aquaticed@dnr.sc.gov



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FRESHWATER FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS

NONGAME FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS			
WATER BODY	FISH	SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT PER PERSON PER DAY
Statewide	American Eel	9 inches	25
Lakes Marion & Moultrie and the upper reach of the Santee River	Blue Catfish	Only 2 fish larger than 32 inches may be taken	25
Congaree & Wateree Rivers	Blue Catfish	Only 2 fish larger than 32 inches may be taken	No limit

**GAME FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS
BREAM, REDBREAST SUNFISH, CRAPPIE, YELLOW PERCH, PICKEREL, WALLEYE & SAUGER**

- A total of 40 game fish may be kept in any one day. This total shall not exceed more than the limits or exceptions listed below. Any game fish or species with a size limit listed must be landed with head and tail fin intact. All freshwater fish species in the state of South Carolina are measured using total length. Special limits and regulations apply to SCDNR managed lakes.

- Check with state parks, city reservoirs or county parks for special limits and regulations that apply to those areas.

WATER BODY	FISH	SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT PER PERSON PER DAY
Statewide	Bream (includes bluegill, flier, warmouth, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, redear (shellcracker) and spotted sunfish)	Any length	30
Statewide	Redbreast Sunfish	Any length	15
Statewide	Crappie	8 inches	20
Statewide	Walleye & Sauger	Any length	No more than 8 combined total of walleye or sauger
Statewide	Chain Pickerel	Any length	30
Statewide	Redfin Pickerel	Any length	30
Statewide	Yellow Perch	Any length	30

Bluegill

**Sunfishes
of South
Carolina**

Green Sunfish



Redbreast Sunfish



Redear Sunfish



Warmouth



Flier



Pumpkinseed



Spotted Sunfish



FRESHWATER FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS

GAME FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS LARGEMOUTH, SMALLMOUTH, REDEYE & SPOTTED BASS

• A total of 40 game fish may be kept in any one day. This total shall not exceed more than the limits or exceptions listed below. Any game fish or species with a size limit listed must be landed with head and tail fin intact. All freshwater fish species in the state of South Carolina are measured using total length. Special limits and regulations apply to SCDNR managed lakes.

• Check with state parks, city reservoirs or county parks for special limits and regulations that apply to those areas.

WATER BODY	FISH	SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT PER PERSON PER DAY
Statewide except the water bodies listed below:	Smallmouth Bass	12 inches	No more than 5 combined total of smallmouth, largemouth, redeye bass or their hybrids
Lakes Hartwell, Russell (including the Lake Hartwell tailwater), Thurmond, Tugaloo, Yonah; Stevens Creek Reservoir; the Chattooga and Savannah Rivers	Smallmouth Bass	Any length	No more than 10 combined total of smallmouth, largemouth, redeye, spotted bass or their hybrids
Lake Keowee	Smallmouth Bass	12 inches	No more than 10 combined total of smallmouth, largemouth, redeye, spotted bass or their hybrids.
Statewide except the water bodies listed below:	Redeye Bass	Any length	No more than 5 combined total of smallmouth, largemouth, redeye bass or their hybrids.
Lakes Hartwell, Keowee, Russell (including the Lake Hartwell tailwater), Thurmond, Tugaloo, Yonah; Stevens Creek Reservoir; the Chattooga and Savannah Rivers	Redeye Bass	Any length	No more than 10 combined total of smallmouth, largemouth, redeye, spotted bass or their hybrids
Statewide except the water bodies listed below:	Largemouth Bass	Any length	No more than 5 combined total of smallmouth, largemouth, redeye bass or their hybrids
Lakes Blalock, Greenwood, Jocassee, Marion, Monticello, Moultrie, Murray, Secession, Wateree, Wylie and the middle reach of the Saluda River and the upper reach of the Santee River	Largemouth Bass	14 inches	No more than 5 combined total of smallmouth, largemouth, redeye bass or their hybrids
Lakes Hartwell, Keowee, Russell (including the Lake Hartwell tailwater), Thurmond, Tugaloo, Yonah; Stevens Creek Reservoir; the Chattooga and Savannah Rivers	Largemouth Bass	12 inches	No more than 10 combined total of smallmouth, largemouth, redeye, spotted bass or their hybrids
Lake Robinson (Greenville County)	Largemouth Bass	12 inches	No more than 5 combined total of smallmouth, largemouth, redeye bass or their hybrids
Statewide except the water bodies listed below:	Spotted Bass	Any length	15
Lakes Hartwell, Keowee, Russell (including the Lake Hartwell tailwater), Thurmond, Tugaloo, Yonah; Stevens Creek Reservoir; the Chattooga and Savannah Rivers	Spotted Bass	Any length	No more than 10 combined total of smallmouth, largemouth, redeye, spotted bass or their hybrids
Slade's Lake	Largemouth, Redeye, Smallmouth & Spotted Bass	12 inches	No more than 2 bass per person per day

STATE FISHING RECORDS

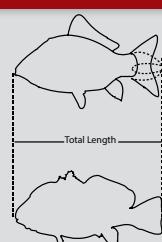
Check out state record catches at www.dnr.sc.gov/fish/freshrecs/records

Report potential record breaking catches at your nearest regional SCDNR office.

MEASURING A FISH

How to Properly Measure a Freshwater Fish

TL=total length measure; Tip of snout with mouth closed to tip of tail. Tail should be pinched. All freshwater fish species in the state of South Carolina are measured using total length. Some saltwater species are measured with fork length.

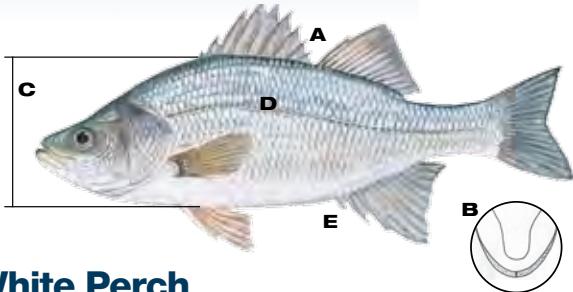


FRESHWATER FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS**GAME FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS
STRIPED, WHITE & HYBRID BASS**

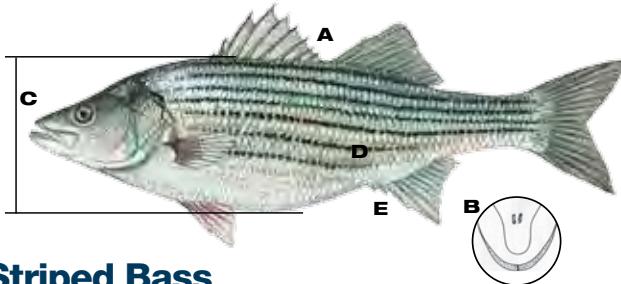
• A total of 40 game fish may be kept in any one day. This total shall not exceed more than the limits or exceptions listed below. Any game fish or species with a size limit listed must be landed with head and tail fin intact. All freshwater fish species in the state of South Carolina are measured using total length. Special limits and regulations apply to SCDNR managed lakes.

• Check with state parks, city reservoirs or county parks for special limits and regulations that apply to those areas.

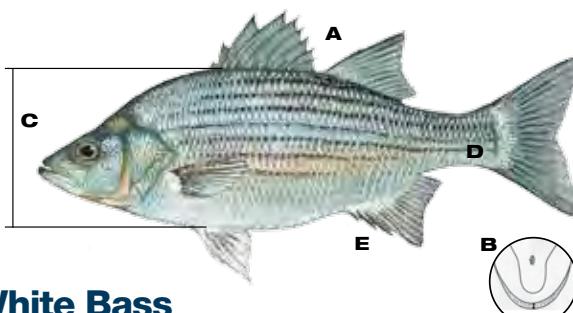
WATER BODY	FISH	SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT PER PERSON PER DAY
Statewide except the Savannah River	White Bass	Any length	10
Statewide except on the Savannah River and Lakes Hartwell, Russell and Thurmond see below.	Hybrid Bass	None	10
Statewide except the water bodies list below:	Striped Bass	Any length	10
Ashepoo River; Ashley River; Back River in Jasper County and the Back River in Berkeley County; Black River; Black Mingo Creek; Bull Creek and Little Bull Creek; Combahee River; Cooper River system (see map, page 31); Coosawhatchie River; Cuckholds Creek; Edisto River; Horseshoe Creek; Lumber River; Lynches River; Great Pee Dee and Little Pee Dee Rivers; Pocotaligo in Beaufort, Jasper, and Hampton Counties; Salkehatchie and Little Salkehatchie Rivers; Sampit River; Santee River system (see map, page 31); Tulinfinny River; Thoroughfare Creek; and Waccamaw River	Striped Bass	Oct. 1 - May 31: 26 inches	3
		Jun. 1 - Sept. 30: closed except catch and release on the Lower Saluda River	
Lake Murray	Striped Bass	Oct. 1 - May 31: 21 inches	5
		Jun. 1 - Sept. 30: any length	Unlawful to take, attempt to take, or possess more than 5
Saluda River (Middle Reach) <i>All waters of Saluda River from backwaters of Lake Murray at SC Hwy 395 upstream to Lake Greenwood Dam</i>	Striped Bass	Oct. 1 - May 31: 21 inches	5
		Jun. 1 - Sept. 30: any length	Unlawful to take, attempt to take, or possess more than 5
Saluda River (Lower Reach) <i>All waters of Saluda River from confluence with Broad River upstream to Lake Murray Dam</i>	Striped Bass	Oct. 1 - May 31: 26 inches	3
		Jun. 1 - Sept. 30: any length	Catch and Release only
Lake Russell	Striped or Hybrid Bass or a combination	Only 1 fish larger than 34 inches	2
Lake Hartwell Tailwater	Striped or Hybrid Bass or a combination	Only 1 fish over 34 inches	2
Savannah River (Lower) <i>All waters of Savannah River from its confluence with the Atlantic Ocean upstream to the Lake J. Strom Thurmond Dam</i>	Striped, Hybrid or White Bass or a combination	27 inches	2
Lake Hartwell & Lake Thurmond	Striped or Hybrid Bass or a combination	Only 3 fish over 26 inches	10

TEMPERATE BASS IDENTIFICATION**White Perch**

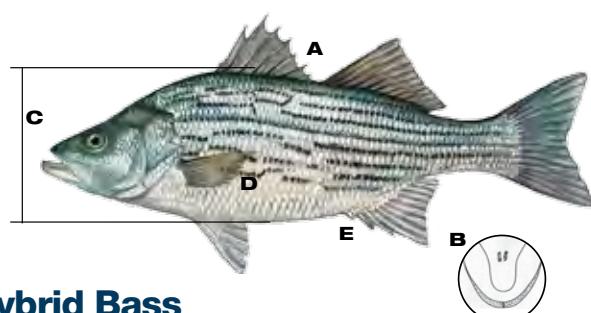
- A. Dorsal fins joined by a membrane.
- B. No tooth patches on tongue.
- C. Body deepest in front of 1st dorsal fin.
- D. No stripes present or only faintly striped on lower body only.
- E. 2nd spine almost equal the length of 3rd spine.

**Striped Bass**

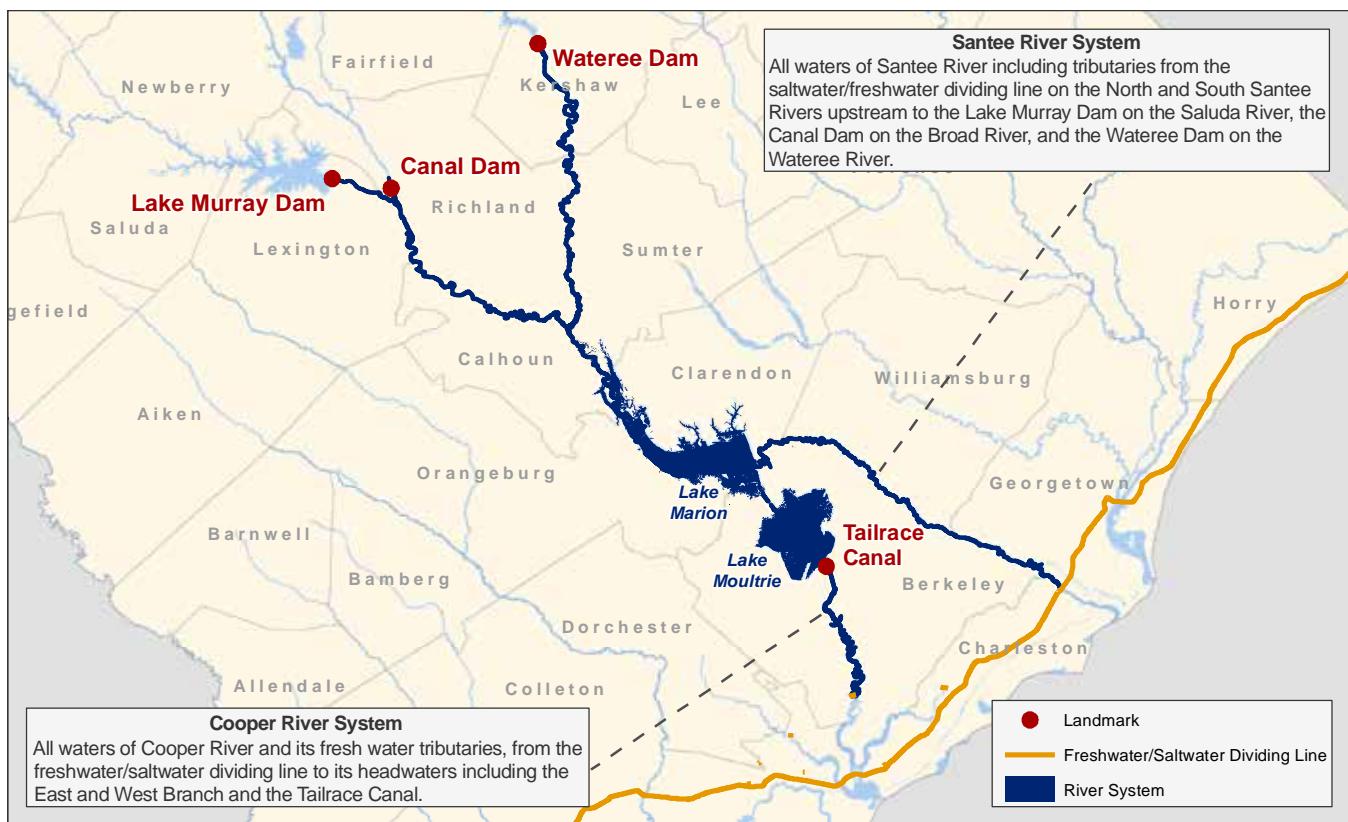
- A. Dorsal fins not joined.
- B. Back of tongue has 2 distinct tooth patches.
- C. Body slender, less than 1/3 length.
- D. Stripes distinct, several extend to tail.
- E. 2nd spine 1/2 the length of 3rd spine.

**White Bass**

- A. Dorsal fins not jointed.
- B. Back of tongue has 1 tooth patch.
- C. Body deep, more than 1/3 length.
- D. Stripes faint, only 1 extends to tail.
- E. 2nd spine 2/3 the length or more of 3rd spine.

**Hybrid Bass**

- A. Dorsal fins not joined.
- B. Back of tongue has 2 distinct tooth patches.
- C. Body deep, more than 1/3 length.
- D. Stripes distinct, usually broken, several extend to tail.
- E. 2nd spine 2/3 or more the length of 3rd spine.



FRESHWATER FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS**GAME FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS
BROOK, BROWN & RAINBOW TROUT**

• A total of 40 game fish may be kept in any one day. This total shall not exceed more than the limits or exceptions listed below. Any game fish or species with a size limit listed must be landed with head and tail fin intact. All freshwater fish species in the state of South Carolina are measured using total length. Special limits and regulations apply to SCDNR managed lakes.

• Check with state parks, city reservoirs or county parks for special limits and regulations that apply to those areas.

WATER BODY	SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	BAIT & TACKLE RESTRICTIONS
Statewide except the water bodies listed below:	Any length	5	None
Waters on Georgia Border	Any length	5	None
Chauga River (SC Hwy 290 [Cassidy Bridge Road] upstream to Bone Camp Creek)	Any length	Nov. 1 - May 14: Catch and Release only May 15 - Oct. 31: 5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except single hook artificial lures.
Chattooga River (Hwy 28 to Reed Creek)	Any length	Nov. 1 - May 14: Catch and Release only May 15 - Oct. 31: 5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except single hook artificial lures.
Cheohee Creek	Any length	5	None
Cheohee Creek (portion that runs through the Piedmont Forestry Center) Open Mon, Wed, Sat or as posted	Any length	Nov. 1 - May 14: Catch and Release only May 15 - Oct. 31: 5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except single hook artificial lures
Corbin Creek (from confluence with Howard Creek upstream to SC Hwy 130)	Any length	Nov. 1 - May 14: Catch and Release only May 15 - Oct. 31: 5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except single hook artificial lures.
Devils Fork Creek	Any length	Nov. 1 - May 14: Catch and Release only May 15 - Oct. 31: 5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except single hook artificial lures.
Eastatoe Creek (Keowee to Roy Jones Road)	Any length	Nov. 1 - May 14: Catch and Release only May 15 - Oct. 31: 5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except single hook artificial lures.

DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?**Northern Snakehead**

Note long anal fin

Bowfin

Note short anal fin

It is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess or sell live snakehead in South Carolina. If you catch a snakehead, **DO NOT RELEASE IT!** Keep the fish, freeze it or place it on ice and contact:

S.C. Department of Natural Resources

(803) 366-7024 or (843) 661-4767

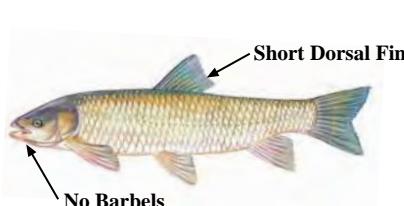
GAME FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS (CONTINUED) BROOK, BROWN & RAINBOW TROUT

• A total of 40 game fish may be kept in any one day. This total shall not exceed more than the limits or exceptions listed below. Any game fish or species with a size limit listed must be landed with head and tail fin intact. All freshwater fish species in the state of South Carolina are measured using total length. Special limits and regulations apply to SCDNR managed lakes.

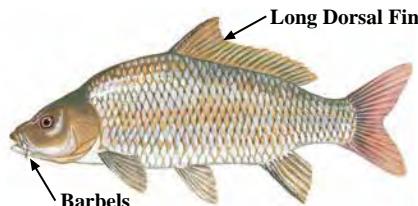
• Check with state parks, city reservoirs or county parks for special limits and regulations that apply to those areas.

WATER BODY	SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	BAIT & TACKLE RESTRICTIONS
Eastatoe Creek (portion on Eastatoe River Heritage Preserve)	Any length	5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except artificial lures.
Howard Creek (from confluence with Corbin Creek upstream to confluence with Limberpole Creek)	Any length	Nov. 1 - May 14: Catch and Release only	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except single hook artificial lures.
		May 15 - Oct. 31: 5	None
Lower Saluda River	Only 1 fish may be more than 16 inches	5	None
Matthews Creek (from Asbury Drive Bridge at Asbury Methodist Camp upstream including all tributaries and headwaters)	Any length	5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except artificial lures.
Matthews Creek (downstream from Asbury Drive Bridge at Asbury Methodist Camp downstream to the confluence with South Saluda River)	Any length	5	None
Middle Saluda (from the foot bridge at Jones Gap State Park Office upstream to US Hwy 276 in Greenville County)	Any length	5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except artificial lures.
Middle Saluda (from Hugh Smith Road Bridge upstream to the foot-bridge at Jones Gap State Park) Open Mon, Wed, Sat	Any length	Catch and Release only	Lawful to use or possess only artificial lures with single hooks.
Whitewater River (Oconee County)	Any length	5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except artificial lures.
Lake Jocassee	Oct. 1 - May 31: 15 inches, but only 1 fish more than 20 inches	3	Unlawful to use or possess corn, cheese, fish eggs or imitations of them.
Lake Russell	Any length	5	None

THIS WATERBODY IS STOCKED WITH **STERILE TRIPLOID GRASS CARP** FOR THE CONTROL OF AQUATIC WEEDS



Triploid Grass Carp



Common Carp

State Law Section 50-13-1630(E): It is unlawful to take, harm, or kill grass carp from public waters. Any grass carp taken must be returned immediately to the water from which it was taken.

SCDNR
Aquatic Nuisance Species Program
www.dnr.sc.gov/invasiveweeds/



WHAT IS AN ARTIFICIAL LURE?

Artificial lure: means manufactured or handmade flies, spinners, plugs, spoons, and reproductions of live animals, which are made completely of natural or colored wood, cork, feathers, hair, rubber, metal, plastic, tinsel, styrofoam, sponge, or string, or any combination of these materials, in imitation of or as substitute for natural bait. Lures or fish eggs enhanced with scents or salts are not artificial lures. Artificially produced organic baits are not artificial lures.



STATE LAKES

COUNTY	WATER BODY	ACRES	OPEN DAYS	OPEN TO FISHING	MAXIMUM BOAT/MOTOR HP
Barnwell	Lake Edgar Brown	100	Every day	24 hours a day	Motor allowed, gas outboards of 10 hp or less allowed north of Wellington Road
Berkeley	Bonneau Ferry Lakes*	150	Thur. – Sun. Mar. 2 – Oct. 31	Daylight hours	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
Cherokee	Lake Cherokee	50	Every day	24 hours a day	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
Cherokee	Lake Thicketty	100	Every day	24 hours a day	Paddle, electric trolling motor, or gas outboards 10 hp or less
Chester	Lake Oliphant	40	Mon., Wed., & Sat.	½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
Chester	Mountain Lake 1	42	Tue., Thur., Sat., & Sun.	½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
Chester	Mountain Lake 2	7	Tue., Thur., Sat., & Sun.	½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
Darlington	Dargan's Pond	50	Closed	Closed	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
Greenwood	Star Fort Pond	22	Wed., Fri., & Sat. April 1 - Nov. 1	½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
Hampton	Lake George Warren	400	Every day	24 hours a day	Paddle, electric trolling motor, or gas outboards 10 hp or less
Lancaster	Lancaster Reservoir	60	Thur. & Sat.	½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
Lancaster	Sunrise Lake	25	Closed	Closed	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
Lee	Lake Ashwood	75	Every day, except Tue.	Closed	Paddle, electric trolling motor, or gas outboards 10 hp or less
Marlboro	Lake Paul Wallace	300	Every day	24 hours a day	Fishing side - Paddle, electric trolling motor or outboard motors 10 hp or less
Spartanburg	Lake Edwin B. Johnson	40	Every day	½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
Union	Jonesville Reservoir	25	Mon., Wed., & Sat.	½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
Union	Lake John D. Long	80	Every day	½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
York	Draper WMA Lakes**	1 & 5	Every day, except Tue.	½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset	No boats allowed

Note: Statewide size & possession limits apply for all other species, unless noted otherwise. For detailed information, visit www.dnr.sc.gov/lakes/state/

* Adult/youth fishing only. Each youth (17 and younger) must be accompanied by no more than 2 adults, 18 years of age or older. The youth must actively fish. Fishing is not allowed during scheduled deer and turkey hunts. See Bonneau Ferry WMA hunt regulations for hunt dates.

** Daily creel limits are combined for all Draper WMA Lakes.

CATFISH CREEL/ SIZE LIMITS	BASS CREEL/ SIZE LIMITS	BREAM CREEL/SIZE LIMITS	STATEWIDE CRAPPIE LIMIT APPLIES?	MINNOWS ALLOWED AS BAIT?	BOAT RAMP	FISHING PIER	HANDICAP ACCESS
3	3 (16" or longer)	20	No	Yes	X	X	X
5	2	10	Yes	Yes	X		Limited
3	3	20	No	Yes	X	X	X
3	3	20	No	Yes	X		
3	3	10	No	No	X	X	X
3	1	10	No	No	X		
3	1	10	No	No		X	X
3	3 (only 1 16" or longer)	20	Yes	Yes	X	X	X
3	3	10	No	No		X	X
3	3	20	No	Yes	X	X	X
3	2 (16" or longer)	20	Yes	No	X		
3	2	10	No	No	X		
3	3	15	No	No	X	X	X
3	Catch & Release only	20	No	No	X	X	
3	3	10	No	No	X	X	X
3	3	10	No	No	X	X	X
3	3	10	No	No	X	X	X
3	3	15	No	No			

State Lake Closures

The following lakes have been closed for renovations and restocking.

- Lake Oliphant closed July 1, 2015 and will reopen July 1, 2017
- Sunrise Lake closed July 1, 2015 and will reopen July 1, 2017.

FRESHWATER NONGAME FISHING REGULATIONS

Freshwater Nongame Fish

Freshwater nongame fish are any freshwater fish species not classified as game fish.

General Information

- Nongame fish may be taken with any lawful nongame fishing device. Nongame fish may also be taken with hook and line. A fisherman may only use four rods and reels. A fisherman fishing from a boat may use an unlimited number of rods and reels if all persons in the boat 16 years and older have valid fishing licenses.
- Nongame fishing permits and tags may be purchased from SCDNR only. Applications may be obtained at www.dnr.sc.gov or by calling 803-734-3833.
- Nongame fishing permits and tags are required, in addition to a valid South Carolina recreational fishing license (also applies to youth under 16), to use the following devices for recreational purposes:
 - » up to 1 trotline with not more than 50 hooks
 - » not more than 50 set hooks
 - » not more than 50 jugs
 - » up to 2 traps
 - » 1 gill net no more than 100 yards in length or 3 gill nets, none of which exceed 30 yards in length (This does not apply to shad and herring. See page 43).
 - » up to 2 eel pots
 - » 1 recreational net on the Wateree River, licensee 65 years and older
- With a valid South Carolina fishing license and no additional tags or permits, archery equipment, cast nets, crayfish traps (5 or less), gigs, hand grabbing, minnow seines, minnow traps and spears may be used in freshwaters except lakes owned or managed by the DNR to take nongame fish. This requirement applies to all freshwaters of the state inland of the saltwater-freshwater dividing lines, except privately-owned ponds.
- Nongame fishing devices are not allowed in certain waters. The maximum number of devices allowed per area is shown in the Nongame Device Limits by Location (See page 40).
- A tag must be attached to the device for which it was issued, and each permit and tag identification receipt must be in the licensee's possession while engaging in the activity.
- On Lakes Marion and Moultrie and the upper reach of the Santee river only 2 blue catfish larger than 32 inches may be taken and there is a 25 fish possession limit. On the Congaree and Wateree Rivers there is no possession limit and only 2 fish larger than 32 inches may be taken.
- Native freshwater mussels cannot be taken without a permit from the Department of Natural Resources. The non-native Asian clams, also known as *Corbicula* may be taken. Contact the Freshwater Fisheries Section at 803-734-3891 for permit.
- Game fish must be immediately released if caught by net or trap or any other device used for catching nongame fish.
- Federal law requires passenger for hire service operating on U.S. navigable waters to comply with minimum federal safety and personnel licensing laws and regulations. Vessels that are carrying paying passengers must have a Captain that is USCG Licensed/USCG Vessel Inspected. Please contact USCG for more information 1-888-427-5662.

Shad/Herring

Includes American and hickory shad and blueback herring.

- To take shad for recreational purposes by hook and line, cast net, or skimbow net in waters of the state, a person must have the appropriate freshwater or saltwater recreational fishing license.

- American shad and herring may be harvested by skimbow net from February through April. Only 10 shad per person per day or 1 US bushel of herring per person per day, except in the Santee River and Rediversion Canal (which is 20 shad per person per day), can be harvested. Gill nets are allowed to harvest American shad and herring for commercial use. If fishing gill nets recreationally, one must adhere to the recreational limits.
- It is unlawful to possess saltwater or freshwater game fish or fishing tackle capable of taking saltwater or freshwater game fish while taking or attempting to take shad or herring with gillnets.
- It is unlawful to take shad by hook and line or by skimbow net while operating or possessing any commercial fishing equipment for taking shad or herring.
- Herring fishery area closures: Herring fishery closed in the Savannah River seaward of the Augusta Diversion Dam and in all rivers in the Winyah Bay River System (means all waters of Winyah Bay east of a line running south from the southern tip of North Island to the eastern tip of Sand Island, and extending to the mouths of the Sampit, Great Pee Dee, and Waccamaw Rivers) except for the Great Pee Dee River.
- Herring fishing is prohibited within one hundred feet of the fish lift exit channel at St. Stephens Powerhouse.
- See detailed shad & herring info on page 43.

Commercial Fishing

- A commercial freshwater fishing license must be in possession to take nongame fish by any method from public waters and sell or offer for sale such nongame fish, and/or fish with the following nongame fishing devices:
 - » 6 or more crayfish traps
 - » 3 or more eel pots
 - » 1 elver fyke net
 - » 2 or more hoop nets
 - » 3 or more traps, or
 - » 2 or more trotlines or fish trotlines with more than 50 hooks.
 - » 4 or more gill nets (or a total of more than 100 yards of net). (This does not apply to shad and herring. See page 43.)
- Strikers are defined as persons other than the licensed freshwater commercial fishermen, who under immediate supervision assists a licensed commercial freshwater fisherman, but does not use separate nongame fishing devices from the vessel engaged in commercial fishing. A striker is not required to have a commercial or recreational freshwater fishing license.
- On Lakes Marion and Moultrie and the upper reach of the Santee River only 2 blue catfish larger than 32 inches may be taken and there is a 25 fish possession limit. On the Congaree and Wateree Rivers there is no possession limit and only 2 fish larger than 32 inches may be taken.
- To qualify for a resident commercial freshwater fishing license, one must have been a resident of this state for the past 365 consecutive days and furnish proof to the SCDNR.

Markers & Identification of Nongame Devices

- Trotlines, traps, eel pots, gill nets, and hoop nets must be marked with a white floating marker not less than a capacity of one quart and not more than a capacity of one gallon and must be made of solid, buoyant material that does not sink if punctured or cracked. A floating marker must be constructed of plastic, PVC sponges, plastic foam, or cork. A hollow buoy or float, including plastic, metal, or glass bottles or jugs, must not be used, except that a manufactured buoy or float specifically designed for use with

nongame fishing devices may be hollow if constructed of heavy duty plastic material and approved by the department. The owner's name and department customer identification number must be legible on each of the white floating markers. Both commercial and recreational fishermen shall comply with provisions of this title pertaining to the marking and use of a nongame fishing device. A trotline must be marked on both ends.

- A commercial trotline must be marked at intervals of every 50 hooks. A commercial trotline which uses fifty or fewer hooks must be marked at intervals of 25 hooks. A recreational trotline must be marked at intervals of every 25 hooks. Each interval float must be 'International Orange' in color.

Bait

- No game fish (except bream, excluding redbreast, cut into two or more equal parts), live bait or any bait other than bait listed below shall be used with trotlines, set hooks and jugs: soap, doughballs, shrimp, grapes or meat scraps (which may not include insects, worms and other invertebrates).
 - » On the Edisto, Black, Sampit, Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lumber, Lynches and Waccamaw Rivers, live nongame fish and bream, excluding redbreast, may be used with single-barbed set hooks that have a shank-to-point gap of fifteen-sixteenths inches or greater.
 - » On the Black, Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lumber, Lynches and Waccamaw rivers, live nongame fish and bream, excluding redbreast, may be used on trotlines having not more than 20 hooks with a shank-to-point gap of fifteen-sixteenths inches or greater.
- However, it is unlawful for a person to have in possession more than the lawful creel limit of bream while fishing with nongame devices on these rivers.
- There are no restrictions on the type of bait permissible in traps or eel pots, except that no game fish or parts thereof shall be used as bait.
- Except for bait lost while fishing, it is unlawful to intentionally release any aquatic species, including bait, regardless of the stage of its life cycle, into the waters of this State without a permit from the SCDNR.
- It is unlawful to use any nonindigenous fish as bait that is not already established in the water body being fished except the following minnows: fathead minnows, golden shiners, and goldfish, including 'black salties'. Except for bream (other than redbreast), no other game fish is allowed to be used as bait, provided, trout are allowed to be used as bait only on Lakes Hartwell, Russell, Thurmond, Tugaloo, Yonah, Stevens Creek Reservoir, and the Savannah River. When using game fish as bait to catch fish recreationally they must be included in the daily creel limit.
- There are no restrictions on the type of bait permissible in traps or eel pots except that no gamefish or parts thereof shall be used as bait.

Prohibited Areas

- No nongame fishing devices of any kind may be used in SCDNR State Managed Lakes.

Prohibited Practices

- Possession or use on the freshwaters of this state of any device or gear designed or used to catch nongame fish not authorized by law is prohibited. Nongame fish may not be taken by explosives, electrical devices, poison or similar means.
- Possession of game fish or tackle designed to catch game fish is prohibited while fishing traps, trotlines, or other nongame fish devices except cast nets.

• It is unlawful for any person to tamper with, fish, or use in any manner the nongame fishing device or gear owned and tagged by another person, or to take from any such device or gear, any fish caught therein. No fishing device shall be used, placed, set or fished so as to create a hazard to boating.

- No trotlines, traps or eel pots shall be placed within 200 yards of any permanent man-made structure on Lakes Marion and Moultrie nor placed anywhere in the Diversion Canal connecting Lakes Marion and Moultrie, the Tailrace Canal nor the area known as the Borrow Pit (also known as "Bar Pit") in Clarendon County.
- Nongame devices, such as set hooks, may not be attached or secured to any vegetation or structure on the Congaree National Park property bordering the Wateree or Congaree Rivers. Rules and regulations concerning the Congaree National Park may be obtained from the National Park Service at 803-776-4396 or at www.nps.gov/cong.

Penalties

- The boat, motor, fishing gear and fish of any person who is charged with unlawfully fishing, using or having in possession a gill net or hoop net on any freshwater lake or reservoir shall be confiscated.
- Any person who tampers with any non-game fishing device with intent to damage or to make it ineffective for the purpose of taking fish shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$200 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days, and for stealing a device or fish caught in the device shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both.
- Upon the conviction of any commercial freshwater fisherman of illegal possession of game fish or the sale or traffic in game fish, SCDNR shall suspend such person's license or privilege to fish in this state for a period of one year.

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NONGAME FISH TAGS UPDATED REGULATIONS

Updated regulations and information are provided when nongame fish tags or permits are issued. Tags, permits and commercial freshwater fishing licenses are available by visiting any regional SCDNR Office, through the internet or by writing to: SCDNR-License Section, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202-0167 or calling 803-734-3833. Nongame fish tags are issued at each Regional SCDNR office. Tags purchased through the internet or by mail are mailed from the Columbia office and the privilege is not valid until the tag is received by the licensee.

A fishing license is required of all persons who fish nongame fishing devices. Some devices are not permitted on certain waters. See page 40, Nongame Device Limits by Location.

Gill Nets

(Not for shad and herring; see page 43).

Description

Nets must have a mesh size not less than 4-1/2 inches stretch mesh. The maximum length is 100 yards in the freshwater and no net, cable line or other device used for support of a gill net may extend more than halfway across any stream or body of water. Nets must be marked with a white floating marker (see Markers and Identification of Nongame Devices on page 36).

Permits/Regulations

A gill net tag is required. A gill net may be placed in the freshwaters on a first come first serve basis but a gill net must not be placed within 200 yards of another gill net. Along the Little Pee Dee River upstream of Punch Bowl Landing, no net may be set within 75 feet of a gill net previously set or drifted within 75 feet of another drifting net. Nongame fish taken in shad nets lawfully fished during the open season for taking shad may be kept. A sturgeon caught must be returned immediately to the waters from where it was taken.

Hours/Seasons

The season for taking nongame fish other than American shad and herring in the freshwaters of this State with a gill net is from Nov. 1 to Mar. 1 (where authorized) on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only.

Hoop Nets

Description

Nets made of textile netting (no wire) of a mesh size between 1 and 2 inches square enclosing a series of round hoops with two or more

muzzle openings made of a netting material. The maximum size net allowed is 16 feet by 5-1/2 feet. Hoop nets must be marked with a white floating marker (see Markers and Identification of Nongame Devices on page 36).

Permits/Regulations

A hoop net tag is required. Hoop nets must rest on the bottom and cannot be placed within 100 feet of the mouth of any tributary stream.

Hours/Seasons

No closed season.

Jugs

Description

A single hook and line attached to a free-floating device with a minimum capacity of one pint and a maximum of one gallon. May not have more than one line.

Permits/Regulations

A permit is required to fish up to 50 jugs (50 jug limit). A licensee's name and customer ID number must be clearly marked on each jug. Jug fishing is legal only in lakes Greenwood, Hartwell, Secession, Russell, and Thurmond and Stevens Creek Reservoir. A jug permit is not required for residents assisting jug permit holders. Jugs must be marked with name and customer ID number (see pages 37-39).

Hours/Seasons

Must be removed from the water before one hour after official sunrise each day and not replaced prior to one hour before official sunset.

Set Hooks

Description

A single hook and line attached to bushes, limbs, poles, sticks or similar structures. Each set hook must be labeled with customer name and customer ID number.

On the Black, Edisto, Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lumber, Lynches (including Clarks, Mill and Muddy Creeks), Sampit and Waccamaw Rivers, live nongame fish and bream, excluding redbreast, may be used with single-barbed set hooks that have a shank-to-point gap of fifteen-sixteenths inches or greater. However, it is unlawful for a person to have in possession more than the lawful creel limit of bream while fishing with nongame devices on these rivers.

Permits/Regulations

A permit is required to fish up to 50 hooks (50 hook limit). Set hooks must be marked with name and customer ID number (see page 39).

Hours/Seasons

Must be removed prior to one hour after official sunrise each day and cannot be reattached prior to one hour before official sunset.

Traps

Traps & eel pots described below must be marked with a white floating marker (Markers and Identification of Nongame Devices, page 36-37).

Trap Type 1 Description

The trap may be made of wire or textile material and be cylindrical in shape of a length not more than 6 feet and a width of not more than 3 feet. The mesh shall not be smaller than 1 inch by 1 inch, and there shall be only one application of exterior wire to the trap. The muzzle shall have one of the following designs: A trap door on the second muzzle or catch muzzle which remains in a closed position and which only opens for the entry of fish into the trap; or constructed of netting so that the opening of the small end of the second muzzle or catch muzzle is held in the shape of a slit and the trap configuration constructed such that as the trap rests on the bottom, the slit shall be oriented horizontally with the greatest vertical opening being no greater than 1 inch.

Trap Type 2 Description

The trap may be made of wood strips or slats and be cylindrical or rectangular in shape. The length shall not exceed 6 feet, and the width or diameter shall not exceed 2 feet. The throat opening of the catch muzzle in a resting position shall not exceed 3 inches measured in any direction. The sides, top and rear of the trap shall have a minimum of one inch opening between the slats to allow for the escape of small catfish. This shall apply only to the last 12 inches of the trap.

Eel Pot Description

Pots no larger than 24 inches by 48 inches and constructed of wire with a mesh size no smaller than 1/2 by 1/2 inch, except for the throat or muzzle and the end opposite the throat or muzzle. The throat opening shall not exceed 2 inches measured in any direction. (Permit required, call 843-953-9311)

Permits/Regulations

A tag is required for each trap or eel pot. A permit is required for the harvest of eels in both freshwater and saltwater. Traps and eel pots may be suspended in water at a depth which does not create a hazard to watercraft. No trap or eel pot shall be placed within 100 feet of the mouth of any tributary stream. No crab pot or trap of like design may be used in the freshwaters of this state.

Hours/Seasons

No closed season.

Trotlines

Description

Two or more hooks attached to a line which is rigged horizontally and marked with a

white floating marker. Stainless steel hooks are prohibited statewide. Hooks used in Lakes Marion and Moultrie ONLY must measure 7/16 inch or less between point and shank.

On the Black, Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lumber, Lynches (including Clarks, Mill and Muddy Creeks) and Waccamaw rivers, live nongame fish and bream, excluding redbreast, may be used on a trotline having not more than 20 hooks with a shank-to-point gap of fifteen-sixteenths inches or greater. However, it is unlawful for a person to have in possession more than the lawful creel limit of bream while fishing with nongame devices on these rivers. (See Markers and Identification of Nongame Devices on page 36-37).

Permits/Regulations

A tag is required for each trotline with up to 50 hooks. Trotlines with more than 50 hooks require a tag for every 50 hooks or less. No trotline shall be attached in any manner to another trotline or to the support or float of another trotline. No trotlines allowed within 100 feet of the mouth of any tributary stream.

Hours/Seasons

Trotlines must be inspected and fish removed at least every 24 hours. From Apr. 1 to Oct. 1, no trotline is permitted in any waters from one hour after official sunrise to one hour before official sunset, unless the trotline is sunk to the bottom or a minimum depth of four feet below the surface. From Oct. 2 to Mar. 31, trotlines may be left in the water 24 hours per day at any depth.

Other Devices

Crayfish Trap

A device constructed of coated wire with the opening of the throat or flues not exceeding 2-1/4 inches with a minimum mesh size of 1/4 inch bar mesh. All crayfish traps must be marked with the name and customer ID number. These traps only may be used in those bodies of water permitted. A commercial fisherman may fish up to fifty crayfish traps. A recreational fisherman may fish up to five crayfish traps.

Elver Fyke Net

A net with wings not exceeding 10 feet in length and 14 feet in depth. The distance from throat to cod end does not exceed 20 feet. The maximum bar mesh for any part of the net does not exceed 1/8 inch square. (Commercial license and permit required, call 843-953-9311)

Minnow Seine

Must not be greater than 4 feet in depth by 20 feet in length with a mesh size of not more than 1/4 inch square mesh. It is unlawful to have in possession a minnow seine from 10 PM to official sunrise. Must be marked with name and customer ID number.

Minnow Trap

A cylindrical device not longer than 24 inches and no more than 30 inches in circumference or a rectangular device not larger than 24 inches long, 8 inches high, and 9 inches wide. The mesh must be no smaller than 1/4 inch bar mesh. The throat opening of the funnel of the trap may not exceed 1 inch in diameter. All minnow traps must be marked with the user's name and customer ID number. A minnow trap may be fished with a recreational license only, with a limit of 5 for each person, and must not be fished for commercial purposes.

Seine

A net having a stretch mesh of not less than 1 inch and not more than 1-1/2 inches which does not exceed 75 feet in length or 6 feet in depth. It shall be unlawful to anchor a seine and leave it unattended.

Skimbow Net

A hand-operated dip net with the bow constructed of wood with wire or textile netting with a mesh size not greater than 1-1/2 inches square. The bow shall not exceed 14 feet in any direction and may be used only from Feb. 1 through Apr. 30 for shad or herring.

CUSTOMER ID NUMBER

To find your customer identification number, please see the number in the lower left hand corner of your DNR issued license.



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NONGAME DEVICE LIMITS BY LOCATION

Ashepoo River

Recreational Devices

- Eel Pots: 2
 - Set Hooks: 50
- Commercial Devices**
- Eel Pots: 75
 - Set Hooks: 50

Ashley River

Recreational Devices

- Eel Pots: 2
- Set Hooks: 50

Commercial Devices

- Eel Pots: 75
- Set Hooks: 50

Black Creek including Lakes Robinson & Prestwood

Darlington, Florence & Chesterfield counties.

Recreational Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 250 hooks maximum no more than 5 lines

Black River

Recreational Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps (only from Pea House landing downstream): 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps (only from Pea House landing downstream): 10
- Trotlines: 250 hooks maximum no more than 5 lines

Broad River

Recreational Devices

- 1 Seine upstream from SC State Highway 34 Bridge to the NC/SC state line only: 1
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 5
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Bush River

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1

Catawba River

From the Lake Wylie Dam to the Cedar Creek Dam including the in-stream reservoirs.

Recreational Devices

- Seines not allowed.
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Seines not allowed.
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Combahee River

Recreational Devices

- Eel Pots: 2
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Eel Pots: 75
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 250 hooks maximum no more than 5 lines

Congaree River

Recreational Devices

- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Hoop Nets: 10
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 10
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Cooper River

Berkeley & Charleston counties.

Recreational Devices

- Eel Pots (not allowed upstream from Wadboo Creek): 2
- Pump Nets: 1
- Set Hooks (not allowed upstream from Wadboo Creek): 50
- Skimbow Nets: 1

Commercial Devices

- Traps (not allowed upstream from Wadboo Creek): 2
- Trotlines (not allowed upstream from Wadboo Creek): 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Eel Pots (not allowed upstream from Wadboo Creek): 5

- Elver Fyke nets allowed on all tributaries and on the main branch from the saltwater/freshwater dividing line upstream to the CSX railroad trestle on the Tail Race Canal: 10

- Set Hooks (not allowed upstream from Wadboo Creek): 50

- Traps (not allowed upstream from Wadboo Creek): 25
- Trotlines (not allowed upstream from Wadboo Creek): 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Coosawhatchie River

Recreational Devices

- Set Hooks: 50

Commercial Devices

- Set Hooks: 50

Durbin Creek

Greenville & Laurens counties.

Recreational Devices

- Seines: 1

Edisto River

Including the North and South Forks.

Recreational Devices

- Eel Pots: 2
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Eel Pots: 75
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 250 hooks maximum no more than 5 lines

Enoree River

Recreational Devices

- Seine allowed from the Norfolk-Southern Railroad in Greenville County downstream to the confluence with the Broad River: 1
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Four Holes Lakes system

In Dorchester County which includes Bridge Lake, John's Hole Lake, Little Pond Lake, Mallard's Lake, Mims Lake, Mouth of Four Holes Lake, Rock's Lake, Shuler Lake, Steed's Lake and Woods Lake.

Recreational Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50

Commercial Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50

Great Pee Dee River

The waters from the US Interstate Highway 95 to the saltwater/freshwater dividing line including the navigable oxbows and sloughs and Bull Creek.

Recreational Devices

- Eel Pots downstream from US Highway 701 to the saltwater/freshwater dividing line: 2
- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Skimbow Nets: 1
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Eel Pots downstream from US Highway 701 to the saltwater/freshwater dividing line: 75
- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 50
- Trotlines: 250 hooks maximum no more than 5 lines

Great Pee Dee River

The waters from US Interstate Highway 95 to the NC/SC State Line including the navigable oxbows and sloughs.

Recreational Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Hoop Nets: upstream from SC Highway 34 to the NC/SC State Line: 50
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 50
- Trotlines: 250 hooks maximum no more than 5 lines

Jefferies Creek

Florence County.

Recreational Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 250 hooks maximum no more than 5 lines

Lake Greenwood

Recreational Devices

- Jugs: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Traps: 5
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Lake Hartwell

Recreational Devices

- Jugs: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Jugs: 50
- Traps: 5
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Lake Keowee

Recreational Devices

- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Traps: 5
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Lakes Marion and Moultrie and the upper reach of the Santee River

Recreational Devices

- Traps: 2
- Trotlines (hooks must have a gap or clearance between point and shank no greater than 7/16"): 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Traps: 25
- Trotlines (hooks must have a gap or clearance between point and shank no greater than 7/16"): 3 lines with not more than 400 hooks on each line

Lake Murray

Recreational Devices

- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Traps: 5
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Lake Russell

Recreational Devices

- Jugs: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Traps: 5
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Lake Secession

Recreational Devices

- Jugs: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Traps: 5
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Lake Thurmond and Stevens Creek Reservoir

Recreational Devices

- Jugs: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Traps: 5
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Lake Wateree

Recreational Devices

- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Traps: 5
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Lake Wylie

Recreational Devices

- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Traps: 5
- Trotlines: 150 hooks maximum no more than 3 lines

Little Pee Dee River

Including Russ's Creek and other navigable oxbows and sloughs.

Recreational Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 250 hooks maximum no more than 5 lines

Little River

From Mars Bridge in McCormick County up to the confluence of Barkers Creek (Long Branch) and Corner Creek in Anderson County.

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1

Log Creek

Edgefield County.

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1

Long Cane Creek

McCormick County from above Patterson Bridge on SC Highway S-33-117 upstream to the SC Highway S-1-75 in Abbeville County.

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1

Louther's Lake

Darlington County.

Recreational Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame gill nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50

Commercial Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame gill nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50

Lumber River

Recreational Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame gill nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame gill nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 5 lines with 250 hooks maximum

Lynches River

Includes Clarks Creek, Mill Creek and Muddy Creek.

Recreational Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 5 lines with 250 hooks maximum

Mulberry Creek

Greenwood County.

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1

New River

Recreational Devices

- Set Hooks: 50

Commercial Devices

- Set Hooks: 50

NONGAME DEVICE LIMITS BY LOCATION



Pacolet River

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 3 lines with 150 hooks maximum

Rabon Creek

Laurens County.

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1

Reedy River

Recreational Devices

- Seine from the Norfolk-Southern Railroad in Greenville County downstream to the backwaters of Lake Greenwood: 1
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 3 lines with 150 hooks maximum

Rocky River

Anderson County.

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1

Salkehatchie River

Recreational Devices

- Set Hooks: 50

Commercial Devices

- Set Hooks: 50

Saluda River

From SC Highway 183 in Greenville County to the backwaters of Lake Greenwood and on the Middle Reach of the Saluda River.

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 3 lines with 150 hooks maximum

Saluda River, Lower Reach

Recreational Devices

- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Sampit River

Recreational Devices

- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Skimbow Nets: 1
- Traps: 2

Commercial Devices

- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 25

Santee River

From USGS gauging station 1715 about 2.4 miles below Santee Dam downstream to the saltwater/freshwater dividing line including the North and South Santee Rivers.

Recreational Devices

- Eel Pots: 2
- Skimbow Nets: 1
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Eel Pots: 75
- Traps: 50
- Trotlines: 5 lines with 250 hooks maximum

Savannah River

Lower reach to the saltwater/freshwater dividing line.

Recreational Devices

- Eel Pots: 2
- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Eel Pots: 75
- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Hoop Nets: 10
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 40
- Trotlines: 5 lines with 250 hooks maximum

Stevens Creek

From SC Highway S-19-53 upstream to the confluence of Hard Labor and Cuffytown Creeks.

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1

Thicketty Creek

Cherokee County.

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1

Tulifinny River

Recreational Devices

- Set Hooks: 50

Commercial Devices

- Set Hooks: 50

Turkey Creek

Edgefield and Greenwood counties.

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1

Tyger River

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 3 lines with 150 hooks maximum

Waccamaw River

Recreational Devices

- Eel Pots downstream of the junction of Bull Creek to the saltwater/freshwater dividing line: 2
- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Hoopnet: 1 per person; must be 65 years old or older
- Set Hooks: 50
- Skimbow Net: 1
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum

Commercial Devices

- Eel Pots downstream of the junction of Bull Creek to the saltwater/freshwater dividing line: 2
- Gill Nets: nongame nets in season
- Set Hooks: 50
- Trotlines: 5 lines with 250 hooks maximum

Warrior Creek

Laurens County.

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1

Wateree River

Recreational Devices

- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 2
- Trotlines: 1 line with 50 hooks maximum
- Hoop Nets: 1 recreational net on the Wateree River, licensee 65 years and older

Commercial Devices

- Hoop Nets: 10
- Set Hooks: 50
- Traps: 40
- Trotlines: 3 lines with 150 hooks maximum

Wilson Creek

Greenwood County from the confluence of Wilson Creek and Ninety-Six Creek upstream to US Hwy 25/US Hwy 178 in Greenwood County.

Recreational Devices

- Seine: 1

SHAD & HERRING FISHING REGULATIONS

Applies to American and hickory shad and blueback herring only

Shad Gill Net

A gill net used for taking or attempting to take shad in the inshore saltwaters must have a stretched mesh size of no smaller than 5-1/2 inches and a length not exceeding 900 feet. A gill net used for shad in the freshwaters must have a stretched mesh size of no smaller than 5-1/2 inches and be no longer than 600 hundred feet. Gill nets for taking shad may be freely drift fished or set.

Herring Gill Net

A gill net used for taking or attempting to take herring in the salt waters of this State must have mesh size of 2-1/2 inches stretched and a length no greater than 900 hundred feet. Gill net used for taking or attempting to take herring in freshwaters must have a stretched mesh of 2-1/2 inches stretched and a length no greater than 600 hundred feet.

For more information on recreational or commercial blueback herring, American shad or hickory shad fishing requirements, contact the Office of Fisheries Management at 843-953-9311 or visit <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/shad>.

Recreational (unlawful to sell catch)

Limits

Shad

Ten shad per person per day except in Santee River and Rediversion Canal (where it is 20 per person per day)

Herring

One US bushel of herring per person per day. Herring Fishery closed in the Savannah River and in all rivers in the Winyah Bay River System (which means all waters of Winyah Bay east of a line running south from the southern tip of North Island to the eastern tip of Sand Island, and extending to the mouths of the Sampit, Great Pee Dee, and Waccamaw Rivers) except for the Great Pee Dee River.

Gear Type:

- It is unlawful to take American shad and herring using the following nongame fishing devices: archery equipment, crayfish trap, eel pot, elver fyke net, gig, hand grabbing, hoop net, jug fishing device, minnow seine, minnow trap, pump net, seine, set hook, spear, trap or trotline.

Hook and Line, Cast Nets or Skimbow Nets

- To take shad or herring for recreational purposes by hook and line, cast net (for bait), or skimbow net in freshwaters a person MUST have a recreational freshwater fishing license.

Shad Gill Net or Herring Gill Net

- To take shad or herring for recreational purposes using a shad or herring gill net, a person MUST have a recreational fishing license, gear license, and related permits.
- Only one shad or herring gill net may be fished by occupants of a boat, and if drifted, it must be attended at all times when deployed. Additional boats in tow may not be used to increase the number of authorized nets. Must adhere to legal commercial fishing areas and the recreational limit.

Recreational License Requirements

- If fishing recreationally in the freshwaters of the state, a person needs a recreational freshwater fishing license. If fishing recreationally in the saltwaters of the state, a person needs a recreational saltwater fishing license. If fishing in both fresh and saltwaters, a person MUST have both a recreational freshwater fishing license and a recreational saltwater fishing license.
- MUST have a shad gill net or herring gill net license (not the same as a gill net license).
- MUST have the required permit from the Office of Fisheries Management 843-953-0453.

Commercial (selling your catch)

Gear Type:

Cast Net

- To use a cast net to take herring for commercial purposes, a person MUST have a commercial license, a gear license, and related permits.

Shad Gill Net or Herring Gill Net

- To take shad or herring for commercial purposes using a shad or herring gill net, a person MUST have a commercial fishing license, gear license, and related permits.

Commercial License Requirements

- If fishing commercially in the freshwaters of the state, a person needs a commercial freshwater fishing license. If fishing commercially in the saltwaters of the state, a person needs a commercial saltwater fishing license. If fishing in both fresh and saltwaters, a person MUST have both a commercial freshwater fishing and a commercial saltwater fishing license.

- MUST have a shad gill net, herring gill net or herring cast net license (not the same as a gill net license).

- MUST have the required permit from the Office of Fisheries Management 843-953-0453.

American Shad



Blueback Herring



Hickory Shad



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BOATING

All Boats

In South Carolina, vessels may not be operated in excess of idle speed within 50 feet of an anchored vessel, wharf, pier, dock, or a person in the water. Vessels may not operate in excess of idle speed within 100 yards of the Atlantic coastline (Sec. 50-21-870).

Equipment

Personal Flotation

Devices (PFDs)

All boats must have a US Coast Guard approved wearable type PFD for each person on board or being towed. Each PFD must be in good condition, readily available and the proper size for the intended wearer. In addition, boats 16 feet in length or longer must carry a Type IV throwable device. In South Carolina, any person under twelve years of age must wear a US Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III, or V PFD when on board a class "A" (less than 16 ft. long) boat.

Fire Extinguisher

One Coast Guard approved hand-held portable fire extinguisher must be aboard each boat less than 26 feet if the boat is carrying passengers for hire or if the construction permits the entrapment of flammable vapors or if it has a permanently installed gas tank, including gas tanks that use any type of fastener that would hamper the immediate removal of the tank from the boat. Additional extinguishers are required in boats larger than 26 feet. Contact the SCDNR for complete regulations.

Navigation Lights

Navigation Lights must be on between official sunset and sunrise.

Flares

Flares are required for vessels in coastal waters.

Bells, Whistle

All boats less than 39.4 feet must carry an efficient sound producing device. Every vessel from 39.4 to 65.6 feet must carry a whistle and a bell.

Personal Watercraft

In South Carolina, each person on a personal watercraft must wear a US Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III or V PFD.

A personal watercraft may not be operated between sunset and sunrise and must be equipped with a self-circling or lanyard-type engine cutoff switch.

When operating a personal watercraft, one may not operate in a manner so as to leave the water completely while crossing (jumping) the wake of another vessel within 200 feet of the vessel creating the wake.

Marine Events

A permit is required for any marine event with more than 20 boats. For permits or information on these and other marine events, contact Marine Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422, 843-953-9302.

Minimum Age of Operators

In South Carolina, boat operators under age 16 must complete a boating course approved by the SCDNR to operate a boat or personal watercraft with a 15 h.p. motor or greater, unless accompanied by an adult age 18 years or older.

Reporting Boating Accidents

The operator of every vessel involved in a boating accident shall report to the SCDNR whenever the accident results in loss of life, loss of consciousness, medical treatment or disability in excess of 24 hours, or property damage. For more information, call 843-953-9302.

Restrictions

Airboats are prohibited on public waters of this state from the freshwater-saltwater dividing line seaward, and on that portion of Lake Marion and Santee Swamp west of the I-95 bridge upstream to the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree rivers during the season for hunting waterfowl.

Titling & Registration

Titling

The seller of a used watercraft or outboard motor in South Carolina must produce a South Carolina Certificate of Title in his/her name at the time of sale. Titles are valid until the watercraft or outboard motor is sold, traded or exchanged. A title with erasures, white out or information marked through is not valid. The owner must request a duplicate title. Titles are required for all sailboats, all outboard motors 5 horsepower and greater, and all other watercraft except: documented vessels, windsurfers, and those propelled by human power with oars, paddles or similar devices.

Registration

Watercraft propelled by any mechanized means must be registered in addition to being titled in the owner's name.

Stolen Watercraft/Outboard Motors

The owner of a watercraft or outboard motor which has been stolen should immediately contact local law enforcement to file a report, and then the SCDNR Marine Investigations at 803-734-3856 to receive a Theft Report form. Forms can also be found at www.dnr.sc.gov/boating in the Forms section.

Mailing Address

SCDNR Watercraft Section, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202-0167, or call 803-734-3857. M-F 8:30 AM-5:00 PM

For more information on boating, please refer to our Boating Handbook, visit www.dnr.sc.gov/education/boated.html or call 1-800-277-4301.

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

The bill of sale or title to any watercraft or outboard motor requires certification that personal property taxes have been paid by the named owner as of the date of sale. Selling a watercraft or outboard motor with taxes due is a violation of the law. An owner must notify the SCDNR Watercraft Section within 30 days of selling a watercraft or outboard motor. Remember, personal property tax assessments issued during 2016 are based on the owner of record as of Dec. 31, 2015. Check the status of watercraft and outboard motor titles at www.dnr.sc.gov/boating and select "SC Boat Facts" before you buy.

VESSEL SEWAGE REGULATIONS

It is Illegal:

- To have a toilet installed aboard your boat without a marine sanitation device.
- For any boat used for habitation moored at a private dock to discharge raw or treated sewage.
- For houseboats to discharge treated or raw sewage in freshwater.
- For any vessel to discharge treated or untreated sewage in a No Discharge Zone.

Designated No Discharge Zones

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Broad Creek
(Hilton Head Island) | • Lake Murray |
| • Lake Hartwell | • Lake Thurmond |
| • Lake Keowee | • Lake Wylie |

What Can You Do?

To prevent the possible dangers that sewage can cause to humans and the environment, boaters should: use portable toilets, utilize onshore or floating restrooms, and have a Marine Sanitation Device installed on board and use a pumpout at a local marina.

For more information about vessel sewage regulations, contact SC-CVA@dnr.sc.gov, or visit www.dnr.sc.gov/cleanvessel.



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GENERAL INFORMATION

General Information

The following laws pertain to recreational saltwater fishing, shrimping, crabbing and shellfishing. Individuals (age 16 and older) harvesting marine resources, including finfish, oysters, clams, shrimp and crab must purchase an annual, temporary or 3 Year Saltwater Recreational Fishing License - unless fishing on a licensed public fishing pier; fishing on a licensed charter/headboat vessel while under hire; using 3 or fewer drop nets, 3 or fewer fold up traps, or 3 or fewer handlines with no hooks and a single bait per line (chicken necking); or shrimp baiting (which requires a shrimp baiting license).

Fishing piers and chartered vessels charging a fee for fishing must purchase an annual

Public Fishing Pier or Charter/Headboat Vessel license, respectively. Applications for Public Fishing Pier and Charter Vessel Licenses are available from the SCDNR office in Charleston.

Any person engaged in selling any fish or fishery product, including bait harvested in SC state waters, must first obtain the appropriate license. Regulations concerning commercial saltwater fishing are provided with commercial licenses and are available through the Marine Resources Division at the address below.

As required by S.C. Code Section 8-29-10, applicants for a commercial license or permit are required to complete an affidavit entitled "Verification of Lawful Presence in the United States" certifying that the applicant is law-

fully in the United States. The affidavit MUST be completed, notarized and returned with the application.

For more information, contact: SCDNR Licensing, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422, 843-953-9301, <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/licensing.html>.

For federal fishery limits and regulations, contact: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405, 843-571-4366, www.safmc.net.

To learn about the projects and programs that received support from the Saltwater Recreational Fishing License Program this fiscal year, visit <http://saltwaterfishing.sc.gov>.

Saltwater Fishing Methods & Devices

For information on how to purchase a Saltwater Recreational Fishing License see page 8.

Bush Lines / Pole Lines

Permits/License

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required.

Restrictions

Recreational fisherman may not use more than ten bush or pole lines with single hooks or baits.

Hook & Line

Permits/License

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required. Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit required when fishing for tuna, billfish, swordfish, and sharks in federal waters. The same federal permit is also required for possession of these species in state waters, with the exception of sharks.

Restrictions

- It is unlawful to fish from a boat within 300 feet of commercial fishing piers extending into the Atlantic Ocean.
- Fishing from the shore in the waters under or within 50 feet on either side or beyond the end of any ocean fishing pier in Horry County is prohibited.

Gigging

(Gig, Spear, & Bow & Arrow)

Permits/Licenses

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required.

Restrictions

- It is unlawful to gig for flounder in salt waters during daylight hours. For the purposes of this section, gigging does not include underwater spear fishing.
- It is unlawful to gig for sharks.
- It is unlawful to gig red drum or spotted seatrout during Dec., Jan. and Feb.
- It is unlawful in Georgetown County to gig for fish in saltwaters from the northern tip of North Island to the northern tip of Magnolia Beach during daylight hours.

Cast Nets

(Other than Shrimp Baiting)

Permits/Licenses

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required.

Seines & Gill Nets

(Anchor, Set, Stake & Drift Nets)

Permits/Licenses

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License and Gill Net Equipment License required. For more information on equipment licenses call 843-953-9311.

Seasons

No closed season in saltwater (except shad and herring see page 43).

Restrictions

- SC gamefish (cobia, red drum, spotted seatrout, tarpon, and striped bass) may not be taken by nets. Sharks may not be taken by gill nets.
- No more than one lawful gill net can be used recreationally.
- Gill nets no longer than 100 feet with a 3-inch minimum stretched mesh size may be used only in unrestricted areas of the Atlantic Ocean. Gill nets no longer than 100 yards with 3-inch minimum stretched mesh size may be used only in special designated inshore areas.
- Gill nets must be marked with one end buoy that is international orange in color with the name and address of the owner. Operator must be within 500 feet of the net, be within hauling distance and have visual contact with the net at all times when deployed.
- Nets may not be set more than halfway across any waterway at any time.
- Stationary or fixed nets, including gill nets, may not be set or placed within 600 feet of a net previously set.
- It is unlawful to use any seine or gill net in any waters within a state park; except, small hand seines and cast nets for taking shrimp are allowed.

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Trotlines (Long Lines)

Permits/Licenses

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License and Trotline Equipment License required. For more information on equipment licenses call 843-953-9311.

Restrictions

- No more than two trotlines with a cumulative total of 50 hooks or baits can be used recreationally.
- Trotlines used in the inshore SC saltwaters must have at least one end buoy, international orange in color with the name and address of the owner.
- Trotlines used in the Atlantic Ocean must be marked with a buoy not less than 20 inches in diameter at each end, international orange in color, which floats in a manner to be clearly visible at all times.

Special Information

Special Management Zones

The following Artificial Reefs have been declared "Special Management Zones" and are protected by federal regulations: BP-25, Beaufort 45, Betsy Ross, Bill Perry, C.J. Davidson, Cape Romain, Capers, Charleston 60, Comanche, Eagles Nest, Edisto 40, Edisto 60, Edisto Offshore, Fripp Island, Georgetown, Greenville, Hilton Head, Hunting Island, Kiawah, Little

River Offshore, North Inlet, Paradise, Pawleys Island, Ten Mile, Vermilion, Wayne Upchurch, Will Goldfinch and Y-73. Fishing may be conducted only with handheld hook and line gear and spearfishing gear (excluding powerheads). The use of fish traps, longlines, gill nets and trawls is prohibited. Powerheads (bangsticks) are prohibited except for safety purposes. It is unlawful to possess, land or sell any species of fish taken with a bangstick (reef and non-reef areas). The harvest and possession of snapper grouper and coastal migratory pelagic species by commercial and recreational fishermen will be limited to the recreational bag limit within the Special Management Zones.

Unlawful to Sell Gamefish & Billfish

The following species have been declared gamefish and native caught fish may not be sold: cobia, red drum (channel bass), spotted seatrout, striped bass and tarpon. The purchase, barter, trade, or sale of billfish, including marlin, sailfish and spearfish, is unlawful regardless of where taken or landed.

Prohibited Practices

- Harvest of red drum from federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) is prohibited.
- The use of dynamite, gun powder, lime or any other explosive in or about any waters of this state is unlawful.
- It is unlawful to take, have in one's possession or to land or sell any species of fish taken by means of a bangstick or similar device.

The commercial sale of diamondback terrapins is prohibited.

Harvest and possession of horseshoe crabs is prohibited without a commercial permit. A permit is not required to possess a castoff or molted shell of a horseshoe crab.

It is unlawful to sell or offer for sale any sea turtles or to offer for sale, sell or destroy any sea turtle eggs. Sea turtles are protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act.

It is unlawful to display, feed, net, trap, harpoon, molest or otherwise interfere with the well-being or normal activity of marine mammals of the orders Cetacea, Sirenia and Pinnipedia, including but not limited to bottlenose dolphin, spotted dolphin, common dolphin, manatee, porpoise, harbor seal and any species of whale in any waters of the state. Marine mammals are also protected by federal law.

It is unlawful to buy, sell, possess or ship Shortnose Sturgeon and Atlantic Sturgeon.

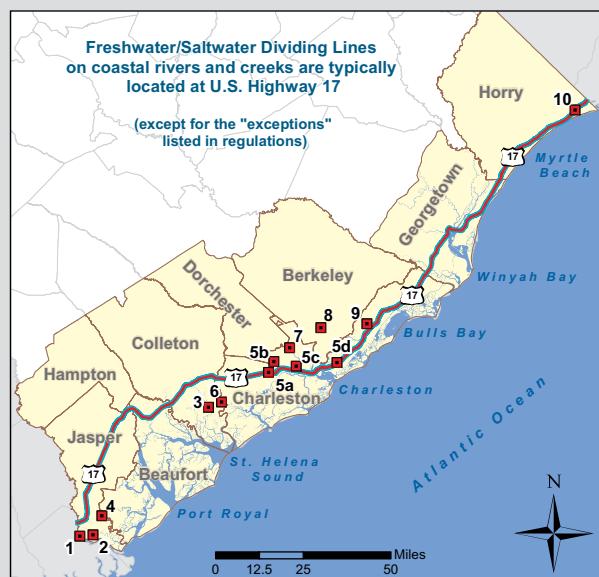
Marine Protected Areas (MPA's)

Four MPA's (Snowy Grouper Wreck, Northern SC, Edisto, and Charleston Deep Artificial Reef) are located off of the SC coast. Fishing or possession (unless gear is appropriately stored) of snapper grouper species and shark bottom longline gear is prohibited in these areas. For locations and more details on these MPAs, please visit www.safmc.net or call 843-571-4366.

FRESHWATER/SALTWATER DIVIDING LINE

The dividing line between saltwater and freshwater on the rivers listed is defined in this section. All waters of the rivers and their tributaries, streams and estuaries lying seaward of the dividing lines are considered saltwaters, and all waters lying landward or upstream from all dividing lines are considered freshwaters for purposes of licensing and regulating commercial and recreational fishing. Except as otherwise provided below, the saltwater/freshwater dividing line is US Highway 17:

- On Savannah River the dividing line is the abandoned Seaboard Railroad track bed located approximately one and three-fourths miles upstream from the US Highway 17A bridge.
- Wright River is salt water for its entire length.
- On Ashepoo River the dividing line is the old Seaboard Railroad track bed.
- On New River the dividing line is at Cook's Landing.
- Wallace River (5a), Rantowles Creek (5b), Long Branch Creek (5c), and Shem Creek (5d) are saltwater for their entire lengths.
- On Edisto River the dividing line is the abandoned Seaboard Railroad track bed near Matthews Canal Cut.
- On Ashley River the dividing line is the confluence of Popper Dam Creek directly across from Magnolia Gardens.
- On Cooper River the dividing line is the seaward shoreline of Old Back River at the confluence of Old Back River downstream from Bushy Park Reservoir.
- Wando River is saltwater for its entire length.
- On the Intracoastal Waterway in Horry County the dividing line is the bridge across the Intracoastal Waterway at the intersection of S.C. Highway 9 and US Highway 17.



For more information visit:
www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/dividingline

SIZE & CATCH LIMITS

TL=Total Length, FL=Fork Length; See page 54 for information on how to measure a fish.

AIW=Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; State Waters extend from the saltwater-freshwater dividing line to the 3-mile limit. Federal Waters extend from the 3-mile limit to 200 miles offshore (international waters).

Up to date fishing regulations can be found on the SCDNR website at <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/regs/saltwaterfish.html>.

All species in this section must be landed with head and tail intact.

SOUTH CAROLINA FINFISH: INSHORE & OFFSHORE

SPECIES	CLOSED SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
INSHORE FINFISH				
American Shad	No closed season for recreational hook & line harvest; For all other gears, seasons as for commercial harvest.	10 shad per person per day except in Santee River and Rediversion Canal (20 per person per day)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See page 43 for licensing, permitting, and gear requirements.
Herring	See page 36 for closed areas.	1 US bushel of herring per person per day		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See page 43 for licensing, permitting, and gear requirements.
Black Drum		5 per person per day	14-inch to 27-inch TL	
Bluefish		15 per person per day		
Flounders (Southern, Summer & Gulf)		10 per person per day not to exceed 20 per boat per day	15-inch TL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bag limits apply to hook and line or gig.
Red Drum	May not be harvested by gig Dec. - Feb.	3 per person per day (state waters) 0 per person per day (federal waters)	15-inch to 23-inch TL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May only be taken by rod & reel and gig. May not be harvested from federal waters.
Saltwater Catfishes (Hard-head & gafftopsail catfishes)	Possession prohibited	Possession prohibited		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If caught must be released immediately.
Sheepshead		10 per person per day not to exceed 30 per boat per day	14-inch TL	
Spotted Seatrout	May not be harvested by gig Dec. - Feb.	10 per person per day	14-inch TL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May only be taken by rod & reel and gig.
Striped Bass	Possession prohibited: June 1 – Sept. 30 except in lower reach of the Savannah River (2 per person per day year round; see page 30 for details.)	Possession prohibited: June 1 – Sept. 30; 3 fish per person per day: Oct. 1 – May 31 except in lower reach of the Savannah River (2 per person per day year round; see page 30 for details.)	26 inch TL except in lower reach of the Savannah River (27 inch TL; see page 30 for details.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May only be taken by rod & reel.
Hybrid Bass, White Bass, & Combinations		In lower reach of the Savannah River: 2 per person per day All other saltwaters: no bag limit	In the lower reach of the Savannah River: 27 inch TL All other saltwaters: no size limit	
Tarpon		1 per person per day	77-inch FL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May only be taken by rod & reel.
Tripletail	No associated regulations			
Weakfish		1 per person per day	12-inch TL	
Atlantic Croaker, Spot, Whiting		50 per person per day aggregate bag limit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bag limit applies to hook and line only.

An operator or crew member onboard a for-hire or commercial vessel must have a valid Operator Card when underway fishing for Dolphin/Wahoo. These species are also managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) in federal waters. Regulations may change. Please contact the SAFMC at 843-571-4366 or www.safmc.net to get the most up to date regulations on these species.

The harvest and possession of coastal migratory pelagic species by commercial and recreational fishermen will be limited to the recreational bag limit within the Special Management Zones. See "Special Information" (page 47) for information on SMZs.

SOUTH CAROLINA FINFISH: INSHORE & OFFSHORE

SPECIES	CLOSED SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
OFFSHORE FINFISH				
Cobia	May 1 to May 31 in state waters south of 032° 31.0 N latitude (Jeremy Inlet, Edisto Island) In federal and all other state waters, closed when Annual Catch Limit (ACL) is met	1 per person per day and no more than 3 per boat per day (In state waters south of 032° 31.0 N latitude (Jeremy Inlet, Edisto Island) 2 per person per day (Federal waters and all other SC state waters)	33-inch FL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For-hire vessels must have a Coastal Migratory Pelagics permit to fish for this species in federal waters. In state waters may only be taken by rod & reel and gig.
Dolphin		10 per person per day not to exceed 60 per boat per day. Headboats have no boat limit	20-inch FL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For-hire vessels must have a Dolphin Wahoo permit to fish for this species in federal waters. Sale of recreational catch is prohibited.
King Mackerel		3 per person per day	24-inch FL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For-hire vessels must have a Coastal Migratory Pelagics permit to fish for this species in federal waters.
Spanish Mackerel		15 per person per day	12-inch FL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For-hire vessels must have a Coastal Migratory Pelagics permit to fish for this species in federal waters.
Wahoo		2 per person per day		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For-hire vessels must have a Dolphin Wahoo permit to fish for this species in federal waters. Sale of recreational catch is prohibited.



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SIZE & CATCH LIMITS**SOUTH CAROLINA****SNAPPER GROUPER COMPLEX**

Many of these species are managed under annual catch limits. Seasons may be closed when catch limits are met. Visit <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov> for the latest information on the status of annual catch limits.

These species are also managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) in federal waters. Regulations may change. Please contact the SAFMC at 843-571-4366 or www.safmc.net to get the most up to date regulations on these species.

Possession of a dehooking device is required when fishing for snapper grouper species. Non-stainless circle hooks are required when fishing with natural baits for snapper grouper species.

Sale of snapper grouper under the recreational bag limit is prohibited. For-hire vessels must have a Snapper Grouper permit to fish for these species in federal waters.

The harvest and possession of snapper grouper species by commercial and recreational fishermen will be limited to the recreational bag limit within the Special Management Zones. See "Special Information" (page 47) for information on SMZs.

SPECIES	CLOSED SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
Greater Amberjack		1 per person per day	28-inch FL	• In April, for-hire vessels are limited to 1 per person/day or 1 per person/trip.
Hogfish			12-inch FL	
Spadefish		No more than 20 per person per day in aggregate with snapper grouper complex species		
Wreckfish	Closed: Jan. 1 – June 30 and Sept. 1 – Dec. 31	1 per vessel per day		
SEABASS				
Black Seabass	In federal waters, closed when Annual Catch Limit (ACL) is met	7 per person per day	13-inch TL	
PORGIES AND SNAPPERS				
Red Porgy		3 per person per day	14-inch TL	
Vermilion Snapper	Open year round	5 per person per day; excluded from 10 snapper per person per day limit	12-inch TL	
Red Snapper	Possession prohibited	Possession prohibited		
Lane Snapper			8-inch TL	
Black, Blackfin, Cubera, Dog, Yellowtail, Gray, Mahogany, Schoolmaster			12-inch TL	
Silk and Queen Snapper		10 per person per day from this group	12-inch TL	
Mutton Snapper			16-inch TL	
GROUPER AND TILEFISH				
Gag & Black Grouper	Closed: Jan. 1 - Apr. 30	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit; Maximum of 1 gag or black grouper (but not both) per person/day	24-inch TL	
Scamp, Red, Yellowfin, & Yellowmouth Groupers	Closed: Jan. 1 - Apr. 30	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit	20-inch TL	
Golden Tilefish, Blue-line Tilefish, and Sand Tilefish	Blueline Tilefish closed Sept. – Apr.	Included in 3 grouper bag limit; Blueline tilefish - 3 per person per day (May-August only); Golden tilefish – 1 fish per person per day		
Misty & Yellowedge Grouper		Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit		
Coney, Graysby, Red Hind & Rock Hind	Closed: Jan. 1 - Apr. 30	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit		

SPECIES	CLOSED SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
Snowy Grouper	Sept. – Apr.	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit; Only 1 fish per VESSEL per day (May - August only)		
Warsaw and Speckled Hind	Possession prohibited	Possession prohibited		
Nassau & Goliath Grouper	Possession prohibited	Possession prohibited		• If caught must be released by cutting the line and not removing the fish from the water.
ALL OTHER SNAPPER GROUPER COMPLEX SPECIES				
Including but not limited to: Lesser Amberjack; Cottonwick; White Grunt; Scup; Almaco & Bar Jacks; Margate; Whitebone, Knobbed, Jolthead, Saucereye & Longspine Porgies; Banded Rudderfish; Sailors Choice; Bank Seabass; Rock Seabass; Ocean Triggerfish		20 per person per day aggregate bag limit		• Bluerunners and Tomtates are excluded from the bag limit.
Gray Triggerfish		Included in 20 per person per day aggregate bag limit	12-inch FL	

Recreational saltwater anglers are excited about the enhancement of South Carolina's Marine Habitat... That's no accident!

CCA South Carolina & Building Conservation Trust are grass-roots, non-profit marine conservation organizations working to protect and improve the state's marine resources and the coastal habitat interests of recreational saltwater anglers.



CCA North Inlet Reef 65' Trawler
33 20.521' N - 079 00.845' W

By joining CCA South Carolina you will become part of the largest, most effective and respected voice of proper stewardship of the Palmetto state's fisheries. Your membership matters for the continuance of our coastal traditions that make our state one of such envy!

A Natural Partnership



SIZE & CATCH LIMITS**SOUTH CAROLINA
BILLFISH & ATLANTIC TUNAS**

Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit required to fish for these species. All billfish to be released may not be removed from the water. All recreationally caught Atlantic billfish landed must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours of landing at the dock. Anglers can report by calling 1-800-894-5528 or by visiting <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/>. Recreationally caught billfish may not be sold.

SPECIES	CLOSED SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
BILLFISH				
Blue Marlin			99-inch FL from lower jaw	• May only be taken by rod & reel.
White Marlin			66-inch FL from lower jaw	• May only be taken by rod & reel.
Sailfish			63-inch FL from lower jaw	• May only be taken by rod & reel.
Swordfish		1 per person per day not to exceed 4 per vessel per trip	47-inch FL from lower jaw	• May only be taken by rod & reel and handlines. Handlines must be attached to, or remain in contact with, the vessel at all times. • See https://hmspermits.noaa.gov for for-hire vessel bag limits.
Spearfish (longbill and roundscale)	Possession prohibited	Possession prohibited		• If caught fish must be released immediately.

ATLANTIC TUNAS

Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit required to fish for these species except for the Other Tunas. Check current federal regulations by calling 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888-872-8862) or checking <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/>.

Albacore, Skipjack	No associated regulations.			
Bigeye Tuna			27-inch curved FL	
Bluefin Tuna		1 per vessel per day per trip	27-inch to 73-inch curved FL	• See https://hmspermits.noaa.gov for for-hire vessel bag and size limits. • All recreationally caught Atlantic billfish and Bluefin tuna landed must be reported to NMFS within 24 hours of landing at the dock.
Yellowfin Tuna		3 per person per day per trip	27-inch curved FL	
Other tunas: Blackfin, Bonita, and Little tunny	No associated regulations.			

**SOUTH CAROLINA
SHARKS**

Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit required in federal waters. All sharks must be landed with fins, head and tail naturally attached. Recreational anglers may only catch sharks using a rod & reel or handline. All other gears prohibited. Check current federal regulations and find a shark identification guide by visiting <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/regulations/index.html>.

SPECIES	CLOSED SEASON	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
Dogfish (spiny & smooth)		No associated regulations.		
Atlantic Sharpnose		1 per person per day		
Bonnethead		1 per person per day		
Blacknose, Blacktip, Blue, Bull, Finetooth, Lemon, Shortfin Mako, Nurse, Porbeagle, Spinner, Thresher, Tiger and Oceanic Whitetip Sharks		1 shark per vessel per day from this group	54-inch FL	
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead and Smooth Hammerhead Sharks		1 shark per vessel per day from this group	78-inch FL	
Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bignose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Caribbean Reef, Sandbar, Sevengill, Caribbean Sharpnose, Silky, Big-eye Sixgill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Bigeye Thresher, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Sand Tiger, Whale and White Sharks	Possession prohibited	Possession prohibited		• If caught, sharks from this group must be released immediately.

SOUTH CAROLINA
CRUSTACEANS & SHELLFISH REGULATIONS

SPECIES	CLOSED SEASON	POSSESSION & SIZE LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
CRAB, LOBSTER AND SHELLFISH			
Blue Crabs		Size Limit: 5-inch minimum carapace width (point to point)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Females with egg mass (sponge) must be returned to water unharmed immediately.
Stone Crabs		Size Limit: Claws must be 2 3/4-inch minimum forearm (propodus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only crabs with 2 claws can have one removed. Only the larger of the 2 claws may be kept. No claw may be removed from a female with egg mass. It is unlawful to possess any stone crab body live or dead.
Spiny Lobster		Possession Limit: 2 per person per day Size Limit: 3-inch minimum carapace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of tail at sea prohibited. No harvest of berried females. No explosives, poisons, spears, or piercing devices other than fishing hooks are allowed.
Oysters	Typically closed May 16 – Sept. 30; may be shortened or extended by the SCDNR. Call 843-953-9300 for season dates.	Possession Limit: 2 US bushels per person per day from public or state shellfish grounds; No boat, vehicle, or boat/vehicle combination may contain more than 3 personal limits regardless of the number of people on the boat or in the vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A person may recreationally harvest shellfish (oysters and/or clams) no more than 2 days per 7 day period.
Clams	Typically closed May 16 – Sept. 30; may be shortened or extended by the SCDNR. Call 843-953-9300 for season dates.	Possession Limit: 1/2 US bushel per person per day from public or state shellfish grounds; No boat, vehicle, or boat/vehicle combination may contain more than 3 personal limits regardless of the number of people on the boat or in the vehicle. Size Limit: 1-inch minimum thickness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A person may recreationally harvest shellfish (oysters and/or clams) no more than 2 days per 7 day period.
SHRIMP			
Taking Shrimp Without Bait	Closed: Dec. 16 - Apr. 30	48 quarts whole or 29 quarts headed per day (sunrise to sunrise) per boat, per person if no boat is used, or per seining party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 dozen dead or live shrimp allowed per boat during closed season. See Crustacean and Shellfish Methods and Devices for Shrimp Seine Gear Restrictions (see above).
Shrimp Baiting	2017 Shrimp baiting season Sept. 8 (Noon) - Nov. 7 (Noon)	48 quarts whole or 29 quarts headed per day (sunrise to sunrise) per set of poles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants must have a shrimp baiting license. License holders, while shrimping from a boat, may be assisted by a resident who is not required to have a shrimp baiting license. Shrimp caught over bait cannot be sold. No more than 10 poles can be used per license per day. Poles must be marked with reflective tape and may not exceed 1-inch in diameter and each pole must have a numbered tag attached which corresponds with the shrimp baiting license. No more than 10 poles can be used per boat. All poles of a licensed set must be within 100 linear yards of each other and sets of poles must be at least 25 yards apart. Poles may not be set within 50 yards of any dock, public landing or boat ramp. Unattended poles will be confiscated. Owners of private docks or persons with written permission may bait from those docks once properly licensed and with numbered tag displayed. Shrimp pots or traps are prohibited. Cast nets used for taking shrimp over bait must have a minimum mesh size of 1/2-inch square (1-inch stretch). Individuals who may NOT obtain a shrimp baiting license are: 1) owners or officers of a corporation which owns a vessel specified on a trawl license; 2) masters of a vessel specified on a trawl license; 3) licensed to use a channel net; 4) licensed to use a cast net for a commercial purpose; 5) licensed as a wholesale seafood dealer.

SEASONS & LIMITS

Crustacean & Shellfish Methods & Devices

When fishing for crustaceans or shellfish, a Saltwater Recreational Fishing License is required — unless you are using 3 or fewer drop nets, 3 or fewer fold up traps, or 3 or fewer handlines with no hooks and a single bait per line (chicken necking); or shrimp baiting (which requires a shrimp baiting license).

Crab Pots

Permits/Licenses

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required.

Restrictions

- Licensee can fish no more than two pots recreationally. A Commercial Saltwater Fishing License, Vessel Decal, and Gear license are required for over two pots.
- If unattended each pot float must bear the name and address or license number of owner.
- No crab pot shall be left unattended in coastal waters more than 5 days.
- No crab trap or pot may be set within 200 yards of a public boat landing or launching area or set so as to be left dry at low tide.
- A float attached to a crab pot or trap must be made of solid, buoyant material which does not sink upon being punctured or cracked. The floats must be constructed of plastic, PVC Sponges, plastic foam, or cork. The primary float for a recreational pot or trap must be yellow in color and at least ten inches in length if rectangular, cylindrical, or conical and at least five inches in diameter or width. Round or spherical floats must be at least six inches in diameter. Buoy lines for crab pots must be made of nonfloating material.

Shellfish

(Oysters, Clams, Mussels, Whelks, and other Mollusks)

Permits/Licenses

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required.

Season

Typically open Oct. 1 through May 15 (1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.) Call 843-953-9300 for season dates.

Restrictions

- Shellfish may be harvested recreationally from State shellfish grounds and Public shellfish grounds. Public and State shellfish grounds are marked with signs. Recreational harvesting is allowed on culture permit grounds (formerly leases), but only when the harvester has in possession writ-

ten permission from the culture permit holder. License must be in possession while harvesting.

Maps of areas where shellfish may be gathered in season for recreation may be found on the web at www.dnr.sc.gov, by calling 843-953-9854 or by writing Marine Resources at PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422.

Shrimp Seines

Permits/Licenses

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required.

Restrictions

- Maximum length of shrimp seine 40 feet, maximum depth 6 feet, minimum mesh size, 1/2 inch square (1 inch stretch), maximum mesh size 7/8 inch square (1.75 inch stretch).
- Tail bags or pockets are not allowed on seines when pulled by hand.
- Staked seines are considered commercial channel net devices; allowances and restrictions are provided with the purchase of a commercial license.

Trawling

Permits/Licenses

Commercial Saltwater Fishing License, Vessel Decal and Gear license required.

Restrictions

- Trawling for personal use is restricted to the same license requirements, areas and seasons as commercial trawling. This information is provided with the license.

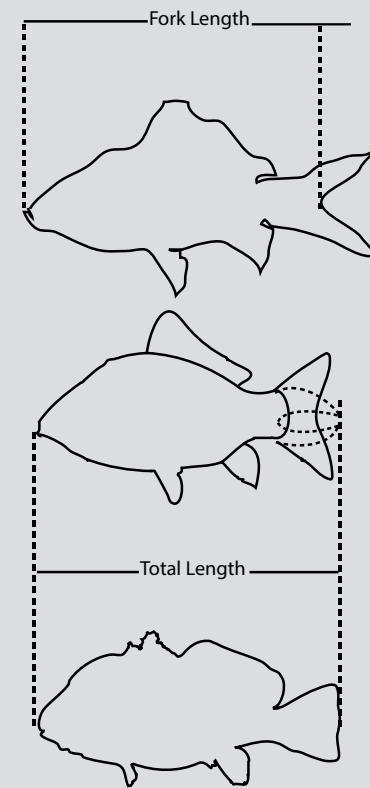
Shell Recycling

Oyster shells are collected throughout the coastal area and reused for maintenance of public grounds. Call 843-953-9300 for shell drop-off site locations, or visit www.saltwaterfishing.sc.gov/oyster.html for detailed maps of locations.

MEASURING A FISH

How to Properly Measure a Saltwater Fish

TL=total length measure: From the closed mouth (snout) to the tip of the tail fin when pinched together. It is a straight line measure, not over the curvature of the body. FL=fork length measure: From the tip of the closed mouth (snout) to the center of the fork of the tail. It is a straight line measure, not over the curvature of the body.



GUIDELINES FOR SEA TURTLE PROTECTION

If you hook or entangle a sea turtle while fishing, contact South Carolina DNR Hotline: 1-800-922-5431.

- Keep hands away from turtle's mouth and flippers.
- Do not lift the turtle by the hook or by pulling on the line.
- Safely land the turtle using a net or by walking it to shore.
- Leave the hook in place with one foot of line, as removing it can cause more damage.
- Keep the turtle out of direct sunlight and cover with damp towel.
- Use non-stainless, barbless hooks when possible.

If circumstances don't permit you to hold the animal and contact DNR, cut the line as short as possible and release the turtle.