

Regulations

Methods and Devices

- Game fish may be caught with only hook and line, fly rod, casting rod, pole and line or hand line. Not more than 2 of these devices may be used by any fisherman at the same time, except when fishing in a boat. An unlimited number of lawful fishing devices may be used if every boat occupant (who would normally be required to have a fishing license) possesses a valid fishing license.
- Bows and arrows for taking nongame fish only and cast nets for catching nongame bait fish may be in possession while fishing for game fish. Possession of cast nets is prohibited in Game Zone 1 except on Lake Keowee, Hartwell and Twelve Mile Creek.
- Game fish may be used as bait to catch fish but must be included in daily bag limit.

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

- All watercraft and fishing are prohibited Nov. 1 through Feb. 28 on Cantey Bay, Black Bottom and Savannah Branch in Lake Marion.

- Portions of Howard, Corbin and Devil's Fork Creeks in Oconee County are closed to fishing from Nov. 1--Mar. 30, and a portion of Thompson River in Oconee County is closed to fishing from Nov. 1--Mar. 30. Closed sections will be marked with signs.
- Hatchery WMA on Lake Moultrie is closed to fishing each Sat. until 12:00 noon and all day the last Sat. of the waterfowl season.

Prohibited Practices

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

Selling and Importing

- No freshwater game fish may be sold in this state except: 1) DNR permitted aquaculturist. 2) DNR wholesale aquaculture license. 3) DNR aquaculture game fish retail license. 4) Private pond owner selling less than \$2,500 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.

Game Fish	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Special limits and regulations apply to DNR managed lakes. See chart on page 15. • Check with State Parks, City Reservoirs or County Parks for special limits and regulations that apply to those areas. 	
Species	Blue Catfish
Limit	No more than one blue catfish over 36-inches can be taken from Lakes Marion and Moultrie per person in one day.
Species	Black Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Redeye & Spotted)
Limit	10 fish combined total per day, except Slade's Lake, total of not more than 2 largemouth bass per day and not more than 15 fish combined total per day. It is illegal to harvest largemouth bass in Lake Wallace, Marlboro County. 12-inch minimum for largemouth bass on Slade's Lake, Lakes Wylie, Marion, Moultrie, and the Georgia waters of the Savannah River and all its reservoirs.
Species	Striped Bass and/or Hybrids
Limit	10 fish per day
Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Saluda River from Lake Greenwood Dam downstream to the Lake Murray Dam - 5 fish per day and 21-inch minimum size limit. In Lake Murray during July and August, two of the five striped bass creel limit may be less than 21 inches. • The Lower Santee River System and the Cooper River system - From June 1 through September 30 no possession of striped bass. From October 1 through May 31 three (3) fish per day and 26-inch minimum size. All stripers must be landed with the head and tailfin intact. The 'Lower Santee River System' includes all waters and tributaries seaward of the Lake Murray Dam, the Columbia Canal Diversion Dam, and the Lake Wateree Dam to the freshwater/saltwater dividing line on the North Santee River and the South Santee River. This includes Lakes Marion and Moultrie, and the Diversion and Re-division Canals. The Cooper River system includes all waters and tributaries, including the Tailrace Canal, of the Cooper River from its point of origin seaward to the freshwater/saltwater dividing line. • In the Savannah River and its tributaries and distributaries and the lands immediately adjacent to them from the J. Strom Thurmond Lake dam downstream to the mouth of the Savannah River. Defined by a line from Jones Island, S.C. (also known as Oysterbed Island) point at N. 32° 02' W. 80° 53"; across Cockspur Island, Georgia, point at N.32° 01' W.80° 52" to Lazaretto Creek, Georgia, point at 32° 01' W.80° 52". Unlawful to possess more than 2 striped bass, striped bass hybrids, white bass, or any combination of these species. Any lawfully possessed fish of each of these species must be a minimum of 27 inches.
Species	Cold Water Trout
Limit	10 fish per day, 10 in possession.
Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saluda River - not more than five trout may be taken in any one day from that portion of the lower Saluda River between the Lake Murray Dam and the confluence of the Broad River. • Chattooga River (SC Hwy 28 upstream to Reid Creek), and Cheohee Creek (SC Forestry Commission property) - 0 trout per day, 0 in possession (catch and release only) from Nov.1 through May 14. • Chattooga River (except SC Hwy 28 upstream to Reid Creek), Lakes Tugaloo, Yonah and Hartwell, Lake Hartwell Tailwater and Lake Russell - 8 trout per day, 8 in possession. • Whitewater River in Oconee County, Eastatoe River (Heritage Preserve lands) in Pickens County, Middle Saluda River (lower foot bridge at Jones Gap Park upstream to Hwy 276), and Matthews Creek (upstream of Caesar's Head State Park) in Greenville County - 7 trout per day, 7 in possession. • Middle Saluda River (Hugh Smith Road upstream to lower foot bridge at Jones Gap State Park) - 0 trout per day, 0 in possession (catch and release year round). • Lake Jocassee - 5 trout per day, 5 in possession. Size limit & exceptions: 15-inch minimum.
Bait/tackle restrictions	Artificial lures and bait can be used when fishing for trout.
Bait/tackle Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthews Creek (from lower boundary of Caesars Head State Park) and Middle Saluda River (Jones Gap State Park lower foot bridge to Hwy 276) in Greenville County, Eastatoe River (Heritage Preserve lands) in Pickens County and Whitewater River in Oconee County - Artificial lures only. • Lake Jocassee - It is unlawful to fish with corn, cheese, fish eggs or imitations of them as bait on Lake Jocassee. • Chattooga River from SC 28 upstream to Reid (Big) Creek and Cheohee Creek within the property boundary of Piedmont Forestry Center (as posted) between Nov. 1 and May 14. Only artificial lures with single hook may be used. • Middle Saluda River (Hugh Smith Rd. to the lower foot bridge at Jones Gap State Park), artificial lures with single hook (no treble hooks).
Seasons	Cold water trout can be fished for year-round unless stated otherwise.

Season Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Howard Creek (from Corbin Creek upstream to Limberpole Creek), Corbin Creek (from Howard Creek upstream to SC 130), and Devils Fork Creek in Oconee County are closed to fishing from Nov. 1 through Mar. 30. Chattooga River from SC 28 upstream to Reid (Big) Creek and Cheohee Creek within the property boundary of Piedmont Forestry Center (as posted). All cold-water trout caught between Nov. 1 and May 14 must be released and cannot be harvested. Middle Saluda River (catch and release area) open for fishing only on Mon., Wed., and Sat. during daylight hours with a special daily permit obtained on-site. Cheohee Creek (Forestry Center lands) open to fishing only on Mon., Wed., and Sat. from November 1 through May 14 and June 15 through June 22 of each year during daylight hours.
Species	Crappie, bream (including bluegill, flier, redbreast, warmouth, pumpkinseed and redear, longear and spotted sunfish), white bass, chain pickerel or jackfish, redfin pike, yellow perch, walleye and sauger
Limit	30 fish per day
Exceptions	Walleye and sauger - 8 fish per day on Lakes Tugaloo, Yonah, Hartwell, Russell, Thurmond and the Chattooga River. Crappie - 20 fish per day, 8 inch minimum size on Lake Murray.

Freshwater/Saltwater Dividing Line www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/dividingline.html

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 U.S. Hwy. 17:

- 1) On Savannah River the dividing line is the abandoned Seaboard Railroad track bed located approximately one and three-fourths miles upstream from the U.S. Hwy. 17A bridge.
- 2) Wright River is saltwater for its entire length.
- 3) On Ashepoo River the dividing line is the old Seaboard Railroad track bed.
- 4) On New River the dividing line is at Cook's Landing.

5) Wallace River, Rantowles Creek, Long Branch Creek, and Shem Creek are saltwater for their entire lengths.

6) On Edisto River the dividing line is the abandoned Seaboard Railroad track bed near Matthews Canal Cut.

7) On Ashley River the dividing line is the confluence of Popper Dam Creek directly across from Magnolia Gardens.

8) 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.

9) Wando River is saltwater for its entire length.

10) On the Intracoastal Waterway in Horry County the dividing line is the bridge across the Intracoastal Waterway at the intersection of S.C. Hwy. 9 and U.S. Hwy. 17.

SCDNR Managed State Lakes

Lake	County	Acres	Open Days*	Boat/Motor	Creel/Size Limits Catfish	Creel/Size Limits Bass	Creel/Size Limits Bream	Minnows Allowed	Boat Ramp	Fishing Pier	Handicap Access
Ashwood	Lee	75	All Days	7.5 H.P.	3	3	20	Yes	X	X	X
Bonneau Ferry WMA**	Berkeley	100	W, Sat, Sun*** Mar. 2 - Oct. 31	Electric Only	No Limit	2	10	Yes	X		
Edgar Brown	Barnwell	100	All Days	10 HP (Gas) North of Hospital Rd eastward. Any size south of Rd.	3	3 (16" minimum)	20	Yes	X	X	X
Cherokee	Cherokee	50	All Days	Electric Only	3	5	25	No	X	X	X
Dargans Pond	Darlington	50	W & Sat (Mar. 1 - Sept. 30)	Electric Only	3	3 (16" minimum) (2 bass may be under the size limit)	20	Yes	X	X	X
John D. Long	Union	80	All Days	Electric Only	3	3	20	No	X	X	X
Edwin Johnson	Spartanburg	40	All Days	Electric Only	3	3 (16" minimum)	20	No	X		
Jonesville	Union	35	M,W,Sat	Electric Only	3	3 (12" minimum)	20	No	X	X	X
Lancaster Resv.	Lancaster	62	Thur & Sat	Electric Only	3	2 (16" minimum)	20	No	X		
Mountain Lake 1	Chester	42	Tue, Thur, Sat, Sun	Electric Only	3	1 (16" minimum)	10 larger than 5". No limit on fish under 5", but state limits apply.	No	X		
Mountain Lake 2	Chester	10	Tue, Thur, Sat, Sun	Electric Only	3	1 (16" minimum)	10 larger than 5". No limit on fish under 5", but state limits apply.	No		X	X
Oak Grove	Greenville	18	W & Sat	Electric Only	3	3 (12" minimum)	20	No			
Oliphant	Chester	40	M,W,Sat	Electric Only	3	3 (14" minimum)	20	No	X	X	X
Star Fort Pond	Greenwood	27	W,Fri,Sat Apr. 1--Nov. 1	Electric Only	3	3 (12" minimum)	20	No		X	X
Thicketty	Cherokee	100	All Days	6 HP (Gas)	No Limit	10	25	Yes	X		
Paul Wallace	Marlboro	280	All Days	10 HP (Gas)	3	0 (No harvesting)	20	No	X	X	X
George Warren	Hampton	400	All Days	10 HP (Gas)	3	3	20	Yes	X	X	X
Webb Center**	Hampton	7&10	All Days***	Electric Only	No Limit	10	30	Yes			
Sunrise	Lancaster	25	M,W,Sat	Electric Only	3	2 (16" minimum)	20	No	X		
Draper WMA***	York	1, 2 & 5	Wed-Mon	No	3	3 (14" minimum)	15	No			

* The days each impoundment is open can change. Contact your nearest SCDNR office to determine the open days of an individual lake.

** Webb Center and Bonneau Ferry Lakes are closed on deer hunting days. Bonneau Ferry closed Saturdays in April until 11:00 AM.

*** Combined daily creel limits from all ponds. Adult/youth fishing only on Bonneau Ferry. Each youth must be accompanied by no more than two adults 18 years of age or older.

Nongame Freshwater Fishing

General Information

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 state fishing license (also applies to youth under 16), to use the following devices for recreational purposes: up to 3 trotlines with not more than 150 hooks, 3 to 50 set hooks, 3 to 50 jugs, up to 2 traps, 1 hoop net, 1 gill net no more than 200 yards in length or 5 gill nets, none of which exceed 30 yards in length, 1 skimbrow net, 1 seine, 1 minnow seine, or up to 2 eel pots.

This requirement applies to all freshwaters of the state inland of the salt-water-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 Areas & Limits Section on page 18.

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.

Game fish must be immediately released if caught by net or trap or any other device used for catching nongame fish.

Commercial Fishing

A commercial freshwater fishing license must be in possession to take catfish by any method from public waters and sell or offer for sale such catfish, and/or fish with the following nongame fishing devices: 2 or more gill nets (or 5 gill nets not more than 30 ft. in length), 2 or more hoop nets, 3 or more traps, trotlines with a combined total of 151 hooks or more, or 3 or more eel pots.

All persons involved in commercial catfish fishing must have a commercial freshwater fishing license if they participate in any way in the actual fishing operation. This includes, but is not limited to, operating a boat, baiting hooks, removing fish from lines, traps or nets. No more than one blue catfish over 36-inches can be taken from Lakes Marion and Moultrie in one day.

To qualify for a resident commercial freshwater fishing license, one must have been a resident of this state for the past 12 consecutive months and furnish proof to the SCDNR.

Shad/Herring

To take shad for recreational purposes by hook and line, cast net, or skim bow net in freshwaters a person must have a freshwater fishing license. For other allowances and restrictions, see page 23. Commercial fishing for shad and herring in freshwaters, including for sale as bait and by use of gill nets, is regulated under saltwater fisheries laws regardless of location within the state (Sec. 50-5-1500 and 50-5-1550). Contact the Charleston License office at 843-953-9301 for commercial and gill net information.

Markers and Identification

Trotlines, traps, eel pots and gill nets must be marked with a floating marker with a minimum capacity of one pint and a maximum capacity of one gallon or equivalent size and must be made of solid, buoyant material which does not sink if punctured or cracked. The floating markers must be constructed of plastic, PVC Spongex, plastic foam or cork. No hollow buoys or floats including plastic, metal or glass bottles or jugs may be used except manufactured buoys or floats specifically designed for use with nongame fishing devices; these may be hollow if constructed of heavy duty plastic material and approved by the SCDNR. The floating markers must be colored white when used the 1st through the 15th of the month and yellow when used the remainder of the month. The owner's name and address must be marked clearly on each floating marker.

Hoop Nets set on the Congaree River from the I-77 Bridge to the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree rivers must also be marked with the same floating markers as listed above.

Bait

No game fish, live bait or any bait other than bait listed below shall be used with trotlines, set hooks and jugs: soap, doughballs, cut fish (nongame fish

cut into at least three equal parts), shrimp, grapes or meat scraps (shall not include insects, worms and other invertebrates).

On the Edisto, Black, Sampit, Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lumber and Waccamaw rivers, live nongame fish and bream may be used with single-barbed set hooks and trotlines that have a shank-to-point gap of one and three-sixteenths inches or greater.

On the Black, Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lumber and Waccamaw rivers, live nongame fish and bream may be used on trotlines having not more than 20 hooks with a shank-to-point gap of one and three-sixteenths inches.

Game fish used as bait must be included in daily creel limit, 30 bream per day (see pg. 18).

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.

Prohibited Areas

No nongame fishing devices of any kind may be used in SCDNR-managed lakes (as listed on page 15), or waters within Game Zone 1, except in Lakes Hartwell and Keowee and Twelve-Mile Creek.

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.

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 and bows and arrows.

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 thereon. 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.

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.

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 DNR Office (see page 61 for locations), through the internet at www.dnr.sc.gov, 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 DNR 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.

Free Fishing Days June 12 & 13, 2010
(For residents only, as specified in Sect. 50-9-730.)

Nongame Freshwater Fishing Methods and Devices

Some devices are not permitted on certain waters. See Area & Limits on page 18 for devices and limits allowed in each area.

Set Hooks

Description A single hook and line attached to bushes, limbs, poles, sticks or similar structures.

Permits/Regulations A permit is required to fish 3 to 50 hooks (50 hook limit). *Persons 65 years or older or under age 16 are not required to purchase a Set Hook Permit, but a label with their name, address and age must be attached to each set hook. A fishing license is required. A permit is not required for 2 set hooks with a valid state fishing license.*

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.

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 3 to 50 jugs (50 jug limit). Licensee's name and address must be clearly marked on each jug. Jug fishing is legal only in Lakes Greenwood, Secession, Richard B. Russell, Thurmond, and Stevens Creek. *A permit is not required for 2 jugs with a valid state fishing license. A jug permit is not required for residents assisting jug permit holders.*

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.

Trotlines

Description 2 or more hooks attached to a line which is rigged horizontally and marked with a white or yellow floating marker (See Markers and Identification on page 16). 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.*

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.

Traps & Eel Pots

Description A device marked with a white or yellow floating marker (See Markers and Identification on page 16)

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 fresh waters of this state.

Hours/Seasons No closed season.

Trap Type 1 *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 *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 *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.*

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.

Permits/Regulations 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.

Gill Nets

Description Nets with a mesh size greater than 4 1/2 inches stretch mesh. The maximum length is 200 yards and no net, cable, line or other device used for support of the gill net can extend more than halfway across the stream or body of water. Nets must be marked with a white or yellow floating marker (See Markers and Identification).

Permits/Regulations Gill nets shall be placed on a first-come basis, and no net can be placed within 200 yards of another gill net.

Hours/Seasons The season for taking nongame fish other than shad and herring is Nov. 1 to Mar. 1 (where authorized) on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only. Fishing time begins at 12:01 am on Wednesday, and ends at midnight on Saturday.

Other Devices

Description Devices described in this section may be used in any body of fresh water including tributaries of rivers or creeks except in prohibited areas. A state fishing license is required (Lakes & Reservoir Permits are not valid). Tags are not required.

Bows and Arrows, Spears, Gigs & Cast Nets:

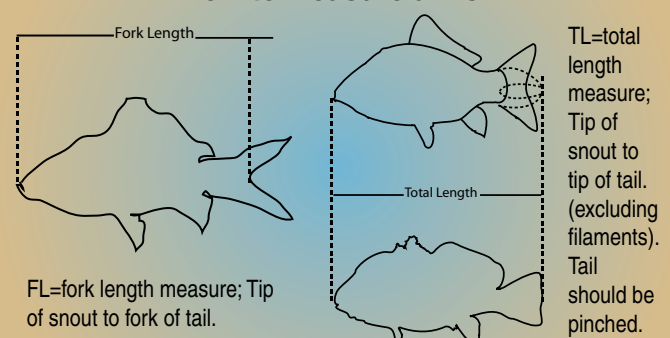
Skimbow Net A hand-operated dip net with the bow constructed of wood or metal with wire or textile netting with a mesh size not greater than 1 1/2 inches square. The bow shall not exceed 6 feet in any direction and may be used only from February through April 30 for shad or herring.

Minnow Seine Must not be greater than four feet in width 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.

Tires Must not exceed 20-inch rim. Rules and regulations of power companies may not allow for the placing of tires.

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.

How to Measure a Fish



Nongame Areas and Limits

*Described limits are the maximum number of nongame devices allowed per license holder.

Ashepool River:

Set hooks - 50
Eel pots - No limit

Ashley River:

Set hooks - 50
Eel pots - No limit

Big Pee Dee River - See Great Pee Dee River

Black Creek: Darlington, Florence & Chesterfield Counties:

(Lakes Robinson & Prestwood)

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Black River:

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Bridge Lake: Dorchester County:
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Broad River: Includes the waters from the North Carolina state line to the confluence of the Broad and Saluda rivers.

Traps - 5*

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Set hooks - 50

Seines-1 (from Hwy 34 bridge upstream)

Bull Creek: Horry & Georgetown Counties:

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Nongame gill nets in season

Eel pots - No limit

Traps - 50*

Buffalo Creek:

Seines-1

Bush River: Laurens County:

Seines-1

Catawba River: From Lake Wylie

Dam to the backwaters of Lake Wateree, including all reservoirs.

Traps - 2

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Set hooks - 50

Seines - 1 in York County only

Combahee River:

Set hooks - 50

Eel pots - No limit

Congaree River: From the Gervais Street Bridge in Columbia to the I-77 Bridge in Columbia.

Traps - 50*

Trotlines - 2000 hooks total*

Hoop nets - 50 w/commercial license.

Congaree River: From the I-77

Bridge to confluence of the Congaree and Wateree rivers.

Traps - 10 max. w/ commercial license.

Trotlines - 2000 hooks total*

Hoop nets - 10 w/commercial license. (see Markers & Identification)

Set hooks - 50

Cooper River: Traps, trotlines, set hooks and eel pots are not permitted upstream from Wadboo Creek.

Traps - 50*

Trotline - 150 hooks total

Fyke Nets - As allowed for eel fishing by regulation

Set hooks - 50

Eel pots - No limit

Pump nets - No limit

Coosawhatchie & Tullifinny Rivers:

Set hooks - 50

Durbin Creek:

Seines - 1

Edisto River:

Set hooks - 50

Eel pots-No limit

Enoree River:

Traps - 2

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Set hooks - 50

Seines - 1 from Southern Railroad in Greenville County downstream

Great Pee Dee River: From I-95 to NC state line.

Traps - 50*

Trotlines - 2000 hooks total*

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Hoop nets - 50 w/commercial license.

North of SC 34 only

Great Pee Dee River: From I-95 to the saltwater line.

Nongame gill nets in season

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Set hooks - 50

Eel pots - Below Highway 701 bridge only, No limit

Traps - 50*

Jefferies Creek: Florence County:

Nongame gill nets in season

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

John's Hole Lake: Dorchester

County:

Nongamegill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Lake Greenwood:

Traps - 5*

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Jugs - 50

Lake Hartwell:

Traps - 5*

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Lake Jocassee:

All nongame devices prohibited, including cast nets.

Lake Keowee:

Traps - 5*

Trotlines-150 hooks total*

Lakes Marion and Moultrie:

Waters between confluence of

Wateree and Congaree rivers and backwaters of Lake Marion are considered a part of Lake Marion.

Traps - 50*

Trotlines - 2000 hooks total*

Lake Murray:

Traps - 5*

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Lake Richard B. Russell:

Traps - 5*

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Jugs - 50

Lake Secession:

Traps - 2

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Jugs - 50

Lake Thurmond & Stevens Creek

Reservoir:

Traps - 5*

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Jugs - 50

Lake Wateree:

Traps - 5*

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Lake Wylie:

Traps - 5*

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Little Pee Dee River:

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Little Pond Lake: Dorchester County:

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Little River:

Seines - 1 from Mars Bridge in McCormick County upstream

Log Creek: Edgefield County:

Seines - 1

Long Cane Creek: Above Patterson Bridge

Seines - 1

Louder's Lake: Darlington County:

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Lumber River:

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Lynches River:

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Mallards Lake: Dorchester County:

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Mims Lake: Dorchester County:

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Mouth of Four Holes Lake:

Dorchester County:

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Mulberry Creek: Greenwood

County:

Seines - 1

New River:

Set hooks - 50

Old River:

Set hooks - 50

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Pacolet River:

Traps - 2

Set hooks - 50

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Seines - 1

Rabon Creek: Laurens County:

Seines - 1

Redbank Creek: Saluda County

west of Highway 121:

Seines - 1

Reedy River:

Traps - 2

Set hooks - 50

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Seines - 1 from Southern RR in

Greenville County downstream

Anderson County:

Seines - 1

Rock's Lake: Dorchester County:

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Salkehatchie River:

Set hooks - 50

Saluda River: From Southern RR Trestle in Greenville County to backwaters of Lake Greenwood and from

Lake Greenwood Dam to backwaters of Lake Murray.

Traps - 2

Set hooks - 50

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Seines - 1 in Anderson, Laurens and Greenville Counties only except in Anderson County seines may be used in river tributaries.

Saluda River: From Lake Murray Dam to the Gervais St. Bridge in Columbia.

Traps - 2

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Sampit River:

Nongame gill nets in season

Traps - 50*

Set hooks - 50

Santee River: Downstream from Wilson Dam on Lake Marion. No nongame gear (except skimbrow nets) allowed upstream of U.S.G.S. Gauging Station 1715 about 2.4 miles below

Santee Dam.

Traps - 50*

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Eel pots - No limit

Savannah River: Below Stevens

Creek Dam.

Traps - 50*

Hoop nets - 50 w/commercial license.

Set hooks - 50

Nongame gill nets in season

Trotlines - 2000 hooks total*

Eel pots - No limit

Shuler Lake: Dorchester County:

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Steed's Lake: Dorchester County:

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Stevens Creek: Above Clark's Hill

Bridge.

Seines - 1

Thicketty Creek: Cherokee County:

Seines - 1

Turkey Creek: Edgefield &

Greenwood Counties:

Seines - 1

Twelve - Mile Creek:

Traps - 2

Set hooks - 50

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Tyger River:

Traps - 2

Set hooks - 50

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Waccamaw River:

Trotlines - 150 hooks total*

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

Eel pots - No limit below junction of

Big Bull Creek

Warrior Creek: Laurens County:

Seines - 1

Wateree River:

Traps - 50*

Set hooks - 50

Trotlines - 2000 hooks total*

Hoop nets - 50 w/commercial license

Wilson Creek: Greenwood County:

Seines - 1

Woods Lake: Dorchester County:

Nongame gill nets in season

Set hooks - 50

General Information

The following laws pertain mainly to noncommercial saltwater fishing, shrimping, crabbing and shellfishing for personal consumption. Individuals (age 16 and older) harvesting marine resources, including finfish, oysters, clams, shrimp and crab must purchase an annual or temporary Saltwater Recreational Fishing License - 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 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 a Marine Recreational Fishing license annually. Applications for Pier and Charter Vessel Licenses are available from the DNR office in Charleston.

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

For more information, contact: SCDNR, Marine Resources Division, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422, 843-953-9301, www.dnr.sc.gov.

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.

Saltwater Fishing Methods & Devices

Hook and Line

Permits/License: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required. Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit required when fishing for tuna, billfish and swordfish in federal waters and for possession of these species in state waters. For sharks, a federal permit is required only when fishing in federal waters.

Seasons: No closed season.

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

Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License.

Restrictions:

- 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.

Bangsticks

- 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.

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 required.
- To operate a haul seine a commercial license is required.
- Powerboats transporting nets or other commercial fishing equipment must have vessel decals.

Seasons: No closed season in saltwater (except shad, sturgeon and herring).

Restrictions:

- Red drum and spotted seatrout may not be taken by nets. Sharks may not be taken by gill nets.
- 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 hailing 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.

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, Pawley's 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).

Unlawful to Sell Gamefish - The following species have been declared gamefish and native caught fish may not be sold: 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. Swordfish may be sold under commercial laws only.

Prohibited Practices - The use of dynamite, gun powder, lime or any other explosive in or about any waters of this state is unlawful. The commercial sale of diamondback terrapins is prohibited. Harvest and possession of horseshoe crabs is prohibited without a commercial permit.

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.

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 longlining is prohibited in these areas. For locations and more details on these MPA's please visit www.safmc.net or call 843-571-4366.

Annual License Fees

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License

Annual Resident License.....	\$10
Annual Non-Resident License.....	\$35
Temporary Resident License (14 days).....	\$5
Temporary Non-Resident License (14 days).....	\$11

Shrimp Baiting License

Resident License.....	\$25
Non-Resident License.....	\$500

Commercial Pier License (>100 feet)..... \$350

Commercial Pier License (≤100 feet)..... \$150

Charter Vessel License

(6 or fewer passengers).....	\$150
(7-49 passengers).....	\$250
(50 or more passengers).....	\$350

Size & Catch Limits for Saltwater Fish

TL=Total Length, FL=Fork Length; 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). For information on how to measure a fish, see page 17.

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

Species	Limits	Size Limit	Seasons/Restrictions
Sport Fish			
Black Drum	5 per person per day (state waters)	14-inch minimum (TL) and 27-inch maximum (TL) (state waters)	Season: No closed season
Bluefish	15 per person per day (all waters)	No size limit	Season: No closed season
Cobia	2 per person per day (all waters)	33-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)	Season: No closed season Restrictions: Charter and headboats must have a Coastal Migratory Pelagics permit to fish for this species.
Dolphin	10 per person or 60 per boat per day (all waters); headboats have no boat limit.	No size limit	Season: No closed season
Flounders (Southern, Summer & Gulf)	Rod & reel or gigging only - 20 per person per day, not to exceed 40 per boat per day (state waters)	14-inch minimum (TL) (state waters)	Restrictions: Size limits apply to both recreational & commercial fishing.
Greater Amberjack	1 per person per day (all waters) In April, 1 per vessel per trip	28-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)	Restrictions: Commercial harvest restrictions during April. Prohibits sale of fish harvested under bag limit when season is closed.
Hardhead Catfish and Gafftopsail Catfish (Saltwater Catfish)	Possession is prohibited	Possession is prohibited	Season: No open season. If caught, must be released immediately.
King Mackerel	3 per person per day (all waters)	24-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)	Season: March 1 to February 28. Restrictions: Fishery may be closed to all harvest if total allowable catch is met (state & federal waters). Charter and headboats must have a Coastal Migratory Pelagics permit to fish for this species.
Red Drum (Channel Bass/ Spottail)	3 per person per day (state waters) 0 per person per day (federal waters)	15-inch minimum (TL) and 23-inch maximum (TL) (state waters)	Season: May be taken only by rod & reel year-round or by gigging March through November. Restrictions: May not be harvested from federal waters. South Carolina native caught fish may not be sold (state waters).
Sheepshead, Spadefish	No more than 20 per person per day in aggregate with the snapper grouper complex species.	None	Season: No closed season
Spanish Mackerel	15 per person per day (all waters)	12-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)	Season: March 1 to February 28. Restrictions: Fishery may be closed to all harvest if total allowable catch is met (state & federal waters). Charter and headboats must have a Coastal Migratory Pelagics permit to fish for this species.
Spotted Seatrout	10 per person per day (state waters)	14-inch minimum (TL) (state waters)	Season: May be taken only by rod & reel year-round or by gigging March through November. Restrictions: South Carolina native-caught fish may not be sold (state waters).
Striped Bass, Hybrid Bass and Combinations	10 per person per day except 2 per day in Savannah River saltwaters. See page 15.	None in saltwaters, except 27-inch (TL) minimum in Savannah River saltwaters. See page 15.	Restrictions: • May be taken only by rod & reel year-round. • May not be sold (state waters).
Tarpon	1 per person per day (state waters)	No size limit	Restrictions: May be taken only by rod & reel and may not be sold.
Wahoo	2 per person per day	No size limit	Season: No closed season Restrictions: No sale of recreationally caught fish.
Weakfish	10 per person per day (state waters)	12-inch minimum (TL) (state waters)	Season: No closed season
Atlantic Tunas			
Albacore, Skipjack	None	No size limit	Restrictions: Federal permit required.
Bigeye, Bluefin Tuna	Check current federal regulations by calling 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888-872-8862) or checking www.nmfspermits.com .	27-inch minimum (FL)	Restrictions: • Check current federal regulations by calling 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888-872-8862) or checking www.nmfspermits.com . • Federal permit required.
Yellowfin Tuna	3 per person per day	27-inch minimum (FL)	Restrictions: Federal permit required.
Porgies & Snappers			
Red Porgy	3 per person per day	14-inch minimum (TL)	Season: No closed season
Vermilion Snapper	10 per person per day (all waters) (recreational)	12-inch minimum (TL) (recreational and commercial)	Restrictions: Seasonal restrictions and possession limit changes pending. Please check with the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at www.safmc.net or 843-571-4366 before fishing for this species.

Species	Limits	Size Limit	Seasons/Restrictions
Other Snappers (Excluding Vermilion)			
Red Snapper	10 per person per day from this group (including all snapper species except Vermilion), and no more than 2 Red Snapper may be included in the total (state & federal waters).	20-inch minimum (TL)	Restrictions: Possession limit changes pending. Please check with the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at www.safmc.net or 843-571-4366 before fishing for this species.
Lane Snapper		8-inch minimum (TL)	Season: No closed season
Black Snapper		No size limit	Season: No closed season
Blackfin, Cubera, Dog, Yellowtail, Gray, Mahogany, Silk, Schoolmaster & Queen Snapper		12-inch minimum (TL)	Season: No closed season
Mutton Snapper		16-inch minimum (TL)	Season: No closed season
Hogfish	None	12-inch minimum (FL) (all waters)	Season: No closed season
Sea Bass, Grouper & Tilefish			
Black Sea Bass	15 per person per day (recreational; all waters)	12-inch minimum (TL) (recreational; all waters); 10-inch minimum (TL) (commercial; all waters)	Season: Open unless total allowable catch is met.
Grouper, Tilefish Combinations			
Gag & Black Grouper	5 per person per day from this group; no more than 2 Gag or Black Groupers or more than 1 Snowy Grouper or more than 1 Snowy Grouper or Golden Tilefish may be included in this total (state & federal waters).	24-inch minimum (TL)	Restrictions: Seasonal restrictions and possession limit changes pending. Please check with the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at www.safmc.net or 843-571-4366 before fishing for these species.
Scamp, Red, Yellowfin & Yellowmouth Groupers		20-inch minimum (TL)	Restrictions: Seasonal restrictions and possession limit changes pending. Please check with the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at www.safmc.net or 843-571-4366 before fishing for these species.
Blueline Tilefish, Golden Tilefish, Misty Grouper, Sand Tilefish, Snowy Grouper, Yellowedge Grouper		No size limit	Season: No closed season
Coney, Grasby, Red Hind, Rock Hind, Tiger Grouper		No size limit	Restrictions: Seasonal restrictions and possession limit changes pending. Please check with the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council at www.safmc.net or 843-571-4366 before fishing for this species."
Warsaw, Speckled Hind Groupers	1 Warsaw and 1 Speckled Hind per vessel per trip (included in aggregate bag limit)	No size limit	Season: No closed season
Nassau Grouper, Goliath Grouper	Possession is prohibited		Season: No open season
All Other Snapper Grouper Complex Species Combined			
Species including but not limited to: Lesser Amberjack; Cottonwick; Bluestripe, White, Smallmouth, French and Spanish Grunts; Scup, Sheepshead, Almaco, Bar, Crevalle and Yellow Jacks; Black Margate; Margate; Whitebone, Knobbed, Jolthead, Saucereye, Grass and Longspine Porgies; Porkfish; Puddingwife; Banded Rudderfish; Sailors Choice; Bank Sea Bass; Rock Sea Bass; Spadefish; Gray, Queen and Ocean Triggerfish	20 per person per day from this group	No size limit	Season: No closed season. Restrictions: Bluerunners and tomtates are excluded from the bag limit.
Sharks			
Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit required in federal waters. All sharks must be landed with fins, head and tail naturally attached.			
Dogfish (Spiny & Smooth)	None (all waters)	No size limit	
Atlantic Sharpnose	1 per person per day (state and federal waters)	No size limit	
Bonnethead	1 per person per day (all waters)	No size limit	
Blacknose, Blacktip, Blue, Bull, Finetooth, Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead, Lemon, Shortfin Mako, Nurse, Porbeagle, Spinner, Thresher, Tiger and Oceanic Whitetip Sharks	1 shark per boat from this group	54-inch minimum (FL)	
Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bignose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Caribbean Reef, Sandbar (outside of commercial shark research fishery), Sevengill, Caribbean Sharpnose, Silky, Bigeye Sixgill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Bigeye Thresher, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Sand Tiger, Whale and White Sharks.	Possession is prohibited		Season: No open season. Restrictions: Sharks from this group may not be kept. If caught, sharks from this group must be released immediately.

Species	Limits	Size Limit	Seasons/Restrictions
Billfish			
Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit required. 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 www.nmfspermits.com .			
Blue Marlin	None	99-inch minimum from lower jaw (FL) (all waters)	Restrictions: May be taken only by rod & reel and may not be sold
White Marlin	None	66-inch minimum from lower jaw (FL) (all waters)	Restrictions: May be taken only by rod & reel and may not be sold
Sailfish	None	63-inch minimum from lower jaw (FL) (all waters)	Restrictions: May be taken only by rod & reel and may not be sold
Swordfish	1 per person per day, up to 3 per vessel per trip	47-inch minimum from lower jaw (FL) (state and federal waters)	Restrictions: • May be taken only by rod & reel and handlines. Handlines must be attached to, or remain in contact with, the vessel at all times. • Recreationally taken fish may not be sold.
Longbill Spearfish	Possession is prohibited		
Sturgeon & Shad			
Shortnose Sturgeon	Possession is prohibited		Restrictions: Unlawful to catch, buy, sell, possess, or ship. Classified as an endangered species.
Atlantic Sturgeon	Possession is prohibited		Season: No open season until further notice. Restrictions: Unlawful to catch, buy, sell, possess or ship.
American Shad, Herring	10 shad per person per day except in Santee River and Rediversion Canal (20 per person per day). 1 U.S. bushel of herring per person per day.	No size limit	Season: No closed season for recreational fishing with castnet or hook & line, including rod & reel. Skimbow nets allowed Feb. 1 through Apr. 30. Restrictions: Gillnets allowed as for commercial use. If fishing gillnets recreationally must adhere to recreational limits.

Species	Bag & Size Limits	Seasons/Restrictions
Crabs, Lobster & Shellfish Harvesting		
Blue Crabs	Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required. See page 20 for gear exemptions. Limit: None (state waters) Size: 5-inch minimum carapace width (point to point)	Restrictions: • Females with egg mass (sponge) must be returned to water unharmed immediately. • For recreational purposes no more than two traps (pots) per person with owner's name and address marked on yellow floats only.
Stone Crabs	Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required. See page 20 for gear exemptions. Limit: None (state waters) Size: Claws must be 2 3/4-inch minimum forearm (propodus)	Restrictions: • Only crabs with 2 claws may have one removed. • Only the larger of two claws may be kept. • It is unlawful to possess any stone crab body, live or dead. • No claw may be removed from a female with egg mass. • For recreational purposes no more than two traps (pots) per person with owner's name and address marked on yellow floats only.
Spiny Lobster	Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required. Limit: 2 per person per day (all waters) Size: Carapace must be over 3 inches	Season: No closed season. Restrictions: • Removal of tail at sea prohibited. • No harvest of berried females is allowed. • No explosives, poisons, spears, or piercing devices other than fishing hooks are allowed.
Oysters	Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required. Limit: 2 U.S. bushels per person per day from public or state shellfish grounds. No boat or vehicle, or boat and vehicle combination, may contain more than three personal limits regardless of the number of persons on the boat or in the vehicle. In order to possess three personal limits, there must be three persons on the boat or in the vehicle. If there are four or more persons on the boat or in the vehicle, there is a maximum possession limit of three personal limits. Size: No Limit	Season: typically Sept. 16 through May 15; may be shortened or extended by the DNR. Restrictions: A person may harvest shellfish (clams and/or oysters) recreationally no more than two days per seven day period. Shell Recycling: Oyster shells are collected throughout the coastal area and reused for shellfish culture. Call 843-953-9300 for shell drop-off site locations, or visit saltwaterfishing.sc.gov/oyster.html for detailed maps of locations.
Clams	Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required. Limit: 1/2 U.S. bushel per person per day from public or state shellfish grounds. No boat or vehicle, or boat and vehicle combination, may contain more than three personal limits regardless of the number of persons on the boat or in the vehicle. In order to possess three personal limits there must be three persons on the boat or in the vehicle. If there are four or more persons on the boat or in the vehicle, there is a maximum possession limit of three personal limits. Size: 1-inch minimum thickness	Season: Typically Sept. 16 through May 15; may be shortened or extended by the DNR. Restrictions: A person may harvest shellfish (clams and/or oysters) recreationally no more than two days per seven day period. Shell Recycling: Oyster shells are collected throughout the coastal area and reused for shellfish culture. Call 843-953-9300 for shell drop-off site locations, or visit saltwaterfishing.sc.gov/oyster.html for detailed maps of locations.

Species	Bag & Size Limits	Seasons/Restrictions
Crab & Shellfish Methods & Devices		
Crab Pots (Traps)	Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required. Licensees can fish no more than two pots recreationally. A commercial Saltwater Fishing License, Vessel Decal, and Gear License are required for over two pots. (Other information is provided with licenses.)	Season: No closed season Restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If unattended each pot float must bear 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 100 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 Spongex, 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.
Gathering Shellfish (Oysters & Clams)	Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required.	Seasons: Typically Sept. 16 through May 15 (½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset). Restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 written permission from the culture permit holder. License must be in possession while harvesting. <i>Maps of areas where oysters and clams may be gathered in season for recreation may be found on the web at www.dnr.sc.gov or by writing Marine Resources at PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422. www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/shellfish/regs.html.</i>
Shrimp Harvesting		
Catch Limits for Shrimp - Certain exemptions apply to permitted charter vessels and licensed bait dealers. For information, contact SCDNR, Marine Resources Division, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422 or call 843-953-9312.		
Taking Shrimp Without Bait	Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required. See page 20 for gear exemptions. Limits: Daily catch 48 quarts whole or 29 quarts headed per boat, per person if no boat is used, or per seining party.	Seasons: May 1 through December 15. Restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 dozen dead or live shrimp per boat December 16 through April 30.
Shrimp Baiting	Permits/Licenses: Shrimp Baiting License and individual pole marker tags required. A license is not required for residents assisting license holders. License available Monday of the second full week in June. Limits: Daily catch 48 quarts whole or 29 quarts headed per boat or per person if no boat is used.	Seasons: 60-day period set by SCDNR beginning at 12:00 noon on the last Friday on or before Sept. 15. Call 843-953-9312 for season dates. Restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrimp caught over bait cannot be sold. • No more than 10 poles can be used per license per day. Poles may not exceed 1-inch in diameter and each pole must have a numbered tag attached which corresponds with the shrimp baiting license. Each pole must also be marked with reflective tape. • 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. • Individuals who 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 application; 3) licensed to use a channel net; 4) licensed to use a cast net for a commercial purpose; or 5) licensed as a wholesale seafood dealer may not obtain a shrimp baiting license. • Cast nets used for taking shrimp over bait must have a minimum mesh size of ½-inch square (1-inch stretch).
Shrimp Seines	Permits/Licenses: Saltwater Recreational Fishing License required.	Season: No closed season Restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum length of shrimp seine 40 feet, maximum depth 6 feet, minimum mesh size, ½ inch square (1 inch stretch), maximum mesh size ¾ 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. • One limit per seine per day.
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 license.



**Call SCDNR
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Legislation Changes Saltwater Recreational Fishing License Requirements

What fishing requirements have changed?

Individuals recreationally fishing in saltwater from shore (beach, bank, private dock, free public pier, etc.) and those recreationally shrimping and crabbing will be required to have a saltwater recreational fishing license.

Who is required to have a fishing license?

The new legislation will require all who recreationally harvest fish, oysters, clams, shrimp and crab to have a saltwater recreational fishing license. Individuals under the age of 16 will be exempt from licensing requirements and senior and disability license holders will not need to purchase an additional saltwater license. Additional exemptions include individuals fishing on a licensed public fishing pier; individuals fishing on a licensed charter vessel while under hire; individuals 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); and individuals shrimp baiting (will still be required to purchase a shrimp baiting license.)

When will the changes occur?

Saltwater fishing license requirements will change July 1, 2009.






Why did the changes occur?

Changes to SC's saltwater recreational fishing license will provide better information about recreational catch, which will lead to better management of SC's valuable marine resources.

Saltwater Fishing License Basics

• License Types & Fees

Annual Resident	\$10	
Annual Non-resident	\$35	
14-day Resident	\$ 5	
14-day Non-resident	\$11	
Senior License*	\$ 9	
Disability License**	NO COST	

• License Term

Annual licenses valid from July 1 - June 30
14-day licenses valid 14 days from date of purchase

* Must be a domiciled SC Resident for six months immediately prior to application and have attained 64 years of age. Includes the saltwater fishing privilege.

**Must be a domiciled SC resident for one year prior to application and determined to be totally disabled. 3 Year Disability Fishing License includes the saltwater fishing privilege. See page 57 in the SCDNR Rules and Regulations for application.

What benefits do I get from the changes?

With the license changes, SC anglers will simply need to purchase one license to fish anywhere in both state and federal waters. Revenue generated from saltwater recreational fishing license sales will be used to directly benefit SC's marine recreational resources.

Where can I buy a fishing license?

Saltwater recreational fishing licenses can be purchased online by visiting www.dnr.sc.gov; by telephone calling 1-866-714-3611, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; or by visiting SCDNR license sales agents across the state. To learn more information about the saltwater recreational fishing license or about SC saltwater recreational fishing visit www.dnr.sc.gov.



Shrimp Baiting License Application

Note: Applications with incomplete information will **not** be processed and will be returned to the applicant.

Make check payable to SCDNR
Mail to: SCDNR License Section
PO Box 11710, Columbia, SC 29211-1710 (803) 734-3833
PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422-2559 (843) 953-9312

Applicant's Social Security		Applicant's Name				
# _____ - _____ - _____		_____	_____	_____	_____ / _____ / _____	_____
		Last	First	MI	Gender	Race Date of Birth
Applicant's Address					County of Residence	
Street or Box # _____		City _____		State _____	Zip _____	
Telephone		Driver's License No./State		Amount of Money Enclosed		
_____ - _____ - _____		_____ - _____		(Circle One)		
				Residents - \$25 Non-residents - \$500		
I understand that persons whose recreational privileges are suspended are not eligible to apply for, hold, or use SCDNR recreational licenses, permits, stamps, or tags.						
Signature _____			Date _____			
Please complete the above information, sign and return with the appropriate fee to the mailing address above.						

FY2009 Saltwater Recreational Fishing License Report

Introduction

The South Carolina Recreational Fishing License Program, since its inception in July 1992, has provided significant benefits to the state. Allocated funds continue to support programs, activities, and resource management functions that are of great value to the protection, maintenance, enhancement, and enjoyment of healthy and diverse marine recreational fisheries, associated fish stocks, and marine habitats. The original Marine Recreational Fishing Stamp program was modified in 2002 to give South Carolina resident and out-of-state anglers a variety of license options from which to choose. The modification has allowed for revenues to double, which provides additional support for activities important to state saltwater recreational anglers.

Since the inception of the license, as of April 30, 2009, approximately 1,674,820 individual saltwater stamps/licenses have been sold to marine recreational anglers over the course of the program's existence. Since July 2008, 124,193 individual saltwater recreational licenses of all available types have been purchased, resulting in the generation of approximately \$1.32 million in total revenue, the vast majority of which by law must be used to benefit saltwater recreational fisheries for the state. The following are highlights of the activities, projects, and programs carried out by the Marine Resources Division that received support from the Saltwater Recreational Fishing License Program over this past fiscal year.

FY 2009 Highlights

Artificial Reefs – Twelve artificial reef construction projects were completed this fiscal year on 9 permitted reef sites along the coast. These projects included the addition of 3 deck barges, 71 concrete pilings, 44 NYC subway cars, and 26 armored personnel carriers. Routine monitoring and assessment of numerous reefs were conducted throughout the year, and 4 missing reef buoys were replaced on offshore reef sites. A second edition of the SC artificial reef guide was completed and is being distributed upon request. Additionally, a project to evaluate the placement of existing artificial reefs off South Carolina in regards to oceanographic features and spawning of reef fishes continued this year. The overall goal of this project is to collect information on both artificial and natural reefs located at similar depths in order to help improve the current network of artificial reefs to take advantage of reef fish spawning and recruitment patterns to enhance reef productivity. - \$166.9K

Marine Fish - SCDNR's Marine Gamefish Tagging Program continues to promote responsible angling ethics and conservation through the support of license-generated funds. Last year, trained volunteer anglers tagged and released 744 fish. Information was received from 124 recaptured fish and 79% of those recaptured were released with the tag intact. 479 of the fish tagged (61%) and released were red drum. One recapture of note was a greater amberjack originally tagged off of Charleston, SC in July 2002 that was recaptured seven years later in May 2009 off of the Florida coast.

Another important component in SCDNR's effort to maintain high quality fishing opportunities is our effort to monitor recreationally important species. Staff collect size, age, and reproductive information from a variety of species. Information is collected using gear designed to catch and record data in a standardized, repeatable fashion using long-lines to catch large adult red drum offshore; trammel nets to catch smaller juvenile red and black drum, flounder, sheepshead, and seatrout inshore; and electro-shocking in estuarine waters farther upstream. SCDNR fisheries biologists also visit fishing tournaments and manage fish drop-off freezers in several locations where participating anglers can donate specimens for scientific study. Over the past year, staff attended five fishing tournaments and collected information from 331 fish specimens comprising 10 different species. Recreational anglers donated 255 additional fish through the drop-off freezer program, and 373 total tag returns were reported for red drum, black drum, and sheepshead.

Saltwater recreational fishing license revenue also helps fund SCDNR's red drum stocking research program. Adult wild red drum maintained in the lab are conditioned to spawn by incrementally changing the day length and temperature similar to what they would experience in the wild. When conditions are right red drum will spawn in the tanks and fertilized eggs can be collected. Larvae that are produced are then carefully maintained in ponds. All animals produced at



the Waddell Mariculture Center have a unique genotype or "genetic fingerprint" so that they can later be distinguished from their wild cohorts. When the fish held in ponds grow to the desired length, they are harvested and transported to stocking sites along the coast. During FY2009, 920,622 red drum were released as part of a license funded project. Specifically, 899,431 total fingerling red drum (1-1.5 inches) were stocked in Winyah Bay and the North Edisto River; 2,401 total advanced juveniles (3-4 inches) were stocked into Winyah Bay, Little River, and Murrells Inlet; 2,000 advanced juveniles will be released in Winyah Bay later this spring; and an additional 500 fish are being grown out to sub-adult size for release in Winyah Bay. Also during 2008, 1,290 total legal size sub-adult red drum were released into the Ashley River, Winyah Bay, Murrells Inlet, and Little River; and another 15,000 advanced juveniles are currently being grown out for release later this year in the ACE Basin. Genetic techniques using non-lethal sampling allow hatchery fish to be identified from their wild cohorts by having anglers remove a small tissue sample before releasing the fish. This allows scientists to determine the percent contribution stocked fish are making to the overall population in various estuarine systems. During FY2009, over 1,092 red drum samples have been processed by the genetics lab.

An effort to assess the bycatch in the commercial channel net and shad gill net fisheries continued this year to determine the potential impact these fisheries may have on recreationally important finfish species. Additionally a project collected fishery dependent data on coastal and oceanic pelagic species, including species of billfish, dolphin, tuna, and wahoo. During 2008, 868 billfish catches were reported to SCDNR of which 100% were released. - \$441.1K

Oysters - Over 39,522 bushels of shell were planted on 9 public and state shellfish grounds in 4 coastal counties during FY2009. Twenty-three shell recycling sites, located throughout the coastal zone, continue to serve as collection points for donated shell, allowing the public to participate in oyster reef restoration and enhancement in recreational harvesting areas. A record 15,445 bushels of oyster shells were recycled in FY2009. SCDNR biologists are evaluating new ways to enhance and restore local shellfish beds. Researchers are testing different substrates for shell planting, as well as developing efficient and accurate ways to assess oyster reefs including the effects shell planting and recreational harvesting have on these reefs. The SC Oyster Restoration and Enhancement program (SCORE) built oyster reefs at two sites in Charleston Harbor restoring 0.255 acres of shoreline with the help of multiple school groups and civic organizations. Additionally a Marine Recreational Fisheries survey was funded to collect information on the recreational shellfish fishery as well as the attitudes and preferences of SC saltwater recreational fishing license holders. Shellfish maps are available to the public free of charge by writing: Recreational Shellfish Maps, Shellfish Management Program, SCDNR, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29442-2559, by calling (843) 953-9854, or from the SCDNR Web site (www.dnr.sc.gov), click on "Fish," then "Marine," then "SC Public Shellfish Grounds" or "SC State Shellfish Grounds." - \$322.1K

Education, Information, Outreach - The saltwater license website (saltwaterfishing.sc.gov) continues to provide the public with updated information on rules and regulations and saltwater fishing related news. The Carolina Coastal Discovery (CCD) Marine Education Program continues to provide vessel and land based education activities operating out of the Marine Resources Center in Charleston, DNR facilities in the Ashepoo-Combahee-Edisto (ACE) Basin, and in Georgetown and Horry Counties, reaching about 3,500 students, teachers, and adults with education programs during FY2009. The CCD Program's education initiatives included marine animal dissections, salt march ecology, marine invertebrate taxonomy, barrier island studies, beach walks, bird and estuarine species identifications, and water quality monitoring. CCD Program information and application forms are now available online at www.dnr.sc.gov/ccd/ - \$176K

