

SOUTH CAROLINA HUNTING & FISHING

LAWS AND REGULATIONS GUIDE



August 14, 2026-August 14, 2027

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SOUTH CAROLINA HUNTING & FISHING

LAWS AND REGULATIONS GUIDE

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Blaik Keppler, Marine Resources

Tyler Brown, Land, Water & Conservation

On The Cover:

Wild bobwhite quail calling from a honey locust.
Photo by Hunter Bridges.



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WHAT'S NEW FOR 2026-2027, 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, S.C. 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 – 2026

Act No. 231

Red Drum

Pursuant to regional fishery management plans adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) in the Fall of 2025, South Carolina is required to reduce overall harvest of Red Drum as the species is currently in the overfished category. The new law implements a one fish per day bag limit, and a two fish per day boat limit, while increasing the slot size for keeper Red Drum to 18-25 inches. The bill also implements a tackle requirement for saltwater game fish. This tackle requirement states that when using natural bait (i.e. cut bait, live bait) with a hook size of 4/0 or larger, anglers must use a non-stainless steel, non-offset circle hook. There is no restriction on hook type when using hooks less than 4/0 or artificial lures. Effective July 1, 2026.

Deer Tags

Additionally, Act 231 also includes deer tag changes. This change implements a new base set of deer tags for the 2026 deer season consisting of three antlerless tags and three unrestricted antlered deer tags. This does not change the format of any additional tags available for purchase in addition to the base set. Effective July 1, 2026.

Act No. 120

Blue Catfish

Act 120 increases the daily bag limit for blue catfish harvest to 150 fish per day on all state waterways except the daily bag limit remains 25 fish per day for Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, the section of the Pee Dee River from the state border with North Carolina south to the Highway 301 bridge, and the upper reach of the Santee River. It is also unlawful to possess more than two blue catfish greater than thirty-two inches in length in any one day in Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, the upper reach of the Santee River, the section of the Pee Dee River from the state border with North Carolina south to the Highway 301 bridge, and the Congaree and Wateree rivers. Effective May 15, 2026.

WMA Raccoon Dog Training Season

Pursuant to changes made to Regulation 123-40, raccoon dog training season has been expanded from 5 ½ months to 9 months on all WMA lands with the exception of some DNR lands with special resource concerns or conflicting hunt schedules. Changes to this regulation also include expansions of hog hunting seasons on the following WMAs: Donnelley, Santee Coastal Reserve, Hamilton

Over 1.1 million acres managed for wildlife with the help of deer hunters, through license and gear purchases, to help fund conservation that protects all species.



Visit dnr.sc.gov to learn more.

Ridge, Marsh, Woodbury, Little Pee Dee, Great Pee Dee, Hickory Top, Santee Dam, Wee Tee, Waccamaw River, and Santee Island. Please refer to the Wildlife Management Areas section and the Hog Hunting Seasons page of this book for season dates on specific properties.



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About This Guide

This high-quality guide is brought to you by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources through a partnership with Kalkomey, a trusted leader in outdoor safety education since 1995. In addition to producing this guide, Kalkomey also offers a suite of educational courses to help people enjoy the outdoors safely.

Revenue generated through ad sales in this publication significantly lowers production costs and generates savings that translate into additional funds for other important agency programs.

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The hunting and fishing regulations in this guide are online at:

 **eRegulations.com**

Think before you burn!



- 1 Don't burn if you don't absolutely have to.**
- Consider bagging your yard debris and taking it to a landfill instead.

- 2 Check the weather.**
- Wait until later to burn if it's windy outside, especially if relative humidity is low and/or it's been a while since a good, soaking rain.

- 3 Notify the Forestry Commission before burning outdoors. *It's the law!***
- Use the Forestry Commission's online notification system by visiting scfc.gov/notify or scanning the QR code below. You may also make notification by calling your county's toll-free number listed below.

- 4 Take the proper precautions:**
- Only burn woody, vegetative material like leaves, limbs and branches.
 - Clear a space – aka firebreak – around the fire at least as wide as the burn pile itself.
 - Have water and tools at hand and ready to keep the fire under control.
 - Never leave the fire unattended, and stay with it until it is completely out and drowned with water.

Notify before you burn!

Use the Forestry Commission's online notification system at scfc.gov/notify or scan the QR code at right. You may also make notification by calling your county's toll-free number listed below.



Abbeville 1-800-895-7056
Aiken 1-800-895-7057
Allendale 1-800-895-7058
Anderson 1-800-895-7059
Bamberg 1-800-895-7060
Barnwell 1-800-895-7061
Beaufort 1-800-895-7062
Berkeley 1-800-895-7063
Calhoun 1-800-895-7064
Charleston 1-800-986-3593
Cherokee 1-800-986-3594
Chester 1-800-986-3595
Chesterfield 1-800-986-3596
Clarendon 1-800-986-3597
Colleton 1-800-986-3599

Darlington 1-800-986-3742
Dillon 1-800-986-3745
Dorchester 1-800-986-3746
Edgefield 1-800-986-5138
Fairfield 1-800-986-5162
Florence 1-800-986-5165
Georgetown 1-800-986-5256
Greenville 1-800-986-5299
Greenwood 1-800-986-5327
Hampton 1-800-986-5403
Horry 1-800-986-5404
Jasper 1-800-986-5405
Kershaw 1-800-705-8609
Lancaster 1-800-705-8610
Laurens 1-800-705-8611
Lee 1-800-705-8612

Lexington 1-800-705-8613
Marion 1-800-705-8614
Marlboro 1-800-705-8615
McCormick 1-800-705-8616
Newberry 1-800-705-8617
Oconee 1-800-705-8618
Orangeburg 1-800-517-9636
Pickens 1-800-517-9637
Richland 1-800-517-9638
Saluda 1-800-517-9639
Spartanburg 1-800-517-9640
Sumter 1-800-517-9641
Union 1-800-517-9642
Williamsburg 1-800-517-9643
York 1-800-517-9644



South Carolina
Forestry Commission

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2026-2027

REGULATIONS

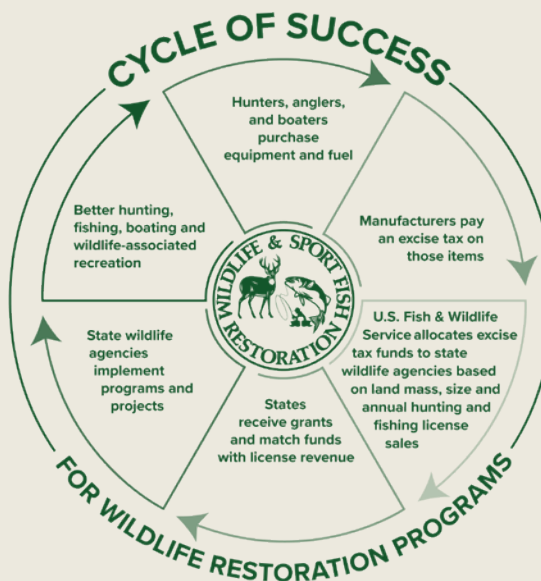
Published July 2026

Property-specific regulations outlined in this booklet could change due to the need for emergency regulations. Such changes will be publicized on the SCDNR website as any new emergency legislation is passed. Discrepancies between this book and any statute or regulation shall be governed by the statute or regulation. To research laws, visit <http://www.scstatehouse.gov>. SCDNR 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 lottery hunts, schedules for newly acquired areas and many other items of interest. SCDNR news releases are available to the public on the SCDNR website.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the hunters, anglers, boaters and manufacturers for supporting SCDNR's wildlife management and conservation efforts through this program for over 80 years.



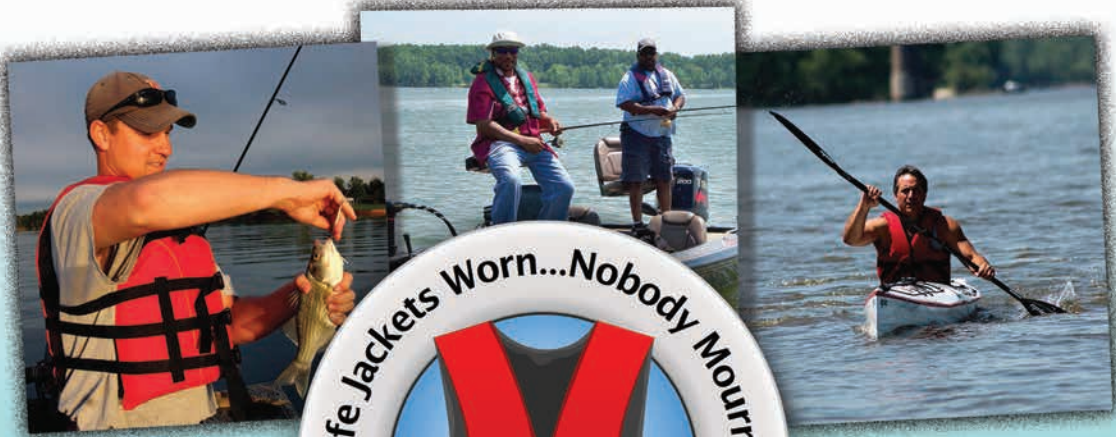
BOATER EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Boaters born after July 1, 2007 are required to pass an approved boater education course before operating a boat, personal watercraft (jet ski), or a specialty propcraft powered by 10 hp motor or more. There are exemptions for age and boating certifications. See SC Code Section 50-11-95 for a complete list of exemptions.



Take a boating safety and education course in a classroom or on the internet.

For more information on all boating courses, visit www.dnr.sc.gov/education/boated or call SCDNR at 1-800-277-4301



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Information

Boating Titling & Registration.....	803-734-4DNR
Freshwater Aquatic Education.....	803-737-8483
Hunter & Boater Education.....	1-800-277-4301
Hunting & Fishing.....	803-734-3886
Licenses.....	803-734-4DNR
Nuisance Wildlife.....	Call Regional Wildlife Offices
Saltwater Fishing & Shrimp Baiting.....	843-953-9300
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

260 D Epting Ln, West Columbia, SC 29172

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

Heritage Preserves.....	803-734-3893
Human Resources.....	803-734-4400
Land, Water & Conservation Division.....	803-734-9100
Law Enforcement.....	803-734-4002
South Carolina Wildlife magazine.....	803-734-3967
Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries.....	803-734-3886

WE'VE MOVED

The SCDNR Headquarters and our main Licensing and Watercraft Services office have officially relocated to the front of the SC State Farmers Market.

Find us at: 260 D. Epting Lane, West Columbia, SC 29172

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Eating Fish Caught in South Carolina

The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) 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, DES tests fish from lakes, rivers and streams throughout South Carolina.

To protect your health, DES issues fish consumption advisories in areas where contaminated fish have been found. For more information on the advisories, call DES, toll free, at 1-888-849-7241 or go to DES's web page at www.des.sc.gov/programs/bureau-water/aquatic-science/fish-consumption-advisories.

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
Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, Land, Water & Conservation,
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

Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries.....	843-661-4766
Land, Water & Conservation.....	803-734-9100
Law Enforcement.....	843-661-4766
Licensing.....	843-661-4766

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
260 D Epting Ln, West Columbia, SC 29172
Mailing Address: PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202-0167

Land, Water & Conservation.....	803-734-9100
Law Enforcement.....	803-755-1822
Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries.....	803-734-3886

SCDNR at the Market: 260 D Epting Ln, West Columbia, SC 29172
Region 3 Law Enforcement Office: 2762 Wildlife Lane West Columbia, SC 29172

Licensing at the Market.....	803-734-4DNR
Boat Titling & Registration.....	803-734-4DNR

Region 4 - Charleston

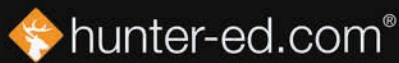
Horry, Hampton, Georgetown, Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Colleton, Jasper, Beaufort counties
217 Ft. Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412
Mailing Address: PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC, 29422-2559

Boat Titling & Registration.....	843-953-9301
Commercial Saltwater Licenses.....	843-953-9301
Freshwater Fisheries.....	843-825-3387
Land, Water & Conservation.....	803-734-9100
Law Enforcement.....	843-953-9307
Marine Resources.....	843-953-9300
Wildlife.....	843-953-9856

Horry County Office: 640 9th Ave Aynor, SC 29511

Licensing & Boat Titling..... 843-827-1002

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, envíenos un correo electrónico a informacion@dnr.sc.gov o llame al 803-734-9885



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RECREATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES

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 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 63-17-1080 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 for 30 days. Proof of residency at license vendors is your unexpired South Carolina Driver's license or SCDMV Identification Card.

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, bear 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 or she must purchase the additional licenses as a nonresident.

License in Possession

All licenses, permits, stamps and tags must be in possession of the license holder while engaging in activities for which the privileges are issued. Proof of a license, permit, or stamp may be provided electronically using a mobile device. Identification indicating name and address must also be in possession of a privilege holder. Persons hunting on their own lands are required to have all applicable licenses, permits, 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, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

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 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 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 not required when fishing in a commercial pay pond that is permitted by 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 fishing 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, hunting alligator, 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 except on designated youth days.

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. Deer tags and turkey tags must be requested once. After the initial request, tags will be mailed annually.



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Lowcountry Region

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GENERAL

PRIVILEGE FEES

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FEES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026–JUNE 30, 2027

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, 2027.

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, 2027.
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, 2027.
Eel Pot Tag*	Annual	\$5.00	\$50.00	Recreational limit 2 pots per licensee. Reporting Requirements apply. Expires June 30, 2027.
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, 2027.
Hoop Net Tag*	Annual	\$10.00	\$50.00	Commercial license required. Expires June 30, 2027.
Trap Tag*	Annual	\$5.00	\$50.00	Recreational limit 2 traps per licensee. Expires June 30, 2027.
Trotline Tag*	Annual	\$2.50	\$50.00	Recreational limit is 1 trotline with a maximum 50 hooks. Expires June 30, 2027.

FISHING PRIVILEGES—SALTWATER; MORE INFORMATION ON PAGES 46–54				
Saltwater Fishing License	3 year	\$45.00	N/A	Valid 3 years from date of purchase.
	Annual	\$15.00	\$75.00	Valid 1 year from date of purchase.
	14 day	\$10.00	N/A	Valid 14 consecutive days.
	7 day	N/A	\$35.00	Valid 7 consecutive days.
	1 day	N/A	\$10.00	Valid 1 day.
Shrimp Baiting License & Tags*	Season	\$25.00	\$500.00	Season dates apply, see page 117 for application.
Recreational Crab Trap Endorsement	Annual	\$5.00	\$5.00	Saltwater fishing license holder with Recreational Endorsement may fish up to five crab traps per licensee.
Saltwater Public Fishing Pier	Annual	\$150.00		100 feet or less in length, license has reporting requirements. Expires June 30, 2027.
	Annual	\$350.00		More than 100 feet in length, license has reporting requirements. Expires June 30, 2027.
Saltwater Fishing Charter Vessel	Annual	\$275.00	\$550.00	6 or fewer paying passengers, license has reporting requirements. Expires June 30, 2027.
	Annual	\$450.00	\$900.00	7–49 paying passengers, license has reporting requirements. Expires June 30, 2027.
	Annual	\$650.00	\$1,300.00	50 or more paying passengers, license has reporting requirements. Expires June 30, 2027.

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, unless in possession of a valid e-stamp.

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



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GENERAL

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	N/A	Hunting license applicants born after June 30, 1979, who do not hold a hunter education certification may take this exemption from the hunter education certification requirement. See page 8 for other requirements.
	3 Day	N/A	\$50.00	Apprentice Hunting, Valid 3 consecutive days.
Big Game Permit	3 Year	\$18.00	N/A	Required to hunt bear, deer or turkey, 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 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, 2027.

* 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, unless in possession of a valid e-stamp.

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



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GENERAL

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, 2027.
Deer Tags*	Season	No Cost	N/A	Required in addition to a hunting license and big game permit to hunt deer. 6 tags total. 3 antlerless deer tags and 3 unrestricted antlered (buck) tags.
Individual Antlerless Deer Tags* (Optional)	Season	\$5.00	\$10.00	Hunting license and big game permit required, season dates apply. See page 57.
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 117 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, 2027.
Migratory Waterfowl Permit (State Duck Stamp)	Season	\$15.50		Season dates apply, hunting license, Migratory Bird Permit and Federal Duck Stamp required.
Federal Migratory Bird Hunting & Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp)*	Season	\$30.00		Season dates apply, State Migratory Waterfowl Permit required to use in SC. The electronic federal duck stamp is valid through June 30, 2027. Your stamp will be mailed after March 10, 2027. If you do not receive your stamp call 803-734-4DNR. Price includes \$4.00 processing fee for the USSWF vendor. Available at select US Post Offices, by phone at 1-800-STAMP-24 (1-800-782-6724), online at www.duckstamp.com , SCDNR Offices and all license sale vendors.
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, 2027.
Turkey Tags*	Season	\$25.00	\$125.00	Required in addition to a hunting license and big game permit. Includes set of 2 tags. Youth hunters and 3-year Disability Licensees receive tags for free but must request them annually. Lifetime/Senior/Gratis/Disability Licensees receive tags for free annually after requesting them one time.

* 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, unless in possession of a valid e-stamp.

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

WHERE TO BUY HUNTING & FISHING PRIVILEGES

- Internet – GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com
- The Go Outdoors South Carolina mobile app.
- Hundreds of license vendors throughout the state.
- SCDNR offices in Aynor, Charleston, Clemson, Florence, York & SCDNR at the SC State Farmer's Market.

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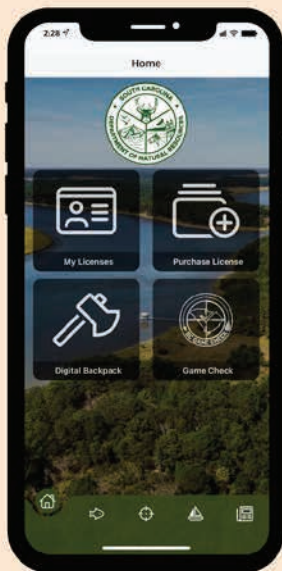


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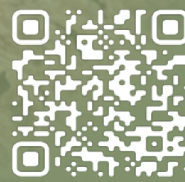
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FRESHWATER GAME FISHING REGULATIONS



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 (Bartrams) and any other species of the genus Micropterus; striped bass or rockfish; white bass; hybrid striped bass; white crappie; black crappie; Trout: rainbow, brown, brook and their hybrids; chain pickerel (jackfish); redfin pickerel; sauger, walleye and yellow perch.

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 and landing 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 \$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.

Prohibited Practices

- Game or nongame fish may not be taken by explosives, electrical devices, poison or similar means.
- Except for bait lost while fishing and fish released back to waters where they were caught, 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 SCDNR.
- 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 or robust redhorse from public waters. Any grass carp or robust redhorse 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'.
- Retaining blue crabs caught in the freshwater of the state is prohibited; any blue crabs caught must be returned to the water immediately.
- Non-game devices are not allowed in Game Zone 1.

FREE FISHING DAYS

Memorial Day, May 31, 2027 & July 4, 2027

(For residents in freshwater only, as specified in S.C. Code Section 50-9-730.)

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AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS



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What are Aquatic Invasive Species?

- Non-native organisms 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, intentionally or unintentionally, 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 non-indigenous 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.
- It is unlawful to place in the salt waters of the State, or in privately owned waters directly connected to salt waters of the State, any live, fresh, or frozen whole, part, or product of any organism listed by the Marine Resources Division of the SCDNR as prohibited (section 50-5-45). That list will comprise any species, varieties, or strains of non-indigenous organisms known or suspected to present a negative impact to fish or marine resources of the State. It is also unlawful to sell or offer for sale as bait, any live, fresh, or frozen whole, part, or product of any listed organism.

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.
- If you are moving your boat between lakes and rivers within the state or from different states, please have your boat and trailer pressure washed before putting it in the next waterbody, ensuring that all nooks and crannies are cleaned. Even a small piece of vegetation can become a big problem.



- 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!

For more information:

Aquatic Nuisance Plants Program at the Dept. of Environmental Services:

Website — www.des.sc.gov

E-mail — invasiveweeds@des.sc.gov

Phone — 803-898-0033

SCDNR Contacts:

Freshwater Fish, including grass carp
843-734-3886

Crustaceans & Marine Fish
843-953-9300



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SPECIES PROFILE



Carolina

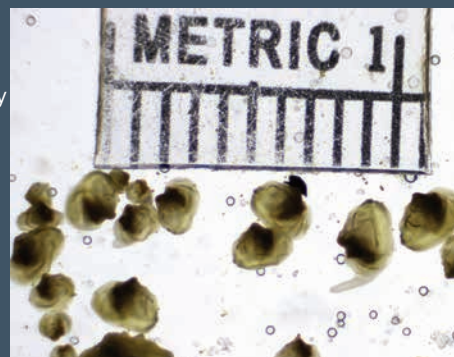
HEELSPLITTER

There are roughly 150 species of freshwater fish, 36 species of freshwater crayfish, and 29 species of freshwater mussels found throughout the state of South Carolina, including the federally endangered Carolina Heelsplitter. Freshwater mussels make up the base of the food web, filtering algae and bacteria from the water, and in the process, improving water quality. Freshwater mussels like the Carolina Heelsplitter improve habitat for other freshwater species and benefit humans by making the waters around them cleaner for drinking water and recreation. Often cited as “the canary in the coal mine” for aquatic systems, when mussels begin to disappear from a water body it is a clear sign that something is wrong. Around 10% of all freshwater mussel species in the U.S. are already extinct, and many more are in decline.

The Carolina Heelsplitter, like most freshwater mussels, are vulnerable to a variety of threats related to human disturbance. Some disturbances include polluted wastewater from sewage treatment plants and industrial discharges, storm water runoff carrying silt, fertilizers, pesticides, and other pollutants to waterways. Disturbances that lack storm water control or cause erosion are some of the most detrimental to Carolina Heelsplitter and their habitat. Habitat alterations including impoundments, channelization, dredging, and streambank scouring have contributed to the decline of the Carolina Heelsplitter and adversely affects remaining populations. Activities such as agriculture, forestry, road construction, mining, urban development, and other land use activities that do not adequately control stormwater runoff and soil erosion reduce the remaining Carolina Heelsplitter habitat.

There are eleven remaining populations of Carolina Heelsplitter, ten of which can be found here in SC. One population is found in the PeeDee River basin in Lancaster, Chesterfield, and Kershaw counties. Five populations can be found in the Catawba River basin in York, Chester, and Lancaster counties. The Saluda River basin is home to two populations in Saluda and Greenwood counties, and two populations can be found in the Savannah River basin in Edgefield, McCormick, and Greenwood counties.

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to monitor these populations. If you live near Carolina Heelsplitter, you may have received a letter letting you know we are in the area to survey. SCDNR and the USFWS are also culturing Carolina Heelsplitter mussels for stocking. The goal of these efforts are to increase the size of the remaining populations and reduce the likelihood of extinction. You can help protect Carolina Heelsplitter and the other freshwater mussels of the state by allowing plants to grow near waterbodies, properly disposing of waste, and being aware of how water drains on your property.



“Juvenile mussels are very small, pictured above are 2 month old Carolina Heelsplitter in culture at Cohen Campbell Fisheries Center in West Columbia. These juveniles have already more than quadrupled in size.”

By working together to maintain healthy mussel populations, we know our aquatic ecosystems can be healthy enough to serve the people of South Carolina and the aquatic plant and animal communities that depend on them.

Please remember that the taking of freshwater mussels, except the invasive Asian Clam (*Corbicula*), is unlawful without a permit from SCDNR. A freshwater fishing license is required to take any freshwater mussel species, even Asian Clam. Take of Carolina Heelsplitter will also require a permit from the USFWS.

Carolina Heelsplitter Life Cycle

Like all of South Carolina's native freshwater mussels, Carolina Heelsplitter mussels use a fish host to complete their life cycle. Bluehead Chub, Satinfin Shiner, Highfin Shiner, Spottail Shiner, and Bluegill are some of the fish known to be compatible hosts for Carolina Heelsplitters. If a host is not present, Carolina Heelsplitter will not be able to reproduce. Larvae remain on the host for a few weeks dropping off as tiny filter feeders in the bottom of the stream.





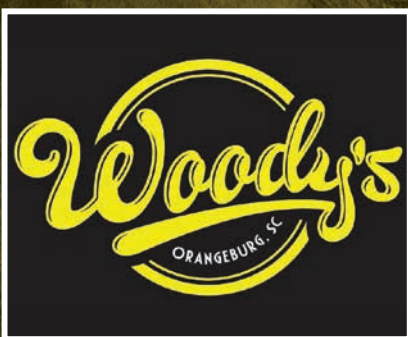
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Redeye Bass (Bartram's Bass) Species Profile



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

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 (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.



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

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 29).

Quick Stats

Redeye Bass (Bartram's Bass)

Micropterus pucpugyl

- **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.

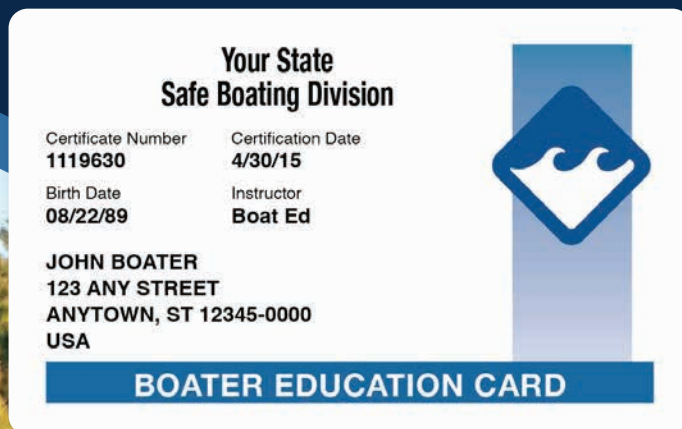
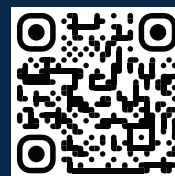
Background Photo Ideal redeye bass habitat on the Chauga River.



Boating While Fishing?

Sounds like fun! Let's get you certified so you can hit the water safely and legally. Get your official Boating Safety Certificate today.

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SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Crappie

Black Crappie



White Crappie



Black Bass (genus Micropterus)

Largemouth Bass



Spotted Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Redeye (Bartrams) Bass



Pickrel

Chain Pickerel



Redfin Pickerel



Perch

Yellow Perch



Coldwater Trout

Brook Trout



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



AQUATIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

SCDNR's Aquatic Education Section offers **FREE** education programs on recreational fishing techniques, opportunities and angler ethics.

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

Fishing Clinics

Fishing Clinics are an introductory class to fishing. Families with kids ages 8 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

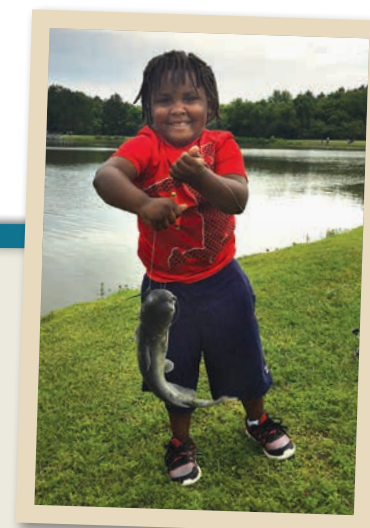
Fishing Rodeos are designed to provide youth with opportunities to catch fish and spend time with family outdoors. Rodeos are recommended for kids ages 5-15 years old.

Trout in the Classroom

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

Black Bass Slam

The SCDNR Black Bass Slam celebrates the black bass diversity throughout South Carolina while promoting angling opportunities across the state. Anglers must catch all four black bass species to complete the SCDNR Black Bass Slam which include the Redeye (Bartram's) Bass,



Spotted Bass, Largemouth Bass, and Smallmouth Bass. Successful anglers will receive a unique certificate, and stickers.

To learn more about these education programs,

visit 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 min	25
Statewide	Blue Catfish	See limits in Freshwater Nongame Fishing Regulations section.	

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, war-mouth, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, redear (shellcracker) and spotted sunfish)	Any length	30
Statewide	Redbreast Sunfish	Any length	15
Statewide	Crappie	8 inches min	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

BLACK BASS: LARGEMOUTH, SMALLMOUTH, REDEYE, SPOTTED BASS & GENUS MICROPTERUS

- 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 min	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 black bass
Lake Keowee	Smallmouth Bass	12 inches min	No more than 10 combined total of black bass
Statewide except the water bodies listed below:	Redeye (Bartrams) 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 (Bartrams) Bass	Any length	No more than 10 combined total of black bass
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 min	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 min	No more than 10 combined total of black bass
Lake Robinson (Greenville County)	Largemouth Bass	12 inches min	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 black bass
Slade's Lake	Black Bass	12 inches min	No more than 2 bass per person per day

STATE FISHING RECORDS

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

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

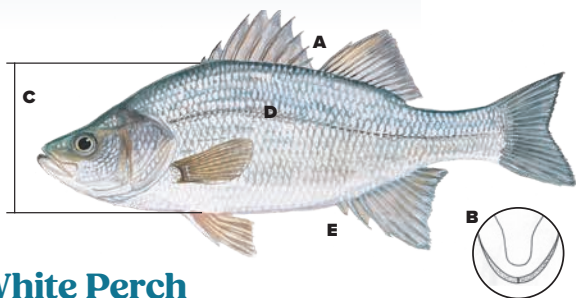
GAME FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS

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.

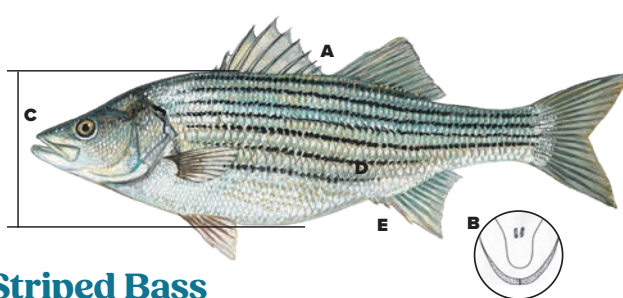
WATER BODY	FISH	SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT PER PERSON PER DAY
Statewide except the Savannah River	White Bass	Any length	10
Statewide except the water bodies list below:	Striped or Hybrid Bass or a combination	Any length	10
Ashepoo River; Ashley River; Back River in Jasper County and the Back River in 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; Intracoastal Waterway (Horry County); 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; Tulifinny River; Thoroughfare Creek; and Waccamaw River	Striped or Hybrid Bass or a combination	Oct. 1 - June 15: 26 inches min	3
		June 16 - Sept. 30 closed	
Santee River system (see map, page 31); includes Saluda River (Lower Reach)	Striped or Hybrid Bass or a combination	Oct. 1 - June 15 striped bass between 23 and 25 inches may be harvested except that one fish may be greater than 26 inches	3
		June 16 - Sept. 30 closed except for Lower Reach Saluda River where catch and release is allowed but when fishing with live or dead fish or bait fish parts hook gap (point to shank) must not exceed 3/8 of an inch except all sizes of inline, non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks are allowed.	
Lake Murray	Striped or Hybrid Bass or a combination	Oct. 1 - May 31: 21 inches min	5
		June 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 or Hybrid Bass or a combination	Oct. 1 - May 31: 21 inches	5
		June 1 - Sept. 30: any length	Unlawful to take, attempt to take, or possess more than 5
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 min	2
Lake Hartwell & Lake Thurmond	Striped or Hybrid Bass or a combination	Only 3 fish over 26 inches	10

TEMPERATE BASS IDENTIFICATION



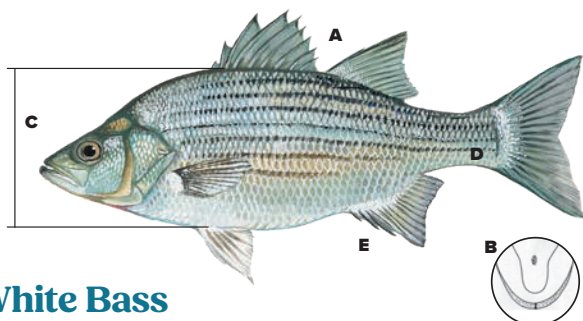
White Perch

- 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.



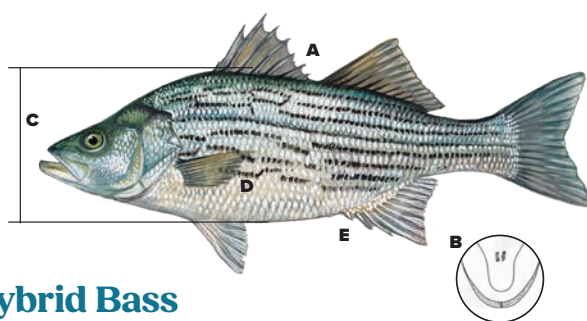
Striped Bass

- 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, sometimes broken, several extend to tail.
- E. 2nd spine 1/2 the length of 3rd spine.



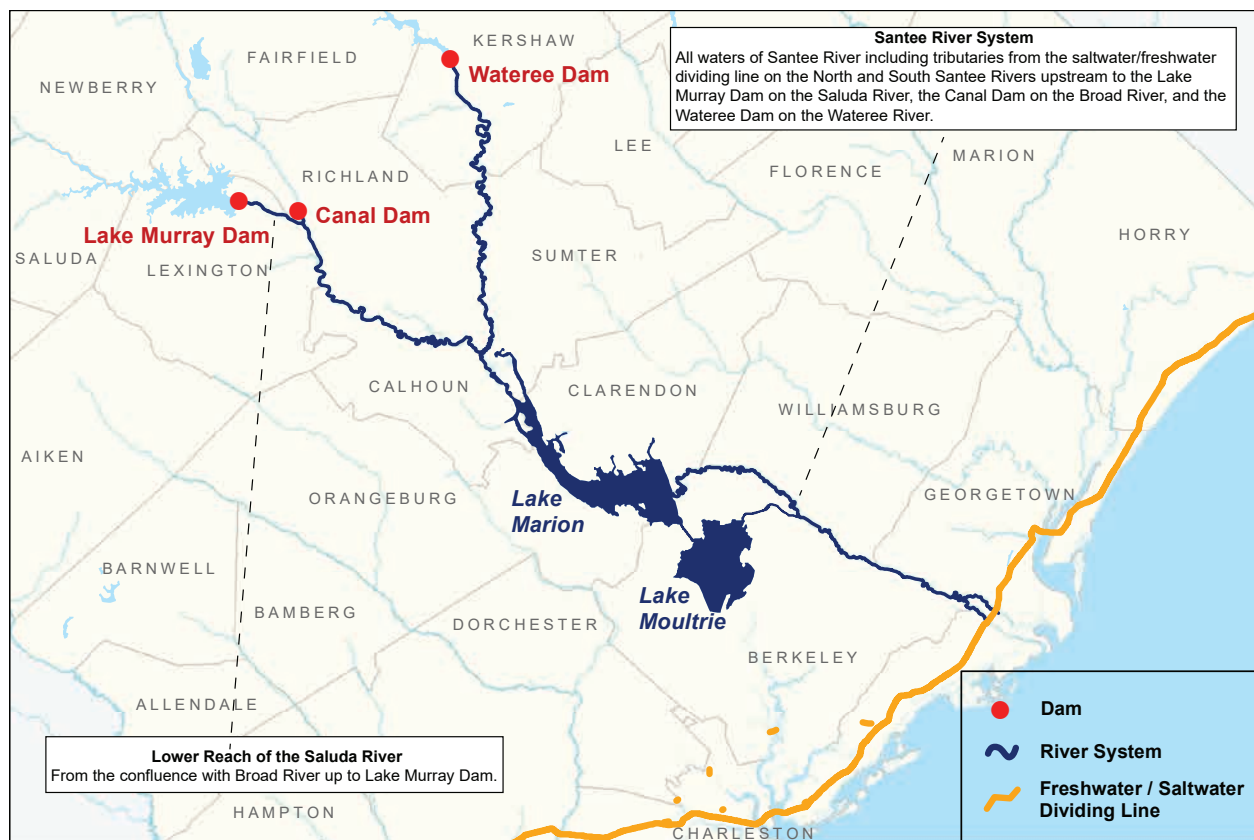
White Bass

- A. Dorsal fins not joined.
- 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

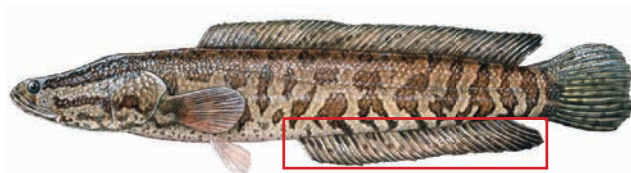
GAME FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS BROOK, BROWN, RAINBOW & THEIR HYBRIDS

- 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 PER PERSON PER DAY	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	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except single hook artificial lures.
		May 15 - Oct. 31: 5	None
Chattooga River (Hwy 28 to Reed 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
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	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except single hook artificial lures
		May 15 - Oct. 31: 5	None
Corbin Creek (from confluence with Howard Creek upstream to SC Hwy 130)	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
Devils Fork 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
Eastatoe Creek (Lake Keowee to Roy Jones Road)	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
Eastatoe Creek (portion on Eastatoe Creek Heritage Preserve)	Any length	5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except 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 at (803) 366-7024 or (843) 661-4767

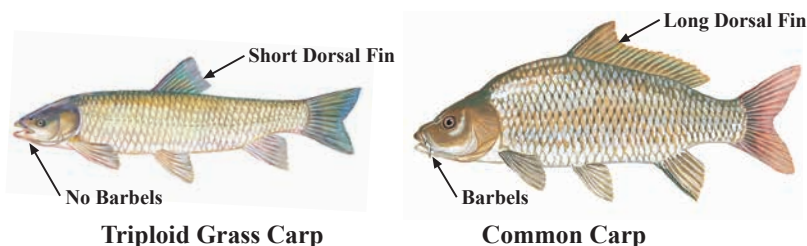
GAME FISH SIZE & POSSESSION LIMITS (CONTINUED)

BROOK, BROWN, RAINBOW & THEIR HYBRIDS

- 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 PER PERSON PER DAY	BAIT & TACKLE RESTRICTIONS
Howard Creek (from confluence with Corbin Creek upstream to confluence with Limberpole 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. None
Lower Saluda River (All waters of Saluda River from confluence with Broad River upstream to Lake Murray Dam)	Only 1 fish may be more than 16 inches	5	None
Lower Saluda River from the east bound I-20 bridge downstream to Stacey's Ledge	Catch and Release Only	Catch and Release Only	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 single hook 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 176 in Greenville County)	Any length	5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except single hook artificial lures.
Middle Saluda (from Hugh Smith Road Bridge upstream to the foot-bridge at Jones Gap State Park) Open daily from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset	Any length	Catch and Release only	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except artificial lures.
South Saluda River (adjacent to SCDNR WMA areas) Open 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset	Any length	5	None
Whitewater River (Oconee County)	Any length	5	Unlawful to use or possess any lure or bait except single hook 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.
	Jun. 1 - Sept. 30: Any length	Unlawful to take, attempt to take, or possess more than 3	
Lake Russell	Any length	5	None

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



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.

SC Dept. of Environmental Services
Aquatic Nuisance Species Program
www.des.sc.gov

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, only outboard motors rated at 10 hp or less are allowed north of Wellington Road
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	N/A
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	Dunn's Pond on Hamilton Ridge	7 & 10	Every day except Sun.*	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	Mon., Wed., & Sat.	½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset	Paddle or electric trolling motor only
Lee	Lake Ashwood	75	Every day, except Tue.	½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset	Paddle, electric trolling motor, or gas outboards 10 hp or less
Marlboro	Lake Paul Wallace	300	Every day (Currently closed pending repairs)	Fishing side 24 hours a day, all other activities on the boating side are closed ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset	Fishing side - Paddle, electric trolling motor or outboard motors 10 hp or less
Spartanburg	Lake Edwin B. Johnson	40	Closed to Boating and Fishing	Closed to Boating and Fishing until July 1, 2027	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**	2.5, 1.2, & 1.3	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/

* From October 1 - January 1 fishing is not allowed during deer scheduled deer hunts on Monday afternoons, Tuesday mornings, Friday afternoon, and Saturday mornings.

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

CATFISH CREEL/ SIZE LIMITS	BASS CREEL/ SIZE LIMITS	BREAM CREEL/SIZE LIMITS ***	STATEWIDE CRAPPIE CREEL LIMIT APPLY?	MINNOWS ALLOWED AS BAIT?	BOAT RAMP	FISHING PIER	HANDICAP ACCESS
3	3 (16" or longer)	20	Yes, but no min size	Yes	X	X	X
3	5	10	Yes, but no min size	Yes	X	X	X
5	5	20	Yes, but no min size	Yes	X		
3	5	10	Yes, but no min size	No	X	X	X
3	3	10	Yes, but no min size	No	X		
3	3	10	Yes, but no min size	No		X	X
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X	X
5	5	10	Yes, but no min size	No		X	X
No limit	5	5	Yes, but no min size	No			
3	3	20	Yes, but no min size	Yes	X	X	X
3	2 (16" or longer)	20	Yes	No	X		
3	2	10	Yes, but no min size	No	X		
5	3	15	Yes, but no min size	No	X	X	X
5	3	20	Yes, but no min size	No	X	X	
5	5	10	Yes, but no min size	No	X	X	X
5	5	10	Yes, but no min size	No	X	X	X
5	5	10	Yes, but no min size	No	X	X	X
3	3	15	Yes, but no min size	No			

*** Bream (includes redbreast) Creel/size limits

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 803-734-4DNR.
- 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	» 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).
» not more than 50 set hooks	
» not more than 50 jugs	
» up to 2 traps	» up to 2 eel pots
- 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, landing (dip) net and spears may be used in freshwaters except in Game Zone 1 and 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.
- The daily bag limit for blue catfish harvest is 150 fish per day per person on all state waterways except the daily bag limit remains 25 fish per day for Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, the section of the Pee Dee River from the state border with North Carolina south to the Highway 301 bridge, and the upper reach of the Santee River. It is also unlawful to possess more than two blue catfish greater than thirty-two inches in length in any one day in Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, the upper reach of the Santee River, the section of the Pee Dee River from the state border with North Carolina south to the Highway 301 bridge, and the Congaree and Wateree rivers.
- Native freshwater mussels may not be taken without a permit from SCDNR. The non-native Asian clams, also known as *Corbicula* may be taken. Contact the Freshwater Fisheries Section at 803-734-3891 for permits.
- 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 skimbrow 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 skimbrow 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 recreational and commercial use, but also require a permit. 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 skimbrow 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. All rivers in the Winyah Bay River System (which are 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, and Waccamaw Rivers) are closed to herring fishing, except for the Great Pee Dee River.
- Herring fishing is prohibited within one hundred feet of the fish lift exit channel located above the dam 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	» 2 or more trotlines or fish trotlines with more than 50 hooks.
» 3 or more eel pots	
» 2 or more hoop nets	» 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.)
» 3 or more traps, or	
- 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.
- The daily bag limit for blue catfish harvest is 150 fish per day per person on all state waterways except the daily bag limit remains 25 fish per day for Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, the section of the Pee Dee River from the state border with North Carolina south to the Highway 301 bridge, and the upper reach of the Santee River. It is also unlawful to possess more than two blue catfish greater than thirty-two inches in length in any one day in Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, the upper reach of the Santee River, the section of the Pee Dee River from the state border with North Carolina south to the Highway 301 bridge, and the Congaree and Wateree rivers.

- To qualify for a resident commercial saltwater fishing license, one must have been a resident of this state for the past 365 consecutive days and furnish proof to SCDNR at the time of application.

Markers & Identification of Nongame Devices

- Trotlines, traps, eel pots, gill nets, and hoop nets must be marked with a white floating marker. Marker must not be 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 sponge, 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 SCDNR. The owner's name and SCDNR 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 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.

Prohibited Areas

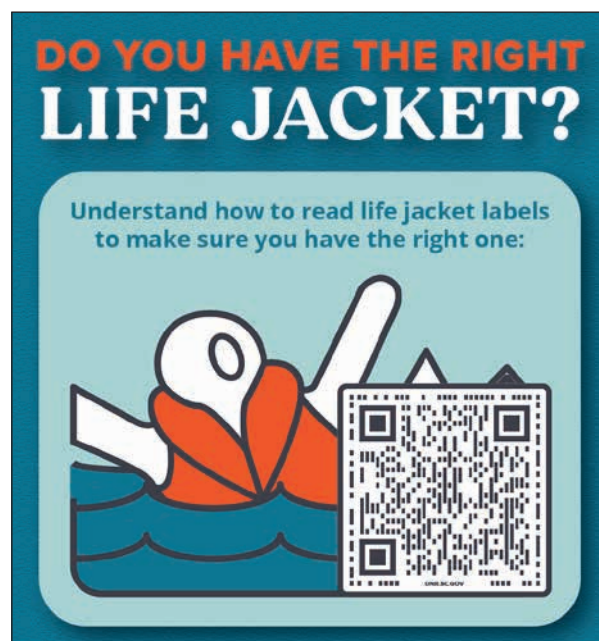
- Nongame fishing devices of any kind may not be used in SCDNR State Managed Lakes.
- Nongame fishing devices are not allowed in Game Zone 1.

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 is prohibited while fishing traps, trotlines, or other nongame fish devices except cast nets and landing 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.



NONGAME METHODS & DEVICES

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 half-way 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 Wacamaw 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, email permits@dnr.sc.gov)

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

Cast Net

A non-baited circular webbing having a weighted peripheral line that is thrown by hand and retrieved by a central line connected to radiating tuck lines attached to the peripheral line. In certain areas, cast nets can be used to capture non-game fish, both recreationally and commercially. Please refer to the Nongame Device Limits by Location section of this publication for areas where this gear may be restricted for use.

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. A commercial fisherman may fish up to fifty crayfish traps. A recreational fisherman may fish up to five crayfish traps.

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.

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.

Skimbrow 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. A skimbrow net can only be fished from a boat and used only for recreational fishing.

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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

- 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
- Hoop Nets: 1 limited to SC residents 65 years or older

Commercial Devices

- 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
- 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
- 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, Mal-lard'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

Non-game devices and cast nets are not allowed in waters within game zone 1 (upstream of SC Hwy 130).

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
- Upper Reach of the Santee River ONLY – Set Hooks: 50

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

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

NONGAME DEVICE LIMITS BY LOCATION

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
- Set Hooks: 50

Commercial Devices

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

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
- 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

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 Permitting Office at permits@dnr.sc.gov 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. See area restrictions in the "Nongame Device Limits by Location" section of this publication.

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, contact permits@dnr.sc.gov.

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 Permitting Office at permits@dnr.sc.gov.

American Shad



Blueback Herring



Hickory Shad



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GENERAL INFORMATION

All Boats

In South Carolina, vessels may not be operated while upon the waters of Lake Greenwood, Lake Hartwell, Lake Jocassee, Lake Keowee, Lake Marion, Lake Monticello, Lake Murray, Lake Robinson, Lake Russell, Lake Secession, Lake Thurmond, Lake Wateree, Fishing Creek Reservoir, Parr Reservoir, or the portion of the Savannah River from the Interstate 20 Savannah River Bridge to the New Savannah River Bluff Lock and Dam in excess of idle speed within 100 feet of a wharf, dock, bulkhead, or pier; or 50 feet of a moored or anchored vessel or person in the water. (Sec. 50-21-870)

Vessels may not be operated on Lake Moultrie and all other waters 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)

Wake Surfing

No person may “wake surf” in excess of idle speed within two hundred feet of a moored vessel, wharf, dock, bulkhead, pier, or person in the water. Wake surf means to operate a vessel that is ballasted in the stern so as to create a wake that is, or is intended to be, surfed by another person. (Sec. 50-21-870)

Equipment

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

All boats must have a U.S. 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 age 12 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 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

Vessels less than 65.6 feet (20 meters) in length, including PWC's, are required to carry on board a whistle, horn or sounding device.

Vessels 65.6 feet (20 meters) or more in length are required to carry on board a whistle or horn and a bell.

Personal Watercraft

In South Carolina, each person on a personal watercraft must wear a US Coast Guard-approved Level 70 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, 843-953-9378.

Boater Education

In South Carolina, boat operators born after July 1, 2007 must complete a boating course approved by SCDNR to operate a boat or personal watercraft with a 10 h.p. motor or greater. There are exemptions for age and boating certifications. See 50-21-95 for a complete list of exemptions.

Reporting Accidents

The operator of every vessel involved in a boating accident shall report to SCDNR whenever the accident results in loss of life, loss of consciousness, medical treatment beyond first aid or disability in excess of 24 hours, or property damage in excess of the minimum amount as set by the USCG. For more information, call 843-953-9378.

Airboats

Airboats are prohibited on public waters of the state seaward of the freshwater-saltwater dividing line. Additional restrictions on specific bodies of water can be found in S.C. Code Section 50-21-860.

Titling & Registration

Titling

The seller of a used watercraft 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 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, 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 on navigable waters must be registered in addition to being titled in the owner's name. Any outboard motor of at least 5 horsepower or its equivalent that is used on the waters of the State must be registered with the department (Sec. 50-23-430). A valid outboard motor registration decal must be affixed to the right side of the motor casing when looking toward the bow (Sec. 50-23-480). For a complete list of exemptions from outboard motor registration, refer to SC Code Section 50-23-440.

Report Theft

The owner of a watercraft or outboard motor which has been stolen should immediately contact local law enforcement to file a report, and then 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 803-734-4DNR M, T, Th, F 8:30 AM-4:50 PM, W 9:30 AM - 4:50 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.

VESSEL SEWAGE

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 Hartwell
- Lake Keowee
- Lake Murray
- Lake Thurmond
- Lake Wylie

What Can You Do?

To protect 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. To qualify for a resident commercial saltwater fishing license, one must have been a resident of this state for the past 365 consecutive days and furnish proof to SCDNR at the time of application.

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 lawfully 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.

For more information on equipment licenses, call 843-953-9300. 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.
- When fishing for gamefish (including red drum, cobia, and tarpon) with large hooks (4/0 or larger) and natural bait, non-offset/non-stainless circle hooks are required. There are no restrictions on hook type when using hooks less than 4/0 or artificial lures.

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.

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. If fishing for gamefish with large hooks (4/0 or larger) and natural bait, non-offset/non-stainless circle hooks are required. There are no restrictions on hook type when using hooks less than 4/0 or artificial lures.
- 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 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

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hand seines and cast nets for taking shrimp are allowed.

Trotlines (Long Lines)

Permits/Licenses

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License and Trotline Equipment License required.

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, CCA-McClellanville, Charleston 60, Comanche, Eagles Nest, Edisto 40, Edisto 60, Edisto Offshore, Fripp Island, Georgetown, Greenville, Hilton Head, Hunting Island, Kiawah, Little River Offshore,

Lowcountry Anglers, North Inlet, Paradise, Pawleys Island, Pop Nash, Ron McManus Memorial, Ten Mile, Vermillion, 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 will be limited to the recreational bag and possession limits within the SMZs.

Spawning Special Management Zones (SSMZs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Three SSMZs (Devil's Hole, Area 51 and Area 53) and four MPAs (Snowy Grouper Wreck, Northern SC, Edisto and Charleston Deep Artificial Reef) are located off the SC coast. Fishing for or possession of (unless gear is appropriately stored) snapper-grouper species is prohibited. Trolling for pelagic species is permitted. For locations and complete regulations, please visit: safmc.net/safmc-managed-areas.

Unlawful to Sell Gamefish & Billfish

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

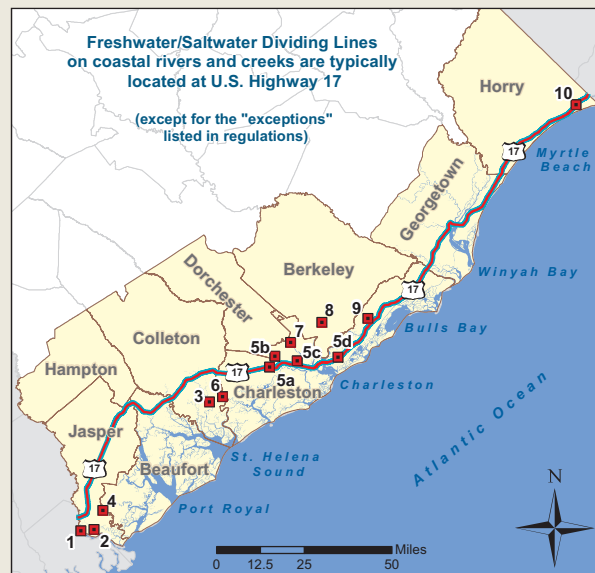
Prohibited Practices

- 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.

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:

1. 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.
2. Wright River is salt water 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 (5a), Rantowles Creek (5b), Long Branch Creek (5c), and Shem Creek (5d) 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. 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 www.eregulations.com/southcarolina/huntingandfishing/general-information/

Check out South Carolina saltwater fishing regulations on the Fish Rules App at www.fishrulesapp.com.

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	See pages 36 and 43.	10 shad per person per day except in Santee River and Rediversion Canal (20 per person per day)		• See page 43 for licensing, permitting, and gear requirements.
Herring	See pages 36 and 43.	1 US bushel of herring per person per day		• See page 43 for licensing, permitting, and gear requirements.
Black Drum		5 per person per day	14-inch to 27-inch TL	
Bluefish		5 per person per day (7 per person in the for-hire fishery)		
Flounders (Southern, Summer & Gulf)		5 per person per day not to exceed 10 per boat per day	16-inch TL	• Bag limit applies to hook and line or gig.
Red Drum	May not be harvested by gig Dec. 1 - Feb. 28	1 per person per day (state waters) not to exceed 2 per boat per day Possession prohibited in federal waters.	18-inch to 25-inch TL	• May only be taken by rod & reel and gig. • May not be harvested from federal waters.
Saltwater Catfishes (Hardhead & gafftopsail catfishes)	Possession prohibited	Possession prohibited		• 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. 1 - Feb. 28	10 per person per day	14-inch TL	• May only be taken by rod & reel and gig.
Striped Bass	Possession prohibited: June 16 - 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 16 - Sept. 30; 3 fish per person per day: Oct. 1 - June 15 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.)	• 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	• May only be taken by rod & reel.
Tripletail		3 per person per day not to exceed 9 per boat per day	18-inch TL	
Weakfish		1 per person per day	12-inch TL	
Atlantic Croaker, Spot, Whiting		50 per person per day aggregate bag limit		• Bag limit applies to hook and line only.
Florida Pompano	No associated regulations			

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)	1 per person per day and no more than 3 per boat per day in State waters south of 032° 31.0' N 1 per person per day and no more than 6 per boat per day federal waters and state waters north of 032° 31.0' N	36-inch FL	In state waters may only be taken by rod & reel and gig.
Dolphin		10 per person per day not to exceed 54 per boat per day. Headboats have no boat limit	20-inch FL	- 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	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	For-hire vessels must have a Coastal Migratory Pelagics permit to fish for this species in federal waters.
Wahoo		2 per person per day		- 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 in federal waters when catch limits are met. There are no closed seasons in state waters (out to 3 miles offshore). 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. You can also download the FREE mobile application Fish Rules. Fish Rules is available for both android and apple products.

Recreational, for-hire, and commercial fishermen are required to use dehooking tools and to possess a descending device that is ready for use when fishing for or possessing snapper-grouper species. They are also required to use non-stainless, non-offset circle hooks when fishing with hook and line and 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.

Sea Turtle Release Gear Requirements: For-hire vessels fishing for snapper-grouper species and possessing a federal for-hire permit must have on-board NMFS approved sea turtle release gear and follow release protocols. For more information, call 727-824-5312 or visit, http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_sa/turtle_sawfish_release/index.html

For additional information on red snapper, visit <https://dnr.sc.gov/redsnapper>.

SPECIES	CLOSED SEASON IN FEDERAL WATERS	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
Greater Amberjack	April 1-30	1 per person per day	28-inch FL	
Hogfish		2 per person per day	17-inch FL	
Wreckfish	Jan. 1 - June 30 and Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	1 per vessel per day		
SEABASS				
Black Sea Bass		7 per person per day	13-inch TL	
PORGIES AND SNAPPERS				
Red Porgy	Jan. 1 - April 30 and July 1 - Dec. 31	1 per person per day	14-inch TL	
Vermilion Snapper		5 per person per day	12-inch TL	
Red Snapper	Possession prohibited in federal waters	2 per person per day in state waters	20-inch TL in state waters	
Lane Snapper		10 per person per day from this group	8-inch TL	
Cubera, Yellowtail, Gray			12-inch TL	
Blackfin, Silk and Queen Snapper				
Mutton Snapper		5 per person per day, included in the above group limit of 10 per person per day	18-inch TL	
GROUPE AND TILEFISH				
Gag & Black Grouper	Aug. 2, 2026 - Apr. 30, 2027 (Gag) and Jan. 1 - Apr. 30, 2027 (Black)	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit; Maximum of 1 gag or black grouper (but not both) per person/day. Two fish vessel limit in federal waters.	24-inch TL	Bag limit for captain and mates on for-hire trip is zero.
Red Grouper	Jan. 1 - May 31	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit	20-inch TL	
Scamp & Yellowmouth Groupers	Jan. 1 - Apr. 30	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit. Maximum of 1 scamp or yellowmouth grouper (but not both) per person/day in federal waters. In state waters, the bag limit is 3.		
Yellowfin Grouper	Jan. 1 - Apr. 30	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit.		
Golden Tilefish	Mar. 21 - Dec. 31, 2026	1 per person per day; included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit		Included in 3 grouper aggregate bag limit.
Sand Tilefish		3 per person per day; included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit		
Bluefin Tilefish	Sept. 1, 2026 - Apr. 30, 2027	2 per person per day in federal waters, 3 per person per day in state waters; included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit		

SOUTH CAROLINA SNAPPER-GROUPER COMPLEX

SPECIES	CLOSED SEASON IN FEDERAL WATERS	BAG LIMIT	SIZE LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
Misty & Yellowedge Grouper		Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit		
Coney, Graysby, Red Hind & Rock Hind	Jan. 1 - Apr. 30	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit		
Snowy Grouper	June 7, 2026 - Apr. 30, 2027	Included in the 3 grouper aggregate daily bag limit; One fish vessel limit		
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; White Grunt; Scup; Almaco & Bar Jacks; Margate; Whitebone, Knobbed, Jolthead & Saucereye; Banded Rudderfish; Sailors Choice		20 per person per day aggregate with no more than 10 of any one species		
Gray Triggerfish			12-inch FL	
Spadefish			14-inch TL (state waters)	30 per boat per day (state waters)

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.

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 OR 25-inch cleithrum to caudal keel	• 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.
Roundscale Spearfish			66-inch FL from lower jaw	• May only be taken by rod & reel.
Longbill Spearfish	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		NOAA Fisheries has adjusted the Atlantic Bluefin tuna daily retention limits which applies to vessels permitted in the Highly Migratory Species Angling category and the HMS Charter/Headboat category. Visit https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/bulletin/bluefin-tuna-angling-category-daily-retention-limit-adjustment for detailed information regarding bag limits prior to fishing.		• 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.			

SHARKS

Federal Highly Migratory Species Permit with a Shark Endorsement are required in federal waters to recreationally fish for, retain, possess, or land sharks. 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. Additionally, anglers fishing recreationally for sharks are required to use non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks, except when fishing with flies or artificial lures. 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, Nurse, Porbeagle, Spinner, Thresher and Tiger Sharks		1 shark per vessel per trip	54-inch FL	
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead and Smooth Hammerhead Sharks			78-inch FL	
Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bignose, Dusky, Galapagos, Shortfin Mako, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Caribbean Reef, Sandbar, Sevengill, Caribbean Sharpnose, Silky, Bigeye 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, without removing it from the water.

SOUTH CAROLINA CRUSTACEANS & SHELLFISH REGULATIONS

SPECIES	CLOSED SEASON	POSSESSION & SIZE LIMIT	RESTRICTIONS
CRAB, LOBSTER AND SHELLFISH			
Blue Crabs		Possession Limit: 1 US bushel per person per day and 2 US bushels per boat per day. Size Limit: 5-inch minimum carapace width (point to point)	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)	- 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	- 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 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	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 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	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	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	2026 Shrimp baiting season Sept. 11 (Noon) - Nov. 9 (Noon)	48 quarts whole or 29 quarts headed per day (sunrise to sunrise) per set of poles	- 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 without a recreational crab trap endorsement or five pots with a recreational crab trap endorsement. A Commercial Saltwater Fishing License, Vessel Decal, and Gear license are required for over five pots.
- A two-chambered pot or trap used for taking blue crab must have at least two unobstructed, circular escape vents (rings) which must be two and three-eighths inches or greater in inside diameter and be located on vertical surfaces. At least one vent (ring) must be in the upper chamber and all vents (rings) must be within two inches of the horizontal partition or the base of the trap. If a pot or trap has a single chamber, one escape vent (ring) of at least two and three-eighths inches or larger is required on a vertical surface within two inches of the base of the trap.
- 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 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.
- Retaining blue crabs caught in the fresh-water of the state is prohibited; any blue crabs caught must be returned to the waters immediately.

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 written 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/marine/shellfish/shellfishmaps.html, 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.

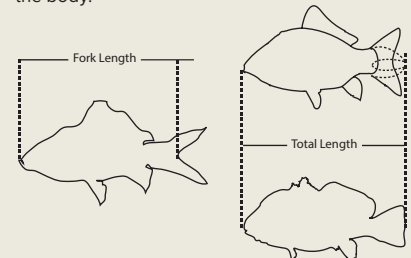
Shell Recycling

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. Sea Turtle Handling Release Guidelines Quick Reference www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/tagfish/pdf/SeaTurtleHandlingReleaseGuidelines.pdf

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

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

GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

General Information on Hunting

"Hunting" means the act of trying to find, seek, obtain, pursue or diligently search for wildlife with the means and intent to take or attempt to take such wildlife.

Regulations in this section apply to both private and public lands statewide, unless otherwise specified.

Licenses & Permits

Licenses and permits are required for hunting in South Carolina. Detailed information on types of licenses and permits is located on pages 12 & 14. All residents and non-residents born after June 30, 1979 must successfully complete a hunter education course that is approved by SCDNR before a hunting license can be obtained. For exceptions, see page 8.

Game Zones & WMAs

South Carolina is divided into four game zones, as defined on the maps on page 60.

SCDNR sets and regulates the methods of harvest, bag limits and other requirements for hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) statewide.

The SC General Assembly establishes seasons, limits and methods for private land statewide. SCDNR is responsible for law enforcement statewide.

Protected Game

The following species may be hunted ONLY during legally established seasons: bear, beaver, bobcat, deer, fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, rabbit, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, weasel, waterfowl (goose, brant and duck), bobwhite quail, mourning dove, rails (marsh hen), coot, gallinule, ruffed grouse, crow, wild turkey, common snipe and woodcock.

Protected Nongame

The following species are protected and may not be hunted, molested, caught, transported, sold or possessed in any manner without a permit: any species appearing on the state list of non-game and endangered species (R 123-150), birds of prey (eagles, hawks, osprey, owls, kites, and vultures) and non-game birds (except English sparrows, pigeons, Eurasian collard doves and starlings). Falconers must possess a SCDNR permit.

Importation & Possession

It is unlawful to import, possess or transport for the purpose of release, or to introduce or bring into this state any live wildlife of the following types without a permit from SCDNR: a member of the family Cervidae (deer, moose, elk, etc.), bear, turkey, furbearers (this includes badger, beaver, bobcat, Canada lynx, coyote, fisher, any foxes, marten, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, any otter, raccoon, ringtail, any skunk, weasels, or wolves), a

nondomestic member of the families Suidae or Tayassuidae (pigs), or Bovidae (bison, antelope, mountain goat, mountain sheep) (50-16-20). The importation or possession of live alligators is illegal without a permit from the Department (50-15-390).

The importation or sale of live wolves is prohibited in South Carolina, except for exhibition or scientific purposes upon the approval of SCDNR as provided by regulations (50-11-1765). It is unlawful to import coyotes. The possession and sale of live foxes and coyotes is restricted by law (50-11-2630). A person may not have a live wolf in his possession without a SCDNR permit. Federal law prohibits importing, exporting, selling, buying, receiving or acquiring big cats across state lines. For information and exceptions, contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region, 1875 Century Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30345.

Prohibition of Sale, Purchase, Donation, or Transfer of Ownership Wildlife as Pets - The Department of Public Health (DPH) Rabies Control Act (47-5-50) prohibits the sale, purchase, donation, or transfer of ownership of nondomesticated carnivores (raccoons, foxes, skunks, bobcats, coyotes, wolves, wolf dogs, weasels, civet cats, spotted skunks, and lynx or the offspring born to any combinations of crossbreeding (hybrids) between these wild animals and domestic dogs or cats) to private individuals in this State. Requests for importing furbearing animals for private possession violate the spirit of the Rabies Control Act and will be denied.

Note: SCDNR does not advocate or encourage keeping wildlife in captivity.

Equipment & Methods

Archery

Archery means a longbow, recurve bow, compound bow or crossbow (50-11-565). There are no restrictions on draw weight/length, arrow weight/length, or broad head weight, width, or style.

Crossbows

Crossbows may be used on private lands and WMA lands statewide during all archery, muzzleloader or gun seasons for deer, bear and turkey.

Primitive Weapons

For special primitive weapons seasons, primitive weapons include bow and arrow, crossbows and muzzleloading shotguns of twenty gauge or larger, and rifles of .36 caliber or larger with open or peep sights or scopes, which use black powder or a black powder substitute that does not contain nitrocellulose or nitro-glycerin components as the propellant charge. There are no restrictions on ignition systems including flintstone, percussion cap, shotgun primer, disk, or electronic.

During primitive weapons season, no revolving rifles are permitted (50-11-310). Falconry Allowed.

Pneumatic Weapons

Pneumatic weapons including those that shoot arrows may be used on private and WMA Lands statewide during firearms seasons only. On WMAs restrictions found in WMA Regulation 3.1 and 3.3 apply to pneumatic weapons.

Transporting Firearms

There are no SCDNR restrictions on transporting firearms by licensed hunters and fishermen in a vehicle to and from the place of hunting and fishing except on WMA lands. For regulations on WMA lands see Weapons 3.4 on page 91.

Calls, Recorded or Electronically Amplified

It is illegal to hunt, catch, take, kill or attempt to hunt, catch, take or kill any game bird or game animal with the aid of recorded calls or sounds or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of calls or sounds (50-11-40). Crows, coyotes or hogs are not game birds/animals and therefore can be hunted using electronic calls on private lands and WMA lands.

Youth Hunting Days

Youth Hunting Days are scheduled for many species of game and are for youth 17 years of age and younger. Youth who have not completed the hunter education program must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age. Only the youth may take or attempt to take game. License and tag requirements are waived for the youth hunter only on youth days outside of the normal hunting season. (50-9-740)

Free Hunting Days - January 9 & 10 on Private Lands and January 9 on WMA lands.

This special opportunity IS ONLY VALID FOR RESIDENTS OF SC THAT DO NOT HAVE A CURRENT STATE HUNTING LICENSE. On these days, those individuals are permitted to hunt without a state hunting license or other required permits, to include Wildlife Management Area (WMA) permit, or Migratory Waterfowl Permit (formerly State Duck Stamp) on all lands in which hunting is allowed, including private lands & Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) that are not otherwise closed to hunting. Many WMAs may be closed to waterfowl hunting or other types of hunting or have special restrictions. Refer to info beginning on page 94 for specific WMAs. All existing seasons, bag limits & methods of take still apply.

Free Hunting Days are offered by the State of South Carolina and do not waive any Federal requirements for a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) to hunt migratory waterfowl.

GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

Prohibited Acts

Shining

In all game zones, the use of artificial lights for the purpose of observing or harassing wildlife is unlawful, except that a property owner, lessee, or person with written permission from the property owner may use artificial lights to observe wildlife prior to 11:00 PM. This section does not prohibit an owner of real property from using artificial lights for the purpose of protecting the property. This section does not prohibit the use of remote trail monitors or cameras from fixed locations on a property, nor does it prohibit a person or group, with written permission of the landowner or leaseholder of the property, from observing wildlife with the use of artificial lights who is engaged in research or documentary filming (50-11-717). This section does not prohibit a person from lawfully hunting coyotes, armadillos, and hogs at night as provided for by law (See page 71).

Sunday Hunting

Hunting is prohibited on Sundays on all WMA lands unless otherwise specified. On private lands statewide, Sunday hunting for all game is legal.

Selling Game Animals

It is unlawful to sell, except by special permit, any protected wildlife (50-1-290). Furbearing animals may be sold with a valid commercial fur harvest license. See page 69 for more information.

Trespass

It shall be unlawful to enter upon the lands of another for the purpose of hunting, fishing, trapping or retrieval of dogs without the consent of the landowner or manager.

Hunting from Public Roads

It is unlawful to hunt from a public road unless the hunter has permission to hunt the adjacent property. Hunting as used in this section includes possessing, carrying or having readily accessible a loaded centerfire rifle, or a shotgun loaded with shot size larger than number four. Loaded means a weapon within which any ammunition is contained. This does not include weapons contained in a closed compartment, closed vehicle trunk, or a vehicle traveling on a public road. A person convicted of unlawful road hunting forfeits hunting privileges for one year. See WMA Regulation 3.6 page 91 for restrictions on WMA lands.

Negligent Hunting

It is unlawful to use a firearm or archery tackle in a criminally negligent manner while in preparation for, engaged in the act of, or returning from hunting. Criminal negligence is defined as the reckless disregard for the safety of others.

SHOOTING RANGES

SCDNR operates multiple shooting ranges that are open for use during certain hours which are subject to change according to time of year, hunting seasons, etc. All SCDNR ranges are 100 yards or less. To confirm hours of operation, call the SCDNR Hunter Education office at 803-734-3995.

SCDNR Pickens County Range (Pickens Co.)

From Easley, take SC Highway 8 approximately 4 miles towards Pickens. Turn left on Breazeale Road. Drive 1/2 mile beyond SC Dept. of Transportation Maintenance Shop and turn left on Porter Rd. Go approximately 1/2 mile and turn left at the red gate. The range is located at the end of the gravel road.

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Closed Sunday and Monday. For more information, call 864-855-5747.

SCDNR James O. Thomason Shooting Range (Spartanburg Co.)

From Pauline, take SC Highway 215 approximately .5 mile east toward Glenn Springs. Turn left on Foster Mill Circle and drive 2.5 miles (paved road becomes gravel road). Range is on the left side of the road.

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Closed Sun. and Mon. For more information call 864-380-6276.

SCDNR Twin Ponds Range (Charleston Co.)

7492 Willow Hall Rd, Awendaw, SC 29429

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Closed Sunday and Monday.

US Forest Service Rifle Ranges

Cedar Creek Shooting Range (Oconee Co.)

Year round. Fully accessible to disabled visitors. Three of five shooting tables are under a shelter. For more information, call 864-638-9568. **Hours:** Open Thursday - Sunday

Candy Branch Shooting Range (Abbeville Co.)

Year round, sunrise to sunset. Five firing lines with left or right benches including one accessible to disabled visitors. For more information call 803-637-5396.

Beaverdam Shooting Range (Edgefield Co.)

Year round, sunrise to sunset. Eight open firing lines with left or right benches. For more information call 803-637-5396.

SCDNR Wateree Range (Richland Co.)

14068 Garners Ferry Rd, Eastover, SC 29044

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 9AM-5PM (EST) Closed Sunday and Monday. Range offers shooting opportunities for rifle, pistol, skeet, trap, five-stand, and sporting clays. There is a charge of \$5 per 25 clay targets on shotgun ranges. For more information, call 803-240-7368.

SCDNR Belfast WMA Shooting Range (Laurens Co.)

6655 Highway 560, Kinards, SC 29355

Hours: Open Wednesday - Saturday. Daylight hours only, Sunday 2:00 PM - dark. Closed Monday and Tuesday.

SCDNR Palachucola Range (Hampton Co.)

Thursday-Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Dates are posted at the range or call 803-602-7903 for more information.

Manchester State Forest Shooting Range (SC Forestry Commission, Sumter Co.)

\$5.00 per day or \$25.00 per year. Hearing protection required. For more information, call 803-494-8196.

Hours: Open Saturday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM and Sunday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM.

Fairforest Shooting Range (Union Co.), Leeds Shooting Range (Chester Co.), Philson Crossroads Shooting Range (Laurens Co.), Indian Creek Shooting Range (Newberry Co.)

Year round, day use. All have six firing lanes, left and right benches are available, including one bench accessible to disabled visitors. For more information call 803-276-4810.

Boggy Head Rifle Range (Berkeley Co.)

Year round, daylight hours only. Shooting tables, including one fully-accessible to disabled visitors. For more information call Francis Marion Ranger District office at 843-336-2200.

For additional shooting ranges visit <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/shooting/>

Night

Night is defined as that period of time between one hour after official sunset of a day and one hour before official sunrise of the following day (50-11-710).

Night Hunting

Night hunting is unlawful except that raccoons, opossums, foxes, mink, skunk, coyotes, armadillos and hogs may be hunted at night. Information related to hunting coyotes, armadillos and feral hogs during night is provided on page 71 of this document under specific headings for these animals.

Raccoons, opossums, foxes, mink, and skunk may not be hunted with artificial lights

except when treed or cornered with dogs. Devices that amplify light using some type of power source (including night vision and infrared devices) are considered artificial light. No buckshot or any shot larger than a No. 4, or any ammunition larger than .22 rimfire may be used. It is unlawful to use artificial lights at night, except vehicle headlights while traveling in a normal manner on a public road or highway, while in possession of or with immediate access to, both ammunition of a type prohibited for use at night and a firearm capable of firing the ammunition (50-11-710). Rabbit hunting at night without weapons is lawful on private land.

DEER RULES & REGULATIONS

Deer Tag Information

All harvested deer in South Carolina are required to be tagged at the point of kill. Tag must remain attached until the deer/carcase is quartered or received by a processor. For Additional Deer Tag Information visit www.eregulations.com/southcarolina/huntingand-fishing/deer-tag-information/

Deer tags **ARE NOT** available over the counter at point of sales vendors (Walmart, Dick's Sporting Goods, etc.). They are available over the counter at SCDNR offices located in Aynor, Charleston, Clemson, West Columbia at the State Farmer's Market, Florence, and York. Tags may be requested after July 1 online at: GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com. Tags will not be mailed until early August. Allow 7-10 days for tags to arrive in the mail for online and telephone orders.

Tags are valid for the entire deer season, however, hunters must maintain an active License/Big Game Permit to legally deer hunt. The statewide limit on antlered bucks using personal tags is 5 for residents and 4 for non-residents. In each case, 2 of these bucks must have at least 4 points on one antler or a 12-inch inside spread. Daily limit of 2 for antlered bucks or antlerless deer using personal tags for residents and non-residents.

Residents

When a resident purchases a Hunting License/Big Game Permit **OR** if they have an active Hunting License/Big Game Permit that will be valid when deer season begins they will automatically receive a free base set of deer tags prior to deer season or 7-10 days following the purchase of the Hunting License/Big Game Permit if deer season has begun.

Youth hunters and 3-year Disability Licensees must request the free base set of tags annually. Lifetime/Senior/Gratis/Disability Licensees receive tags annually after requesting them one time. (Note: Lifetime Licensees that now live out-of-state should call SCDNR Licensing directly at 803-734-4DNR.)

The base set of resident tags consist of the following:

- 3 Unrestricted Antlered Deer Tags
- 3 Individual Antlerless Deer Tags

Residents — optional deer tag purchases

Residents including youth hunters and Lifetime and Senior/Gratis/Disability Licensees may purchase 2 additional antler restriction buck tags for \$5 each. The restriction is the buck must have 4 points on one antler or a minimum 12-inch inside spread. There is no particular order in which the antlered buck tags must be used.

All residents may purchase up to 4 individual antlerless tags for \$5 each. Tags are valid on any day beginning September 15 in Game Zones 2, 3, 4 and October 1 in Game Zone 1 until the end of the deer hunting season.

Hunters who purchase 4 tags receive 2 free bonus tags valid on private land only in Game Zones 2, 3 and 4 to help control deer damage to agriculture.

Non-Residents

Non-Resident adults receive no free tags with the purchase of their Hunting License/Big Game Permit and must also purchase deer tags in order to deer hunt.

Non-Resident deer tags are as follows:

- May purchase up to 4 antlered deer tags.
- 2 Unrestricted Antlered Deer Tags
- 2 Antler Restriction Deer Tags — 4 points on one antler or a minimum 12-inch inside spread. Cost: \$50 for first antlered buck tag- \$20 for each additional (\$110 for all 4).
- After the purchase of an unrestricted buck tag, there is no particular order in which the buck tags must be purchased or used.

May purchase up to 4 Individual Antlerless Tags (\$10 each) as in the past.

Hunters who purchase 4 tags receive 2 free bonus tags valid on private land only in Game Zones 2, 3 and 4 to help control deer damage to agriculture.

Non-resident youth receive base set of tags for free by request. May then purchase one antler restriction buck tag (\$50) and up to 4 Individual Antlerless Tags (\$10 each).

NEED DEER OR TURKEY TAGS IMMEDIATELY?

If you have just purchased a Hunting License and Big Game Permit, or have just requested or purchased deer or turkey tags and want to hunt immediately, a temporary set of deer or turkey tags can be downloaded and printed by accessing the Customer Privileges Portal on the SCDNR website at <https://www2.dnr.sc.gov/customerprivilegesportal/>. These self-printed temporary tags are only valid until your permanent tags arrive in the mail.

DEER HARVEST REPORTING

Harvested deer must be reported by midnight on day of harvest using **SC Game Check** with one of the following methods:

- Using the **Go Outdoors SC** mobile app
- Entering the harvest online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com
- Calling the SC Game Check reporting phone line at 1-833-4SC-GAME (1-833-472-4263)
- Through the Text to Harvest option by texting "Harvest" to 1-833-472-4263 and following the prompts."

MEASUREMENT PROCEDURES & STANDARDS FOR ANTLERED DEER

For the 2 Optional Antler Restriction Tags a deer must have a minimum of 4 points on one antler OR a minimum 12" inside antler spread.

- A point is defined as a projection that is at least one inch long. Points are measured starting at base where it arises from the top of the beam or another point. (Fig. 1)
- Inside antler spread is measured at a right angle (perpendicular) to the center line of the skull at its widest point between the main beams. (Fig. 2)

Fig. 1

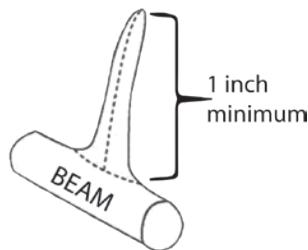


Fig. 2



DEER RULES & REGULATIONS

Deer

All deer must be tagged with a valid deer tag as prescribed by the department before the animal is moved from the point of kill. Tag must remain attached until the deer/carcass is quartered or received by a processor. All harvested deer must be reported using the SC Game Check system by midnight of the day of harvest and prior to leaving a deer with a processor. For details on reporting methods please see page 62. Upon completion of the harvest reporting process, a confirmation number will be provided, and it must be recorded by the person submitting the harvest report. A person who takes a deer to a processor must provide the harvest report confirmation number to the processor at the time the deer is dropped off. (50-11-546).

Legal hunting time for deer is the time between one hour before official sunrise until one hour after official sunset (50-11-710).

In Game Zones 1 and 2 it is unlawful to pursue deer with dogs (50-11-310).

It is unlawful to hunt, shoot or in any way kill deer from a motorboat, raft or any other water conveyance, or to molest a deer while any part of the deer is in water (50-11-730).

Possessing any deer with the head detached while in transit from the point of kill is prohibited (50-11-400).

It is unlawful to hunt deer with a firearm within three hundred yards of a residence when less than ten feet above the ground without permission of the owner and occupant. The provisions of this section do not apply to a landowner hunting on his own land or a person taking deer pursuant to a department permit.

Archery, muzzleloaders, crossbows, and pneumatic weapons are allowed during gun hunts.

Antlered Deer

An antlered deer is defined as a deer with antlers 2 inches or more above the hairline.

Antlerless Deer

An antlerless deer is defined as a deer with no antlers or a deer with less than two inches of antler visible above the hairline. Antlerless deer may not be possessed, hunted, shot or in any way killed except during special seasons or by special permit (50-11-410).

Individual Antlerless Deer Tag Program

SC Resident deer hunters receive three (3) Individual Antlerless Tags free of charge as part of their base set of deer tags. Additionally all hunters may purchase up to 4 Individual Antlerless Tags (\$5 each for residents and \$10 each for nonresidents). The following Game Zone and WMA limitations include the 2 free resident base set tags combined with any additional Individual Antlerless Tags that are purchased:

In Game Zone 1 only three (3) Individual Antlerless Tags are valid on private or WMA land starting October 1. In Game Zones 2, 3, and 4

Individual Antlerless Tags are valid on private or WMA land starting September 15. No more than five (5) total Individual Antlerless Tags may be used on all WMAs combined in Game Zones 2, 3, and 4. All Individual Antlerless Tags may be used on private land in Game Zones 2, 3 and 4. Individual Antlerless Tags are not valid on properties which are enrolled in the Deer Quota Program for antlerless deer. Tags do not alter the daily or seasonal bag limits for Game Zones or alter the type of weapon allowed. Tags may only be possessed or used by the person whose name appears on the tag.

Hunters who purchase 4 Individual Tags will receive 2 free bonus tags valid only on private land in Game Zone 2, 3 & 4 to help control deer damage to agriculture.

Tags are available over the counter at SCDNR offices in Clemson, Charleston, Conway, West Columbia (Farmer's Market), Florence, & York or at the following website: GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com. A handwritten application may be obtained on page 117, by calling SCDNR at 803-734-3886 or at <http://dnr.sc.gov/regs/pdf/speciallicenseapp.pdf>

Deer Quota Program (DQP)

Deer quotas are issued to qualifying land owners or lessees statewide who complete and submit an application along with a \$50 fee prior to July 1. This program is generally better suited for landowners or lessees with large acreages. Under the DQP, a quota of antlerless deer tags are issued to a particular tract of land based on criteria including; density of the local deer population, condition of the local deer population, the size of the tract of land, presence of agriculture or agricultural damage, and the overall deer management objectives of the owner. Participants in the DQP also have the option of receiving a quota for antlered bucks. Buck quotas are based on the average number of acres per buck harvested as reported by program participants in the county in recent years.

Utilization of DQP antlerless tags is subject to the following restrictions. In Game Zone 1 tags are valid beginning Oct. 1. In Game Zones 2, 3, and 4 tags are valid beginning Sept. 15. Tags issued for a particular tract of land can only be used on that tract and they must be used on all deer (antlerless and/or antlered) for which a quota was issued. Tags do not alter the use of weapons during special weapons seasons. Statewide, Game Zone, and daily limits do not apply on properties enrolled in the DQP because the limit is on the property not the persons hunting the property. A harvest report must be completed by the applicant at the close of the season.

Deer Processors

Hunters are required to provide deer processors with the deer harvest report confirmation number and processors must record and maintain the confirmation number for each deer until the processed meat is received by

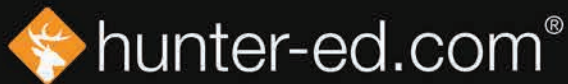
the hunter or their designee (50-11-546). In the past processors were required to record the hunters name, address, and hunting license number. However, recording and maintaining the harvest report confirmation number serves the same purpose and is satisfactory carcass identification. Processors may not accept untagged deer; however they are not responsible for any missing information on a deer tag, e.g. notches, marking, etc. The deer tag may be removed by the processor once processing begins or the deer is quartered. Processors are encouraged to report tagging violations to SCDNR Law Enforcement. Deer processors should recognize that it is unlawful to sell deer meat. Deer processors may receive a permit from SCDNR to process legally taken female (doe) deer donated by a hunter and recover the fee of processing from a person other than the individual who donated the deer. Contact the SCDNR Big Game Program for more details (803) 734-3609. (50-11-1910).

CWD Carcass Importation Regulations

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease of cervids (deer family) that represents a significant risk to deer in North America. In order to protect against the spread of CWD into SC, the following regulations are in place - No person may import or possess a whole cervid carcass or carcass part from an infected state except the following may be imported: quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached; meat that has been boned out; hides with no heads attached; clean (no meat or tissue attached) skulls or skull plates with antlers attached; antlers (detached from the skull plate); clean upper canine teeth, also called "buglers," "whistlers" or "ivories;" and finished taxidermy heads. Hunters traveling elsewhere should check with the wildlife agency in their destination state to determine its CWD status and to determine what restrictions the state may have on the movement of carcasses. CWD has been diagnosed in 36 states and 4 Canadian provinces. A current list of these locations can be viewed at <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/deer/chronicwasting.html>. (Reg. 123-54).

CWD Natural Cervid Urine Regulation

The CWD infectious agent may be found in commercial natural deer urine products. Distributing this urine may contaminate the environment. For this reason, no person shall possess or use any substance that contains or purports to contain excretions from a cervid (deer) including urine, feces, blood, gland oil, or other body fluid for the purpose of taking, attracting, or scouting any wild animal in SC. This does not prohibit synthetic products or substances collected by a hunter from deer legally harvested in SC. (Reg. 123-54).



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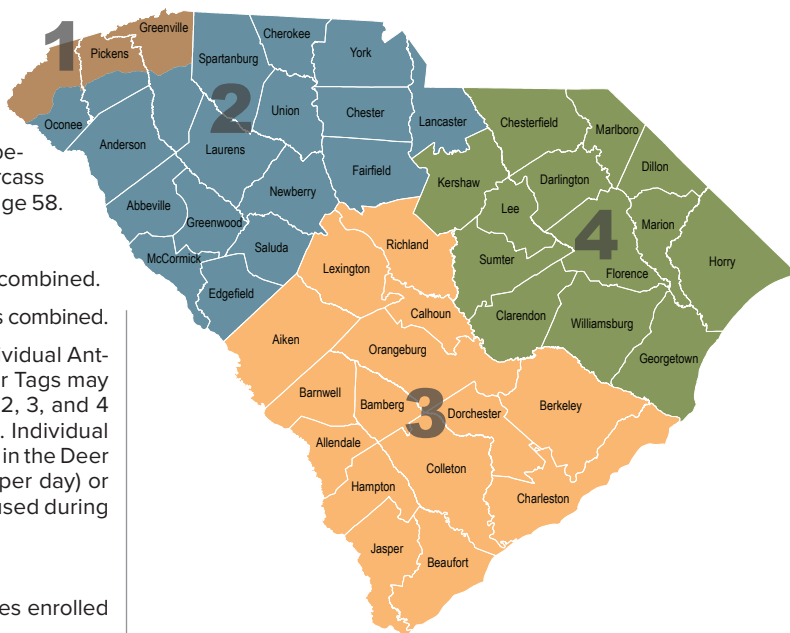
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DEER RULES & REGULATIONS

Deer Seasons on Private Lands

- All harvested deer must be tagged at the point of kill prior to being transported. Tag must remain attached until the deer/carcass is quartered or received by a processor. Processors see page 58.
- Antlered deer statewide limit:
 - » **Residents** - 2 per day, 5 total all seasons and methods combined.
 - » **Nonresidents** - 2 per day, 4 total all seasons and methods combined.
- Antlerless deer - limit 2 per day. Must be tagged with Individual Antlerless Deer Tag. Only three (3) Individual Antlerless Deer Tags may be used in Game Zone 1. Tags are valid in Game Zones 2, 3, and 4 beginning Sept. 15 and in Game Zone 1 beginning Oct. 1. Individual tags are not valid on properties enrolled for antlerless deer in the Deer Quota Program. Individual tags do not alter the daily (2 per day) or seasonal limit or change the type of weapon that can be used during special weapons seasons.
- Limits listed include deer taken on private & WMA lands.
- Limits listed do not apply to quota deer taken on properties enrolled in the Deer Quota Program.
- Sunday hunting allowed on private lands.
- Archery and crossbows allowed during all seasons.
- Crossbows are considered archery equipment.
- In Game Zones 1 and 2 it is unlawful to pursue deer with dogs.
- Baiting or hunting deer over bait is permitted on private lands statewide.



Statewide Youth Day - Private Lands

Listed by Game Zone. For youth 17 years old and younger. Youth hunters who have not completed the hunter education program must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age. No license or tag requirements for youth or adult. Adult may guide, however, only the youth may take or attempt to take.

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Deer Seasons on Private Lands

Game Zone 1 (Private Lands)

Antlered Deer Limit: Statewide limits apply.

Antlerless Limit: 2 per day, 3 total all seasons and methods combined.

Primitive Weapons: Oct. 1-10

Gun Hunts: Oct. 11-Jan. 1

Youth Deer Hunt Days: September 26, Antlered deer only, limit 1. January 2, Either-sex, limit 2. Tags not required.

Game Zone 2 (Private Lands)

Antlered Deer Limit: Statewide limits apply.

Antlerless Limit: 2 per day, 9 total all seasons and methods combined.

Archery Only: Sept. 15-30

Primitive Weapons: Oct. 1-10

Gun Hunts: Oct. 11-Jan. 1

Youth Deer Hunt Days: September 12, Antlered deer only, limit 1. January 2, Either-sex, limit 2. Tags not required.

Game Zone 3 (Private Lands)

Antlered Deer Limit: Statewide limits apply.

Antlerless Limit: 2 per day, 9 total all seasons and methods combined.

Archery & Gun Hunts: Aug. 15-Jan. 1 (Aug. 15-Sept. 14 buck only)

Youth Deer Hunt Days: August 8, Antlered deer only, limit 1. January 2, Either-sex, limit 2. Tags not required.

Game Zone 4 (Private Lands)

Antlered Deer Limit: Statewide limits apply.

Antlerless limit: 2 per day, 9 total all seasons and methods combined.

Archery Only: Aug. 15-31 (Aug. 15-Sept. 14 buck only)

Gun Hunts: Sept. 1-Jan. 1 (Sept. 1-14 buck only)

Youth Deer Hunt Days: August 8, Antlered deer only, limit 1. January 2, Either-sex, limit 2. Tags not required.



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TURKEY REGULATIONS

YOU MUST REPORT YOUR BIG GAME HARVEST (DEER, TURKEY, BEAR)

There are four ways to complete the harvest reporting process. Hunters can either (a) log the harvest into Game Check using the free **Go Outdoors SC mobile app** on a smartphone; (b) enter the harvest on the web via Game Check at <https://license.gooutdoorsouthcarolina.com>; (c) text "Harvest" to **1-833-472-4263** and follow the automated prompts or (d) call the SC Game Check reporting phone line at **1-833-4SC-GAME** (1-833-472-4263).

Big game hunters will receive additional details and complete instructions on harvest reporting and SC Game Check with their tags. Full details and instructions will also be available on the SCDNR website.

The **Go Outdoors SC** smartphone app will allow you to report harvested big game with or without cell phone service. iPhone and Android users can download the free app on your mobile device through the Apple or Google Play Store.



Seasons & Limits — Spring 2027

- **Private lands statewide:** April 3 – May 3
- **WMA lands statewide:** April 3– May 3
 - » Some WMAs may be more restrictive, see page 64 for specified hunt dates.
- **Limit statewide private and WMA lands:**
 - » **Residents and Nonresidents:** 2 gobblers per season, no more than one per day, no more than one (1) prior to April 10.
 - » Some WMAs may be more restrictive, see page 64 for specified limits

Statewide Youth Hunting Weekends on Private Lands

For youths 17 years old and younger. March 27-28 and May 8-9.

Youth hunters who have not completed the hunter education program must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age. No license or tags required for youth or adult on these designated youth days. Adult may call or guide, however, only the youth may take or attempt to take. Limit one (1) gobbler total for both weekends combined which counts towards the season limit.

General Turkey Hunting Laws and Regulations for Hunting on Private & WMA Lands

- Unlawful to harvest a "Jake" defined as a male wild turkey with a beard less than six inches and a tail fan that is not fully developed with the central tail feathers being longer than the rest (50-11-500).
- On private lands statewide it is unlawful to stalk a wild turkey while behind a decoy or tail fan. Tail fans include those made of real or synthetic feathers or an image or likeness of a tail fan applied to any material. Commonly referred to as reaping (50-11-500).
- Sunday hunting allowed on private lands (SC 50-11-555). No Sunday hunting allowed on WMA land (Reg. 123-51).
- Statewide limit of 2 gobblers for residents and 2 for nonresidents, no more than 1 per day (SC Code 50-11-580). Bearded hens are not legal.

- All hunters, including hunters younger than 16 or those who are calling or guiding must possess a valid set of turkey tags except on designated youth days. Except on designated youth days, all harvested turkeys must be tagged and validated as prescribed on the tag form before being moved from the point of kill. No person may possess more than one set of turkey tags (SC 50-11-544).
- Hunters who have used all their tags may call or guide for other hunters provided they possess their tag form.
- Legal weapons - shotguns, muzzleloading shotguns, bows and crossbows. All other weapons or methods are prohibited including rifles, pistols, slugs, and buckshot (SC 50-11-500, Reg. 123-51).
- Turkeys may not be hunted with dogs, live decoys or electronic calls (SC 50-11-40, Reg. 123-51).
- Unlawful to shoot any turkey between 30 minutes after official sunset and 30 minutes before official sunrise. Unlawful to take or attempt to take a wild turkey from a vehicle on a public road. Unlawful to trap or snare a wild turkey. Unlawful to take wild turkey from a watercraft (SC 50-11-500).
- Unlawful to hunt or take a wild turkey by means of bait or on or over any baited area (SC 50-11-510). Bait means placing, depositing, exposing, distributing, or scattering of salt, corn, wheat, or other grain, or foodstuffs to constitute a lure or attraction

Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

Hunt of a Lifetime is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.

If you are interested in helping a child live their dream, please contact us for more information.

Toll Free 814.572.4387 HuntofaLifetime.org



for wild turkeys. An area remains a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all bait. NOTE: The following activities can result in a baited area if done prior to or during turkey season: planting, discing or manipulating chufa to expose the tubers; mowing or manipulating standing grain crops where grain is scattered or exposed; top sowing of any grains; bait or feed intended for other species.

- On WMA lands the practice of fanning or reaping is prohibited. Fanning/reaping is defined as hunting or stalking wild turkeys while **holding or using for hunter** concealment any of the following items: a tail fan, a partial or full decoy with a tail fan, or a tail fan mounted to a firearm. Tail fans include those made of real or synthetic feathers or an image or likeness of a tail fan applied to any material (Reg. 123-51). This regulation does not apply on private land.

Turkey Tags

In addition to the required hunting license and Big Game Permit, all turkey hunters, including youth, are required to have turkey tags in possession while hunting except on

the designated youth days. The fee for a SC resident is **\$25** per set of two (2) tags and for a nonresident **\$125** per set of two (2) tags. Youth hunters and 3-year Disability Licensees receive tags for free but must request them annually. Lifetime/Senior/Gratis/Disability Licensees receive tags for free annually after requesting them one time. Tags may be purchased online or at license vendors and will be mailed beginning in early March. Tags will also be available over the counter at SCDNR regional offices starting in late February. Fees associated with turkey tags are dedicated to turkey research, management, and enforcement. Prior to the fee on tags, there was no dedicated source of funding for SCDNR's Wild Turkey Program.

Need turkey tags now? See page 57 for how you can download and print a set of temporary tags if you recently requested your tags.

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TURKEY SEASONS ON WMAS

Savannah River Site Draw Hunts for Persons with Disabilities

Savannah River Site will hold a draw hunt for persons with disabilities in Apr. for hunt applications, contact NWTf's Wheelin' Sportmen's Coordinator, 800-843-6983 ext 7421.

Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge

Turkey hunts available by public hunt lottery only. Contact: Carolina Sandhills NWR, 23734 Highway 1, McBee, SC 29101 or call 843-335-8350.



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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OPEN TO TURKEY HUNTING APRIL 3 – MAY 3

AREAS OPEN	LIMIT	AREAS OPEN	LIMIT
Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP WMA	2	⁵ McBee WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2
Belfast WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	1	McCalla WMA	2
Bluefield WMA (Adult/youth Only, Thurs.-Sat. only)	2	Meyer Lake HP WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2
Bobwhite Hills WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	1	Mill Shoals	2
Bonneau Ferry WMA (Youth Only, Thurs.-Sat. only)	1	Moultrie Hunt Unit (Thurs.-Sat. only), Greenfield, Hall, North Dike, Porcher WMAs	2
Cartwheel Bay HP WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2	⁴ Oak Lea WMA	2
⁴ Coosawhatchie WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	1	⁵ Pee Dee Station Site WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2
² Crackerneck WMA (Fri. & Sat. only)	2	South Saluda WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2
⁵ Donnelley WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	1	Sand Hills State Forest WMA	2
⁵ Draper WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2	Santee Coastal Reserve WMA (Saturdays only)	1
Edisto River WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2	Santee Cooper WMA (Youth Only, Thurs.-Sat. only)	1
Fants Grove WMA	2	Santee Dam WMA	2
Forty-Acre Rock HP WMA	2	Tillman Sand Ridge HP WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2
Francis Marion Hunt Unit (WMA Only)	2	Victoria Bluff HP WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2
⁵ Great Pee Dee River HP WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2	Waccamaw River HP WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2
Hickory Top WMA	2	Wateree River HP WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	1
¹ Keowee WMA	2	⁴ Webb-Palachucola-Hamilton Ridge WMAs	2
Lewis Ocean Bay HP WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2	Wee Tee State Forest WMA	2
⁵ Liberty Hill WMA	2	⁵ Woodbury WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2
³ Little Pee Dee River Complex HP WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2	⁵ Worth Mountain WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2
Longleaf Pine HP WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2	Game Zones 1, 2, 3, & 4 "regular" WMAs including ⁶ US Forest Service Land	
Manchester State Forest WMA	2	Residents	2
⁵ Marsh WMA (Thurs.-Sat. only)	2	Nonresidents	2

Statewide Youth Hunt Days on Wildlife Management Areas

March 27 and May 8, 2027 for all areas listed above, except Crackerneck WMA (March 27 only), Keowee WMA, Santee Cooper WMA, Santee Coastal Reserve, Bonneau Ferry, and Hatchery Waterfowl Area WMA. Limit one (1) gobbler total.

- 1 Keowee WMA - Shotguns only - north of Highway 123 and west of the Keowee Arm of Lake Hartwell and west of Highway 291. Archery Only on other sections.
- 2 Crackerneck WMA - Main gate opens at 5:30 AM and closes at 1:00 pm. All hunters must check in and out at main gate.
- 3 Little Pee Dee River Complex includes Tilghman, Dargan (including Upper Gunters Is. and Huggins tracts), Little Pee Dee River and Ward Heritage Preserves in portions of Horry and Marion counties.
- 4 On Webb, Palachucola, Hamilton Ridge, Coosawhatchie, Belfast, Wateree, Santee Cooper and Oak Lea WMAs, all turkey hunters must pick up and return data cards daily to kiosk and display hang tags on vehicles.
- 5 On Pee Dee Station Site WMA, Great Pee Dee River WMA, Woodbury WMA, McBee WMA, Liberty Hill WMA, Donnelley WMA, Worth Mountain, Draper WMA and Marsh WMA all hunters must sign in and sign out.
- 6 Delta South WMA is closed except for special hunts.



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ALLIGATOR & BEAR REGULATIONS

Alligators

It is unlawful to feed or entice an American alligator with food (50-11-750), or possess any live alligator without a permit (50-15-40).

Public Alligator Lottery Hunts

Hunters are selected by a preference-based computer lottery and may apply online beginning June 1 of each year. A \$10 nonrefundable application fee is required to participate in the lottery and applicants must be at least 16 years old to apply. If selected, the permit/tag fee is \$100, and if not selected, the applicant will be awarded one preference point for future alligator lottery hunts. All applicants must have a stored payment on file while applying, and if selected for the hunt, will be automatically charge the \$100 permit/tag fee upon the lottery completion.

All selected hunters are required to possess a SC Hunting License in addition to the \$100 permit/tag fee. Any nonresident alligator hunter chosen must pay an additional \$200

Nonresident Alligator Hunting Fee along with the permit/tag fee, and must possess a SC Nonresident Hunting License.

The "Slot Tag Hunt Unit" option permits the hunter to only take an alligator between 4 and 8 feet in total length. If issued a slot tag you cannot use harpoons, bows, or any other device that propels a dart, arrow, spear, gig, or anything designed to embed in the alligator. Thus, you would be restricted to snatch hooks and handheld snares and ropes. You will only be chosen for one tag, and any accumulated preference points will revert to zero when chosen, regardless of if it is a traditional or restricted slot tag. If you don't want to be considered for a restricted slot tag, then don't select one at time of application.

Anyone may assist a permitted hunter during the hunt, but all assistants must possess a hunting license unless they are under the age of 16. In addition, ALL nonresident alligator hunting assistants (16 years of age or older) must pay the \$200 Nonresident Alligator Hunting Fee and possess a SC Nonresident

Hunting License, available from any license sales vendor. The deadline for applying for each year's Public Alligator Hunting Season is July 15th.

The application link and other details may be found on the SCDNR website. For information regarding the Alligator Program, and licensing requirements for taking, possessing, and sale of alligators or their products, call 843-546-6062 or 803-734-3886. The Nonresident Alligator Hunting fee for nonresident alligator hunters and nonresident assistants may be paid at any license vendor location or online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com.

For more information about the Public Alligator Hunting Program, licensing and permitting requirements, or CITES tags and sale of alligators or their products, call (803) 734-3886.

For more information about the Private Lands Alligator Hunt Program, call (843) 546-0113.

To report a nuisance alligator or for information about other aspects of the alligator program, visit our website or call the Radio Room at 1-800-922-5431.

Bear

It is unlawful to buy, sell, barter or exchange a bear or bear part or attempt to buy, sell, barter or exchange a bear or bear part. Transportation of a freshly killed bear or bear part is unlawful except during the bear season. Any person violating these offenses must be fined not more than \$2,500 or imprisoned for not more than 2 years, or both, and hunting and fishing privileges must be suspended for 3 years. It is unlawful to feed bears or to hunt bears by the aid of bait (50-11-430, 50-11-440, 50-1-130, 50-1-125). See exception under Game Zone 4.

Bear Tags

For the privilege of hunting bear, in addition to the required hunting license and Big Game Permit, a hunter must obtain a bear tag issued in his/her name at a cost of \$25 for residents and \$100 for nonresidents. Youth under the age of 16 are required to obtain a youth bear tag from the department at no cost. Bear tags are available over the counter at SCDNR offices in Aynor, Charleston, Clemson, Florence, York and at SCDNR at the Market (West Columbia). Tags can be ordered online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com.

A handwritten application can be obtained on page 117 of this publication or at <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/licenses/pdf/speciallicenseapp.pdf>.

The possession and use of bear tags is limited to the individual to whom it was issued. Tags must be attached to the bear before being moved from the point of kill.

Bear Seasons on Private Lands

Game Zone 1

Still Hunt (No Dogs): Oct. 11-23

- **Statewide Limit:** 1 bear; no sow with cubs, no bears 100 lbs. or less.

Dog Hunts: Oct. 17-30

- **Statewide Limit:** 1 bear; no sow with cubs, no bears 100 lbs. or less.

Game Zone 2

(Private land only in Greenville, Oconee, and Pickens counties south of Game Zone 1 and all of Anderson and Spartanburg counties.)

- **Quota** - 20 bears all counties combined. If bear quota is met prior to Oct. 30, season will close 24 hours following season closure notice. Hunters are responsible for monitoring season status at www.dnr.sc.gov or by calling 1-844-SC1-BEAR (1-844-721-2327).

Still Hunts (No Dogs): Oct. 17-30

- **Statewide Limit:** 1 bear; no sow with cubs, no bears 100 lbs. or less.

Game Zone 4

(Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, and Williamsburg counties only) **On WMA lands in Game Zone 4 open for bear hunting, weapons used to hunt bear are limited to the weapons that are allowed for the current open season for deer on each WMA.**

- **Quota** - 40 bears all counties combined. If bear quota is met prior to Oct. 30, season will close 24 hours following season closure notice. Hunters are responsible

for monitoring season status at www.dnr.sc.gov or by calling 1-844-SC1-BEAR (1-844-721-2327).

- On private land only bears may be hunted over unprocessed bait. Unprocessed bait means any natural food item harvested from a plant unmodified from its raw form to include grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables.

Still Hunts (No Dogs): Oct. 17-30

- **Statewide Limit:** 1 bear; no sow with cubs, no bears 100 lbs. or less.

BEAR HARVEST REPORTING

Harvested bears must be reported by midnight on day of harvest using **SC Game Check** with one of the following methods:

- Using the **Go Outdoors SC** mobile app
- Entering the harvest online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com
- Calling the SC Game Check reporting phone line at 1-833-4SC-GAME **(1-833-472-4263)**
- Through the Text to Harvest option by texting "Harvest" to **1-833-472-4263** and following the prompts.



SMALL GAME REGULATIONS



Small Game

Small game includes the following species: quail, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, fox, beaver, bobcat, mink, muskrat, otter, skunk, grouse and weasel. See small game seasons chart on page 68.

Rabbit Boxes

It is unlawful for any person to trap rabbits, except that a landlord or tenant may use not more than five rabbit boxes on lands on which he has exclusive control during the gun season for rabbits. A hunting license is required to use rabbit boxes. Rabbit boxes are not permitted on WMA lands (50-11-160).

Running Seasons (No gun season)

During any period when rabbits, raccoons, opossums, squirrels or fox may be hunted without firearms, it is illegal to hunt such game when carrying on one's person any firearm.

Bird Dog Training

Bird dogs may be trained year-round on private land. Trainers must have a valid hunting license and may only use firearms with blank ammunition during the closed season for quail. A Bird Dog Trainer's License is available to persons engaged in the business of training bird dogs in return for money, goods or services. This license allows a trainer and two assistants to take pen-raised quail, chukars and pheasant during the closed season while training dogs. Applicants must provide documentation of land areas to be used for training. For information, or to obtain a license, contact: SCDNR Small Game Project at P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202 or call 803-734-3609.

Field Trials

It is unlawful to conduct or participate in any field trial unless a permit for such trial has been obtained from SCDNR. Requests for field trial permits must be submitted to SCDNR at least 14 days prior to the proposed trial date. Requests shall include payment of \$5 per trial and the time and location of the proposed trial. A charter or document

indicating that the trial is sanctioned by a nationally recognized field trial organization must accompany all requests for field trial permits.

For information, or to obtain a permit, contact SCDNR Wildlife Permitting Office at WildlifePermitting@dnr.sc.gov or by mail at: P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202 or call 803-734-3887.

SMALL GAME REGULATIONS

ALL GAME ZONES

SMALL GAME SEASONS — Check individual WMAs for additional restrictions.

SPECIES	GAME ZONE	PRIVATE LAND SEASONS	WMA SEASONS	LIMIT
Mourning Doves	All Game Zones	Sept. 5-Oct. 3, Nov. 13-28, Dec. 18-Jan.31	See Public Dove Field List pages 82-85.	15 per day
Crow	All Game Zones	Nov. 1-Mar. 1	Nov. 2-Mar. 1	No Limit
Quail	All Game Zones	Mar. 2-Nov. 22, 2026 (dogs only) Nov. 23-Mar. 1 (guns & dogs) Mar. 2-Nov. 21, 2027 (dogs only)	Sept. 1-14 (dogs only) Nov. 23-Mar. 1 (guns & dogs)	12 per day
Rabbit	All Game Zones	Mar. 2-Nov. 25, 2026 (dogs only) Nov. 26-Mar. 1 (guns & dogs) Mar. 2-Nov. 24, 2027 (dogs only)	Sept. 1-14 (dogs only) Nov. 26-Mar. 1 (guns & dogs)	5 per day
Squirrel (Gray & Fox)	All Game Zones	Mar. 2-Sept. 30, 2026 (dogs only) Oct. 1-Mar. 1 (guns & dogs) Mar. 2-Sept. 30, 2027 (dogs only)	Sept. 1-14 (dogs only) Oct. 1-Mar. 1 (guns & dogs)	10 per day
Fox	All Game Zones	Mar. 2-Nov. 25, 2026 (dogs only) Nov. 26-Mar. 1 (guns & dogs) Mar. 2-Nov. 24, 2027 (dogs only)	Sept. 2-Nov. 25 (dogs only, night only) Nov. 26-Mar. 1 (guns & dogs, night only)	No Limit
Beaver	All Game Zones	Year-round	Oct. 1-Mar. 1	No Limit
Other Furbearers (Bob-cat, Otter, Mink, Muskrat, Skunk, Weasel)	All Game Zones	Nov. 26-Mar. 1	Nov. 26-Mar. 1	No Limit
Grouse	Game Zone 1 only	Nov. 26-Mar. 1	Nov. 26-Mar. 1	3 per day
Raccoon & Opossum	All Game Zones	Mar. 16-Sept. 14, 2026 (dogs only) Sept. 15-Mar. 15 (guns & dogs) Mar. 16-Sept. 14, 2027 (dogs only)	Mar. 16-31, July 1-Sept. 15 (dogs only, night only)* Sept. 16-Mar. 15 (guns & dogs, night only)*	3 per party, per day No limit for opossum

* Check specific WMA for exclusions and details.

STATEWIDE

YOUTH DAYS ON PRIVATE LAND

SPECIES	GAME ZONE	DATE	LIMIT
Raccoon	All Game Zones	Sept. 12, 2026	3 per party per day
Squirrel	All Game Zones	Sept. 26, 2026	10 per day
Quail	All Game Zones	Nov. 21, 2026	12 per day
Rabbit	All Game Zones	Mar. 6, 2027	5 per day

TRAPPING & COMMERCIAL FUR HARVESTING



Furbearers Which May Be Commercially Harvested

The following species are legally classified as furbearers and may be taken by hunting or trapping during the open season: beaver, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, red fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, raccoon, spotted skunk, striped skunk, and weasel. The pelts of these animals may be sold with a valid commercial fur harvest license. (50-11-110, 50-11-1080, 50-11-2400)

License: (\$25 resident, \$200 nonresidents)

A Commercial Fur Harvest License is required for:

- anyone who traps, or attempts to trap furbearing animals, (see exceptions under the **Trapping for Noncommercial Purposes** and **Depredation Permits** sections), or
- anyone that takes furbearing animals by any means, for sale, trade, exchange or barter, or
- anyone who takes or possesses more than 5 furbearing animals or raw or green pelts (this provision does not apply to a licensed fur buyer or fur processor).

All licensed commercial fur harvesters must also possess a valid South Carolina hunting license, regardless of age*. These licenses shall be carried while involved in fur taking activities. A youth (under 16) is not required to be licensed in order to assist a licensed fur harvester, so long as the youth is in the presence of the licensed fur harvester and the youth does not sell, trade, exchange, or barter any furbearing animals taken under the authority of the licensed fur harvester.

Anyone who purchases any whole furbearing animal, raw or green furs, pelts or hides is required to have a Fur Buyer's License (\$100.00 for residents, \$200 for nonresidents).

Exemptions from Fur Buyer's License: (1) a person who acquires not more than five furs, pelts, hides, or whole animals for his

own personal use during one season and not for barter, exchange, or sale; (2) a person licensed as a fur processor (\$200); (3) a taxidermist who possesses a fur, pelt, hide, or whole furbearing animal legally owned by another person which he is holding temporarily solely for the purposes of processing; (4) a person acquiring furbearing animal carcasses without hides; (5) an owner or enclosure operator of a permitted fox and coyote hunting enclosure who purchases live foxes or coyotes for release into the enclosure. (50-9-450, 50-11-2470, 50-11-2480)

Verification of Lawful Presence in the U.S.

All Commercial Furharvest License applicants must complete an affidavit entitled "Verification of Lawful Presence in the United States" before any trapping license can be issued. This form is required only once for US Citizens, and annually for all others, and must be notarized and sent in with any required documentation along with your license application. (8-29-10)

Legal Traps

In South Carolina, a trap is broadly defined as: **"any device, other than a weapon, designed or constructed for taking animals."**

The following traps are legal to use for trapping statewide:

- Foothold traps with an inside jaw spread of 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " or smaller on land and 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " or smaller for water sets. Inside jaw spread is measured at the widest point perpendicular to the pivot points (jaw hinges) when the trap is in the set position (Figure 1).
- Enclosed foothold traps such as "Egg", "Duffer", "Coon-cuff", and similarly designed dog-proof style traps designed for raccoons.
- Body gripping traps of the Conibear® type in water or slide sets only. No bait is allowed to be used with body-gripping traps.
- Cable restraints (snare) may be used in water sets only.
- Live traps. Live traps may also be used to catch feral animals at any time without a license or permit from the Department.
- Small snap, box and other commonly used traps to catch commensal rodents or snakes in homes and businesses may be used at any time by property owners, occupants, or their designees to catch snakes, rats and mice.

Unless otherwise specified in Title 50 of the SC Code, all other traps and trap uses, including deadfalls or other improvised traps, are unlawful, regardless of the intended species.

All traps must bear the owner's name and address, or the owner's SCDNR-issued Customer ID number either directly thereon or by an attached tag (Figure 2). (50-11-2400, 50-11-2460)

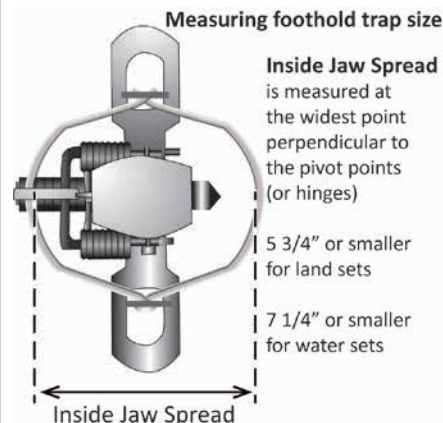


Figure 1. How to measure foothold trap size

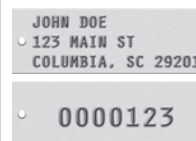


Figure 2. Examples of trap identification tags

Seasons (Trapping & Hunting)

Trapping: It is lawful to trap furbearing animals from December 1 of each year to March 1 of the following year with a valid Commercial Fur Harvester's License.

Trapping for Noncommercial Purposes Only (requires a hunting license): Cannot possess more than 5 furbearing animals when trapping for a noncommercial purpose.

- Beaver:** Year-round.
- Raccoon and Opossum:** September 15-March 15.
- Bobcat, Fox, Mink, Muskrat, Otter, Skunk, Weasel:** Thanksgiving-March 1
- Coyotes:** December 1- March 1

Hunting: Furbearer hunting seasons are listed under the small game seasons. Coyotes and beaver may be hunted during daylight hours year 'round on private lands by licensed hunters. Coyotes may be hunted with or without bait.

Night Hunting: Raccoons, opossums, foxes, mink, and skunk may be hunted at night during the open hunting season for those species; however, they may not be hunted with artificial lights except when treed or cornered with dogs and no buckshot or any shot larger than #4, or any rifle ammunition larger than a twenty-two

*A youth under 16 years of age must purchase a hunting license in order to purchase a Commercial Fur Harvest License unless the youth has completed an approved Trapper Education Course.

TRAPPING & COMMERCIAL FUR HARVESTING

rimfire may be used. Devices that amplify light using any type of power source including any having an electronic screen other or similar digital viewfinder, are considered artificial light (including night vision or infrared/thermal imaging equipment). This does not include traditional illuminated scope reticles or dots. (50-11-120, 50-11-710, 50-11-1080, 50-11-2540)

A hunting license is required to hunt coyotes at night. In addition, the landowner must register their property with SCDNR for night hunting. Coyotes may not be hunted at night on any unregistered property, except with a SCDNR-issued depredation permit. On registered properties, coyotes may be hunted at night with artificial lights and nightvision devices using any legal firearm, bow, or crossbow. Registered properties may also hunt armadillos and feral hogs at night using the same weapons and devices. It is unlawful to hunt coyotes (or armadillos or feral hogs) at night within 300 yards of a residence without the permission of the occupant. This yardage restriction does not apply to the landowner hunting their own property, or under the authority of a SCDNR-issued depredation permit. It is unlawful to shoot or attempt to shoot a coyote (or armadillo or feral hog), at night, from, on, or across any public paved road. Property registration to the SCDNR is required once annually as prescribed by SCDNR for each property. A brief, annual report of each registered property's night hunting activities is required to re-register a property the following year. Persons convicted of certain night hunting violations during the previous five years are ineligible to hunt coyotes at night. (50-11-1080, 50-11-700 et seq.)

Electronic Calls

It is illegal to hunt, catch, take, kill or attempt to hunt, catch, take or kill any game bird or game animal with the aid of electronic calls. Except for coyotes, all furbearing animals are also classified as small game and cannot be taken with electronic calls. However, it is legal to use electronic calls during the day or night for hunting coyotes on private lands and during the day on WMA lands where hunting for coyotes is allowed. (50-11-40)

Depredation Permits

Depredation permits may be issued at any time of the year by SCDNR for the taking of furbearing animals that are destroying or damaging private or public property, wildlife habitat, game species, timber, crops, or other agriculture so as to be a nuisance, or for scientific, research, or for wildlife management purposes. There is no cost for this permit. Animals captured under a depredation permit may not be relocated, sold, traded, exchanged, or bartered.

A depredation permit or license is not required by the property owner, or his or her designee, when capturing furbearing animals or squirrels within one-hundred yards of the

owner's home when the animals are causing damage to the owner's property. Animals captured under this exemption may not be relocated and must be released on site or destroyed. (50-11-2570)

Trapper's Responsibility

A person may trap on lands that he owns, or on lands owned by others, provided the trapper has written permission from the landowner. The written permission must be in the trapper's possession at all times while engaged in trapping activities.

There is no trapping allowed on any Wildlife Management Area or Heritage Preserve lands.

All traps must be checked at least once daily from two hours before official sunrise to two hours after official sunset. Body gripping traps used in water sets and other traps used in submersion sets must be checked once every 48 hours. No one, except the owner of the trap, may remove any legally trapped animal from the trap; however, a licensed trapper may tend another's traps with written permission of the trap's owner or agent.

Though no longer required, any person shipping or transporting raw furs, pelts, hides or whole animals out of South Carolina can obtain a shipping certificate from SCDNR if the receiving state or entity requires one, and/or the fur harvest licensee requests this certificate. A conservation officer must be notified at least 48 hours prior to the need of a shipping certificate in order to inspect the package and issue the certificate. A list of SCDNR Law Enforcement offices can be found on pages 95-104. (50-11-2430, 50-11-2440, 50-11-2445, 50-11-2500)

Special Tagging Requirement for Bobcat and Otter

Any person required to have a commercial fur license who takes any bobcat or otter must tag the fur, pelt, hide, or whole animal before it is sold, shipped, transferred to any person or business, or transported out of the state, if required by the Federal Government in order to comply with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

A commercial fur licensee must apply to SCDNR before CITES tags can be issued. There is no fee for each individual tag, but SCDNR must charge a processing fee of \$3.00 for each order. No more than 10 tags may be ordered at any one time. Bobcat and Otter tags may only be ordered from Nov. 1st - April 30th.

The tags must be securely attached and may not be removed until the time of processing. CITES tags are nontransferable and may not be altered in any manner. SCDNR may limit the number of tags issued for each species and the area in which they may be used. Furbearing animals to be sold as live animals are not required to be tagged. (50-11-2510)

Fur Harvest Reporting Requirement

All commercial fur harvest licensees shall submit an annual report of their harvest to SCDNR by April 15th of each year, using forms provided by SCDNR. In addition, a trapper shall maintain an accurate daily record of all live fox and coyote sales or transfers on forms provided by SCDNR. These live fox and coyote transaction forms must be retained by the trapper and made available for reasonable inquiry by SCDNR employees.

Any trapper who sells or transfers live foxes or coyotes to permitted fox and coyote hunting enclosures must submit all daily records of these transactions by April 15th of each year on the forms provided by SCDNR.

Failure to report by date due, upon 2nd offense, shall render the violator ineligible for a commercial fur harvest license the following year, in addition to fines for each offense. (50-11-2450, 50-11-2620, 50-11-2630, 50-11-2650)

Fur Buyers Reporting Requirement

Fur buyers shall keep a daily register of furs purchased on forms provided by SCDNR. No later than the 10th day of each month the fur buyer shall furnish SCDNR all daily register sheets from the previous month.

Failure to report will result in the loss of buying privileges for one year in addition to the prescribed penalties. (50-11-2490, 50-11-2560)

Importation of Wildlife

It is unlawful to bring, import, or cause to have imported a live coyote or fox into the state. It is also unlawful to release a coyote or fox into the state, except as authorized.

It is unlawful to import any other furbearers into this state without a permit first being issued by SCDNR. However, any requests for permits to import furbearing animals as pets will routinely be denied. (50-11-1765, 50-11-2605, 50-11-2640, 50-16-20)

Possession and/or Sale of Live Foxes or Coyotes

Live foxes or coyotes may only be sold or transferred to the listed owner or operator of a permitted fox and coyote hunting enclosure by the licensed trapper who took the animal.

A licensed trapper may only possess a live fox or coyote during the commercial fur harvest trapping season (Dec. 1 - Mar. 1) and for 30 days after (Mar. 2 - April 1). After this time, it is unlawful for anyone, except a currently permitted fox and coyote enclosure, to possess a live fox or coyote without a permit issued by SCDNR. (50-11-2605, 50-11-2630)

To obtain an application for a Commercial Fur Harvest License, contact the SCDNR licensing office at: 803-734-3833

FERAL HOG, COYOTE & ARMADILLO REGULATIONS

Feral Hogs

Feral or wild hogs occur in the wild in every county of the state. They compete directly with native wildlife species, damage plants, agricultural crops, and threaten public and livestock health. It is illegal to remove a hog from the wild alive. It is illegal to transport any live swine on public roads or waterways unless the swine have an official form of identification approved by the State Veterinarian or a document such as a receipt, bill of sale, or similar document showing the quantity of swine being transported and the name of the producer or dealer from whom the live swine were purchased or received. Live swine transported without identification are presumed to have been taken from the wild and in violation of law. (47-4-65, 50-16-25).

Feral hogs may be trapped year-round on private lands without a license or permit. Cable restraints (snare) are not a legal trap for use on land, so hog traps utilizing any kind of snare are illegal (50-11-2460). Individuals trapping hogs are encouraged to use traps that provide a means for deer or bear to escape. Any deer or bear caught in a trap used to capture hogs must immediately be released. All trapping laws regarding trap identification and permission to trap requirements apply (see pages 69-70).

Swine brucellosis

Swine brucellosis is caused by a bacteria and is primarily a reproductive tract disease in wild pigs that can be transmitted to humans. Infections are manifested by flu-like symptoms including fever, headaches, muscle and joint soreness and weakness. The fatality rate in humans is very low, but the disease often is prolonged and debilitating. Humans have contracted swine brucellosis from handling and dressing wild swine. This disease is present in many wild hog populations in SC. Persons dressing wild swine should take the following precautions: 1) use disposable rubber gloves and protective eyeglasses while dressing the carcass, 2) minimize handling of the reproductive tracts of both sexes, 3) dispose of waste parts by burying or burning, 4) clean up with hot water and soap after processing, and 5) cook meat thoroughly to 160° F prior to eating.

Hunting Feral Hog, Coyotes, & Armadillos

A hunting license is required, however there is no closed season on hunting feral hogs, coyotes, and armadillos on private land statewide during daylight hours. The use of bait and electronic calls is legal on private lands statewide.

Feral hogs, coyotes and armadillos may be hunted at night on a registered property on which a person has a lawful right to hunt, using any legal firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow. This includes the use of bait, electronic calls, artificial lights, and night vision devices. A property may be registered online on the SCDNR website (www.dnr.sc.gov/nighthunt), and must be registered annually. It is unlawful to hunt feral hog, coyotes, and armadillos at night on property not registered with SCDNR. Persons convicted of night hunting for deer, bear, or turkey during the previous five years are ineligible to hunt feral hogs, coyotes, or armadillos at night.

No feral hog, coyote, or armadillo hunting with firearms is allowed at night within 300 yards of a residence without the permission of the occupant; however, this does not apply to a landowner hunting his own land, or hunting under the authority of a SCDNR depredation permit. No shooting or attempting to shoot from, on, or across any public paved road.

In order to assess the night hunting program, the person registering the property must report to the department the number of feral hogs, coyotes, and armadillos taken under the provisions of this section within thirty days following the end of the twelve month registration period, or prior to registering the property again. Properties for which reports have not been submitted will not be registered again until such time that reports are submitted (50-11-715).

Feral hog, coyotes, and armadillos cannot be hunted at night on WMA lands, but can be hunted during the day on WMAs where feral

hog, coyote, and/or armadillo hunting is allowed. On WMA lands, weapons used to hunt feral hog, coyotes, and armadillos are limited to the weapon(s) that are allowed for the current open season on the WMA unless otherwise specified — see WMA seasons listing in the Game Zones sections beginning on page 95, and see WMA feral hog hunting on page 105. The use of electronic calls for feral hog and coyote hunting is permitted statewide on WMA lands.

Dog hunting for feral hogs and coyotes is allowed year-round on private lands statewide. Deer may not be hunted with dogs on any lands in Game Zones 1 & 2. On WMA lands in Game Zones 1 & 2, feral hogs and coyotes may not be hunted with dogs during still gun and muzzleloader hunts for deer or bear. Dogs can be used to hunt and bay hogs at night on private lands as long as the hunter(s) complies with the property registration requirement. Dogs can be used on WMA lands to hunt feral hogs only during special hunts with dogs — see WMA feral hog hunting on page 105.

The possession or transport of live coyotes is allowed only by licensed trappers during the trapping season and thirty days after the close of the trapping season, or by special permit from SCDNR. Importation of coyotes into the state is a violation of both State and Federal law.

Coyote Harvest Incentive Program

The Coyote Harvest Incentive Program was established with a 2016 Legislative budget proviso, directing SCDNR to annually tag and release four coyotes per game zone (16 total). The reward for reporting a tagged coyote will be \$3,000 to the hunter/trapper reporting the tagged coyote, or their designee. No hunter/trapper may collect the reward on more than two coyotes per fiscal year. Only SCDNR reward tags are eligible. Employees of SCDNR, members of the General Assembly, and their immediate families are not eligible to receive a reward. This incentive program has continued each year since 2016. At the time of this printing, 144 SCDNR-tagged coyotes have been released with approximately half still remaining.



Hunters are Needed to Help Control the Coyote Population!

- Coyotes are nonnative; however, they are now well established in all South Carolina counties.
- Studies show that over 50% of fawn mortality can be due to predation by coyotes.
- Studies show that coyote control may improve fawn survival.
- To be effective, coyote management efforts must be intensive and conducted annually.
- Based on the 2019 estimated harvest of 20,674 coyotes, population numbers are down over 34% since 2014.
- Since hunting remains the number one source of deer mortality, the impact of coyotes can largely be offset through appropriate changes to deer management strategies, particularly doe harvest.

For more information on how to help control coyotes, visit
www.dnr.sc.gov/coyotes

GENERAL MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS

MIGRATORY BIRD
SEASONS

SPECIES	DATES
Mourning Doves	September 5, 2026 - October 3, 2026 November 13, 2026 - November 28, 2026 December 18, 2026 - January 31, 2027
Early Teal (Blue & Green Winged)	September 19, 2026 - September 27, 2026
Ducks (Including Sea Ducks), American Coots (There is no Open Season on Harlequin Ducks)	November 21, 2026 - November 28, 2026 December 12, 2026 - January 31, 2027
Canada Geese	September 1, 2026- September 30, 2026 November 21, 2026 - November 28, 2026 December 12, 2026 - January 31, 2027 February 15, 2027 - March 1, 2027
White-fronted Geese & Snow Geese	November 21, 2026 - November 28, 2026 December 12, 2026 - January 31, 2027 February 15, 2027 - March 1, 2027
Marsh Hens/Rails, Common Moorhens & Purple Gallinules	September 10, 2026 - September 15, 2026 September 26, 2026 - November 28, 2026
Common Snipe	November 14, 2026 - February 28, 2027
Woodcock	December 18, 2026- January 31, 2027
Brant	January 2, 2027 - January 31, 2027
Swans	No Open Season

MIGRATORY BIRD
SHOOTING HOURS

SPECIES	SHOOTING HOURS
Mourning Dove	½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset
Early Teal	Sunrise until Sunset
Ducks, Geese, American Coots, Mergansers, Marsh Hens, Snipe, Woodcock & Brant	½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset

MIGRATORY BIRD
DAILY BAG LIMITS

SPECIES	DAILY LIMITS
Mourning Doves	15 Total
Early Teal (Blue & Green-winged)	6 Total
Ducks	6 Total including those species not named below. • Including no more than 5 Black-bellied whistling ducks. • Including no more than 4 each of the following: » Mallards (no more than 2 hens), • Including no more than 3 each of the following: » Pintails, Wood Ducks. • Including no more than 2 each of the following: » Redheads, » Scaup (2/day, Nov. 14, 21-28, Dec. 12-22, Feb. 6, 13); (1/day, Dec. 23 - Jan. 31), » Canvasback. • Including no more than 1 each of the following: » Fulvous whistling duck, • For Black Ducks or Mottled Ducks, see note below. • Including no more than 4 Total for Sea Ducks. » No more than 3 each of the following: » Eiders (only 1 hen) » Scoters » Long-tailed ducks
Canada Geese (September 1—September 30)	15 Total
Canada Geese & White-Fronted Geese (Remainder of Season)	5 Total, No more than 2 White-Fronted Geese
Snow Geese	25 Total
American Coots	15 Total
Mergansers	5 total, No more than 1 Hooded Merganser
Marsh Hens/Rails	King and Clapper—15 Total Sora and Virginia—25 Total
Common Moorhens & Purple Gallinules	15 Total
Common Snipe	8 Total
Woodcock	3 Total
Brant	1 Total

The black duck/mottled duck bag limit is as follows: 1) for areas east and south of Interstate 95 - one black or one mottled duck in the total bag; 2) for areas west and north of Interstate 95 - two black ducks or one black duck and one mottled duck in the total bag.

The possession limit is three times the daily bag for each group or individual species as listed above except there is no possession limit for snow geese.

The scaup limit on the November 14 youth day is 2. February 6 and 13 youth/veteran days is 2.

State Youth Day: Nov. 14, 2026 (Legal Species: Ducks, mergansers, coots). Only youth who are 17 years of age or younger may hunt, but they must be accompanied by an adult of at least 21 years of age who is fully licensed. Youth who are 16 and 17 years of age, who hunt on this day, must possess a Migratory Bird Permit and a valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Daily and possession bag limits are the same as indicated for regular seasons.

Federal Youth Days: Feb. 6 and Feb. 13, 2027 (Legal Species: Ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, gallinules). Only hunters 17 of age or younger may hunt on these days but must be accompanied by a person at least 18 years of age. Youth who are 16 and 17 years of age, who hunt on these days, must possess a valid South Carolina hunting license, Migratory Bird Permit, migratory waterfowl permit, and a valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Daily and possession bag limits are the same as indicated for regular seasons except scaup limit is two.

Veteran/Active Duty Military Days: Feb. 6 and Feb. 13, 2027 (Legal Species: Ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, gallinules). Veterans and active duty military who hunt on these dates must possess a valid South Carolina hunting license, Migratory Bird Permit, migratory waterfowl permit, and a valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Daily and possession bag limits are the same as indicated for regular seasons except scaup limit is two.

Sea Duck Area: The sea duck area is the Atlantic Ocean waters separated from any shore, island or emergent vegetation by at least one mile of open water. The shooting of crippled waterfowl from a vessel under motor power in the sea duck area is allowed.

Extended Falconry Season: Falconry is a permitted means of taking ducks, coots and mergansers in South Carolina. The extended season for falconry shall be Oct. 28-Nov. 20, 2026 and Dec. 1-11, 2026. Daily bag and possession limits for these birds shall not exceed 3 and 9 birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate. Statewide hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Preventing Hypothermia



Some of the best hunting happens during the winter when low temperatures pose a hazard to hunters. Being out in the elements, hunters can be at risk for hypothermia at temperatures as high as 50°F.



To protect yourself, make sure to dress in warm layers, avoiding moisture-retaining cotton, and pack a water-repelling outer layer.



Check the weather before heading out to make sure you won't be caught off-guard by other inclement weather and hunt with a partner.

Caring for your hunting companion



Just like humans, dogs can also get hypothermia. Always make sure to check on your retriever when hunting in extreme temperatures.

Signs of hypothermia in dogs

- shivering
- stiff muscles
- lack of coordination
- pale or gray gums
- body temperature below 100°F

What to do if this happens

- wrap your dog in a warm blanket
- place heating pad on a low setting and place it next to dog
- check dog's temperature; if below 98°F, seek veterinary attention

MIGRATORY BIRD LICENSING & PERMITS

Crows

A hunting license is required to hunt crows. Crows are migratory birds and as such, are a federally-protected species. The season is based on criteria established by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The open season for crows on private lands in South Carolina is Nov. 1 - Mar. 1. There is no bag limit. During the open season on private lands, crows may be taken with any firearm, bow and arrow, or by falconry. Crow hunting on WMA lands is permitted. During the open season for small game hunting on WMAs, crows may only be hunted with weapons legal for small game. The use of electronic calls for crow hunting is permitted statewide on private land and WMA land. Crows damaging crops may be taken at any time using non-toxic shot without a federal permit (50 CFR 21.43). Any person acting under this depredation order must provide an annual report to the USFWS Region 4 Migratory Bird Permit Office.

How do I buy a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting & Conservation Stamp?

The Electronic Federal Endorsement is available at SCDNR regional offices, point of sale license vendors, online and through the Go Outdoors South Carolina mobile app. The Endorsement is valid through June 30, 2027. The physical stamp is mailed by the USFWS fulfillment vendor after March 10, 2027. Federal stamps are available at select US Post offices, by calling 1-800-STAMP24 (782-6724) or online at www.fws.gov.

What is the Migratory Bird Permit?

Each year, before hunting migratory game birds, including doves and waterfowl, hunters 16 years of age and older are required to obtain a Migratory Bird Permit. Hunters are asked to complete a short survey, also known as the Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey, about migratory game bird hunting in SC for the previous year. The survey is part of the license sales process when a hunting privilege is included. A HIP certification from another state is not valid in SC and hunters are required to register for HIP in each state they hunt migratory game birds.

Hunters 64 years of age or older who hold a lifetime hunting, lifetime combination, senior, gratis or Catawba license are not required to obtain a migratory bird permit.

A waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must carry:

1. A valid South Carolina Annual Migratory Waterfowl Permit (\$15.50) or Lifetime Migratory Waterfowl Permit endorsement on their license;
2. A valid federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (\$30);
3. A valid South Carolina Migratory Bird Permit (No Cost) endorsement on their license;
4. A valid South Carolina Hunting License;
5. A valid South Carolina WMA Permit if hunting on a Wildlife Management Area.

*The WMA permit is included in the Junior Sportsman, Resident Annual and 3-Year Sportsman License.

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per day/per person
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MIGRATORY BIRD GENERAL REGULATIONS

Federal Regulations Overview

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory game birds.

Caution: The following material is only a summary. Each hunter should also consult the actual Federal Regulations, which may be found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, available at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-20>.

Illegal Hunting Methods

No persons shall take migratory game birds:

1. With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
2. With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells.
3. From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
4. From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
5. From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased;
6. By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
7. By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
8. By means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.

9. By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

What Terms Do I Need To Understand?

Daily Bag Limit

You can take only one daily bag limit in any one day. This limit determines the maximum number of gamebirds of a single species, or combination of species, you may legally have in your possession while in the field or while in route back to your car, hunting camp, home or other destination.

Aggregate Daily Bag Limit

The maximum number of migratory game birds permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season when such person hunts in more than one specified geographic area and/or for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species or for any one specified geographic area in which taking occurs.

Possession Limit

The maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species, or a combination of species, permitted to be possessed by any one person.

Aggregate Possession Limit

The maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species, or combination of species, taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which taking and possession occurs.

Tagging

You cannot put or leave migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless you tag the birds with your signature, address, number of birds identified by species and the date you killed them.

Wanton Waste

You must make a responsible effort to retrieve all migratory game birds that you kill or cripple and keep these birds in your actual custody while in the field. You must immediately kill any wounded birds that you retrieve and count those birds toward your daily bag limit.

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MIGRATORY BIRD GENERAL REGULATIONS

Rallying

You cannot hunt migratory game birds that have been concentrated, driven, rallied or stirred up with a motorized vehicle or sailboat.

Dressing

You cannot completely field-dress migratory game birds before taking them from the field. The head or one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to the birds while you transport them to your home or to a facility that processes waterfowl.

Dual Violation

A violation of State migratory game birds hunting regulations is also a violation of Federal regulations.

Personal Abode

One's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling such as a hunting club, or any clubhouse, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel, or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure or business trip.

Migratory Bird Preservation Facility

1. Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration; or

IF YOU SHOOT A BANDED MIGRATORY BIRD

If you have found or harvested a banded bird, please report it at www.reportband.gov. You'll need the band number, or numbers if the bird has more than one band. You'll also need to know where, when and how you recovered the bird. Your contact information will be requested in case there are any questions. The U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Bird Banding Lab will send you a certificate of appreciation that includes information about the sex, age and species of the bird, and where and when it was banded. You may keep the band. Please note: Even if the band you recover is inscribed with a 1-800 telephone number, as of July 2, 2017, you can only report it at www.reportband.gov.

2. Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or
3. Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations; receives, possesses, or has in custody migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.

Protected Birds

Federal law prohibits the killing of non-game migratory birds. Protected birds that you could encounter while waterfowl hunting include songbirds, eagles, hawks, owls, vultures, herons, egrets and woodpeckers.

WANTON WASTE AND TRESPASS

The requirement to retrieve downed migratory birds does not allow you to trespass onto the lands of another.

If you hunt near property lines, you are placing yourself at risk of committing wanton waste or trespass.

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MIGRATORY BIRD BAITING LAWS

Baiting Laws

Federal rules prohibit the taking of migratory game birds by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

It is legal to take migratory game birds including waterfowl, coots and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics);
- Standing, flooded or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

Who is responsible?

Hunters, guides and landowners are responsible for understanding and obeying regulations about baiting and knowing the conditions of the area to be hunted.

What is baiting?

Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

What is a baited area?

A **baited area** is any area on which salt, grain or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered, if that salt, grain or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

For how long?

An area is considered baited for ten days following the complete removal of all salt, grain or other feed.

What about normal agricultural operations?

Normal agricultural operation means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest

manipulation or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

What is a normal soil stabilization practice?

A normal soil stabilization practice means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural erosion control. Agricultural erosion control typically involves seeding prior to leaf drop or defoliation, mowing or shredding of crop residue to cover seed, or seeding prior to crop harvest to result in soil-seed contact and/or covering of the seed.

Top sowing of seed to control erosion on impoundment dikes, pond dams, roadways, logging decks, skid trails, power line rights-of-way, or construction sites may be considered erosion control if done according to Clemson Extension Service guidelines.

What is manipulation?

Manipulation means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include, but are not limited to, mowing, shredding, disking, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning or herbicide treatments. The term manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

What is considered natural vegetation?

Natural vegetation means any non-agricultural, native or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. The term natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

Hunting over agricultural land?

Nothing in the baiting regulation prohibits the taking of any migratory game bird, including waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice.

Hunting over agricultural land manipulated for wildlife management?

The baiting regulation does not prohibit the taking of any migratory game bird, EXCEPT

waterfowl, coots and cranes, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

In order to understand the law's application, the sportsman should know the legal definition of "take," which refers to the attempt to take as well as the act of taking itself: "Take" means to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect.

Equally important to understanding the law is a familiarity with what is meant by normal agricultural operations: that is, what constitutes the recommended agricultural practices in South Carolina for planting corn, millet, wheat, sunflowers or other grains. The Clemson University Extension Service is the authority for this in South Carolina and publishes an agricultural planting guide annually. There is a Clemson Extension Service Office in almost every county.

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DOVE HUNTING & BAITING

The greatest majority of dove shoots in South Carolina are held over three kinds of fields:

1. Harvested fields composed of combined or picked corn, combined soybean fields, or other fall harvested crops.
2. Fields where crops are grown and manipulated for wildlife management purposes.
3. Fields where wheat or other grains have recently been planted.

Usually the first two types of fields are easily identified as legal fields. The regulations permit shooting doves on or over standing crops, grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown, or grains found scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting. The regulations also allow shooting doves on or over fields where shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat, other grain, or other feed has been distributed or scattered as the result of normal agricultural operations.

The third type of field, where wheat or other grains have recently been planted, often causes confusion. Clemson Extension now considers the top sowing of wheat without covering to be a normal agricultural practice for wildlife planting as long as the seed is planted between October 1 and November 30 when evenly spread on a well-prepared seed bed established by heavy tilling. The Clemson Extension Service does not consider the top sowing of any other grain (ie- those outside of the small grains listed by Clemson Extension Service guidelines) without covering the seed to be a normal agricultural practice.

The Law

The federal code of regulations addresses dove hunting in two sections, the first describing when dove hunting is not legal, the second describing when it is legal.

Illegal Dove Hunting

Baiting and the Baited Area – The following regulation states that baiting is illegal and then defines what baiting and a baited area is:

“No person shall take migratory game birds (of which the dove is one) by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area.”

“Baiting” shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or feed so as to constitute for such birds a lure, attraction or enticement to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

“Baited area” means any area where shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed whatsoever capable of luring, attracting or enticing such birds is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered.

Baiting by piling grain unfairly concentrates birds in a small area where they will be an easy target for the unethical hunter. Not only do some hunters tend to overshoot their limit on a baited field, but they enjoy an unfair advantage over hunters seeking their share of the resource in nearby legal fields.

The standard for establishing guilt for a person charged with hunting over bait is whether the person “knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.” A hunter is responsible for determining the legality of a field before hunting on the field. Seeds, grain or other feed broadcast on freshly-plowed ground is an obvious baiting violation, and would almost certainly meet the standard that any hunter hunting on the field “knows or reasonably should have known that the area is or has been baited.”

Baiting regulations are intended to provide equity among those competing for the dove resource, to encourage sound wildlife management practices, and to protect the dove population, a resource that federal and state

agencies are required to protect by vigorous law enforcement.

New state and federal penalties apply to those convicted of hunting migratory birds over bait or baiting a field.

Legal Dove Hunting

The second section defines two settings where hunting is legal over agricultural land. One is when the hunter shoots over crops just planted or harvested in a normal agricultural manner. The second is when a landowner grows crops using normal agricultural practices with the intent of manipulating them for wildlife management purposes.

What You Can Do

Besides a sincere effort to understand and abide by the law, the sportsman can protect him/herself from inadvertent violations by observing a few precautions. For instance, when organizing a shoot or a club hunt, make sure you know what has been done to the dove field(s) and when. If possible, visit the field several days before the hunt either in the early morning or mid afternoon. If you are invited on a hunt, check with your host to find out the field's condition.

Anyone previewing a field before a hunt should look for the doves themselves. An unusual concentration will direct your attention to their reason for being there. If the doves are feeding on waste grain from a field that has been harvested, such as combined corn or soybeans, the field is legal. If the birds are feeding on fields where crops have actually been grown and manipulated so as to scatter the grain over the field, that is legal too.

If a field has been top sown with wheat, make sure it was planted according to Clemson Extension Service guidelines between October 1 and November 30 when evenly spread on a well-prepared seed bed established by heavy tilling.

Other fields to avoid are those with cracked grains or wheat placed in piles or strips. This is baiting in its most obvious form. Also steer clear of a field with any sign of rock salt in piles or strips. Because rock salt is lethal to mourning doves, using salt for bait is not only illegal under any circumstances, but inhumane and unethical. In freshly plowed or disked fields, be suspicious. This may be a field affected by the 10-Day Rule. That is, bait was placed in the field, the bait was removed, and then the field was plowed. The field is still not legal until 10 days after removal of all bait.

Finally, if the landowner or person preparing the field has any questions, they can direct their inquiries to any of the SCDNR offices listed in this brochure. If you are an invited guest, your questions concerning the legality of the field can best be answered by the person who prepared the field. In the event of a field check, the officers determination of the field's condition will only apply to the field at the time of inspection.



WHEN YOU HUNT BIRDS THIS FALL, REMEMBER TO:

1. Watch Your Muzzle!
2. Treat Every Firearm Due the Respect a Loaded Gun.
3. Be Sure of Your Target and What Lies In Front of and Beyond it.

Hunting Safety Is No Accident!

For more information on Hunter Safety and Hunter Education Classes, please visit www.dnr.sc.gov

WATERFOWL (DUCKS, BRANTS, GEESE) HUNTING & BAITING

Waterfowl and other migratory birds are a national resource protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Federal regulations define key terms for hunters and land managers, and clarify conditions under which you may legally hunt waterfowl. As a waterfowl hunter or land manager, it is your responsibility to know and obey all Federal and State laws that govern the sport. Waterfowl baiting regulations apply to ducks, geese, swans, coots and cranes.

Can I manipulate crops in a field where waterfowl will be hunted?

NO. Federal regulations are more restrictive for waterfowl hunting than for hunting doves and other migratory game birds. While unharvested agricultural crops may be manipulated to attract doves for hunting, manipulation of an unharvested agricultural crop to attract waterfowl for hunting creates a baited area.

What about natural vegetation?

Natural vegetation is any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules.

Natural vegetation does not include planted millet (like browntop and Japanese millet) because of its use as both an agricultural crop and a species of natural vegetation for moist soil management. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years is considered natural vegetation. If you restore and manage wetlands as habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds, you can manipulate the natural vegetation in these areas and make them available for hunting. Mowing and burning of natural vegetation are common habitat management practices in South Carolina.

Natural vegetation does not include plants grown as agricultural crops. Under no circumstances can you hunt waterfowl over crops manipulated prior to a normal harvest. Nor can you hunt waterfowl over manipulated wildlife food plots or manipulated plantings for soil stabilization.

In South Carolina many hunters and landowners manage native vegetation and planted agricultural crops to attract waterfowl for hunting. The Federal law is different for the management of these two food sources and hunters should pay particular attention to the differences.

Shooting Hours

Shooting hours for waterfowl are 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset except where noted during early seasons. Shooting hours are uniform statewide.

Legal Shot

The possession of lead shot is prohibited for all waterfowl hunting, statewide. Non-toxic shot (steel, bismuth or other Federally approved shot) is required for all waterfowl hunting.

Blind Regulations (SC Code of Laws 50-11-25)

It is unlawful to take migratory waterfowl from blinds or positions where the floor level of the blind or the position is:

- more than ten feet above surface level in or around freshwater; or
- more than five feet above the mean high water in or around saltwater.

A blind on public lands or waters must be constructed from biodegradable materials.

Once vacated, a blind on public lands or waters may be used by persons on a "first come, first served" basis.

Airboat Regulations (SC Code of Laws 50-21-860)

An "airboat" means a watercraft propelled by air pressure caused by a motor mounted on the watercraft aboveboard.

It is unlawful for a person to operate an airboat on the public waters of this State from the freshwater-saltwater dividing line, established by Section 50-5-80, seaward.

It is unlawful to operate an airboat on the waters of the Waccamaw, the Great Pee Dee, the Little Pee Dee, the Black and the Sampit Rivers in Georgetown and Horry Counties from one hour before legal sunset to one hour after legal sunrise and anytime during the season for hunting waterfowl.

It is unlawful to operate an airboat on the waters of 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.

It is unlawful to operate an airboat on the waters of the Broad River in Richland County and Stevens Creek in Edgefield County from one hour before legal sunset to one hour after legal sunrise.

The provisions of 50-21-860 do not apply to the operation of airboats by law enforcement, emergency medical, civil defense, noxious weed control, military personnel, state and federally approved wildlife banding, surveying, biological research programs and private waters.

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting & Conservation Stamp

If you are 16 or older, you must carry on your person an unexpired Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp. You must validate your duck stamp by signing it in ink across the face before hunting. You may also purchase a Federal Duck Stamp online as an Electronic Duck Stamp which is valid through March 10. Physical duck stamps will be mailed after March 10. You must also have a valid South Carolina Migratory Waterfowl Permit or have proof of purchase before hunting.



WATERFOWL HUNTING ON CERTAIN BODIES OF WATER

Hunting Waterfowl Is Prohibited Within Certain Distances Of Residences On Portions Or All Of The Following Bodies Of Water:

1. **Bear Creek** in Lancaster County (200 yards)
2. **Broadway Lake** in Anderson County (200 yards)
3. **Gills Creek** in Lancaster County (200 yards)
4. **Lake Greenwood** (200 yards)
5. **Lake Keowee** (200 yards)
6. **Lake Murray**
 - » Newberry & Saluda Counties (200 yards)
 - » Lexington & Richland Counties (350 yards)
7. **Lake Wateree** (200 yards) except no hunting allowed in Kershaw County
8. **Lake Marion**
 - » Potato Creek (200 yards)
 - » Wyboo Creek (200 yards)
 - » Dean Swamp in Clarendon County and adjacent to Santee Cooper Resort in Orangeburg County. (200 yards)
 - » Public waters in Calhoun County from the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers downstream to Poplar Creek. (200 yards)
 - » The coves immediately to the East of St. Julien Subd. Extension and Cypress Shores Marina. (200 yards)
 - » Taw Caw Creek in Clarendon County (No Hunting)
 - » The cove immediately to the SE of the Indian Bluff Recreation site. (No Hunting)
9. **Lake Moultrie** (200 yards)
10. **Lake Wylie** (200 yards)
11. **Murrell's Inlet Creek** in Georgetown County (100 yards)

It is unlawful to hunt waterfowl on the lakes listed above within the distances provided unless a person has written permission from the owner and occupant of the dwelling. There are no exceptions to the distance restriction on Lake Keowee.

* Lake Succession is closed to waterfowl hunting.

WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREAS

General Waterfowl Management Area Regulations

Category I and Category II

Hunting on Category I Designated Waterfowl Areas is permitted only by means of special permit obtained through an annual lottery.

For applications contact: Public Lottery Hunts, SCDNR, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202 or visit our web site at www.dnr.sc.gov or your local DNR office.

Hunting on Category II Designated Waterfowl Areas is permitted only during specified days and times during duck seasons including September seasons for Canada Goose and Teal. Category II areas are not open for the late (Feb.-Mar.) goose season except for Parr Reservoir and Monticello Reservoir.

Designated Waterfowl or Dove Management Areas

Unless specially designated by SCDNR as a Waterfowl or Dove Management Area, all WMAs and Hunt Units are open during the regular season including September seasons

for hunting and taking of migratory birds except where restricted to special small game seasons and within migratory bird framework.

The Department may designate sections of Wildlife Management Areas and other lands and waters under the control of the Department as Designated Waterfowl Management Areas or Designated Dove Management Areas. In addition, the Department may set special shooting hours, bag limits, and methods of hunting and taking waterfowl and doves on those areas. All State and Federal migratory bird laws and regulations apply. Regulations pertaining to the use of Dove Management Areas will be filed annually.

On Designated Waterfowl Areas, no species other than waterfowl may be taken during waterfowl hunts. On Designated Dove Management Areas no species other than doves may be taken during dove hunts. Only dove hunting is allowed at Lake Wallace.

Non Toxic Shell Requirement

On all State-owned, US Forest Service and other Federally owned Category I and II

Waterfowl Management Areas each hunter is limited to 25 Federally approved non-toxic shells per hunt.

Hunting From Blinds

On areas where blinds are not provided, only portable blinds which are removed at the conclusion of the hunt or temporary blinds of native vegetation may be used. Temporary blinds once vacated may be used by other hunters.

Fishing Restrictions

No fishing is permitted in any Category I Designated Waterfowl Management Area during scheduled waterfowl hunts.

Consent To Search

Entry onto WMA land constitutes consent to an inspection and search of the person, vessel, game bag or creel.

Boating Safety Equipment

Boating safety requirements apply on all waters within Wildlife Management Areas. See Page 44.

Category I Areas

Bear Island WMA
Beaverdam WMA
Bonneau Ferry WMA
Broad River WMA

Clemson
Coosawhatchie WMA (portions)
Donnelley WMA (portions)
Samworth WMA

Sandy Beach WMA
Santee Coastal Reserve WMA
Santee Delta WMA
Wateree River HP WMA

Category II and Other WMA Specific Details

AREA	OPEN PERIOD	COUNTY	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SPECIAL CONDITIONS
Beidler Impoundment	Sat. AM Only	Sumter	33.8	-80.556	
Carr Creek (within Samworth WMA)	Wed. & Sat. AM Only	Georgetown	33.463	-79.183	
Coosawhatchie WMA	Wed. & Sat. AM Only	Jasper	32.6030	-80.9671	Open only Dec. 16 - Jan. 31
Ditch Pond	Wed. AM Only	Barnwell	33.0419	-81.466	
Donnelley WMA (east of Donnelley Drive and Blocker Run Rd. See Reg. 10.19)	Wed. AM Only	Colleton	32.7054	-80.6036	Sign in/ Sign out required. No entry before 5:00 AM. No trailered boats or motors. No hunting from dikes.
Dunaway WMA	Sat. AM Only	Union	34.7096	-81.456	Sign in/Sign out required. No Entry before 5:00 AM.
Duncan Creek WMA	Sat. AM Only	Laurens	34.5246	-81.7988	Sign in/Sign out required. No Entry before 5:00 AM.
Dungannon WMA	Wed. AM Only	Charleston	32.757	-80.194	No hunting is allowed from boardwalk
Enoree River WMA	Sat. AM Only	Newberry	34.432	-81.422	Sign in/Sign out required. No Entry before 5:00 AM.
Fant's Grove WMA	Wed. & Sat. AM Only	Anderson & Pickens	34.623	-82.83	
Francis Marion National Forest	Waterfowl Season (Mon. - Sat.)	Berkeley & Charleston	33.1619	-79.8291	Closed on Waterhorn WMA unit during any scheduled deer hunt
Great Pee Dee HP WMA	Sat. AM Only	Darlington	34.388	-79.705	
Hamilton Ridge WMA	Mon. - Sat. AM Only	Hampton	32.618	-81.359	Open only Nov. 23-28 Dec. 15 - Jan 31
Hatchery WMA	Sat AM only & until sunset on last Sat. of regular duck season	Berkeley	33.256	-80.084	No airboats are allowed in the WMA during Nov. 15 - Jan. 31. No fishing allowed during scheduled waterfowl hunts.
Hickory Top WMA	Mon. thru Sat.	Clarendon	33.607	-80.481	Waterfowl hunting at or above 76 ft. 8 in. in elevation requires a WMA permit.

AREA	OPEN PERIOD	COUNTY	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SPECIAL CONDITIONS
Hickory Top Greentree Reservoir	Sat. AM Only	Clarendon	33.607	-80.481	Closed to all public access Nov. 1 - Mar. 1 except during scheduled hunts. Hunting hours are from 30 minutes before legal sunrise until 11:00 AM. No shooting from roads or dikes. Hunters may use only electric motors on boats. Completion and submission of data card is required. No Entry before 5:00 AM.
Lake Blalock	Wed. AM Only	Spartanburg	35.166	-81.887	Sign in/Sign out required. No Entry before 5:00 AM.
Lake Cunningham WMA	Wed. AM Only	Greenville	34.987	-82.284	
Lancaster Reservoir	Mon. & Fri. AM Only	Lancaster	34.702	-80.751	
Little Carr Creek (within Samworth WMA)	Wed. & Sat. AM Only	Georgetown	33.467	-79.178	
Little Pee Dee River Complex	Fri. & Sat. AM Only	Marion and Horry	34.091	-79.255	
Marsh WMA	Fri. & Sat. AM Only	Marion	33.948	-79.468	
Meyer Lake HP WMA	Mon. thru Sat. AM Only	Jasper	32.339	-81.128	Open only during special and scheduled small game seasons and full week of Thanksgiving.
Monticello Reservoir WMA	Mon. thru Sat. AM Only	Fairfield	34.327	-81.313	
Moultrie WMA	Mon. thru Sat.	Berkeley	33.379	-80.081	
Palachucola WMA	Mon. thru Sat. AM Only	Hampton	32.599	-81.284	Open only Nov. 23-28 Dec. 15 - Jan 31
Parr Reservoir WMA	Mon. thru Sat.	Fairfield	34.315	-81.362	
Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area	Fri. & Sat. Only	Clarendon	33.533	-80.270	Closed to all hunting and fishing one week prior to and two weeks after the waterfowl season. All hunters must enter and leave this area at the designated public landing on secondary road 260. Completion and submission of data card is required. No airboats are allowed and no hunting from secondary road 260.
Russell Creek WMA	Wed. & Sat. AM Only	McCormick	34.00	-82.549	Sign in/Sign out required. No Entry before 5:00 AM.
Sampson Island Unit (Bear Island WMA)	Wed. & Sat. AM Only	Colleton	32.599	-80.421	
Santee Cooper WMA	Sat. AM Only	Orangeburg	33.411	-80.292	Sign in/Sign out required.
Santee Island WMA	Mon.-Sat.	Georgetown	33.2276	-79.4373	
Sumter National Forest	Wed. & Sat. AM Only	Abbeville, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Saluda, Union	34.5683	-81.5919	
Tillman Sand Ridge WMA	Mon. thru Sat. AM Only	Jasper	32.494	-81.207	Open only during special and scheduled small game seasons and full week of Thanksgiving.
Turtle Island WMA	Fri. & Sat. AM Only	Jasper	32.06	-80.903	
Tyger River WMA	Sat. AM Only	Union	34.608	-81.632	Sign in/Sign out required. No Entry before 5:00 AM.
Waccamaw River HP WMA	Fri. & Sat. AM Only	Horry	33.905	-78.729	
Webb WMA	Mon. thru Sat. AM Only	Hampton	32.596	-81.308	Open only Nov. 23-28 Dec. 15 - Jan 31
Wee Tee WMA	Fri. & Sat. AM Only	Williamsburg	33.357	-79.759	
Woodbury WMA	Fri. & Sat. AM Only	Marion	33.775	-79.29	Includes all SCDNR-owned property south of US Hwy 378 and bounded on the west by the Great Pee Dee River and Bluff Road and to the east by the Little Pee Dee River. No waterfowl hunting is allowed in the area known as Hass Pond that is bounded on all sides by Hass Pond Road.
40-Acre Rock	Sat. AM Only	Lancaster	34.659	-80.517	

PUBLIC DOVE FIELDS



Dove Management Area Regulations

The following fields are open on a first-come basis. A Wildlife Management Area permit is required for all fields. Please consider the other hunters as well as the landowners whose cooperation makes these fields possible. Signs will be placed along roads directing hunters to the fields. All federal and state laws apply. Fields are open only on days and times indicated. **Fields denoted by an asterisk (*) require hunters to sign in (not before 12:00 noon) and sign out on ALL hunts.** No species other than mourning doves, pigeons and Eurasian collared doves may be hunted during scheduled dove hunts. Please remove all litter, including spent shell hulls, from fields when leaving!

Don't forget to get a Migratory Bird Permit from your license vendor – it's required but it's Free!

Bag Limit: Mourning Doves: 15 doves per day. No limit on Eurasian collared doves or pigeons.

All Hunters Please Note! The following special regulations apply to ALL Wildlife Management Area Public Dove Fields:

1. Hunters are limited to 50 shells per hunt
2. Dove hunting on all public fields is "Afternoon Only." No entry onto fields before noon
3. No shooting after 6:00 p.m. during the first segment of the season (Sept. 5 - Oct. 3)

Abbeville

U.S. Forest Service – Power of Partnerships Field

5 mi. east of Abbeville on SC-72, ¼ mile south on Bass Rd., 60 acres.

- **Sept. 5 Wheelin' Sportsmen**
- **1st season – Saturdays Only beginning Sept. 12.**
- **2nd and 3rd seasons – Open Mon. – Sat.**
- **Call (864) 986-6245 for details**

Aiken

*US Dept of Energy – Crackerneck WMA

From SC 125/CR62 (Silverton Rd.) in Jackson, take Silverton 0.4 mi. to Main St., left on Main for 0.4 mi., then right on Brown Rd. for 2.1 mi. Turn left on Bent Rim Rd., at end of pavement go 0.2 mi. to check station, 60 acres.

- **1st season – Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26**
- **2nd and 3rd seasons - Fridays and Saturdays only**
- **Call (803) 667-0721 for details**

Anderson

Clemson University – Fant's Grove WMA

From US 76/ SC 28 south of Clemson Take SC 187 to Fant's Grove Rd. 1.5 miles W, 45 acres.

- **1st season, Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5**
- **FIELD CLOSED OCT. 3**
- **Open 2nd & 3rd seasons – Saturdays Only**
- **Call (864) 986-6241 for details**

Berkeley

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Canal WMA

From St. Stephen Take SC 45 west for 1.5 miles or continue to County Rd. 35. Go left about .3 miles, 60 acres.

- **Sept. 5, 19; Oct. 3; Nov. 14, Dec. 19**
- **Sept. 12 is Wounded Warrior Hunt Only. Invitation Only. For information: ronald.s.june@usace.army.mil**
- **Call (843) 825-3387 for details**

Charleston

*SCDNR-Botany Bay Plantation WMA

Located on Edisto Island south of Charleston. To reach WMA take Hwy 174 from US17 towards Edisto Beach. Turn left onto Botany Bay Rd. (just beyond the Edisto Serpenterium), 8.5 mi. south of the McKinley Washington Bridge. Proceed down Botany Bay Rd. approx. 2 mi. until just before it ends, the entrance to the WMA is on the left. The dove fields are located approx. 2 mi. from the entrance. 70 acres.

- **Sept. 5, 12; Oct. 3; Nov. 14, Jan. 9, 23**
- **All hunts are Adult/Youth Only**
- **Call (843) 844-8957 for details**

Cherokee

Duke Energy – London Creek WMA

From the intersection of US 29 and SC 329 (Victory Trail Rd.) in Gaffney go 2.4 miles south on SC 329; turn left on Whites Rd. Go .25 miles; turn right on Old Barn Rd. Field is .25 miles ahead. 20 acres.

- Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5
- Call (864) 427-5140 for details.

Chester

U.S. Forest Service – Worthy Bottoms

10 miles west of Chester on SC 9, Left on Sec Rd. 535, Turn Right on Worthy's Ferry Rd. Field 5 miles on the right. 30 acres.

- 1st season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5
- 2nd & 3rd seasons – Open Mon. – Sat.
- Call (864) 427-5140 or (803) 276-4810 for details

SCDNR Landsford Canal

Forest Legacy Area

From Fort Lawn take Highway 21 North (Catawba River Rd.) toward Landsford. Right on 327 (Landsford Rd.) Entrance to dove field parking area 1.8 miles on left (34°47'4.69"N -80°52'58.21"W) – 43 acres.

- 1st season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5
- 2nd & 3rd seasons – Open Mon. – Sat.
- Call (864) 427-5140 for details.

Chesterfield

SC Forestry Commission – Sand Hills State Forest – Wilkes Chapel Field

From Sand Hills State Forest Headquarters on US 1, Go south on Flory Pond Rd. for 1.3 miles, Right on Sec Rd. 29 for .2 miles, Field on Right, 54 acres.

- 1st season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5
- 2nd & 3rd seasons - Open Mon. – Sat.
- Call (843) 498-6478 or (843) 661-4768 for details.

SC Forestry Commission – Sand Hills State Forest – Davis Field

From the intersection of US 1 and SC 102 in Patrick: Go southeast on SC 102 approx. 1 mi. Bear left on SR 80 and proceed approx. 1.5 mi. Left on Campbell Lake Rd. Continue 0.2 mi. then left on Griggs Loop Rd. Field entrance 0.1 mi. on the right. 30 acres.

- 1st season – Opening Day Sept. 5, then Wednesdays Only beginning Sept. 16
- 2nd & 3rd seasons – Open Mon. – Sat.
- Call (843) 498-6478 or (843) 661-4768 for details.

Clarendon

*Santee Cooper – Santee Dam WMA

From Manning, take Hwy 260 south 13 miles to Wilson Dam. At gate, follow gravel road at base of dam 5 miles to dove field parking area. 75 acres.

- Sept. 5, 12, 26; Nov. 14; Dec. 26; Jan. 9
- Call (803) 429-2068 for details.

*SC Forestry Commission – Oak Lea WMA

From Summerton take SC 26 west for 2 mi. Go north on SC 41 for approx 5 mi. Field on right. 102 acres.

- Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26; Dec. 26; Jan. 20
- Call (803) 429-2068 for details.

Colleton

*SCDNR – Donnelley WMA

From US 17 E of Green Pond, Go southeast on Sec Rd. 26 4 miles, Turn Right at Donnelley WMA Sign, Field 2 miles on Right, 80 acres.

- Sept. 5, 12; Oct. 3; Nov. 18; Jan. 6, 20
- Call (843) 844-8957 for details

Florence

*Santee Cooper – Pee Dee Station Site WMA

Field is located in Kingsburg 4.7 miles north of US Hwy 378 off S-21-57 (Old River Rd). Field on left (33°56'22.69" -79°29'45.37") 60 acres.

- Sept. 5, 19; Oct. 3; Nov. 21; Dec. 19; Jan. 9, 23
- Dove Hunting Only.
- Call (843) 661-4768 for details.

Georgetown

*SCDNR – Samworth WMA

Follow Hwy 701 towards Conway from Georgetown. Take right on Choppee Rd. after crossing Black River. Choppee Rd. becomes Plantersville Rd. Turn right onto Samworth Loop. Turn left onto Benvenue Rd. Turn right onto Direlton Rd. at entrance to Samworth WMA. Follow to field. 55 acres. Dove Hunting Only.

- Sept. 5, 19; Oct. 3; Nov. 21; Jan. 9, 23
- Call (843) 546-8119 for details

Greenville County

SCDNR – Tall Pines WMA

From Greenville on Hwy 11 take Moody Bridge Road southwest towards Tall Pines WMA. Just past the intersection with Tally Bridge Road the field will be on the right. 20 acres.

- Dove Hunting Only
- 1st Season – Saturdays only beginning Sept. 5
- 2nd and 3rd Seasons – Saturdays Only
- Call (864) 986-6241 for details.

Hampton

*SCDNR – Webb Wildlife Center

2.5 miles west of Garnett on Augusta Stage Coach Rd., 30 acres.

- Sept. 5, 19; Oct. 3; Nov. 21; Dec. 19; Jan. 9, 23
- Call (803) 625-3569 for details.

*SCDNR – Palachucola WMA

Located west of Garnett. Turn on Augusta Stagecoach Rd., follow 0.2 miles, take left on Robertsville Rd., then right on Black Swamp Rd. 20 acres.

- Sept. 5, 19; Oct. 3; Nov. 21; Dec. 19; Jan. 9, 23
- Call (803) 625-3569 for details.

Jasper

*SCDNR - Coosawhatchie WMA

Take Hwy 462 to Stock Farm Rd, Entrance is 1.1 miles on the right, 20 acres.

- Sept. 5, 19; Oct. 3, Nov. 21, Dec. 19, Jan 9, 23
- Call (803) 625-3569 for details.

Laurens

SCDNR – Cliff Pitts

From Laurens, go west on Hwy 76 for 3.6 mi. Turn left on Hwy 252 and go 7 mi. Turn left on Hood Creek Rd. and go 0.9 mi. Parking lot is on right. 50 acres.

- 1st season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5
- 2nd & 3rd seasons Open Mon. – Sat.
- Call (864) 427-5140 for details.

SCDNR – Gray Court Field

From the town of Gray Court at the intersection of Sec Hwy 101 and Sec Hwy 14, go south on Sec Hwy 14 toward Laurens for 0.9 mile to the Fire Station, turn left on Dove Rd. and go 0.3 mile and the parking area will be on the right. 15 acres.

- 1st season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5
- 2nd & 3rd seasons Open Mon. – Sat.
- Call (864) 427-5140 for details.

Lexington

Hallman Field

Get off of I-20 on Exit 39, turn left. Take Hwy 178 East for 2.4 mi. to Truex Rd. Turn left on Truex and go 1.2 mi. to Rish Dr. Turn right on Rish and go 0.1 mi. to parking area on left – 47 acres.

- 1st season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5
- 2nd, and 3rd seasons – Saturdays Only, Dove Hunting Only
- Call (803) 360-0209 for details.

PUBLIC DOVE FIELDS

Marlboro

SCDNR – Lake Wallace WMA

Northwest of Lake Wallace on Sec Rd 47 Bennettsville, Beauty Spot Rd., from Hwy 9 (west of Bennettsville) turn left on Beauty Spot Rd., go 1.9 mi. Field on right. 50 acres.

- Sept. 5, 19; Oct. 3; Nov. 21; Dec. 19; Jan. 9, 23
- Dove Hunting Only
- Call (843) 661-4768 for details.

McCormick

***U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Bordeaux Field**

From intersection of Hwys 28 & 378 in McCormick: Hwy 378 west 5.5 mi. to Hwy 7. Right onto Hwy 7; go 3 mi. to S-33-135 (Wilmington Academy Dr.) Left onto S-33-135; go 1.5 mi. to S-33-110 (McIntosh Rd.) Left onto S-33-110; go 1.5 mi. to field entrance on the left. 40 acres.

- Sept. 5, 16, 30; Nov. 25; Jan. 13 & 20.
- Dove Hunting Only. Call (864) 986-6245 for details.
- Must sign-in & out @ 1009 McIntosh Rd

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Parksville Field

¼ mi. north of Parksville on Hwy 28. 22 acres.

- 1st season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5
- 2nd & 3rd seasons – Open Mon.–Sat. Call (864) 986-6245 for details.

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers – Plum Branch Fields

From Plum Branch take S-33-57 (Collier St) 2 mi. west, field on right in sharp-left curve. 30 acres.

- 1st season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5
- 2nd & 3rd seasons – Open Mon. – Sat., Call (864) 986-6245 for details.

Newberry

SCDOT McCullough Field

From I-26 North on Hwy 121 towards Whitmire 9.2 mi. Right on McCullough Rd., 0.7 mi. Field on right. 30 acres.

- Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5.
- Dove Hunting Only.
- Call (803) 360-1097 for details.

SCDNR – Belfast WMA

From the intersection of US 76 (Wilson Rd) and SC 560 in Kinards go 5.9 miles south-west on SC 560; turn left onto SC 56. Go 3.9 miles; turn right at silver gate. Field is 0.5 mile ahead. 26 acres.

- Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26; Nov. 28.
- 3rd season - Open Mon. – Sat.
- Call (803) 360-1097 for details.

Oconee

U.S. Forest Service – Long Creek Tract

In order to hunt, adults must have 1 or 2 youth age 17 or younger. From Westminster take Hwy 76 to Long Creek, take a left on Orchard Rd, proceed ¾ mi. to field on right. 50 acres.

- 1st season – Saturdays only beginning Sept. 5
- 2nd season – Open November 14, 21, 28 Only
- 3rd season – Closed.
- Call (864) 986-6241 for details.

U.S. Forest Service – Ross Mtn. Field

About 7 miles north of Walhalla on SC 28, Turn on Tunneltown Rd., Turn on Ross Mtn. Rd., Field on Both Sides of road, 35 acres.

- Open 1st, 2nd & 3rd seasons
- Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5
- Call (864) 986-6241 for details.

Orangeburg

***Santee Cooper – Santee Cooper WMA**

From Santee, Take Highway 6 east approximately 12 miles to Eutaw Springs. Left on FredCon Rd. for 0.3 miles. Left on Ferguson Landing Road for 0.3 miles Left at Santee Cooper WMA sign. Field is 0.3 miles from entrance. 35 acres. Entire WMA under Dove Area Regulations.

- Sept. 5 is Adult/Youth Hunt Only
- Sept. 12, 19; Nov. 14; Jan. 16
- Call (803) 429-2068 for details.

Pickens

SCDNR – Rifle Range

South of Pickens off Sec Rd 304 near SC Highway Dept. Bldg., 40 acres.

- Open 1st, 2nd & 3rd seasons
- Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5. Dove Hunting Only
- Call (864) 986-6241 for details.

Clemson University – Gravely WMA – Causey Tract

From SC 11 Go south on Sec Rd 112 at Cendy's Store, Turn east on Sec Rd 114 & Go 0.5 miles; 25 acres.

- Open 1st, 2nd & 3rd seasons
- Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5.
- Call (864) 986-6241 for details.

Richland

***SCDNR – Love Farm WMA**

From the intersection of Hwys 601 & 378. Drive east on Hwy 378 2.2 miles. Turn right on Vanboklen Rd. Field is on the left.

- Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26; Oct. 3
- Access is only open during scheduled hunts.

- Must sign-in & out @ designated field entrance.
- Hunting permitted in designated field only.
- Call (803) 457-1201 for details.

Spartanburg

Santee Cooper

From intersection of US 176 & West Main St. (Sec. Hwy 227) approx. 2.5 miles W. of Pacolet, go 0.1 mile east on West Main St. and turn left on Goldmine Rd. (Sec. Hwy 108) for 4.3 mi. then turn right on Hatchet Dr. Field at end of road. 15 acres.

- 1st season – Saturdays only Beginning Sept. 5
- 2nd & 3rd seasons – Open Mon. – Sat.
- Call (864) 427-5140 for details.

Sumter

S.C. Forestry Commission – Manchester State Forest

Directions from Wedgefield

***Bland Field 1**

Take Hwy 261 North 0.7 mi. to Bland entrance sign, turn right and follow dirt road to field. 50 acres.

- Sept. 5 is Adult/Youth Hunt Only
- 1st season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 12.
- 2nd & 3rd seasons – Open Mon. – Sat. (Designated Fields and the general forest).
- Call (803) 429-2068 for details.

***Tuomey Field A**

Take SC 763 (Wedgefield Rd) 4 mi. to stop sign. Right on St. Paul Ch. Rd., go 3 mi. to field on right. 50 acres.

- 1st season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5.
- 2nd & 3rd seasons – Open Mon. – Sat. (Designated Fields and the general forest).
- Call (803) 429-2068 for details.

Union

SCDNR – Thurmond Tract

From the intersection of SC Hwy 9 and SC Hwy 49 at Lockhart go 4.3 mi. north on SC Hwy 9 and the field is on the left (south) side of road. 15 acres.

- 1st season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 5.
- 2nd & 3rd seasons open Mon. – Sat.
- Call (864) 427-5140 for details.

U.S. Forest Service - Sedalia

From the intersection of SC 49 and Old Buncombe Rd (Sec Hwy 18) near Cross Keys, go 3.6 mi. east on Old Buncombe Rd and turn left on Sedalia Fire Tower Rd (Sec. Hwy 80)

for 0.2 mi. and field is on left (northwest) side of road. 15 acres.

- **Sept. 5 is Adult/Youth Only**
- **1st season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 12.**
- **2nd & 3rd seasons – Open Mon. – Sat.**
- **Call (803) 321-2960 for details.**

U.S. Forest Service – Herbert

From the intersection of SC Hwy 215, SC Hwy 72 and Pinckney St. in Carlisle, go south on Pinckney St. which turns into Herbert Rd (Sec Hwy 37) for 5.6 miles; turn right at the intersection of St. Luke's Rd. (Sec Hwy 359). Parking area is under the power line off St. Luke's Rd, 40 acres.

- **1st season Saturdays – Beginning Sept. 5.**
- **2nd & 3rd seasons – Open Mon. – Sat.**
- **Call (803) 321-2960 for details.**

York

SCDNR – Draper Tract

3.5 miles E of McConnells on SC 322, Turn Right on Sec Rd 165 (Brattonsville Rd), Go .5 miles, Turn Right, 45 acres (two fields).

- **Sept. 5, 19; Oct. 3; Nov. 21; Dec. 19; Jan. 9, 23;**
- **Dove Hunting Only.**
- **Call (864) 427-5140 for details.**

York County – Worth Mountain WMA

From Hickory Grove at the intersection of SC Hwy 97 and SC Hwy 211, take Hwy 211 South approx. 4 miles and turn left on Scenic View Rd, go .75 miles and field is on right. 40 acres planted.

- **Sept. 5, 19; Oct. 3; Nov. 21; Dec. 19; Jan. 9, 23;**
- **Dove Hunting Only.**
- **Call (864) 427-5140 for details.**

SPECIAL ADULT/YOUTH DOVE HUNTS:

Eligibility for these hunts requires adults 21 years or older to bring 1 or 2 youths 15 years of age and younger. Youths 16 & 17 years of age may participate in the hunt with or without an accompanying adult. The following regulations also apply: (1) Adult must remain in the field and closely supervise participating youth at all times. (2) In parties of one adult and 2 youths, only one youth hunter may be handling a loaded firearm at any given time. (3) Adults are allowed to shoot. (4) Bag limit is 15 birds per participant. Birds harvested by individual hunters must be kept separate, and in no instance may an individual hunter harvest more than 15 birds.

Pre-registration is not required.

Charleston County Adult/Youth Hunt

SCDNR - Botany Bay Plantation WMA

September 5, 12, October 3, November 14, January 9, 23

- **Call (843) 844-8957 for details.**

Oconee County Adult/Youth Hunt

Long Creek WMA

- 1st season – Saturdays only beginning Sept. 5
- 2nd season – Open November 14, 21, 28 Only
- 3rd season – Closed
- **Call (864) 986-6241 for details.**

Orangeburg County Adult/Youth Hunt

Santee Cooper – Santee Cooper WMA

September 5

- **Call (803) 429-2068 for details.**

Sumter County Adult/Youth Hunt

Bland Tract – Field 1.

September 5

- **Call (803) 429-2068 for details.**

Union County Adult/Youth Hunt

U.S. Forest Service - Sedalia

September 5

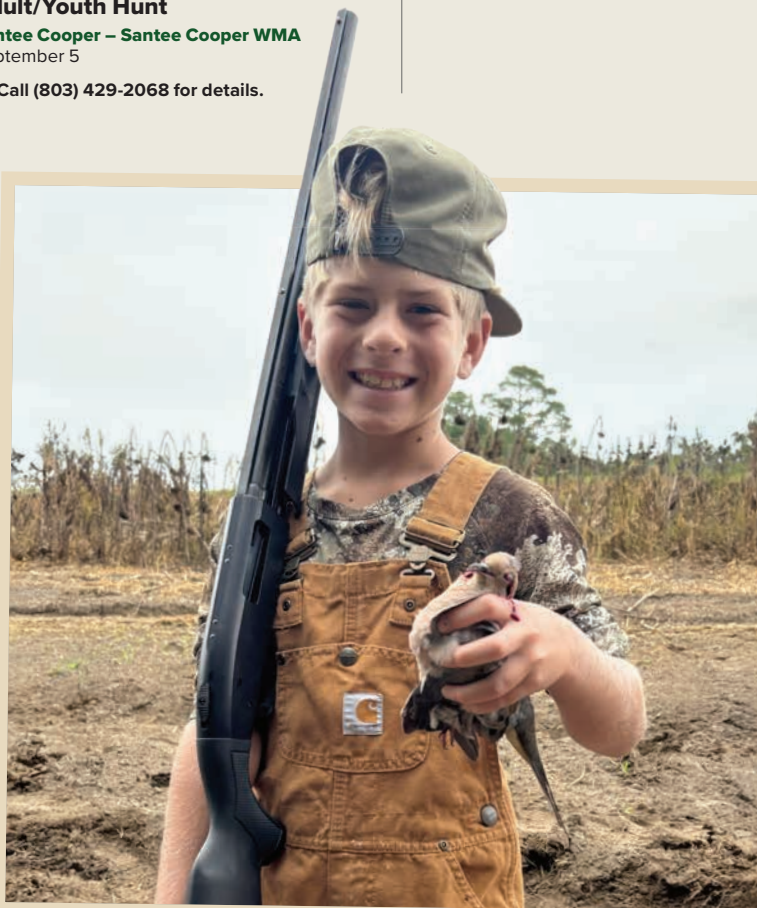
- **Call (803) 321-2960 for details.**

York County Adult/Youth Hunt

SCDNR - Draper WMA

September 5

- **Call (864) 427-5140 for details.**



PUBLIC DOG TRAINING AREAS



Public Bird Dog Training Areas now available

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources recently announced the opening of four Public Bird Dog Training Areas. On these areas, anyone with a valid hunting license and a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) permit can train bird dogs between

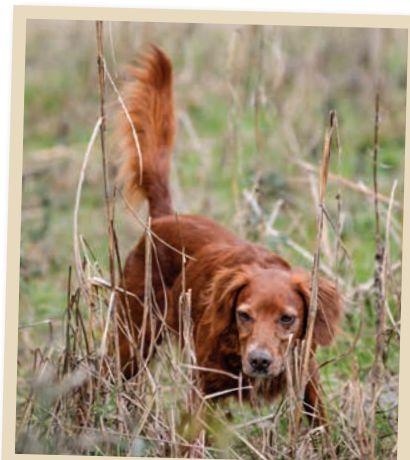
Sept. 15 and March 15 (excluding Sundays). Dog trainers may release and take pen-raised quail or pigeons for training purposes, only within the areas designated by posted signs reading "Bird Dog Training Area". Specific boundaries of the Bird Dog Training Area are delineated on maps within the kiosks located at the WMA parking areas and are well marked with signage.

- It is unlawful to take game by any means (other than released quail or pigeons) within the bird dog training areas, except during the lawful open seasons for such game.
- Participants in dog training may not possess any firearms or other equipment for taking game except handguns or shotguns with blank cartridges, or shotguns with number 8 shot or smaller may be used while training dogs using pen-raised bob-white quail or pigeons.
- All participants in bird dog training must wear a hat, coat or vest of solid visible international orange.

The Public Dog Training Areas now open in South Carolina are:

- The entirety of the Angelus WMA in Chesterfield County

- A portion of the Lake Murray-Saluda River Tract in Saluda County
- A Portion of the Cliff Pitts WMA in Laurens County
- A portion of the Edisto River WMA in Dorchester County
- A portion of the Landsford Canal WMA in Chester County



TREE STAND SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT!

TO PREVENT TREE STAND ACCIDENTS, **ALWAYS:**

1. Wear an approved fall-arrest system when you hunt from an elevated position.
2. Use a lifeline or similar system to connect your fall-arrest system to the tree from the time you leave the ground until you get back down.
3. When climbing into or out of a tree stand, always use three points of contact with your hands and feet.
4. Do not climb with anything in your hands or on your back. Use a haul line. **NEVER CLIMB WITH YOUR FIREARM.**
5. Check your tree stand carefully prior to the season for any issues.
6. **ALWAYS** tell someone where you are hunting and when you will return.

OPEN SEASON ON LITTER

NO BAG LIMIT-NO QUOTA



Let's aim for a litter free South Carolina



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

The **Conservation Education program** creates educational opportunities through outdoor recreation and environmental learning. Whether in the classroom, on the trail, or in the field, Conservation Education staff seek to promote SCDNR public lands while increasing public understanding and appreciation for wildlife, fisheries, forests, and landscapes. Through guided naturalist hikes, K-12 educational programs, outreach efforts, outdoor skills and interpretation, Conservation Education's goal is to create new environmental stewards and help you live life outdoors.

Contact us for more information about our programs and the natural resources of the state. For education programs, outreach events, career fairs, outdoor skills, and other conservation programs please send an email to ConservationEd@dnr.sc.gov



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

WMA Program

Through the cooperative effort of private landowners, the U. S. Forest Service and SCDNR, Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are provided for the enjoyment of all wildlife enthusiasts. Funds generated from the sale of WMA permits enable SCDNR to lease approximately 1.1 million acres of land for wildlife conservation and management.

Heritage Preserves are properties acquired by SCDNR for the primary purpose of protecting habitat for rare and endangered species. Some heritage preserves offer game hunting opportunities and are included in the WMA Program. All persons using WMA lands are reminded that only US Forest Service lands and those areas marked by WMA signs are open to the public. Lands not posted with these signs are the property of private individuals, and landowner permission must be obtained.

General locations of the areas described below are shown on the map on page 94. For detailed maps showing these and other WMA lands, write WMA MAPS, SCDNR, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC, 29202, call 803-734-3886 or visit www.dnr.sc.gov/wma/maps.html. Reference map # from chart below.



WMA properties should be marked with these yellow and black signs.

SOUTH CAROLINA

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA PROPERTIES

Open dates for each season are listed in the Hunt Seasons section beginning on page 95 of this book.

Note: * indicates an SCDNR Property.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA	ACREAGE	MAP #	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve*	2,082	3	Aiken	803-722-0464
Bear Island*	12,153	10	Colleton	843-844-8957
Belfast*	4,664	4	Laurens, Newberry	803-360-1097
Bobwhite Hills	790	7	Lee, Sumter	803-755-1914
Bonneau Ferry*	10,712	9	Berkeley	843-825-3387
Botany Bay Plantation	4,687	10	Charleston	843-844-8957
Broad River Waterfowl Area	640	4	Fairfield	864-427-5140
Canal	2,491	9	Berkeley	843-825-3387
Cartwheel Bay Heritage Preserve*	568	8	Horry	843-546-8119
Central Piedmont Hunt Unit	183,706	4, 5, 6	Cherokee, Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, Laurens, Newberry, Spartanburg, Union, York	864-427-5140
Coosawhatchie*	12,168	10	Jasper	803-625-3569
Crackerneck	10,600	3	Aiken	803-667-0721
Delta South	2,174	4, 5	Union	864-427-5140
Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve*	285	3	Aiken, Barnwell	803-955-2265
Donnelley*	8,066	10	Colleton	843-844-8957
Draper*	806	5	York	864-427-5140
Dungannon Heritage Preserve*	730	9, 10	Charleston	843-546-8119
Edisto River*	1,394	10	Dorchester	843-844-8957
Fants Grove	7,444	1, 2	Anderson, Oconee, Pickens	864-654-1671
Forty Acre Rock*	2,965	4	Lancaster	803-419-9374
Francis Marion National Forest	260,480	9, 10	Berkeley, Charleston	843-825-3387
Great Pee Dee Heritage Preserve*	2,725	6, 7	Darlington	843-661-4766
Hamilton Ridge*	13,281	10	Hampton	803-625-3569
Hatchery	2,400	9	Berkeley	843-825-3387
Henderson Heritage Preserve*	453	3	Aiken	803-955-2265
Hickory Top	1,105	7	Clarendon	803-429-2068
Keowee	4,930	1, 2	Pickens, Oconee	864-654-1671
Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve*	10,450	8	Horry	843-546-8119
Liberty Hill	7,876	4	Kershaw, Lancaster	843-661-4768
Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve* Complex	10,444	8	Horry, Marion	843-546-8119
Longleaf Pine Heritage Preserve*	843	7	Lee	803-419-9374
Lynchburg Savanna Heritage Preserve*	291	7	Lee	803-419-9374
Manchester State Forest	23,135	7	Sumter	803-494-8196
Marsh*	8,660	8	Marion	843-661-4766
McBee*	1,221	6	Chesterfield	843-661-4766
McCalla	5,667	2	Abbeville	864-223-1307
Meyer Lake Heritage Preserve*	973	10	Jasper	843-546-8119

Open dates for each season are listed in the Hunt Seasons section beginning on page 95 of this book.

Note: * indicates an SCDNR Property.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA	ACREAGE	MAP #	COUNTY	TELEPHONE
Mill Shoals	774	1	Pickens	864-654-1671
Moultrie Hunt Unit	9,773	9	Berkeley	843-825-3387
Mountain Hunt Unit	154,249	1	Greenville, Oconee, Pickens	864-654-1671
Oak Lea	2,000	7	Clarendon	803-429-2068
Old Island Heritage Preserve*	400	10	Beaufort	843-546-8119
Palachucola*	6,757	10	Hampton, Jasper	803-625-3569
Parr Hydroelectric Project	4,400	4, 5	Fairfield, Newberry	803-609-6992
Pee Dee Station Site	2,701	8	Florence	843-661-4766
Rock Hill Blackjacks Heritage Preserve*	291	5	York	864-419-9374
Samworth*	1,588	9	Georgetown	843-546-8119
Sand Hills State Forest	46,838	5, 6, 7	Chesterfield, Darlington	843-661-4766
Santee Coastal*	23,776	9, 10	Charleston, Georgetown	843-546-8665
Santee Cooper	3,144	7	Orangeburg	803-429-2068
Santee Dam	575	7	Clarendon	803-429-2068
Santee Delta*	1,899	9	Georgetown	843-546-8665
Santee Island	1,861	9	Georgetown	843-546-8665
South Fenwick	427	10	Colleton	843-844-8822
South Saluda	1,090	1	Pickens	864-654-1671
St. Helena Sound Heritage Preserve*	10,302	10	Beaufort	843-844-8822
Tillman Sand Ridge Heritage Preserve*	1,437	10	Jasper	803-625-3569
Turtle Island*	1,667	10	Jasper	803-625-3569
Victoria Bluff Heritage Preserve*	1,113	10	Beaufort	803-625-3569
Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve*	9,049	8	Horry	843-546-8119
Wateree River Heritage Preserve	3,674	7	Richland	803-353-6215
Webb*	5,866	10	Hampton	803-625-3569
Wee Tee	12,439	9, 10	Williamsburg, Georgetown	843-661-4766
Western Piedmont Hunt Unit	146,561	2, 3, 4	Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, McCormick, Saluda	864-223-1307
Woodbury*	25,668	8	Marion	843-661-4766
Worth Mountain	1,643	5	York	864-427-5140

THANKS TO LANDOWNERS

Landowners providing their land for public hunting and recreation are due much appreciation from SCDNR and all outdoor enthusiasts. Without these lands, public hunting as provided in this state would be impossible. Sportsmen seeing the yellow and black diamond-shaped signs designating WMA boundaries should remember they are hunting as guests of the landowner and be respectful of this privilege.

U.S. Forest Service.....	636,681	Ann Bass.....	1,587
S.C. Department of Natural Resources.....	249,563	Potlatch Deltic.....	1,075
S.C. Forestry Commission.....	98,483	S.C. Conf. Bd. of Camps & Retreats.....	1,060
S.C. Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper).....	23,786	Timber-Lands L.P.....	1,044
Clemson University.....	11,265	Quail Forever.....	774
U.S. Department of Energy - Crackerneck WMA.....	10,600	Vandiviere Properties LLC.....	655
American Forest Management.....	9,329	Thomas Heirs LLC.....	594
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.....	8,971	The Nature Conservancy - Nine Times.....	560
S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.....	8,529	Waterfront Preservation Foundation.....	491
Duke Energy Carolinas.....	7,443	Ingram Lumber Co.....	490
Dominion Energy.....	5,187	City of Clinton.....	276
Nuveen Natural Capital.....	4,580	The Brown Family Limited Partnership.....	205
Twin Creeks Timber.....	3,682	Zimmerman Land LLC.....	188
Naturaland Trust.....	4,030	William & Joab Lesesne.....	92
BTG Pactual OEF Property 2, L.P.....	3,917		
The George Family.....	1,928		
Springland, Inc.....	1,856		
York County.....	1,643	TOTAL ACRES.....	1,101,578

WMA REGULATIONS

WMA, Heritage Trust and Department Owned Lands Abuse

The abuse, misuse, damage, or destruction of wildlife management area land, Heritage Trust land, or department owned land or improvements on these lands is unlawful. A person who abuses, misuses, damages, or destroys these lands or improvements on them including, but not limited to, roads, vegetation, buildings, structures, or fences or leaves refuse, trash, or other debris on the property, or who otherwise abuses, damages, destroys, or misuses these lands is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined two hundred dollars and be required to make restitution to the landowner in an amount determined by the court to be necessary to repair, rebuild, clean up, or restore the property to its condition before the abuse occurred. A person failing to make restitution within the time limit set by the court must serve a mandatory ten-day sentence in the county jail which may not be suspended in whole or in part. The provisions of this section are in addition to other criminal penalties.(50-11-2210).

WMA Public Lottery Hunts

SCDNR offers a variety of WMA hunts based on preference points. Nonrefundable hunt fees must be submitted at the time of application. Applications are available online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com. A hunter's privilege to participate in a Wildlife Management Area lottery hunt may be revoked for the remainder of the hunt for any violation of law or WMA regulations (SC 50-11-2240).

TYPE OF HUNT	APPLICATION PERIOD	FEE
Deer (Other than Webb Gun Hunt)	July 1-Aug. 15	\$20 per applicant
Deer – Webb Gun Hunts	July 1-Aug. 15	\$25 per applicant
Waterfowl	Sept. 1-Oct. 15	\$20 per applicant
Youth Only Waterfowl	Sept. 1-Oct. 15	\$5 per youth
Quail	Sept. 1-Oct. 15	\$20 per applicant

General Regulations

- On all SCDNR-owned WMA lands the removal of artifacts or ecofacts (including arrowheads) from the surface or subsurface is prohibited except when approved by the State Historic Preservation Office and carried out in accordance with their guidelines.

- Statutes 50-11-2200 and 50-11-2210 authorize the promulgation of WMA regulations R123-40. See specific game zones for seasons.

2.1 – Except as provided in these regulations, no person may hunt or take wildlife on areas designated by SCDNR as Wildlife Management Area (WMA) lands.

2.2 – Entry onto WMA land is done wholly and completely at the risk of the individual. Neither the landowners nor the State of South Carolina nor SCDNR accepts any responsibility for acts, omissions, activities or conditions on these lands which cause or may cause personal injury or property damage.

2.3 – Entry onto WMA land constitutes consent to an inspection and search of the person, game bag or creel.

2.4 – No person may hunt or take wildlife on WMA land unless an individual is in possession of a valid South Carolina license; a valid WMA permit; and other applicable federal or state permits, stamps, or licenses.

2.5 – No Sunday hunting is permitted on any WMA lands unless otherwise specified.

2.6 – On all WMA lands, baiting or hunting over a baited area is prohibited. As used in this section, “bait” or “baiting” means the placing, depositing, exposing, distributing, or scattering of shelled, shucked, or unshucked corn, wheat, or other grain or other food stuffs to constitute an attraction, lure, or enticement to, on, or over any area. “Baited area” means an area where bait is directly or indirectly placed, deposited, exposed, distributed, or scattered and the area remains a baited area for ten (10) days following the complete removal of all bait. Salt/minerals are not considered bait. However, depositing a salt/mineral block on WMA land can constitute litter, therefore, only liquid formulations should be used.

2.7 – On WMA lands construction or use of tree stands and temporary climbing devices is prohibited if the tree stand or temporary device is constructed by driving nails, screws or other devices into the tree; or the tree stand or temporary climbing device is constructed by wrapping wire around the tree. Other tree stands and temporary climbing devices are permitted provided they are not permanently affixed or embedded in the tree. Excluding deer stands erected by the Department on WMA lands for the purpose of special hunts, no deer stands or temporary climbing devices may be placed on WMA lands prior to August 10 in any given year and must be removed by January 15 of the succeeding year. All deer stands and temporary climbing devices must be labeled with the SCDNR customer ID number of the person responsible for the stand or climbing device in a conspicuous location using an identification tag, etching or permanent marker.

2.8 – On WMA lands any hunter younger than sixteen (16) years of age must be accompanied by an adult (21 years or older). Sight and voice contact must be maintained.

2.9 – Notwithstanding any other provision of these regulations, the Department may permit special hunts on any day during the regular hunting season.

2.10 – No person may release or attempt to release any animal onto WMA lands without approval from the Department. This regulation does not apply on designated Public Bird Dog Training Areas where pen raised quail and pigeons may be released.

2.11 – While participating in a hunt on WMAs, no person may possess, consume or be under the influence of intoxicants, including beer, wine, liquor or drugs.

2.12 – On WMA lands, during the designated statewide youth deer hunt day, only still hunting is allowed. The limit is two deer total, either sex, tags not required.

2.13 – Taking or destroying timber, other forest products or cutting firewood on WMA lands without written permission from the landowner or his agents is prohibited. Users of WMA lands are prohibited from planting, attempting to plant, burning or otherwise attempting to manipulate crops, natural vegetation or openings without written permission from the landowner or his agent.

2.14 – On WMA lands, hunting armadillos and coyotes at night is prohibited. Armadillos and coyotes may be hunted during any open season for game during daylight hours with no bag limit. Weapon(s) used to hunt armadillos and coyotes are limited to the weapon(s) that are allowed for the current open season on WMA.

2.15 – On WMA lands during special designated hunts, a WMA may be closed to other public access.

2.16 – Still hunting for hogs is permitted on WMAs during any open season for game during daylight hours with only the weapons allowed during the hunting season in progress unless otherwise prohibited. No hog may be transported alive from a WMA. Hogs may not be hunted at night. There is no bag limit on hogs. Hunters must wear a hat, coat, or vest of solid international orange while hog hunting. Buckshot is prohibited. During hog hunts with dogs, no still or stalk hunting is allowed and only handguns are permitted. No hog hunting with dogs is allowed except during special designated seasons. During firearms seasons for deer, hog hunters possessing big game weapons must possess licenses, permits, and tags applicable to deer hunting. Big game weapons include centerfire weapons, archery equipment with broad heads, shot larger than No. 2, and muzzle-loading shotguns (larger than 20 gauge) and rifles/muskets (.36 caliber or greater).

2.17 – Unless otherwise specified, small game hunting seasons and bag limits are the same as Game Zone seasons and bag limits except no hunting before Sept. 1 or after Mar. 1. The season for hunting beavers on WMA lands shall be October 1 through March 1.

Weapons

3.1 – On WMA lands hunters may use any shotgun, rifle, bow and arrow, crossbow or hand gun except specific weapons may be prohibited on certain hunts. Small game hunters may possess or use shotguns with shot no larger than No. 2 or .22 or smaller rimfire rifles/handguns or primitive muzzle-loading rifles/muskets of .40 caliber or smaller. Small game hunters may not possess or use buckshot, slugs or shot larger than No. 2. Blow guns, dart guns, drugged arrows or arrows with exploding tips are not permitted. Small game hunters using archery equipment may use small game tips or broadheads on the arrows.

3.2 – For Special Primitive Weapons Seasons, primitive weapons include bow and arrow, crossbow and muzzle-loading shotguns (20 gauge or larger) and rifles/muskets (.36 caliber or larger) with open or peep sights or scopes, which use black powder or a black powder substitute. There are no restrictions on ignition systems (e.g. Flintstone, percussion cap, shotgun primer, disk, electronic, firestick, etc.). During primitive weapons season, no revolving rifles are permitted. (Falconry Allowed).

3.3 – On WMA lands, big game hunters are not allowed to use armor-piercing, tracer, incendiary, or full metal bullets or .22 or smaller rimfire. Shotguns with only buckshot or slugs are allowed. Buckshot is prohibited during still gun hunts for deer on WMA lands in Game Zones 3-4.

3.4 – On WMAs all firearms transported in vehicles must be unloaded and secured in a weapons case, or in the trunk of a vehicle or in a locked toolbox. On the Francis Marion Hunt Unit during deer hunts with dogs, loaded shotguns may be transported in vehicles. Any shotgun, centerfire rifle, rimfire rifle or pistol with a shell in the chamber, magazine or muzzleloader with a cap on the nipple or flintlock with powder in the flash pan is considered loaded.

3.5 – No target practice is permitted on WMA lands except in specifically designated areas.

3.6 – On WMA lands during gun hunts for deer or hogs there shall be no hunting or shooting from, on or across any road open to vehicle traffic. During any deer or hog hunt there shall be no open season for hunting on any designated recreational trail on U.S Forest Service or SC Public Service Authority property.

Deer

All deer must be tagged with a valid deer tag as prescribed by the department before the animal is moved from the point of kill (50-11-320).

4.1 – On WMA lands with designated check stations, all deer bagged must be checked at a check station as required.

4.2 – Unless otherwise specified by the Department, only antlered deer may be taken on all WMA lands. Deer with visible antlers of less than two (2) inches above the hairline are considered antlerless deer and must be tagged with an antlerless deer tag issued by the Department. A point is any projection at least one inch long and longer than wide at some location at least one inch from the tip of the projection.

4.3 – On WMA lands, man drives for deer are permitted between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. only. A man drive is defined as an organized hunting technique involving two (2) or more individuals whereby an attempt is made to drive game animals from cover or habitat for the purpose of shooting, killing, or moving such animals toward other hunters. On WMA lands, drivers participating in man drives are prohibited from carrying or using weapons.

- **On special mobility impaired and youth deer hunts** sanctioned by the Department, participants may take two deer total, either sex.

4.4 – For all WMAs combined statewide, the limit for all seasons and methods combined is two deer per day, 5 deer total, no more than two antlered bucks, unless otherwise specified. Antlerless deer limit is two deer per day, unless otherwise specified. All antlerless deer must be tagged with an individual antlerless deer tag.

4.5 – Individual Antlerless Deer Tags: Tags are valid in Game Zone 1 beginning Oct. 1 and in Game Zones 2, 3, and 4 beginning Sept. 15. For all WMAs combined a maximum of five (5) individual antlerless deer tags may

be used in all Game Zones, except only three individual antlerless deer tags may be used in Game Zone 1.

4.6 – All deer must be tagged immediately after harvest and before being moved from the point of kill and the tag must be validated as prescribed by SCDNR. Tag must remain attached until the deer/carcass is quartered or received by a processor.

4.7 – For WMAs designated as Quality Deer Management Areas, all antlered deer must have a minimum 4 points on one side or a minimum 12-inch inside antler spread except during designated special youth hunts. Inside antler spread is measured at a right angle to centerline of the skull at its widest point between the main beams.

4.8 – On WMA lands, deer, hogs, or bear may not be hunted with a firearm within 300 yards of a residence.

Dogs

5.1 – On all WMA lands, dogs may be used for small game hunting unless otherwise specified.

5.2 – Dogs may be trained for squirrel, quail and rabbit hunting from Sept. 1 through Sept. 14 (no guns), except on designated Public Bird Dog Training Areas where bird dog training is allowed from September 15 to March 15 (Sundays excluded).

LIMITED SUNDAY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- Sumter National Forest
- Liberty Hill WMA
- Belfast WMA
- Woodbury WMA
- Francis Marion National Forest
- Edisto River WMA
- Hamilton Ridge WMA
- Webb WMA
- Palachucola WMA

Hunting will be allowed on Sundays between October 15 and January 31 for those species in season on Edisto River WMA, Webb WMA, Palachucola WMA, Hamilton Ridge WMA, Liberty Hill WMA, Belfast WMA, Woodbury WMA, Sumter National Forest, and Francis Marion National Forest. See regulations for specific WMAs for additional restrictions. Deer hunts on Webb WMA, Palachucola WMA, and Hamilton Ridge are conducted through the Public Lottery Hunts Program.

DEER HARVEST REPORTING

- Harvested deer must be reported by midnight on day of harvest using **SC Game Check** with one of the following methods:
- Using the **Go Outdoors SC** mobile app
- Entering the harvest online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com
- Calling the SC Game Check reporting phone line at 1-833-4SC-GAME (1-833-472-4263)
- Through the Text to Harvest option by texting "Harvest" to 1-833-472-4263 and following the prompts.

WMA REGULATIONS

5.3 – Unless otherwise specified, on WMA lands dogs may be trained for raccoon and opossum hunting from March 16-31 and July 1-Sept. 15 and no raccoon nor opossum may be taken. On WMA lands, dogs may be used for hunting foxes, raccoons, bobcats or opossums only between thirty (30) minutes after official sunset and thirty (30) minutes before official sunrise.

5.4 – Unless otherwise specified, deer hunting with dogs on WMA lands is prohibited. The Department may permit deer hunting with dogs on WMA lands not located in Game Zones 1 & 2. For the purposes of tracking a wounded deer, a hunter may use one dog which is kept on a leash.

5.5 – Dogs may be used to hunt bear on WMA lands in Game Zone 1 during the special party dog bear season.

5.6 – On WMA lands, dogs may be used to hunt hogs only during special designated hog hunts with dogs.

Vehicles

All terrain vehicles are not allowed on any Heritage Preserve Reg. 123-203 D.1.

On WMA lands, Class 1 electric bicycles may be used on open roads and established roadways where traditional bicycles are allowed. This regulation does not apply to lands of the Francis Marion or Sumter National Forests in the WMA program.

6.1 – On all WMA lands, no hunter may shoot from a vehicle unless permitted by the department.

6.2 – On WMA lands, motor-driven land conveyances must be operated only on designated roads or trails. Unless otherwise specified, roads or trails which are closed by barricades and/or signs, either permanently or temporarily, are off limits to motor-driven land conveyances.

6.3 – A person may not obstruct, or cause to be obstructed travel routes on WMA lands.

Visible Color Clothing

7.1 – On WMA lands during any gun and muzzleloader hunting season for deer, bear and hogs, all hunters, including small game hunters, must wear either a hat, coat, or vest of solid visible international orange. Archery hunters during archery only deer seasons and hunters for dove, turkey, ducks, geese and other migratory birds (including crows) are exempt from this requirement while hunting for those species.

50-11-365 – All users except hunters for dove, ducks, geese, and other migratory birds including crows must wear a hat, coat, or vest of solid international orange during any deer hunting season. Archery hunters during archery only deer seasons are exempt.

Camping

8.1 – Camping is not permitted on WMA lands except in designated camp sites.

Trapping

9.1 – Trapping on WMA lands is not permitted.

Waterfowl & Dove Regulations

Dates, times, locations and regulations for hunts on designated Dove Management Areas (public dove fields) can be found beginning on page 82. Specific seasons, limits and regulations for waterfowl hunting can be found beginning on page 72.

10.1 – Unless specially designated by the Department as a Wildlife Management Area for Waterfowl or a Wildlife Management Area for Dove, all Wildlife Management Areas are open during the regular season for hunting and taking of migratory birds except where restricted.

10.2 – The Department may designate sections of Wildlife Management Areas and other lands and waters under the control of the Department as Designated Waterfowl Management Areas or Designated Dove Management Areas. All laws and regulations governing Wildlife Management Areas apply to these special areas. In addition, the Department may set special shooting hours, bag limits and methods of hunting and taking waterfowl and doves on those areas. All State and Federal migratory bird laws and regulations apply.

10.3 – On areas where blinds are not provided, only portable blinds which are removed at the conclusion of the hunt or temporary blinds of native vegetation may be used. Temporary blinds once vacated may be used by other hunters.

10.4 – On Designated Waterfowl Areas, no species other than waterfowl may be taken during waterfowl hunts. On Designated Dove Management Areas no species other than mourning doves, eurasian collared doves and pigeons (rock doves) may be taken during dove hunts. Only dove hunting is allowed at Lake Wallace WMA.

10.5 – No fishing is permitted in any Category I Designated Waterfowl Management Area during scheduled waterfowl hunts.

10.6 – The Bordeaux Work Center Area is closed to hunting except for special hunts as designated by SCDNR.

10.7 – Impoundments on Bear Island, Beaverdam Creek, Bonneau Ferry, Broad River, Coosawhatchie WMA, Donnelley, Samworth, Sandy Beach, Santee Coastal Reserve (including all areas on Cedar and Murphy Islands located above the mean high tide mark), Santee Cooper, Wateree River and Santee Delta WMAs are closed to all public access during the period Nov. 1 until Feb. 8, except during special hunts designated by the Department. All public access during the period Feb. 9 until Oct. 31 is limited to designated areas. On Bear Island WMA, Matthews Canal is closed to all hunting from Nov. 1 - Feb. 15 beyond a point 0.8 mile from the confluence of Matthews Canal with the South Edisto River.

10.8 – Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area is closed to public access and fishing one week prior to and two weeks after the Federal Waterfowl Season, except for scheduled waterfowl hunts. All hunters must enter and leave the Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area through the designated public landing on Secondary Road 260 and complete a data card and deposit card in receptacle prior to leaving the area. No airboats are allowed for hunting or fishing and no hunting from Secondary Road 260.

10.9 – On Hatchery WMA, hunters must leave the area by 1 PM except on the last Sat. of waterfowl season when hunters may hunt until sunset. Each hunter is limited to 25 Federally-approved nontoxic shot shells per hunt. No airboats are allowed in the Hatchery WMA for hunting or fishing during the period Nov. 15 - Jan. 31. No fishing is allowed during scheduled waterfowl hunts.

10.10 – On Crackerneck WMA waterfowl may be hunted only on Friday, Saturday and Thanksgiving Day within the regular migratory bird seasons and no hunting on Dec. 25; Fant's Grove WMA is open AM only on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the regular migratory bird seasons; Palachucola WMA, Tillman Sand Ridge WMA, Hamilton Ridge WMA and Webb WMA are open AM only for waterfowl hunting during the regular migratory bird seasons only on days when small game hunting is allowed and the full week of Thanksgiving, excluding Sundays.

10.11 – Category I Designated Waterfowl Areas include Beaverdam, Bonneau Ferry, Broad River, Clemson, Ramsay Grove, Sandy Beach, Santee Coastal Reserve, Samworth, Santee-Delta, Tibwin, Bear Island, Wateree River HP, portions of Coosawhatchie WMA, and portions of Donnelley Wildlife Management Areas. Hunting in Category I Designated Waterfowl Areas is by special permit obtained through annual computer drawing.

10.12 – Category II Designated Waterfowl Areas include Biedler Impoundment, Carr Creek (bounded by Samworth WMA), Little Carr Creek (bounded by Samworth WMA), Lake Cunningham, Lake Blalock, Russell Creek, Monticello Reservoir, Parr Reservoir, Duncan Creek, Dunaway, Dungannon, Enoree River, Moultrie, Hatchery, Hickory Top, Hickory Top Greentree Reservoir, Lancaster Reservoir, Turtle Island, Little Pee Dee River HP Complex (including Ervin Dargan, Horace Tilghman), Great Pee Dee River HP, Potato Creek Hatchery, Sampson Island Unit (Bear Island), Tyger River, Marsh, Wee Tee, 40 Acre Rock, Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve, Ditch Pond, Santee Cooper, Francis Marion National Forest, Sumter National Forest, Santee Island, portions of Coosawhatchie, portions of Donnelley, and Woodbury Waterfowl Management Areas. Hunting on Category II Designated Waterfowl Areas is in accordance with scheduled dates and times.

10.13 – On Hickory Top WMA, public waterfowl hunting without a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) permit is allowed on all land and water

below 76.8'. Waterfowl hunting at or above elevation 76.8' requires a WMA permit. A WMA permit is required for waterfowl hunting in Hickory Top Greentree Reservoir.

10.14 – Designated Dove Management Areas include all dove management areas as published by the Department in the annual listing of WMA public dove fields and are subject to regulations filed annually.

10.15 – Hickory Top Greentree Reservoir is closed to hunting access Nov. 1 until Mar. 1, except for special hunts designated by SCDNR. All hunters must accurately complete a data card and deposit card in receptacle prior to leaving the area. Hunting hours are from 30 minutes before legal sunrise until 11:00 AM. Hunters may not enter the area prior to 5:00 AM on hunt days. No open season from roads or the dike system. Hunters may only use electric motors on boats.

10.16 – On all state-owned, US Forest Service and other federally-owned Category I and II Waterfowl Management Areas, each hunter is limited to 25 Federally-approved non-toxic shells per hunt.

10.17 – On Enoree River, Lake Blalock, Dunaway, Duncan Creek, Russell Creek and Tyger River Waterfowl Areas, data cards are required for hunter access during scheduled waterfowl hunts. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving each of these areas. Hunters may not enter the areas prior to 5:00 AM on hunt days.

10.18 – Woodbury Waterfowl Management Area includes all SCDNR/owned property south of US Highway 378 and bounded on the west by the Great Pee Dee River and Bluff Road and to the east by the Little Pee Dee River except no waterfowl hunting allowed in the area known as Hass Pond that is bounded on all sides by Hass Pond Road.

10.19 – Donnelley WMA Category II Waterfowl Area is open Wednesday AM only during the Nov. through Jan. regular waterfowl season. The Category II area is defined as all wetlands east of Donnelley Drive and Blocker Run Road except those areas south of Blocker Run Road between Stocks Creek Road and the intersection of Mary's Island Road and the property boundary. No trailered boats, no electric or gas motors allowed. No entry before 5:00 AM. All users must sign in and sign out at designated check stations. No hunting allowed from the dikes.

10.20 – Coosawhatchie WMA Category I Waterfowl Area is marked with signage prohibiting public access Nov. 1-Feb. 8. Remainder of the property is considered Category II and open on specified dates.

Amphibians & Reptiles

11.1 – Taking of any amphibian or reptile, except the bullfrog, is prohibited on any Department owned Wildlife Management Areas without written permission of the Department.

PROPERTY WATCH PROGRAM

For many years the agency has experienced sharp increases in the number of complaints and cases for trespassing and road hunting. We are also receiving an increasing amount of landowner complaints due to deer dogs interfering with still hunting or other activities. While many of these complaints arise out of conflicting hunting styles in limited areas, the majority of these complaints are the result of unethical hunting practices. The increasing number of these type incidents requiring a law enforcement response is growing at an alarming rate. It is unfortunate that hunters are facing off over these incidents. All hunters should be standing together in support for ethical hunting practices. Unethical and unthoughtful hunters are doing a great harm to the sport of hunting. While many complaints come from hunters, many are coming from non-hunting landowners and homeowners. Many non-hunting landowners and homeowners tolerate hunting, but may become avid "anti-hunters" after repetitive problems and confrontations with unethical or unthoughtful hunters. If this trend continues, the sport of hunting may well be effected in the long run.

To aid the property owners and lease holders of South Carolina the Property Watch Program allows for immediate enforcement of trespassing cases without the land owner or lease holder being present. For more information or to enroll in the Property Watch Program contact 803-734-4002.



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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

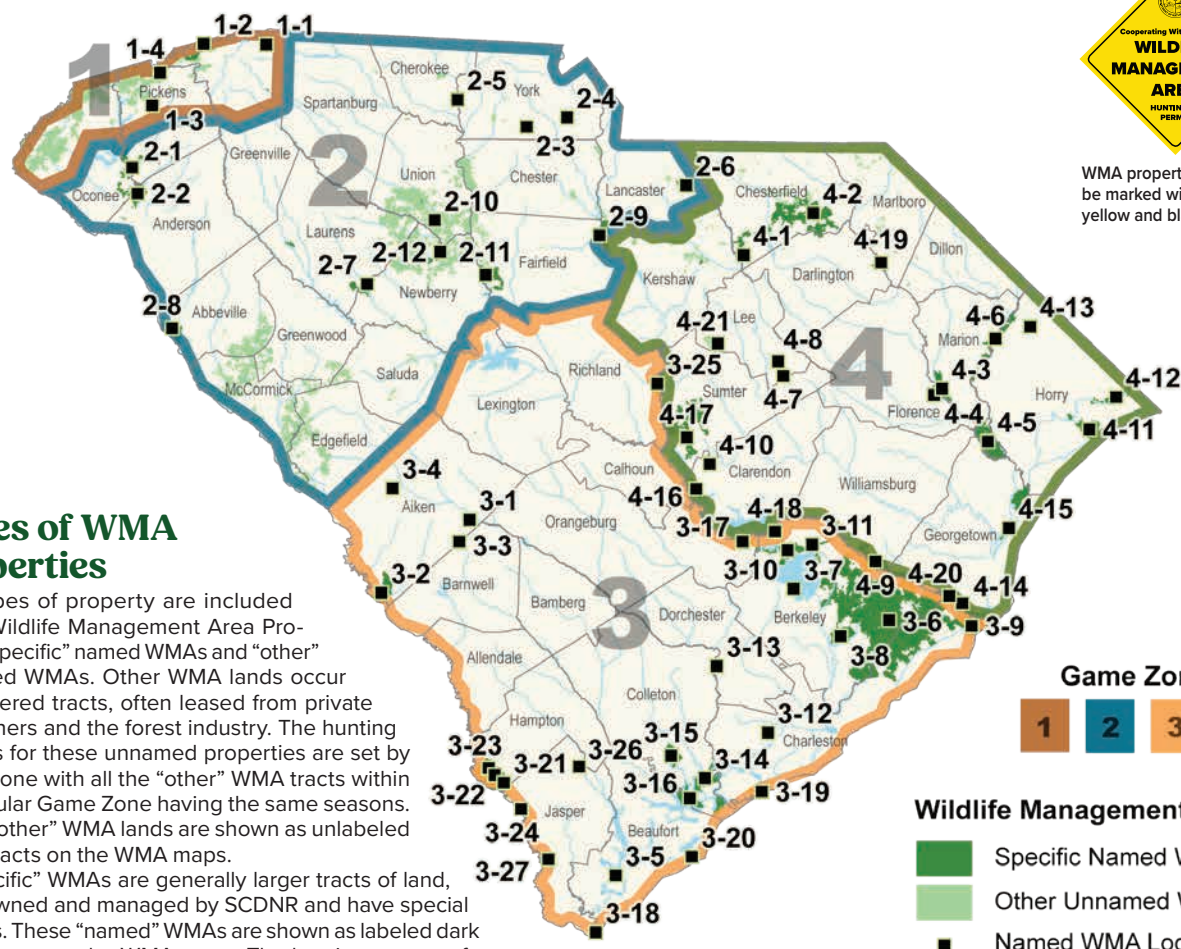


WMA properties should be marked with these yellow and black signs.

Types of WMA Properties

Two types of property are included in the Wildlife Management Area Program: "specific" named WMAs and "other" unnamed WMAs. Other WMA lands occur as scattered tracts, often leased from private landowners and the forest industry. The hunting seasons for these unnamed properties are set by Game Zone with all the "other" WMA tracts within a particular Game Zone having the same seasons. These "other" WMA lands are shown as unlabeled green tracts on the WMA maps.

"Specific" WMAs are generally larger tracts of land, many owned and managed by SCDNR and have special seasons. These "named" WMAs are shown as labeled dark green tracts on the WMA maps. The hunting seasons for named WMAs are listed within each Game Zone.



Game Zones



Wildlife Management Areas

- Specific Named WMA
- Other Unnamed WMA
- Named WMA Locations

Game Zone 1 Named WMAs

1-1 Glassy Mountain Archery/Chestnut Ridge	1-3 Mill Shoals
1-2 Caesars Head/Jones Gap	1-4 South Saluda

Game Zone 2 Named WMAs

2-1 Keowee	2-8 McCalla
2-2 Fant's Grove	2-9 Liberty Hill
2-3 Draper	2-10 Delta
2-4 Rock Hill Blackjacks HP	2-11 Broad River
2-5 Worth Mountain	2-12 Indian Creek Quail Focal Area
2-6 Forty Acre Rock HP	
2-7 Belfast	

Game Zone 3 Named WMAs

3-1 Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP	3-10 Moultrie	3-20 Old Island HP
3-2 Crackerneck	3-11 Canal	3-21 Palachucola
3-3 Ditch Pond HP	3-12 Dungannon HP	3-22 Webb
3-4 Henderson HP	3-13 Edisto River WMA	3-23 Hamilton Ridge
3-5 Victoria Bluff HP	3-14 Bear Island	3-24 Tillman Sand Ridge HP
3-6 Francis Marion NF	3-15 Donnelley	3-25 Wateree River HP
3-7 Hatchery	3-16 St. Helena Sound HP	3-26 Coosawhatchie
3-8 Bonneau Ferry	3-17 Santee Cooper	3-27 Meyer Lake HP
3-9 Santee Coastal Reserve	3-18 Turtle Island	
	3-19 Botany Bay Plantation HP	

Game Zone 4 Named WMAs

4-1 McBee	4-8 Lynchburg Savanna HP	4-16 Hickory Top
4-2 Sand Hills State Forest	4-9 Wee Tee	4-17 Manchester State Forest
4-3 Marsh	4-10 Oak Lea	4-18 Santee Dam
4-4 Pee Dee Station Site	4-11 Lewis Ocean Bay HP	4-19 Great Pee Dee HP
4-5 Woodbury	4-12 Waccamaw River HP	4-20 Santee Island
4-6 Little Pee Dee River HP	4-13 Cartwheel Bay HP	4-21 Bobwhite Hills
4-7 Longleaf Pine HP	4-14 Santee Delta	
	4-15 Samworth	

For detailed maps showing all WMAs, contact your local SCDNR Wildlife Management Office (see page 6) or write: WMA Maps, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202, 803-734-3886. Request by map number found on page 88-89.

New: To view and print WMA maps from the internet, go to www.dnr.sc.gov/wma/maps.html

Game Zone 1 WMAs Only

- Mountain Hunt Unit: Oconee, Pickens & Greenville counties
- Game Zone 1 consists of all properties north of the main line of the Norfolk Southern Railroad from the Georgia State line to South Carolina Highway 183 in Westminster, then north of SC Highway 183 to intersection of SC Highway 183 and the Norfolk So. Railroad main line in Greenville and then north of the main line of the Norfolk So. Railroad to the Spartanburg County line.
- All deer must be tagged with a valid deer tag as prescribed by the department before the animal is moved from the point of kill. Tag must remain attached until the deer/carcass is quartered or received by a processor. Processors see page 58.
- Statewide WMA limit for deer is two deer per day, 5 deer total, no more than two antlered deer, unless otherwise specified. Antlerless deer limit is two deer per day, unless otherwise specified.
- Feral hogs and coyotes may be taken during all hunts. No hog hunting with dogs except during special hog hunts with dogs and dog bear hunts.
- Individual antlerless deer tags are valid on WMA lands in Game Zone 1 starting Oct. 1. For all WMAs combined in Game Zones 1, only 3 individual antlerless deer tags may be used. Use of tags does not change the type of weapon allowed during specific seasons.

SCDNR Offices

Wildlife Office

311 Natural Resources Drive, Clemson, SC 29631, 864-654-1671

Law Enforcement Office

311 Natural Resources Drive, Clemson, SC 29631, 864-654-8266

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
DEER — OTHER WMAs		
Youth Deer Hunt Day	Jan. 2 (see pages 106-107 for WMAs)	2 deer total
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 1-10	Statewide WMA Limits All Deer Must Be Tagged
Archery only	Oct. 17-30	
Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-16, Oct. 31-Jan. 1 • No deer hunting on Long Creek Tracts (Oconee Co.) on or after Thanksgiving Day.	
BEAR		
• Tag required to take bear (see Bear on page 66). • Harvested bear must be reported by midnight on day of harvest to SCDNR. Refer to page 66 for details on bear harvest reporting information. • No Sunday hunting for bear on WMA unless otherwise specified.		
Still Hunt (No Dogs)	Oct. 12-16 • No sow with cubs, no bears 100 lbs or less	1 bear
Dog Hunts	Oct. 17-30 • No sow with cubs, no bears 100 lbs or less • Hogs allowed.	
HOG		
Hog Hunts (with dogs)	Jan. 2-Jan. 9, Mar. 20-27 Refer to reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
SMALL GAME — OTHER WMAs		
- Refer to chart on page 68. - No small game hunting on WMAs is allowed before Sept. 1 or after Mar. 1. - Additional small game season restrictions may apply to specific WMAs.		
NAMED WMAs		
Caesars Head/Jones Gap WMA Greenville County		
SC Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Tourism special permit required. See Game Zone 1 WMA map for more details.		
Glassy Mountain Archery Only Area — Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve (Greenville County)		
Located on the southwest side of the South Pacolet River and west of the junction of the South Pacolet River and its main tributary creek as posted.		
Deer (no dogs)	Oct. 1-Jan. 1 Archery	Statewide WMA Limits
Raccoon & Opossum	Game Zone 1 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	
Long Creek Tract (Forest Service) Oconee County		
Game Zone 1 seasons, except small game only between Thanksgiving Day and Mar. 1.		
Small Game	Game Zone 1 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	
Mill Shoals WMA Pickens County		
No hog hunts with dogs		
Deer Archery	Oct. 1-Jan 1 (GZ1 deer season)	
Bear Archery	Oct. 12-16 (GZ1 still season)	
Small Game (No hog hunts with dogs)	Refer to chart on page 68.	
Turkey	Statewide WMA Season	
U.S. Forest Service WMA Lands (Sumter National Forest) Oconee County		
Hunting is allowed on Sundays Oct. 15 - Jan. 31 for species that are in season and listed below. No waterfowl hunting on Sunday.		
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 1-10	Statewide WMA Limits All Deer Must Be Tagged
Deer Archery	Oct. 17-30	
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 11-16, Oct 31-Jan. 1	
Bear	Refer to other WMAs above for seasons and limits	
Small Game	Game Zone 1 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	Statewide limits
Hog Hunts (with dogs)	Jan 2-9, Mar. 20-27 Refer to regulation 2.16 on page 90.	No limit
Raccoon & Opossum	Game Zone 1 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	
South Saluda WMA		
Designated as a Quality Deer Management Area.		
Deer Archery	Oct. 1-Jan. 1	
Bear Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-16	
Small Game	Game Zone 1 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	
Hog Hunts (with dogs)	Jan. 2-10, Mar. 20-27	
Raccoon & Opossum	Game Zone 1 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Game Zone 2 WMAs Only

- Abbeville, Anderson, Chester, Cherokee, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Lancaster, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Saluda, Spartanburg, Union, York counties & those portions of the counties of Greenville, Oconee & Pickens south of the Game Zone 1 line.
- All deer must be tagged with a valid deer tag as prescribed by the department before the animal is moved from the point of kill. Tag must remain attached until the deer/carass is quartered or received by a processor. Processors see page 58.
- Statewide WMA limit for deer is two deer per day, 5 deer total, no more than two antlered deer, unless otherwise specified. Antlerless deer limit is two deer per day, unless otherwise specified.
- Individual antlerless deer tags are valid on WMA lands in Game Zone 2 starting Sept. 15. For all WMAs combined in Game Zones 2-4, a maximum of 5 individual antlerless deer tags may be used. Use of tags does not change the type of weapon allowed during specific seasons.
- Feral hogs and coyotes may be taken during all hunts. No hog hunting with dogs except during special hog hunts with dogs.

SCDNR Offices

Wildlife Offices

311 Natural Resources Drive, Clemson, SC 29631, 864-654-1671;
2751 Highway 72 E., Abbeville, SC, 864-223-1307;
124 Wildlife Drive, Union, SC, 864-427-5140;
295 S. Evander Drive, Florence, SC, 843-661-4766

Law Enforcement Office

311 Natural Resources Drive, Clemson, SC 29631, 864-654-8266;
2762 Wildlife Lane West Columbia, SC 29172, 803-755-1822;
510 Annie Alexander Ct., York, SC 29745

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
DEER — OTHER WMAs		
Youth Deer Hunt Day	Jan. 2 (see pages 106-107 for WMAs)	2 deer total
Archery only	Sept. 15-30	Statewide WMA Limits All Deer Must Be Tagged
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 1-10	
Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1	
Hog Hunts (with dogs)	Jan. 2-9, Mar. 20-27 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
SMALL GAME — OTHER WMAs		

- Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.
- No small game hunting on WMAs is allowed before Sept. 1 or after Mar. 1.
- Additional small game season restrictions may apply to specific WMAs.

NAMED WMAs

Indian Creek Quail Focal Area

- All quail, woodcock, and rabbit hunters must sign in and out at the designated check station
- Woodcock hunting is permitted only on designated quail hunting days within the statewide woodcock hunting season.

Archery Only	Sept. 15-30	Statewide WMA Limits All Deer Must Be Tagged
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 1-10	
Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1	
Hog Hunts (with dogs)	Jan. 2-9, Mar. 20-27 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
Small Game (no quail and woodcock)	• Game Zone 2 WMA seasons and limits - Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68. • No small game hunting on WMAs is allowed before Sept. 1 or after Mar. 1.	Statewide Limits
Quail Hunts	Nov. 28, Dec. 2, 16, 19, 23, Jan. 2, 20, 23, Feb. 10, 20	6 quail per person per day
Woodcock Hunts	Dec. 19, 23; Jan. 2, 20, 23.	Statewide Limits

Belfast WMA Laurens and Newberry Counties

- Hunting is allowed on Sundays Oct. 15- Jan. 31 for species that are in season and listed below. No waterfowl hunting on Sunday.
- Quality Deer Management Area.
- Antlered deer must have a minimum 4 points on one side or a minimum 12" inside antler spread.
- Belfast WMA is closed to public access of all types from one half hour after sunset until one half hour before sunrise except for hunts regulated by SCDNR.
- Hunters may not enter the WMA prior to 5:00 AM on designated hunts.
- Public visitation is not allowed during scheduled hunts.
- Data/use cards are required for hunters. Completed cards must be returned daily upon leaving the WMA.

Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Still gun hunts by lottery only. See WMA Public Lottery Hunts on page 90.	
Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting	WMA bag limits. Refer to chart on page 68.
Raccoon & Opossum	Game Zone 2 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	
Dove	Designated fields on certain days. See Public Dove Fields List pages 82-85.	

Broad River Waterfowl Management Area, Fairfield County

Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 31	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game	Feb. 8-Mar. 1	Statewide Limits

Delta South WMA, Union County

Deer Archery	Sept. 15-30	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Nov. 1-Nov. 21 Wed. & Sat. Only	
Small Game (no fox squirrels)	Nov. 26 - Mar. 1	Statewide Limits
Raccoon & Opossum	Game Zone 2 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	

Draper WMA, York County

- Data cards required for all hunter access. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving.

Deer	Game Zone 2 WMA Seasons	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game		
Quail	Nov. 28, Dec. 2, 16, 19, 23, Jan. 2, 20, 23, Feb. 10, 20 sunrise until 30 min. before official sunset	Statewide Limits
Rabbit	Jan. 6, 9, 13, 16, 27, 30, Feb. 3, 6, 13, 17, 24, 27	Statewide Limits
Small Game other than Dove, Quail & Rabbit	• Regular Zone 2 seasons & limits except no hunting before Sept. 1 or after Mar. 1. Refer to chart on page 68. • No fox squirrel hunting.	

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
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Fant's Grove WMA Oconee, Pickens & Anderson Counties

- Quality Deer Management Area
- Antlered deer must have a minimum 4 points on one side or a minimum 12-inch inside antler spread.
- No bear hunting.

Deer Archery	Oct. 15-Dec. 22	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game	• WMA seasons and limits except no hunting during Archery Deer Hunts (Oct. 15-Dec. 22) and Youth hunt (Oct. 3). • No hog hunting with dogs. • Dove hunting allowed on designated Dove Fields. • Raccoon and Opossum hunting allowed at night. • Waterfowl hunting allowed on Wed. and Sat. AM only during federal waterfowl season. • Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	

Keowee WMA Oconee & Pickens Counties

- Quality Deer Management Area
- Antlered deer must have a minimum 4 points on one side or a minimum 12-inch inside antler spread.
- No bear hunting.

Deer Archery	Oct. 15-Dec. 22	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game	• WMA seasons & limits except no hunting during Archery Deer Hunts Oct. 15-Dec. 22 and no hog hunting with dogs. • Shotguns only north of Highway 123, west of the Keowee arm of Lake Hartwell and west of Highway 291. All other areas archery only. • Raccoon and Opossum hunting allowed at night. • Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	

Liberty Hill WMA Lancaster County

- Hunting is allowed on Sundays Oct. 15- Jan. 31 for species that are in season and listed below. No waterfowl hunting on Sunday.
- Quality Deer Management Area
- Antlered deer must have at least 4 points on 1 side or a minimum 12-inch inside antler spread.
- All visitors entering by vehicle must sign in and out at kiosks
- No ATVs

Deer Archery	Sept. 15-30	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 1-10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (includes raccoon and opossum)	WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68. • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide WMA Limits

McCalla WMA Abbeville County

- Quality Deer Management Area.
- Antlered deer must have at least 4 points on one side or a minimum 12-inch inside antler spread.

Deer	Game Zone 2 WMA Seasons	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game	WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	
Hog Hunts (with dogs)	Jan. 2-9, Mar. 20-27 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit

Rock Hill Blackjacks HP WMA York County

Archery	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game	Small game hunting is not allowed.	

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
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U.S. Forest Service WMA Lands (Sumter National Forest)*

- * Abbeville, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Saluda, Union Counties.
- Hunting is allowed on Sundays Oct. 15- Jan. 31 for species that are in season and listed below. No waterfowl hunting on Sunday.

Deer Archery	Sept. 15-30	Statewide WMA Limits All Deer Must Be Tagged
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 1-10	
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1	
Small Game	• Game Zone 2 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	Statewide limits
Hog Hunts (with dogs)	Jan 2-9, Mar. 20-27	No limit
Raccoon & Opossum	Game Zone 1 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	

Worth Mountain WMA York County

- Quality Deer Management Area
- Antlered deer must have 4 points on one side or a minimum 12-inch inside antler spread.
- All visitors must sign in and out at kiosks

Deer	Game Zone 2 WMA Seasons	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game	Zone 2 seasons and limits. Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	

40 Acre Rock HP WMA Lancaster County

Deer	Game Zone 2 WMA Seasons	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game	WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	

- No fox squirrel hunting

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Game Zone 3 WMAs Only

- Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, Lexington, Orangeburg & Richland counties.
- All deer must be tagged with a valid deer tag as prescribed by the department before the animal is moved from the point of kill. Tag must remain attached until the deer/carcass is quartered or received by a processor. Processors see page 58.
- Statewide WMA limit for deer is two deer per day, 5 deer total, no more than two antlered deer, unless otherwise specified. Antlerless deer limit is two deer per day, unless otherwise specified.
- Individual antlerless deer tags are valid on WMA lands in Game Zone 3 starting September 15. For all WMAs combined in Game Zone 2-4, a maximum of 5 individual antlerless deer tags may be used. Individual antlerless deer tags not valid on deer hunts with dogs unless otherwise specified.
- Feral hogs and coyotes may be taken during all hunts. No hog hunting with dogs except during special hog hunts with dogs.

SCDNR Offices

Wildlife Offices

260 D Epting Lane, West Columbia, SC, 803-734-3886
 305 Black Oak Road, Bonneau, SC, 843-825-3387
 585 Donnelley Drive, Highway 17, Green Pond, SC, 843-844-8957
 Webb Center, 1282 Webb Avenue, Garnett SC, 803-625-3569
 Francis Marion Hunt Unit, 843-825-3387
 Dungannon HP WMA, 843-844-8957

Law Enforcement Offices

2762 Wildlife Lane, West Columbia, SC, 803-755-1822
 217 Ft. Johnson Road, Charleston, SC, 843-953-9307

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
OTHER WMAs		
Youth Deer Hunt Day	Jan. 2 (see pages 106-107 for WMAs)	2 deer total
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-30	Statewide WMA Limits All Deer Must Be Tagged
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 1-Jan. 1	
Small Game	Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	

NAMED WMAs

Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve WMA Aiken County		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-30	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 1-Jan. 1	
• No buckshot or dogs allowed. • All reptiles and amphibians are protected.		
Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Bear Island WMA Colleton County		
• All hunters must sign in and out at the Bear Island check station. • Hunting in designated areas only. • Campground closes Nov. 2 and is for Bear Island deer hunters only.		
Archery	Oct. 1-10	Statewide WMA Limits
Gun Hunts (rifles only)	Still gun hunts by lottery only. See WMA Public Lottery Hunts on page 90.	
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 4-6 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90. Gate opens at 5:00 AM	No Limit

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Feb. 8-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Bonneau Ferry WMA Berkeley County		
- Adult/Youth side open only to youth 17 and younger who must be accompanied by only one adult 21 years of age or older. Youth hunters must carry a firearm and hunt. Adults with youth hunters may also carry a firearm and hunt. Includes all big game (except turkey) and small game hunts. - WMA will be closed to public until 11:00 AM on Feb. 6 & Mar. 27 for special youth TOMO hunts. - Data/use cards are required for hunters, fishermen, and all other WMA users. Completed cards must be returned daily upon leaving the WMA. - Hunted areas are closed to general public access during scheduled deer, turkey and waterfowl hunts. - Hunting access by boat is prohibited. - Hunters may not enter WMA before 5:00 AM.		
Deer Archery (Side B)	Sept. 15-30	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts (Side B)	No open season except for hunters selected by computer lottery. Oct 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 29-31, Nov. 5-7, 12-14, Nov. 30- Dec. 2, Dec. 7-9, 14-16	
Deer Still Gun Hunts: Adult/Youth Only (Side A)	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum) (Sides A & B)	Jan. 2-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel or fox hunting.	Statewide Limits
Botany Bay Plantation HP WMA Charleston County		
- Quality Deer Management Area - Antlered deer must have a minimum 4 points on one side or a minimum 12" inside antler spread. - All hunters, fishermen and visitors must obtain a day use pass, fill out the requested information and follow all instructions on the pass. - Hunting access by boat is prohibited.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10, Nov. 23-28, Dec. 21-26	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Still gun hunts by lottery only. See WMA Public Lottery Hunts on page 90.	
Other Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Jan. 2-Feb. 27 (Wed. thru Sat. only) • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Dove	Designated fields on certain days. See Public Dove Fields List pages 82-85.	
Canal WMA Berkeley County		
Dove	Designated fields on certain days. See Public Dove Fields List pages 82-85.	
Quail Only	See WMA Seasons in chart on page 68.	Statewide Limits
Coosawhatchie WMA Jasper County		
- Quality Deer Management Area - Antlered deer must have a minimum of 4 points on one side or a minimum 12" inside antler spread - Data cards/use cards are required for hunters, fishermen, and all other WMA users. Completed cards must be returned daily upon leaving the WMA. - All deer must be checked at check station. - No ATVs allowed.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Still gun hunts by lottery only. See WMA Public Lottery Hunt on page 90.	
Dove	Designated fields on certain days. See Public Dove Fields List on pages 82-85.	
Quail	Nov. 28, Dec. 2, 16, 19, 23, Jan. 2, 20, 23, Feb. 10, 20 Shooting hours end 30 minutes prior to official subset.	Statewide Limits
Other Small Game including raccoons & opossum	Jan. 2-Mar. 1	Statewide Limits

Crackerneck WMA Aiken County

- Quality Deer Management Area
- Antlered deer must have at least 4 points on one side or a minimum 12-inch inside antler spread.

Deer Archery	Oct. 2-3	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 9-10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 16-17, 23-24, 30-31, Nov. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28, Dec. 4-5, 11-12, 18, 26, Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits

Gun hunts on Fri. & Sat. only during this period.

Oct. 17-Jan. 1. Closed on Dec. 25.

- All individuals must sign in and out at gate.
- No buckshot or dogs allowed.
- Scouting days (no firearms or archery equipment) on Saturdays only during Sept., Mar. and May. Gate opens at 6:00 AM and closes at 6:00 PM.
- On deer hunt days, gate opens as follows: Oct., 4:30 AM-8:30 PM; Nov.-Dec., 4:30 AM-7:30 PM.

Small Game except raccoon and opossum

Fri. & Sat. ONLY during regular Game Zone 3 seasons. No small game hunting before Oct. 17. Game Zone 3 limits.

- All individuals must sign in and out at gate.
- Bobcats, foxes, otters and fox squirrels may not be hunted.
- During hunts, gate hours will be as follows: Oct., 4:30 AM-8:30 PM; Nov. - Dec., 4:30 AM-7:30 PM; Jan. - Feb., 5:30 AM-7:00 PM.

Raccoon & Opossum

Oct. 17-Dec. 26 Sat. nights only;

Jan. 1-Feb. 27 Fri. & Sat. nights only

Raccoons - 3 per party per night. Opossum no limit.

- All individuals must sign in and out at gate.
- Hunt hours are as follows: 1 hour after official sunset to midnight. Hunters must exit gate by 1:00 AM.

Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve WMA Aiken/Barnwell County

Deer Archery Only	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits

Donnelley WMA Colleton County

- Hunters must sign in and out at the check station.
- Hunting in designated areas only.
- Gates will open at 4:00 AM for deer hunts.
- All hogs harvested must be checked at the check station.

Deer Archery	Sept. 15-30	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Still gun hunts by lottery only. See WMA Public Lottery Hunts on page 90.	
Hog Still Gun Hunts	Mar. 2-18, Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90. Gate opens at 5:00 AM	No Limit

Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 19-26, Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90. Gate opens at 5:00 AM	No Limit
Dove	Designated fields on certain days. See Public Dove Fields List pages 82-85.	
Raccoon & Opossum	Refer to chart on page 68.	Statewide Limits
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 Gates will open at 6:00 am. • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits

Dungannon Heritage Preserve WMA Charleston County

Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Nov. 26-Jan. 31 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits

Edisto River WMA Dorchester County

- Hunting is allowed on Sundays Oct. 15- Jan. 31 for species that are in season and listed below. No waterfowl hunting on Sunday.

Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1	
Raccoon & Opossum	Refer to chart on page 68.	Statewide Limits
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits

Francis Marion Hunt Unit, Berkeley & Charleston Counties

Fairlawn (in Wambaw & Northampton) and Tibwin special use area (in Wambaw) is closed to hunting except for special hunts.

- Hunting is allowed on Sundays Oct. 15- Jan. 31 for species that are in season and listed below. No waterfowl hunting on Sunday.
- No deer hunting with dogs on Sunday.
- ** All deer harvested must be reported to SC Game Check.
- During still gun hunts for deer, there shall be no hunting or shooting from, on, or across any road open to vehicle traffic.
- No buckshot is allowed on still gun hunts.
- Shotguns and buckshot only during dog drive hunts.
- No still gun or archery hunting during deer dog drive hunts.
- On youth deer hunts, only youths 17 and younger may carry a gun and must be accompanied by an adult 21 years old or older.

Hog Hunts with dogs: Francis Marion National Forest

All Hunt Units	Mar. 15-20, May 17-22 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
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Still hog hunts no dogs: Francis Marion National Forest

All Hunt Units	Mar. 1-6, Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90. No Buckshot.	No Limit
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Hellhole WMA Francis Marion National Forest

Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1 No still hunting during scheduled dog drive hunts.	
Deer Dog Drive Hunt	Nov. 7, Dec. 5 buck only No still hunting and no rifles.	** All deer must be reported via SC Game Check.
Youth Only Dog Hunt	Nov. 14 buck only	

Northampton WMA Francis Marion National Forest

Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1 (No still hunting during scheduled dog drive hunts.)	
Deer Dog Drive Hunt	Sept. 26, Oct. 7-8, Nov. 27, Dec. 29 buck only Dec. 12 either sex. Hunters may use one (1) Individual Antlerless Deer Tag.	All Deer Must Be Tagged
Youth Only Dog Hunt	Nov. 28 buck only	** All deer must be reported via SC Game Check.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
Santee WMA Francis Marion National Forest		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits All Deer Must Be Tagged ** All deer must be reported via SC Game Check.
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1 (No still hunting during scheduled dog drive hunts.)	
Deer Dog Drive Hunt	Sept. 11-12, Oct. 21-22, Dec. 4 buck only Dec. 12 either sex. Hunters may use one (1) Individual Antlerless Deer Tag.	
Youth Only Dog Hunt	Oct. 17 buck only	
Wambaw WMA Francis Marion National Forest		
Seewee Special Use Area (no dogs)	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits All Deer Must Be Tagged ** All deer must be reported via SC Game Check.
Archery Only		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1 (No still hunting during scheduled dog drive hunts.) No buckshot.	
Deer Dog Drive Hunt	Sept. 25, Oct. 10, Nov. 18-19, Dec. 26, 28 buck only Dec. 12 either sex. Hunters may use one (1) Individual Antlerless Deer Tag. • No deer hunting with dogs east of HWY 17.	
Youth Only Dog Hunt	Nov. 21 buck only	
Waterhorn WMA Francis Marion National Forest		
Deer Archery Only	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits All Deer Must Be Tagged ** All deer must be reported via SC Game Check.
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 12-20	
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Nov. 6-Jan. 1 (Fridays and Saturdays only)	
Small Game: Francis Marion Hunt Unit		
- Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68. - Dogs are allowed during small game gun season only. - Closed during scheduled deer hunting periods on Waterhorn and when dogs are used for deer on Wambaw, Northampton, Hellhole and Santee WMAs. - No fox or coyote hunting with dogs on the Francis Marion NF.		
Hamilton Ridge WMA Hampton County		
- Hunting is allowed on Sundays Oct. 15- Jan. 31 for species that are in season and listed below. No waterfowl hunting on Sunday. - Quality Deer Management Area - Antlered deer must have a minimum 4 points on one side or a minimum 12" inside antler spread. - Data cards/use cards are required for hunters, fishermen and all other WMA users. Completed cards must be returned daily upon leaving Hamilton Ridge WMA. - No ATVs allowed on area. - Hunters may camp at designated camp ground one day prior to and during deer, hog and turkey hunts.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Still gun hunts by lottery only. See WMA Public Lottery Hunts on page 90.	
Hog Still Gun Hunts	July 20-Aug. 15 See Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 1-6. See Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Quail	Nov. 28, Dec. 2, 16, 19, 23, Jan. 2, 20, 23, Feb. 10, 20. Shooting hours end 30 minutes prior to official sunset	Statewide Limits

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-29, Dec. 15-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Raccoon & Opossum	Oct. 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31, Nov. 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 23-28, Dec. 1, 5, 8, 12, Dec. 15-Mar. 1 • On Saturdays prior to Dec. 15, hunters may not enter the WMA prior to 1 hour after official sunset.	Statewide Limits
Hatchery WMA Berkeley County		
Deer Archery	No deer hunting with dogs. Sept. 15-Jan. 1 Hatchery is closed to fishing each Saturday morning during waterfowl season and all day the last Saturday of waterfowl season.	Statewide WMA Limits
Henderson Heritage Preserve WMA Aiken County		
Deer Archery Only	Sept. 15-Jan. 1 • No Small Game Hunting	Statewide WMA Limits
Meyer Lake HP WMA Jasper County		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Moultrie Hunt Unit Berkeley County		
- No hunting or shooting within 50 feet of the center of any road during gun hunts for deer except for SCDNR draw youth hunts. - All deer harvested must be checked in. See WMA map #9 for a list of check stations.		
Bluefield WMA: Adult/Youth area only Moultrie Hunt Unit		
Open only to youth 17 years of age or younger accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age. Youth hunters must carry a firearm and hunt. Adults may also carry a firearm and hunt.		
Deer Still Gun Hunts (no buckshot)	Refer to chart on page 68. (Wed. & Sat. only) Open only to youth 17 years of age or younger accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age. Youth hunters must carry a firearm and hunt. Adults may also carry a firearm and hunt.	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Sept. 16-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting. • No small game hunting during scheduled deer hunts.	Statewide Limits
Greenfield WMA Moultrie Hunt Unit		
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
North Dike WMA Moultrie Hunt Unit		
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Sept. 15-Oct. 15	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Jan. 2-Mar. 1	Statewide Limits
Sandy Beach Waterfowl Area open for raccoon hunting Feb. 9-28		
Porcher & Hall WMA except Cross Station Special Use Area Moultrie Hunt Unit		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Jan. 2-Mar. 1 shotguns only • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Old Island HP WMA Beaufort County		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
Palachucola WMA Hampton & Jasper Counties		
• Hunting is allowed on Sundays Oct. 15- Jan. 31 for species that are in season and listed below. No waterfowl hunting on Sunday. • Quality Deer Management Area • Antlered deer must have a minimum 4 points on one side or a minimum 12" inside antler spread. • Data cards/use cards are required for hunters, fishermen and all other WMA users. Completed cards must be returned daily upon leaving Palachucola WMA. • All deer must be checked at check station. • Hunters may camp at Palachucola camping area one night prior to and during deer, hog and turkey hunts only.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Still gun hunts by lottery only. See WMA Public Lottery Hunt on page 90.	
Dove	Designated fields on certain days. See Public Dove Fields List on pages 82-85	
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 1-6 See Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Quail	Nov. 28, Dec. 2, 16, 19, 23, Jan. 2, 20, 23, Feb. 10, 20 • Shooting hours end 30 minutes prior to official sunset	Statewide Limits
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-29, Dec. 15-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting	Statewide Limits
Raccoon & Opossum	Oct. 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31, Nov. 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 23-28, Dec. 1, 5, 8, 12, Dec. 15-Mar. 1 • On Saturdays prior to Dec. 15, hunters may not enter the WMA prior to 1 hour after official sunset.	Statewide Limits
Santee Coastal WMA Charleston County		
• Hunting is allowed on the mainland only.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Hog Still Gun Hunts	Mar. 2-18 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 19-26 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting	Statewide Limits
Santee Cooper WMA Orangeburg County		
• Quality Deer Management Area • Antlered deer must have minimum 4 points on one side, or a minimum 12 inch inside antler spread. • Campground is open during scheduled deer hunts. • Hunters limited to 2 deer/tree stands. No deer stand can be placed on WMA prior to Sept. 1. • Data/Use cards are required for all users. Completed cards must be returned daily upon leaving the WMA.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 31	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Primitive Weapons	Nov. 1-20	
Dove	Designated fields on certain days. See Public Dove Fields List on pages 82-85	
Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting	Statewide Limits
Raccoon & Opossum	Game Zone 3 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	
South Fenwick Island Colleton County		
• Deer Hunting by permit only. • Primitive camping allowed by permit, which may be obtained at McKenzie Field Station, Bennetts Point, 843-844-8822 • No small game or waterfowl hunting.		
Deer Archery	Hunters selected by lottery.	Statewide WMA Limits

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
St. Helena Sound HP WMA Beaufort and Colleton Counties		
Hunting and camping by special permit which may be obtained at McKenzie Field Station, Bennetts Point, 843-844-8822. Camping Otter Island Only.		
Ashe, Beet, Warren, Big, Otter, North & South Williman Islands and Buzzard Island		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15 - Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Tillman Sand Ridge HP WMA Jasper County		
All reptiles and amphibians are protected.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Turtle Island WMA Jasper County		
- Waterfowl hunting is open on Wed. & Sat. during the waterfowl season. - Marsh hen hunting is open during the marsh hen season. - Other small game hunting is closed. - Deer hunting is closed.		
Victoria Bluff HP WMA Beaufort County		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Jan. 2-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting. • Shotguns only.	Statewide Limits
Wateree River HP WMA Richland County		
- Data/use cards are only required for all hunters. Completed cards must be returned daily upon leaving the WMA. - Quality Deer Management Area - Antlered deer must have a minimum 4 points on one side or a minimum 12" inside antler spread. - Turkey hunting by lottery only.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Still gun hunts by lottery only. See WMA Public Lottery hunts on page 90.	
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Jan. 2-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Bag Limits
Webb WMA Hampton County		
- Hunting is allowed on Sundays Oct. 15- Jan. 31 for species that are in season and listed below. No waterfowl hunting on Sunday. - Data/use cards are required for hunters, fishermen and all other WMA users. Completed cards must be returned daily upon leaving Webb WMA.		
Deer Hunts	Still hunts by lottery only. See WMA Public Lottery Hunts on page 90.	
Hog Hunts (with dogs)	Mar. 1-6 See WMA Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Dove	Designated fields on certain days. See Public Fields list on pages 82-85.	
Quail	Nov. 28, Dec. 2, 16, 19, 23, Jan. 2, 20, 23, Feb. 10, 20 • Shooting hours end 30 minutes prior to official sunset.	Statewide Limits
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-29, Dec. 15-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Raccoon & Opossum	Oct. 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31, Nov. 3, 7, 10, 14, 21, 23-28, Dec. 1, 5, 8, 12, Dec. 15-Mar. 1 • On Saturdays prior to Dec. 15, hunters may not enter the WMA prior to 1 hour after official sunset.	Statewide Limits

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Game Zone 4 WMAs Only

- Clarendon, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Kershaw, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter and Williamsburg counties
- All deer must be tagged with a valid deer tag as prescribed by the department before the animal is moved from the point of kill. Tag must remain attached until the deer/carcase is quartered or received by a processor. Processors see page 58.
- Statewide WMA limit for deer is two deer per day, 5 deer total, no more than two bucks, unless otherwise specified. Antlerless deer limit is two deer per day, unless otherwise specified.
- Individual antlerless deer tags are valid on WMA lands in Game Zone 4 starting September 15. For all WMAs combined in Game Zone 2-4, a maximum of 5 individual antlerless deer tags may be used.
- Feral hogs and coyotes may be taken during all hunts. No hog hunting with dogs except during special hog hunts with dogs.
- Bears – Harvested bears must be tagged at the point of kill and reported by midnight of the day of harvest. Game Zone 4 quota is 40 bears. Refer to page 66 for details on tagging, reporting methods, and how to determine season status related to the quota.
- Bears – On WMA lands in Game Zone 4, weapons used to hunt bear are limited to the weapons that are allowed for the current open season for deer on each WMA.

SCDNR Offices

Wildlife Office

295 S. Evander Drive, Florence, SC, 843-661-4766
420 Dirleton Road, Georgetown, SC, 843-546-8119

Law Enforcement Office

295 S. Evander Drive, Florence, SC, 843-661-4766
2762 Wildlife Lane, West Columbia, SC, 803-755-1822
217 Ft. Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412, 843-953-9307

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
DEER - OTHER WMAS		
Youth Deer Hunt Day	Jan. 2 (see pages 106-107 for WMAs)	2 deer total
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1	
Small Game	Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68. Additional small game season restrictions may apply to specific WMAs.	

NAMED WMAs

Bobwhite Hills WMA

- All visitors must sign in and out of the kiosks.

Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12- Nov. 21	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game	Jan. 15-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	
Quail Hunts	Hunters selected by drawing.	10 birds per party

Cartwheel Bay Heritage Preserve WMA Horry County

Bear Still Hunts (No Dogs)	Oct. 17-30 • Tagging & reporting required.	1 bear; no sow with cubs, no bears 100 lbs. or less.
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AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting	Statewide Limits
Great Pee Dee Heritage Preserve WMA Darlington County		
• For big game hunting, access is restricted from two hours before sunrise to two hours after official sunset.		
• All visitors must sign in and out at the kiosk.		
• Gates may be locked in wet weather.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 31	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Nov. 2-30	
Hog Still Gun Hunts	Mar. 2-18 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 19-26 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Raccoons and Opossum	Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	Statewide Limits
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Hickory Top WMA Clarendon County		
• Data cards required for hunter access. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving the WMA.		
• Hickory Top Greentree Res. is closed to public access from Nov. 1-Mar. 1 except for scheduled waterfowl hunts. WMA permit required.		
• Public waterfowl hunting without a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) permit will be allowed on all land and water below 76.8' following current regulations governing waterfowl hunting on Lake Marion. Waterfowl hunting at or above 76.8' elevation requires a WMA permit. Waterfowl hunters crossing WMA lands to hunt areas below 76.8' lake elevation must have their guns unloaded and cased.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 31	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Primitive Weapons	Nov. 2-Jan. 1	
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 8-13 • Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Small Game	Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68. • No fox squirrel hunting	Statewide Limits
Raccoon & Opossum	Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	
Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve WMA Horry County		
• Horseback riding is prohibited during all big game hunts, including turkey.		
Bear Still Hunts (No Dogs)	Oct. 17-30 • Tagging & reporting required.	1 bear; no sow with cubs, no bears 100 lbs. or less.
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 12-20	
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 21-Jan. 1	
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Liberty Hill WMA Kershaw County		
• Hunting is allowed on Sundays Oct. 15-Jan. 31 for species that are in season and listed below. No waterfowl hunting on Sunday.		
• Quality deer management area.		
• Antlered deer must have at least 4 points on 1 side or a minimum 12-inch inside antler spread.		
• All visitors entering by vehicle must sign in and out of the kiosks.		
• No ATVs allowed.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-30	Statewide WMA Limits

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 1-10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (includes raccoon and opossum)	WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68. • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve (HP) River Complex Horry & Marion Counties - Includes Little Pee Dee River HP, Tilghman HP, Dargan HP and Ward HP, also Upper Gunters Island and Huggins tracts in Horry County which are part of Dargan HP.		

Bear Still Hunts (No Dogs)	Oct. 17-30 • Tagging & Reporting required.	1 bear; no sow with cubs, no bears 100 lbs. or less.
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	1 deer per day
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 12-20	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 21-Jan. 1	
Hog Still Gun Hunts	Mar. 2-18 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Hog Hunt (with Dogs)	Mar. 19-26, July 20-Aug. 15 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Raccoon and Opossum	Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	Statewide Limits
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	

Longleaf Pine Heritage Preserve WMA Lee County		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (includes raccoon and opossum)	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting	Statewide Limits

Lynchburg Savanna Heritage Preserve WMA Lee County		
Small game only — no deer or turkey hunting		
Small Game	Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68. • No fox squirrel hunting	

Manchester State Forest (MSF) WMA Sumter County		
- Dog hunt clubs by lottery only. SC Forestry Commission will handle lottery 803-494-8196. - Firearms must be unloaded and cased and not readily accessible when not in legal use. - No deer hunting or shooting from, on, or across any road open to vehicle traffic. - All hunters are reminded that the Palmetto Trail may be in use by nonhunters. - Some gates may be locked due to wet roads.		
Deer Hunts (with Dogs)	• Clubs selected by drawing	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-30	
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 1-Jan. 1, except closed on Oct. 31, Nov. 20-21 & Dec. 18-19. • No man drives	
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 1-6 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	Statewide WMA Limits
Hog Still Gun Hunts	Mar. 8-13 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	
Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1	Statewide Bag Limits
Raccoon & Opossum	Game Zone 4 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
Dove	Sat. afternoons only during 1st season in designated fields only. Any day during 2nd and 3rd seasons on general forest and designated fields. See Public Dove Field Regulations pages 82-85.	

Marsh WMA Marion County		
- All visitors must sign in and out at the kiosk. - No ATVs. - A portion of Marsh WMA is designated a youth special hunt area and is closed for hunting except for special lottery hunts.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 31	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Nov. 2-30	
Hog Still Gun Hunts	Mar. 2-18 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 19-26, July 20-Aug. 15 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90. Handguns only.	No Limit
Raccoons & Opossums	• Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	Statewide Limits
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Quail	Nov. 28, Dec. 2, 16, 19, 23, Jan. 2, 20, 23, Feb. 10, 20	Statewide Limits

McBee WMA Chesterfield County		
• No ATVs. • All visitors are required to sign in upon entry and sign out upon exit and provide requested information.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Nov. 21	
Quail	Hunts by lottery only. See page 90.	
Other Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Regular Zone 4 seasons & limits except no hunting before Jan. 15 or after Mar. 1. • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits

Oak Lea WMA Clarendon County		
Data cards required for hunter access. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving Oak Lea WMA.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-30	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 1-Jan. 1 • No man drives	Statewide WMA Limits
Small Game (including raccoon and opossum)	Small game (except quail) Game Zone 4 WMA seasons and limits, refer to chart on page 68, except no small game hunting during scheduled quail hunts. • No fox squirrel hunting.	
Raccoon & Opossum	Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	
Quail Hunts	Nov. 28, Dec. 2, 16, 19, 23, Jan. 2, 20, 23, Feb. 10, 20. Shooting hours end 30 minutes before official sunset. Quail hunters must pick up and return data cards at kiosk.	12 per day
Dove	Dove hunts on designated days only. Seasons and limits published in the Public Dove Field List pages 82-85.	

Pee Dee Station Site WMA Florence County		
All visitors must sign in and out at kiosk.		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 31	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Primitive Weapons	Nov. 2-30	
Raccoon and Opossum	Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	Statewide Limits
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide WMA Limits

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
Samworth WMA Georgetown County		
Deer Archery (impoundments only)	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Hog Hunts (with Dogs) (impoundments only)	Mar. 8-13 Refer to Reg 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Sand Hills State Forest WMA Chesterfield County		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 12-Jan. 1 • No man drives allowed.	
Small Game		
- No hunting within the boundary of the H. Cooper Black, Jr. Memorial Field Trial and Recreation Area during scheduled field trials. Inquire at Forest Headquarters about scheduled events or call 843-378-1555. No quail hunting allowed on H. Cooper Black, Jr. Memorial Field Trial Area. - Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.		
Santee Dam WMA Clarendon County		
Hunter access by watercraft only from Borrow Pitt Landing (Clarendon Co.) or Wilson's Landing (Berkeley Co.) except during scheduled dove hunts (see Migratory Bird Regulations)		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 31	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Primitive Weapons	Nov. 1-Jan. 1	
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 8-13 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Dove	Dove hunts on designated days only. Season and limits published in the Public Dove Fields List pages 82-85.	
Small Game	Jan. 2-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Santee Delta WMA Georgetown County		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 8-13 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Santee Island WMA Georgetown County		
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Jan. 1	Statewide WMA Limits
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1	Statewide Limits
Raccoon & Opossum	Game Zone 4 WMA seasons and limits. Refer to chart on page 68.	
Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve WMA Horry County		
Bear Still Hunts (No Dogs)	Oct. 17-30 • Tagging & Reporting required.	1 bear; no sow with cubs, no bears 100 lbs. or less.
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 12-20	
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 21-Jan. 1	
Raccoon & Opossum	Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	Statewide Limits
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Limits
Hog Still Gun Hunts	Mar. 2-18 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 19-26, July 20-Aug. 15 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit

AREA/ METHODS	SEASONS	LIMITS
Wee Tee WMA Williamsburg & Georgetown Counties		
Bear Still Hunts (No Dogs)	Oct. 17-30 • Tagging & Reporting required.	1 bear; no sow with cubs, no bears 100 lbs. or less.
Deer Archery	Sept. 15-30	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 1-Jan. 1	
Hog Still Gun Hunts	Mar. 2-18 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 19-26, July 20-Aug. 15 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Raccoon and Opossum	Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting, • No fox hunting.	Statewide Limits
Woodbury WMA Marion County		
- Hunting is allowed on Sundays Oct. 15- Jan. 31 for species that are in season and listed below. No waterfowl hunting on Sunday. - Quality Deer Management Area - Antlered deer must have at least 4 points on 1 side or a minimum 12-inch inside antler spread. - All visitors must sign in and out at the kiosk. - No ATVs allowed.		
Deer Archery	Sept 15-Oct. 10	Statewide WMA Limits
Deer Primitive Weapons	Oct. 12-20	
Deer Still Gun Hunts	Oct. 21-Jan. 1	
Youth Only Dog Hunt	Nov. 21, Dec. 12 • Only youth 17 years and younger may carry a gun and hunt, youth must be accompanied by an adult 21 years or older. • Shotguns with buckshot only. One deer either-sex (antler restrictions not applicable for this hunt). • Hunters must use individual antlerless tags. • Hunting may only occur between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. All guns must be cased and unloaded outside of the listed hunting times. • Each dog participating in the hunt must be equipped with a working GPS tracking collar, a correction collar, and a name plate with the owners name and phone number. Dogs must have proof of current rabies vaccination. • All other hunting is closed on these dates while dog hunting is occurring.	1 deer either-sex
Hog Still Gun Hunts	Mar. 2-18 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90.	No Limit
Hog Hunts (with Dogs)	Mar. 19-26, July 20-Aug. 15 Refer to Reg. 2.16 on page 90. • Handguns only	No Limit
Small Game		
Raccoon, Opossum & Fox	Refer to WMA seasons in chart on page 68.	
Other Small Game	Nov. 26-Mar. 1 • No fox squirrel hunting.	Statewide Bag Limit

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Hog Hunting Seasons for WMAs and Heritage Preserves

Feral hog hunting on WMAs is permitted during any open season for game unless otherwise restricted (see specific WMAs). On WMA lands, weapons used to hunt hogs are limited to the weapons that are allowed for the current open season on each WMA. A hunting license and a WMA permit are required and hunters are required to wear a hat, coat or vest of solid international orange color while hunting. Hogs may not be transported alive. Hogs may not be hunted at night. On Special Hog Still Gun Hunts, weapons may include archery, crossbows, centerfire rifles, muzzleloading rifles, centerfire handguns and shotguns with slugs only except as specified for certain WMAs. For Special Hog Hunts with Dogs, no still or stalk hunting and only handguns permitted.



GAME ZONE	AREA	COUNTY	SPECIAL STILL HUNTING	SPECIAL HUNTS WITH DOGS
1	WMAs ~ Greenville, Oconee, Pickens (portions of Greenville, Oconee, and Pickens north of Game Zone 2 line), except Mill Shoals WMA			Jan. 2-10, Mar. 20-27
2	WMAs ~ Abbeville, Anderson, Chester, Cherokee, Edgefield, Greenwood, Lancaster, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, York, (portions of Greenville, Oconee, and Pickens south of Game Zone 1 line) except Keowee & Fanta's Grove WMAs			Jan. 2-10, Mar. 20-27
3	Bear Island	Colleton		Mar. 4-6
	Donnelley	Colleton	Mar. 2-18	Mar. 19-26
	Francis Marion Nat. Forest—All WMAs	Berkeley	Mar. 1-6	Mar. 15-20, May 17-22
	Hamilton Ridge	Hampton	July 20-Aug. 15	Mar. 1-6
	Palachucola	Hampton, Jasper		Mar. 1-6
	Santee Coastal Reserve	Charleston, Georgetown	Mar. 2-18	Mar. 19-26
	Webb	Hampton		Mar. 1-6
4	Great Pee Dee	Darlington	Mar. 2-18	Mar. 19-26
	Hickory Top	Clarendon		Mar. 8-13
	Little Pee Dee River Comp.	Marion	Mar. 2-18	Mar. 19-26, July 20-Aug. 15
	Manchester SF	Sumter	Mar. 1-6	Mar. 8-13
	Marsh	Marion	Mar. 2-18	Mar. 19-26, July 20-Aug. 15
	Samworth (impoundments only)	Georgetown		Mar. 8-13
	Santee Dam	Clarendon		Mar. 8-13
	Santee Delta	Georgetown		Mar. 8-13
	Waccamaw River	Horry	Mar. 2-18	Mar. 19-26, July 20-Aug. 15
	Wee Tee	Williamsburg, Georgetown	Mar. 2-18	Mar. 19-26
	Woodbury	Marion	Mar. 2-18	Mar. 19-26, July 20-Aug. 15

YOUTH & MOBILITY IMPAIRED HUNTS

YOUTH AGE 17 & YOUNGER

DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT INFO.
TURKEY		
Private Lands: March 27-28 and May 8-9, 2027		
Mar. 27 & May 8, 2027	All WMAs normally open to turkey hunting except: Crackerneck (Mar. 27 Only), Keowee, Santee Cooper, Santee Coastal Reserve, Hatchery Waterfowl Area, Bonneau Ferry	
RACCOON		
Sept. 12	Private Lands Only	
SQUIRREL		
Sept. 26	Private Lands Only	
QUAIL		
Nov. 21	Private Lands Only	
RABBIT		
Mar. 6, 2027	Private Lands Only	
DEER		
Private Lands - see page 60-61.		
Jan. 2, 2027 Limit 2 deer total, tags not required	All WMAs normally open to deer hunting except: Bear Island, Crackerneck, Donnelley, Draper, Fant's Grove, Keowee, McBee, Palachucola, Santee Coastal Reserve, Santee Cooper, Hatchery, Webb, Bonneau Ferry, Hamilton Ridge, Botany Bay Plantation, Wateree, Belfast, and Oak Lea.	
ADULT/YOUTH DOVE		
Eligibility for these hunts requires adults 21 years or older to bring 1 or 2 youths 15 years of age and younger. Youths 16 & 17 years of age may participate in the hunt with or without an accompanying adult. Both the adult and youth may shoot. No pre-registration required.		
Sept. 5	Union Co. USFS Sedalia Dove Field	For information call 803-321-2960.
Sept. 5	Draper WMA York Co.	For information call 803-427-5140.
Sept. 5	Sumter Co. Manchester State Forest Bland Field 1	For information call 803-429-2068.
Sept. 5	Santee Cooper WMA Orangeburg Co.	For information call 803-429-2068.
Selected Days	Botany Bay Plantation WMA	For information call Region 4 SCDNR 843-844-8957 or 843-869-2713.
YOUTH ONLY DEER LOTTERY HUNT		
Selected Day in November	Poinsett Gunnery Range Sumter Co.	Applications available July 1. Apply online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com.
Selected Day in November	Wateree River HP Richland Co.	Applications available July 1. Apply online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com.
Selected Days: Oct.-Dec.	Santee Cooper WMA	Applications available July 1. Apply online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com.
Selected Days: Oct.-Dec.	Delta South WMA	Applications available July 1. Apply online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com.

DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT INFO.
Oct. 3	Fants Grove WMA	Applications available July 1. Apply online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com.
Selected Days: Oct.-Nov.	Belfast WMA	Applications available July 1. Apply online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com.
Selected Days: Oct.-Dec.	Moultrie Hunt Unit	Applications available July 1. Apply online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com.
Selected Days	Tibwin (Francis Marion Hunt Unit)	Applications available early Sept. Call U.S. Forest Service at 843-336-2200.
Selected Days: Oct.-Nov.	Congaree Bluffs HP	Applications available July 1. Apply online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com.
Selected Days: Oct.-Nov.	Manchester State Forest	Applications available July 1. Apply online at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com.
ADULT/YOUTH DEER, TURKEY, SMALL GAME		
See page 100	Bluefield WMA	Bluefield WMA is open only to youth 17 and younger who must be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older. Adult may hunt also. See page 100 for restrictions, dates and limits. For more information, call Dennis Wildlife Center at 843-825-3387.
ADULT/YOUTH DEER, SMALL GAME		
See page 98	Bonneau Ferry Side A	See page 98 for restrictions, dates. For information, call Dennis Wildlife Center 843-825-3387.
YOUTH ONLY RACCOON		
Oct.	Darlington Co.	Contact Columbia SCDNR office for information at 803-734-3609.
Nov.	Edgefield Co.	Contact Columbia SCDNR office for information at 803-734-3609.
Nov.	Union Co.	Contact Columbia SCDNR office for information at 803-734-3609.
Nov.	Georgetown Co.	Contact Columbia SCDNR office for information at 803-734-3609.
Jan. 2027	Orangeburg Co.	Applications due before the first Saturday in Jan. Contact Columbia SCDNR office for information at 803-734-3609.
Jan. 2027	Colleton Co.	Contact Columbia SCDNR office for information at 803-734-3609.

Continued on page 107

YOUTH AGE 17 & YOUNGER

DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT INFO.
SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH RACCOON HUNTING CHAMPIONSHIP		
Feb. or Mar. 2027	TBD	Participants are selected by regional Qualifying hunts. For more information, call the Furbearer Project at 803-734-3609.
DRAW YOUTH WATERFOWL		
Sat. during season	Bonneau Ferry WMA	Application process opens online September 1.

MOBILITY IMPAIRED

DATE	LOCATION	SPONSOR/CONTACT INFO.
DEER		
Selected dates	Tibwin, Charleston Co.	US Forest Service & SCDNR. Call USFS 843-336-2200.
Oct. 23-24 Fri.-PM/Sat.-AM	Upstate Private Areas Cherokee, Spartanburg & Union counties	Private Landowners & SCDNR Region 1, 864-427-5140
Nov. 6-7 Fri.-PM/Sat.-AM	Upstate Private Areas and Select WMAs Laurens, Newberry, counties	Private Landowners & SCDNR Region 1, 864-427-5140

NOTE: Eligibility requirements for mobility impaired deer hunts at these locations are as follows: Persons permanently confined to a wheelchair, persons permanently requiring the use of mechanical aids (crutches, walkers, and etc.) to walk or persons with complete single or double leg amputations.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q: I purchased my license online but didn't print my payment receipt, what can I do?

A: When you purchase your license online you will receive an email containing your license information. You may use this email to hunt or fish. If you opted to receive a copy of your license by mail, you may carry this license while hunting or fishing. If you purchase a hunting or fishing license by any means, you may download our mobile app, Go Outdoors SC, load your customer profile and sync your licenses to the app, this is also a valid hunting and/or fishing license.

Q: How do I change my address?

A: You may change your address online by logging in to your customer profile at GoOutdoorsSouthCarolina.com, through the Go Outdoors SC mobile app or by mail. To apply by mail print and mail the change of address form located on our website at dnr.sc.gov/boating/boatingforms.html.

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Your anonymous participation advances fish and wildlife conservation, helps protect your right to hunt, fish and shoot, and guides companies in developing better outdoor products.

Q: If I am fishing from the shore in saltwater, do I need a saltwater license?

A: YES, you must possess a current saltwater license if you fish from shore or in a boat in salt water. Refer to page 47 for the saltwater/freshwater diving line.

Q: How many fishing rods may I use with a saltwater fishing license in a boat?

A: A licensed angler may use as many fishing rods as he/she wishes in a boat in saltwater. No unlicensed angler may use any of those fishing rods.

Q: Are mussels considered clams or oysters?

A: Mussels are considered oysters with applicable regulations. This does not apply to freshwater.

Q: Is there a crabbing season?

A: No, you can crab any time of year. Please see regulations for size limits and license requirements.

Q: Can you keep red drum caught in federal waters (beyond 3 miles)?

A: No, red drum may not be harvested from federal waters.

Q: If I am a recreational angler can I harvest crabs using a line with multiple hooks (similar to a trotline)?

A: YES. This would be considered a trotline and recreational anglers must have a Saltwater Recreational Fishing License and a Trotline Equipment License.

Q: I have a nuisance wildlife problem (such as a snake in the yard, squirrel in the attic, etc.). Who do I call?

A: SCDNR does not provide nuisance wildlife control services, but can refer you to private individuals and companies that do. For a directory, see: <http://dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/nuisance.html>

Q: Is there a caliber restriction or magazine restriction when hunting deer, hogs or coyotes on private land?

A: NO, there is no caliber or magazine restriction for firearms used to hunt deer, hogs or coyotes on private land.

Q: Is there a caliber restriction or magazine restriction when hunting deer, hogs or coyotes on WMA land?

A: There is no magazine restrictions on WMA lands. See Weapons beginning on page 90 for weapons related regulations on WMAs.

Q: May I carry a handgun with me when hunting on an archery only WMA?

A: YES, persons 18 years and older may possess a handgun while on any WMA in accordance with SC 16-23-20(4). During a primitive weapons season (archery or muzzleloader), a handgun may not be used to take or attempt to take game.

Q: How long can I sit in the stand to hunt deer?

A: It is legal to hunt deer in South Carolina from one hour prior to official sunrise until one hour after official sunset.

Q: If I have used all of my turkey tags for the season, can I take someone else hunting and call for them?

A: YES, hunters who have used all of their tags may call or guide for other hunters provided they possess their tag form and a valid hunting license.

Q: How old does my child need to be before they are required purchase a hunting or fishing license?

A: Any person age 16 or older must possess a valid hunting or fishing license while hunting or fishing in South Carolina.

Q: Is my child who is under age 16 required to have tags to hunt deer, turkey or bear?

A: YES, anyone who hunts for turkey, deer or bear must have a set of tags no matter their age, except on designated youth days. Tags are available at each of the six regional SCDNR offices. See page 6 for office locations, online or through the mobile app.

Q: Can I camp on WMA properties?

A: YES, but only in designated camping areas and several properties require a permit for camping. Check our website at <https://www2.dnr.sc.gov/ManagedLands/ManagedLand/Activities> for information on specific properties.

POINT & SUSPENSION SYSTEMS



Point & Suspension Systems for Natural Resource Violations

South Carolina law has established suspension systems based upon the accumulation of points assessed for convictions of natural resource laws.

The Game and Fish Point System applies to violations inland of the saltwater/freshwater dividing line and if suspended under this system, a person cannot hunt, freshwater fish, gather, trap, land, or pursue game, or freshwater fish, in the state.

The Saltwater Point System applies to violations within the coastal waters of the State, seaward of the saltwater/freshwater dividing line. The point categories for assessments are recreational and commercial. Points are assessed according to the appropriate category. Upon accumulation of 18 or more points in the recreational or commercial categories, a person's privileges to fish, gather, land, attempt to take, or possess fish, shellfish, or crustaceans within the coastal waters for the purposes of the affected category will be suspended. Suspensions under the Saltwater Point System do not effect inland freshwater fishing privileges except for shad, herring, and sturgeon which are regulated by coastal laws inland of the saltwater/freshwater dividing line.

Each time a person is convicted of a violation listed in the point systems, the Department

must assess the points against the person's record. Half of the points on record are reduced for each full year in which the person receives no points. The Department of Natural Resources must suspend the privileges of any person who has accumulated eighteen (18) or more points.

In addition to these point suspensions, South Carolina law also contains mandatory suspensions for convictions of specific violations of the law. These suspensions are called "Statutory Suspensions." See Table C for some specific examples of statutory suspensions.

Point System Suspension Appeals

A person who has been notified of a suspension may appeal the suspension pursuant to the South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act. The appeal of the suspension is not an appeal of the person's conviction. The Administrative Law Court does not have jurisdiction to review the conviction, only the suspension. Appeals must be filed and served within 30 days of the date of suspension notice. You must file the appeal with the Clerk of Court of the Administrative Law Court, South Carolina Administrative Law Court, Edgar A. Brown Building, 1205 Pendleton St., Suite 224, Columbia, SC 29201, Voice: 803-734-0550.

If an individual appeals a suspension SCDNR will temporarily end the suspension. The result is that an individual will retain the privileges that were initially suspended during the period of appeal. The period of appeal

begins when SCDNR receives notification from the Administrative Law Court that the case has been scheduled for a hearing. SCDNR will notify the individual in writing when the period of appeal begins. Until that notice is received the suspension remains in effect. A withdrawal of the appeal by the individual, or a finding in favor of SCDNR by the Administrative Law Court will result in the individual having to serve the remainder of the suspension. A finding in favor of the individual, or a finding by SCDNR that the suspension was in error, will result in a dismissal of the suspension.

Note:

- A violation of natural resources law while under suspension may result in additional suspensions of one year to five years.
- The purchase or procurement of a license, permit, stamp, or tag allowing suspended privileges while under suspension is a fraudulent purchase and is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,085.00 and an additional one year suspension of hunting and fishing privileges.
- Failure to pay fines and/or restitutions may result in suspension of privileges.

To find out more information on suspensions, contact the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Records Section, Law Enforcement Division, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202 or call 803-734-3876.

POINT & SUSPENSION SYSTEMS

TABLE A
GAME & FISH POINTS

VIOLATION	PT.
Hunting migratory birds with an unplugged gun	4
Unlawful possession of buckshot	5
Hunting or fishing without a proper license, permit, stamp, or tag	6
Failing to report the harvest of a big game species	6
Taking more than the legal limit of game or fish (except striped bass)	8
Violating Wildlife Management Area regulations	8
Unlawful hunting over bait	8
Unlawful night hunting other game, except deer or bear, or hunting during prohibited or after hours	8
Taking game or fish in any illegal manner not specifically mentioned elsewhere in the point systems	8
NOTE: Some examples are:	
a. Taking waterfowl with lead shot.	
b. Taking fish with too many devices.	
c. Killing birds of prey (Hawks, Kites, Vultures, Kestrels, Owls, or Falcons).	
d. Killing/possession of nongame birds.	
e. Taking fish while violating specific freshwater nongame fishing laws such as illegal bait on trotlines or set hooks.	
f. Taking game while violating specific trapping laws such as unlawful traps.	
Other less common examples are, but are not limited to, taking game while unlawfully hunting with an electronic call, or killing a turkey with a rifle. The application of this is very broad and examples are given for clarification. This applies to unlawfully taking game or fish in a way that is not specifically addressed by the Game and Fish Point System.	
Hunting, fishing, or trapping out of season	10
Using a borrowed or altered hunting or fishing license, permit, stamp, or tag	10
Unlawful transportation of furs or hides and possession of untagged hides	10
Trapping quail or turkeys	10
Hunting turkey over bait (no game taken)	10
Hunting waterfowl over bait	10
Shooting waterfowl over bait (game taken)	10
Trapping, netting, or seining game fish unlawfully	10
Attempting escape after arrest	14
Hunting or fishing in a state sanctuary	14
Unlawful selling of game or game fish	14
Trespassing to hunt, fish, or trap	14
Unlawful hunting, taking, possessing, or selling alligators	14
Killing or attempting to kill or molest deer from a motorboat	14
Unlawful killing or possession of antlerless deer	14
Killing or possession of a hen turkey during the spring gobbler season	14
Unlawful possession, taking, or attempting to take raccoons during the season for hunting without firearms	14
Taking or possessing an undersized striped bass	14
Taking or possessing more than the legal limit of striped bass	14
Taking or possessing more than the legal creel or size limit of blue catfish	14
Hunting waterfowl out of season	15
Taking or possession of more than one waterfowl over the legal limit	15
Intentional trespassing to hunt, fish, or trap	18
Night hunting deer or bear	18
Killing or possession of wild turkey during the closed season	18
Roost shooting turkey between one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise	18
Shooting turkey over bait (game taken)	18
Trespassing to hunt waterfowl	18
Resisting arrest by force, violence, or weapons against the person or any law enforcement officer enforcing natural resource laws	18

TABLE B
SALTWATER POINTS

Saltwater points are assessed in two categories: Recreational and Commercial. Upon an accumulation of eighteen (18) or more points in a category, the privileges of that category will be suspended for one year. While under Recreational Suspension, a person found guilty of a commercial saltwater violation will have all saltwater privileges suspended for one year. While under Commercial Suspension, a person found guilty of a recreational violation will have all saltwater privileges suspended for one year.

VIOLATION	PT.
Failing to keep records or make reports as required by law, permit or regulation	4
Violations of law pertaining to crab size limit or sponge crabs	4
Violations of a section of Title 50 pertaining to saltwater fisheries not mentioned specifically in this section (NOTE: This point assessment applies to all other convictions that are not specifically mentioned herein. Any conviction for a violation of a saltwater fisheries law will be assessed a minimum of 6 points).	6
Taking, attempting to take, or possessing fish, shellfish or crustaceans in an unlawful manner, in unlawful or closed areas, during unlawful hours, or during the closed season except trawling violations	8
Selling or offering for sale fish, shellfish, crustaceans, or other seafood or marine products without a proper license, permit, stamp, or tag	8
Unlawfully buying fish, shellfish, crustaceans or other seafood or marine products without a proper license, permit, stamp or tag	8
Trawling inside the General Trawling Zone other than in restricted areas:	
(a) more than one quarter nautical mile during the closed season	10
(b) more than one quarter nautical mile at a time more than ten minutes before daily opening or ten minutes after daily closing times during the open season	10
Trawling in a restricted area during the closed season	10
Taking or attempting to take fish, shellfish or crustaceans for a commercial purpose without a proper license, permit, stamp or tag	10
Violating Department of Health and Environmental Control regulations promulgated pursuant to Section 44-1-140 related to the harvesting and handling of shellfish resulting in adulterated product as defined in Regulation 61-47	10
Trawling outside the General Trawling Zone:	
(a) one hundred yards or less distance from the nearest point of the General Trawling Zone during the open season	10
(b) more than one hundred yards distance from the nearest point of the General Trawling Zone during the open season	18
(c) during the closed season	18
Captain or crew of a boat failing to cooperate with an enforcement officer	18
Channel netting in an area closed to channel netting or during closed season for channel netting	18
Applying for or obtaining any resident license as provided in this chapter using a falsified application or supporting documentation, or simultaneously possessing any current, valid South Carolina resident license as provided in this chapter while possessing any resident license from another state	18

NOTE: It is unlawful for a person whose commercial privileges are suspended under this chapter to be on board any vessel while the vessel is being utilized to take or attempt to take saltwater fish for commercial purposes.

TABLE C STATUTORY SUSPENSIONS

Many laws pertaining to natural resources and boating contain mandatory suspensions. These suspensions start upon conviction and run for specified times according to law. These suspensions will affect privileges and may affect licenses, permits, stamps, tags or registrations.

Examples of violations for which suspensions are mandated include, but are not limited to:

Hunting from a public road	1 year
Unlawfully taking a wild turkey	1 year
Conspiracy to violate natural resource laws	1 year
Obtaining a license, permit, stamp, or tag by fraud	1 year
Altering, post dating, borrowing, or lending a license, permit, stamp, or tag	1 year
Criminal, negligent use of a firearm	1 to 5 years
Boating under the influence	6 months to 5 years
Trawling violations	1 year
Killing a Bald Eagle	5 years
Failure to pay fines or restitution	Suspended until payment is received
Third (3) offense negligent operation of a watercraft	6 months
Bear violations	3 years
Impeding the right to hunt, fish, or trap	1 year

The above listed violations are examples of statutory suspensions. Other statutory suspensions exist with time periods ranging from 10 days to 10 years for certain violations and certain privileges

OPERATION GAME THIEF

Game and fish law violators steal your wildlife and rob you of tax, license, and business dollars. They cheat you out of recreation and your children out of part of their future. You're their victim as surely as if they'd robbed your home.

Operation Game Thief is a program designed to stop game and fish law violators in South Carolina. Citizen involvement is the key to the success of the program. You can help in either of two ways:

- You can make a contribution to Operation Game Thief. Contributions will be used to make rewards to persons providing information leading to the arrest of game and fish law violators. Contributions are tax deductible.
- You can report a violator (anonymously if you choose). If your information leads to the conviction of game and fish law violators, you will receive a cash reward of up to \$2,500.00 dollars. Rewards are dependent on the amount and type of information.



INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATORS COMPACT

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources formally entered into the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact (IWVC) with 38 other member states on July 1, 2012. As a compact member South Carolina has agreed to treat nonresidents from member states as if they were residents for purposes of hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife violations. However, the compact does not cover boating violations. If a nonresident from a member state violates a wildlife law in South Carolina, DNR officers can now serve a courtesy summons under the terms of the compact rather than arresting the individual, or requesting a cash bond. Likewise, South Carolina residents will be treated the same way in other member states. Residents from member states are granted a courtesy summons based on the understanding that they will comply with the terms of the summons. If a resident from a member state fails to comply with the terms of a courtesy summons issued by another member state they will be suspended by their home state and that suspension will be recognized by all other member states.

As a member of the IWVC, South Carolina will share nonresident violation information with other member states. This means that illegal activities in one member state can affect the privileges of the individual in all member states. South Carolina will now recognize the suspension of hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges from other member states. A person who is under hunting, fishing, or trapping suspension in South Carolina will be prohibited from obtaining licenses in other member states, and South Carolina will deny licenses to nonresident individuals from member states who have had hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges suspended by that state. South Carolina will recognize the suspension of hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges of member states as if the suspension had occurred in South Carolina.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Hunter Education

All residents and nonresidents born after June 30, 1979, must complete a hunter education course approved by SCDNR before a hunting 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. If you have a question about your certification, please contact the Hunter Education Office at 1-800-277-4301. The hunter education certificate is not a hunting license.

SCDNR offers two (2) options to take the Hunter Education Course.

1. In a classroom

The preferred Hunter Education method is through a **free** eight (8) hour instructor-led classroom. Classes may be offered in a one day class or split over two nights. Students learn about hunting ethics, firearms safety, and the principles of conservation and wildlife management. All classes end with a **test** to pass the course.

2. On the Internet

The third party vendor (*Hunter-Ed.com*) who provides this online course charges \$29.95 to take the course. **After completing the course by passing and paying the course fee, you may instantly print out your South Carolina Temporary Hunter Education Certificate, which is valid for 30 days.** You should receive your permanent certificate by mail in 2-3 weeks.

Hunter-Ed offers daily (including weekend) live customer service via email or telephone with a toll-free number. **Today's Hunter online course is the only approved internet course for South Carolina.** www.dnr.sc.gov/education/hunted.html

Boater Education

Boaters born after July 1, 2007 are required by law to pass an approved boater education course before operating a personal watercraft (jet ski) or a boat powered by a 10 h.p. motor or larger. There are exemptions for age and boating certifications. See 50-21-95 for a complete list of exemptions.

South Carolina boaters can take a boating safety and education course two ways.

1. In a classroom

The preferred Boater Education method is through a free six (6) hour instructor-led classroom course. Classes are generally offered in a one day format. All classes end with a test to pass the course.

2. On the internet

The third party vendor (*Boat-Ed.com*) who provides this online course charges \$39.95 to take the course. You may view or purchase the course, including the test, online at *boat-ed.com* or through a link on the SCDNR homepage, www.dnr.sc.gov/education/boated.

For more information on all boating courses, call SCDNR at 1-800-277-4301 or visit www.dnr.sc.gov/education/boated.

If you are under age 21 and plan to go boating in another state, check that state's operator requirements. The SC Basic Boating Course is approved and recognized by all states requiring courses. The boater education certificate is not a boating license.

Bowhunting Education



The bowhunter education program provides bowhunters with the fundamentals of safe bowhunting, an appreciation and respect for the environment in which they hunt, and a desire to maintain the highest standards of the sport. Several times a year, SCDNR and Bowhunters of South Carolina conduct bowhunter education classes. To register for a bowhunter education course, please visit the SCDNR Hunter Education homepage at www.dnr.sc.gov/education/hunted or call 1-800-277-4301.

SCDNR also offers an online version of the course that is approved by the National Bowhunter Education Foundation. This course can be found at www.bowhunter-ed.com/southcarolina/

Trapper Education

The Trapper Education course includes discussions on furbearer biology, history of the fur trade, wildlife management principles, fur harvest regulations and ethical conduct. Basic hands-on trapping techniques will also be presented. Qualified instructors with the SC Trappers Association will discuss and demonstrate responsible trapping techniques.

For information, contact the Furbearer project at 803-734-3609.

Take One Make One™



The Take One Make One program is an outdoor education and mentoring program for first time youth hunters who have never had the opportunity to hunt before. We take youth on that first hunt and teach them values that last a lifetime. Youth ages 10-17, experience that first hunt in a safe and ethical manner with an SCDNR mentor. Youth have the opportunity to participate in hunts, conservation camps, hunting clinics, shooting sports activities and other TOMO events until they graduate the program. Youth must first complete the SC Hunter Education Safety course as a part of the required application process. There are no registration costs to join. Applications are available by visiting our website at www.dnr.sc.gov/education/tomo. If you would like more information you can check us out on Facebook at SCDNR Take One Make One or call us at 1-800-277-4301.

Youth Bass Fishing Club

Calling all middle and high schools! SCDNR, The Bass Federation, 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. Get outdoors, relax, have fun and make friends by fishing for your school! To learn more about the Youth Bass Fishing Clubs, visit www.dnr.sc.gov/aquaticed, call 803-737-8483 or email aquaticed@dnr.sc.gov.

Archery in the Schools Program



The SC National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) is designed to reach all students in grades 4th-12th whether rural, urban, and regardless of their physical abilities. SC NASP is strictly target archery for schools (public, private, home) which must be taught in school during the day as part of the school curriculum. Core content covers archery history, safety, technique, equipment, mental concentration and self-improvement. SC NASP offers regional and state archery tournaments that give an opportunity for scholarships, ranging from elementary to high school. In 2026, we gave away \$52,000 in scholarships to students involved in the NASP program from elementary to high school. You can learn more about the SC Archery in the Schools program by contacting the SC NASP coordinator, SSgt. Gabriel Gilmore, at GilmoreG@dnr.sc.gov.

For more information about archery, please visit, www.dnr.sc.gov/education/archery or on Facebook- SC Archery in the Schools.

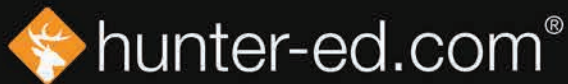
SC Scholastic Clay Target Sports

SCDNR Scholastic Clay Target Sports is a team-based youth development program that uses the shotgun sports of trap, skeet, and sporting clays to instill life skills such as discipline, safety, teamwork, ethics, self-confidence and other life values. For more information on this program, please call 1-800-277-4301 or email Sgt Scott Stephens at StephensM@dnr.sc.gov or www.dnr.sc.gov/education/SCTS

Aquatic Education



Aquatic Education programs are designed to teach about fish, aquatic ecosystems, and the sport of fishing. Avid anglers can become Certified SCDNR Fishing Instructors and share the love of fishing by leading Fishing Clinics. For more information on freshwater fishing programs, call 803-737-8483 or visit www.dnr.sc.gov/aquaticed. For more information about saltwater fishing programs, email saltwatered@dnr.sc.gov or visit <https://saltwaterfishing.sc.gov>.



The Trusted Path to Certification

Hunter-Ed offers state-approved hunter safety education, built to teach the fundamentals of safety, responsibility, and confidence in the field. It's a trusted path to certification and a critical first step before the next season begins.

Start Your Certification Today at
hunter-ed.com



Game and Fish Department

Certificate Number
1119630

Certification Date
4/30/15

Birth Date
08/22/89

Instructor
Hunter Ed

JOHN HUNTER
123 ANY STREET
ANYTOWN, ST 12345-0000
USA



HUNTER EDUCATION CARD





Got shell?

Oyster reefs provide clean water, fish habitat, erosion control, and are a delicious, sustainable resource. The S.C. Department of Natural Resources needs your shells to rebuild oyster reefs and keep our coast healthy.

Recycle your oyster shells!

Find over **30 drop-off locations** and **30 participating restaurants** across the state by visiting www.dnr.sc.gov or calling 843-953-9397.



OPERATION COAST WATCH

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Coast Watch is a program under Operation Game Thief designed to focus attention on coastal fisheries and resource violations.

The coastal resources of South Carolina are an important part of our natural heritage. Our coastal resource laws are designed to protect our fish and shellfish from being wiped out by overfishing. We must reserve a healthy population that is large enough to ensure good harvests in the future.

You can help protect our coastal resources by watching for and reporting violations to the Coast Watch Program. You may earn a reward up to \$500 for information leading to the conviction of coastal law violators. In addition, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing your part to defend our natural resources.

More information and a brochure may be obtained by calling 803-734-4002.





South Carolina Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Why buy a license? There are a number of reasons, all of them good. For starters, your purchase of the appropriate South Carolina hunting and fishing license or permit ensures that you stay legal while pursuing your hobby in the great South Carolina outdoors. But beyond that, your purchase of a hunting license or WMA permit also supports thousands of acres of public lands that are managed by the SCDNR for wildlife habitat for all types of outdoor recreation – from deer hunting to hiking and bird watching. Your purchase of a fishing license supports the monitoring and management of fish populations and the aquatic habitat in South Carolina's wealth of lakes and streams available for recreation. Your fishing license also supports the operation of seven public fish hatcheries across the state that provide fish for public water stocking to support recreational fishing and enhancement of fish populations.

The dollars generated by the license purchase also help fund hundreds of critical management and research programs undertaken by DNR biologists and researchers, AND help our state capture its share of the federal taxes on motorboat and small engine fuel and the federal excise taxes and import duties paid on equipment and gear manufactured for purchase by hunters, anglers, boaters, archers, and recreational shooters. In short, without the dollars provided by South Carolina's hunters and anglers, our state's abundant fish and wildlife and ongoing fish and wildlife conservation efforts simply wouldn't be possible. Your license purchase today ensures that our state's valuable natural resources will be there for future generations.

Know Your Customer ID Number

Who has a SCDNR Customer ID Number?

- Anyone who does business with SCDNR has a Customer ID number.

Why do I have a Customer ID Number?

- SCDNR adopted this approach to improve our business processes and improve services to our customers.

Why do I need to know my Customer ID Number?

- This number helps link a customer with their existing information in the SCDNR system
- It makes it faster and easier to obtain the items you need

Why is maintaining my current information important with SCDNR?

- To ensure proper delivery of items mailed to you
- To provide SCDNR the information needed to meet all legal and regulatory requirements
- To accurately provide county auditors boat and motor owner information

South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
Resident

1 12345678920091234567892009

TRANSACTION NUMBER 3662380

CUSTOMER# 90561940

ISSUED TO JOHN DOE

ADDRESS 123 BUCK LANE

CITY COLUMBIA STATE SC ZIP 29201

BIRTH DATE 01/12/69 GENDER M

ISSUING AGENT DNR-COLUMBIA

DATE 06/11/13 TIME 3:39 PM

Your Customer
Identification Number

SC Department of Natural Resources

Jane Doe
6908 Somewhere Road
Greenville SC 29000

DOB: 07/05/1960 HOME PHONE: 803-734-9999
GENDER: F CO: Greenville

LICENSE YEAR:
ISSUED: 06/24/2014 TIME: 10:01 AM

CUSTOMER ID: 00123456789 HUNTER EDUCATION: Y



REPORT POACHING

TO REPORT A POACHER

If you witness a poaching or boating incident or any fish and wildlife violation, or have information about such a violation, immediately dial the toll free OGT number 1-800-922-5431, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SCDNR Law Enforcement has partnered with the Hunt Regs app to provide citizens with a free, easy, and effective way to report illegal wildlife and boating activities. The platform streamlines the reporting process through an interactive form that allows users to quickly submit information, photos, and other details directly from their mobile device or computer. Reports can be submitted by downloading the Hunt Regs app, available on both iOS and Android devices, or by accessing the Hunt Regs website online.

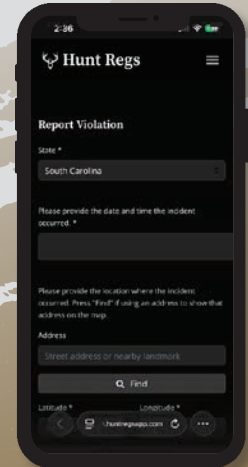
See something suspicious?

Scan the QR code to report illegal wildlife or boating activity.

Be prepared to give the fullest possible account of the incident including the name, address, age and description of the suspect, vehicle description, direction of travel, license number, type of violation and when and where it occurred. You do not have to give your name.



Hunt Regs App



SOUTH CAROLINA

Wildlife



SINCE 1954,

South Carolina Wildlife has been the constant and steady voice for natural resources conservation and a trusted resource for outdoor excursions in the Palmetto State.

To start up, renew or gift a subscription, visit SCWildlife.com.

GENERAL APPLICATIONS



Recreational Hunting and Fishing Tag Application

Mail to: SCDNR, License Office • PO Box 167 • Columbia, SC 29202-0167

(803)734-4367

Visit www.dnr.sc.gov for additional licenses and information

M, T, Th, F 8:30-4:50 PM • W 9:30-4:50 PM ET

Applicant Information

Customer # _____ or Social Security # _____ Gender _____ Race _____ Date of Birth _____

C _____ - _____ - _____ / _____ / _____

Name (as it appears on your SC Driver's License or SCDMV issued ID Card)

First _____ M Init _____ Last _____ Suffix (Sr, Jr, III, etc) _____
Home _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ SC County of Residence _____
Mailing (only if different from Home address)

Street or PO Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ SC Driver's License or ID# _____

Phone _____ Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____ Phone _____ Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____ E-mail Address _____ State of Issue _____

Resident			Nonresident		
Hunting Tags	Qty	Fee	Qty		Fee
Deer Tags (set of 6)	x	\$0.00 =			N/A
Antlerless Deer Tags (max 4)	x	\$5.00 =	x		\$10.00 =
Unrestricted Antlered Buck Tag (must be purchased before any additional antlered tags may be purchased)		N/A	1 x		\$50.00 =
Unrestricted Antlered Buck Tag		N/A	1 x		\$20.00 =
Restricted Antlered Buck Tag (max 2)	x	\$5.00 =	x		\$20.00 =
Bear Tag (max 1) (available after August 1st)	x	\$25.00 =	x		\$100.00 =
Turkey Tag (Residents set of 2, Nonresidents set of 2)	1 x	\$25.00 =	1 x		\$125.00 =
Turkey Tag (Youth, SC Lifetime & Disability License Holders)	x	\$0.00 =	x		\$0.00 =
Nongame Fish Devices					
Jug Permit (max 1)	x	\$5.00 =	x		\$50.00 =
Set Hook Permit (max 1)	x	\$5.00 =	x		\$50.00 =
Eel Pot Tag (reporting requirements apply)	x	\$5.00 =	x		\$50.00 =
Gill Net Tag (not for shad or herring)	x	\$5.00 =	x		\$50.00 =
Trap Tag (recreational limit 2)	x	\$5.00 =	x		\$50.00 =
Trotline Tag (recreational limit 1)	x	\$2.00 =	x		\$50.00 =
Saltwater License / Tags					
Shrimp Baiting License / Tags (max 1)	x	\$25.00 =	x		\$500.00 =

TOTAL DUE Make Check Payable to SCDNR

Hunter Education Certification

(HE) Hunter Education Certification is required for persons born after June 30, 1979 who apply for hunting privileges.

Hunter Education Number _____ State of Issue _____

I affirm that I am not under suspension for any natural resources violation and I am eligible to apply for, hold, and use the above SCDNR licenses and permits and that the information provided above is true and correct.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Amount of Check \$ _____

In accordance with South Carolina law, personal information collected by SCDNR for licenses, tags, permits and watercraft/outboard motor titles and registrations may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. However, state law prohibits personal information collected by state agencies to be used for private solicitation or commercial purposes. The disclosure of your social security number is required to obtain SC hunting and fishing licenses. This complies with SC Code Annon **63-17-1080** 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.

26-15101 Rev. 06/2026

GENERAL APPLICATIONS

Lifetime Recreational Hunting and Fishing License Application



Mail to: SCDNR, Lifetime License • PO Box 167 • Columbia, SC 29202-0167 • (803)734-4367 • M, T, Th, F 8:30-4:50 PM • W 9:30-4:50 PM ET
Lifetime Licenses are only available to those that meet the definition of "Resident" for the purpose of obtaining South Carolina hunting and fishing licenses. Applicant must meet the residency requirement for at least 180 days immediately prior to the date of application. The free base set of deer tags and turkey tags will be issued automatically after initial request. **Incomplete Applications will be returned.**

Instructions for Lifetime License Application

1. Complete and Sign application.
2. Include a photocopy of your unexpired SC Driver's License or SC DMV issued ID Card.
3. Include payment. Verify method of payment is signed as required.

Applicant Information

Customer # _____ or Social Security # _____ Gender _____ Race _____ Date of Birth _____

C _____ - _____ - _____ / _____ / _____

Name (as it appears on your SC Driver's License or SCDMV issued ID Card)

First _____ M Init _____ Last _____ Suffix (Sr, Jr, III, etc) _____
Home _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ SC County of Residence _____
Mailing (only if different from Home address)

Street or PO Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ SC Driver's License or SCDMV ID# _____
(Enclose photocopy)

Phone _____ Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____ Phone _____ Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____ E-mail Address _____

Applicant Age	License Type	Fee
---------------	--------------	-----

Less than 2 Yrs	(Enclose copy of birth certificate and Parent/Guardian SC Driver's License or ID Card)	
-----------------	--	--

Combination License (Freshwater Fishing, State Hunting, Big Game)*	\$300.00
Saltwater Fishing License Add-On to Combination License	\$120.00
Migratory Waterfowl Permit Add-On to Combination License	\$66.00

2 Yrs but less than 16 Yrs	(Enclose copy of birth certificate and Parent/Guardian SC Driver's License or ID Card)	
----------------------------	--	--

Combination License (Freshwater Fishing, State Hunting, Big Game)*	\$400.00
Saltwater Fishing License Add-On to Combination License	\$160.00
Migratory Waterfowl Permit Add-On to Combination License	\$ 88.00

16 Yrs but less than 64 Yrs	(Enclose copy of SC Driver's License or ID Card)	
-----------------------------	--	--

State Hunting License (HE)	\$300.00
Freshwater Fishing	\$300.00
Saltwater Fishing License	\$300.00
Combination License (Freshwater Fishing, State Hunting, Big Game) (HE)*	\$500.00
Saltwater Fishing License Add-On to Combination License	\$200.00
Migratory Waterfowl Permit Add-On to Combination License	\$110.00

64 Yrs or greater	(Enclose copy of SC Driver's License or ID Card)	Do you plan to fish in saltwater?	Yes	No	
-------------------	--	-----------------------------------	-----	----	--

Gratis Combination License (date of birth before July 1, 1940)*	No Cost
Senior Combination License (date of birth July 1, 1940 or later)*	\$9.00
Combination Privileges: Freshwater Fishing, Freshwater Set Hook, Saltwater Fishing	
State Hunting, Big Game, WMA, Migratory Waterfowl	
Senior Fishing License (date of birth July 1, 1940 or later)	
Fishing Privileges: Freshwater Fishing, Freshwater Set Hook, Saltwater Fishing	\$9.00

Optional Hard Card - \$6.00 ea.

Lifetime License Hard Card

Hunter Education Certification

(HE) Hunter Education Certification is required for persons born after June 30, 1979 who apply for hunting privileges.

Hunter Education Number _____ State of Issue _____

Signature Required **Incomplete applications will be returned.**

I affirm that I am not under suspension for any natural resources violation and I am eligible to apply for, hold, and use the above SCDNR licenses and permits and that the information provided above is true and correct.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Amount of Check \$ _____

In accordance with South Carolina law, personal information collected by SCDNR for licenses, tags, permits and watercraft/outboard motor titles and registrations may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. However, state law prohibits personal information collected by state agencies to be used for private solicitation or commercial purposes.

The disclosure of your social security number is required to obtain SC hunting and fishing licenses. This complies with SC Code Annon 63-17-1080 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.

25-14586 EM-075 Rev. 05/2025

Disability Recreational Hunting and Fishing License Application



Mail to: SCDNR, Disability License • PO Box 167 • Columbia, SC 29202-0167 • (803)734-4367 • M, T, Th, F 8:30-4:50 PM • W 9:30-4:50 PM ET
Disability Licenses are only available to those that meet the definition of "Resident" for the purpose of obtaining South Carolina hunting and fishing licenses. Applicant must meet the residency requirement for at least one year prior to the date of application. The free base set of deer tags and turkey tags will be issued automatically after the initial request. **Incomplete Applications will be returned.**

Instructions for Disability Certification

1. Complete and Sign application.
2. Include a photocopy of your unexpired SC Driver's License or SCDMV issued ID Card.
3. Include a current copy (dated within the past 12 months) of your disability certification from one of the following programs that declares you disabled and eligible to receive disability benefits.
☐ Social Security Administration ☐ SC Retirement System ☐ Railroad Retirement Board
☐ US Department of Veteran Affairs ☐ Federal Civil Service ☐ Medicaid
4. If you are paraplegic or quadriplegic include an official statement from your physician. Notes on a prescription pad are not accepted. If you are legally blind, documentation must be included.

Applicant Information

Customer # _____ or Social Security # _____ Gender _____ Race _____ Date of Birth _____

C _____ - _____ - _____ / _____ / _____

Name (as it appears on your SC Driver's License or SCDMV issued ID Card)

First _____ M Init _____ Last _____ Suffix (Sr, Jr, III, etc) _____

Home

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ SC County of Residence _____

Mailing (only if different from Home address)

Street or PO Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ SC Driver's License or SCDMV ID#
(Enclose photocopy)

Phone _____ Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____ Phone _____ Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____ E-mail Address _____

License Types

Combination License* (Freshwater Fishing, Saltwater Fishing, State Hunting, Big Game, WMA, Migratory Waterfowl) **(HE)**

Do you plan to fish in saltwater? Yes No

Fishing License (Freshwater Fishing, Saltwater Fishing)

Do you plan to fish in saltwater? Yes No

Hunting Add-on for an existing Fishing License*

(State Hunting, Big Game, WMA, Migratory Waterfowl) **(HE)**

Optional Hard Card - \$6.00 ea. Hunting Scene Fishing Scene

Disability licenses expire on the third anniversary of the date issued.

Hunter Education Certification

(HE) Hunter Education Certification is required for persons born after June 30, 1979 who apply for hunting privileges.

Hunter Education Number _____ State of Issue _____

Signature Required **Incomplete applications will be returned.**

 I affirm that I am not under suspension for any natural resources violation and I am eligible to apply for, hold, and use the above SCDNR licenses and permits and that the information provided above is true and correct.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Amount of Check \$ _____

In accordance with South Carolina law, personal information collected by SCDNR for licenses, tags, permits and watercraft/outboard motor titles and registrations may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. However, state law prohibits personal information collected by state agencies to be used for private solicitation or commercial purposes.
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25-14587 FM-075 Rev 05/2025

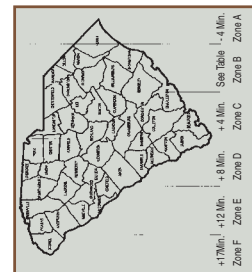
SUNRISE/SUNSET TIMES

SOUTH CAROLINA
2026-2027 SUNRISE/SUNSET TIMES

	JULY		AUG.		SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.		JAN.		FEB.		MAR.		APR.		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUG.	
	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET
1	6:14	20:30	6:32	20:16	6:53	19:43	7:12	19:03	6:36	17:27	7:03	17:12	7:21	17:23	7:13	17:51	6:46	18:15	7:06	19:38	6:31	20:00	6:11	20:21	6:14	20:30	6:32	20:17
2	6:14	20:30	6:33	20:16	6:54	19:42	7:13	19:01	6:37	17:26	7:04	17:12	7:21	17:24	7:12	17:52	6:45	18:16	7:05	19:39	6:30	20:01	6:11	20:22	6:14	20:30	6:33	20:16
3	6:15	20:30	6:34	20:15	6:54	19:40	7:14	19:00	6:38	17:25	7:04	17:12	7:21	17:25	7:12	17:53	6:44	18:17	7:04	19:40	6:29	20:01	6:11	20:22	6:15	20:30	6:33	20:15
4	6:15	20:30	6:34	20:14	6:55	19:39	7:14	18:59	6:39	17:24	7:05	17:12	7:21	17:25	7:11	17:54	6:43	18:18	7:02	19:40	6:28	20:02	6:10	20:23	6:15	20:30	6:34	20:14
5	6:16	20:30	6:35	20:13	6:56	19:38	7:15	18:57	6:39	17:24	7:06	17:12	7:21	17:26	7:10	17:54	6:41	18:18	7:01	19:41	6:27	20:03	6:10	20:23	6:16	20:30	6:35	20:13
6	6:16	20:30	6:36	20:12	6:56	19:36	7:16	18:56	6:40	17:23	7:07	17:12	7:21	17:27	7:09	17:55	6:40	18:19	7:00	19:42	6:27	20:04	6:10	20:24	6:16	20:30	6:35	20:12
7	6:17	20:30	6:36	20:11	6:57	19:35	7:17	18:55	6:41	17:22	7:07	17:12	7:21	17:28	7:09	17:56	6:39	18:20	6:59	19:42	6:26	20:04	6:10	20:24	6:17	20:30	6:36	20:11
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31	6:31	20:17	6:52	19:44			7:35	18:28			7:20	17:22	7:14	17:50			7:08	19:37			6:11	20:21			6:31	20:17	6:52	19:44

Eastern Standard Time. One hour added for daylight saving time. Daylight saving time ends at 2:00 AM Sunday, November 1, 2026 and begins at 2:00 AM Sunday, March 14, 2027.

Location: W079 55, N32 77 — Charleston, South Carolina — National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Global Monitoring Laboratory



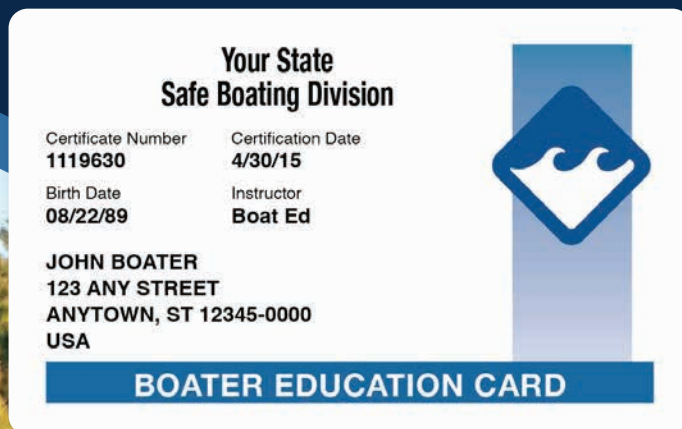
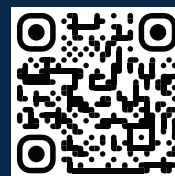
Knowing the exact times of sunrise and sunset is critical to setting hunting activities by the natural time clock. The map shows six time zones for our state. Sunrise and sunset for Zone B are shown in the ZONE B table. To determine the exact sunrise and sunset time for zones A, C, D, E, and F, add or subtract the minutes shown for each zone on the map to the time shown in the ZONE B table. EXAMPLE ONLY - November 1, Zone B sunrise = 6:37 a.m. For Zone A sunrise subtract four (-4) minutes = 6:33 a.m.



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