

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Board Meeting Agenda and Materials and Monthly Division Reports



DNR

**Board Meeting Scheduled
for**

Teleconference Meeting
October 6, 2021 10:00 AM

**Telephone: 1-800-753-1965
Access Code: 7340102**

AGENDA
SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

Teleconference Meeting
October 6, 2021 10:00 AM

Telephone: 1-800-753-1965
Access Code: 7340102

- I. Call to Order..... Norman Pulliam, Chairman, SC DNR Board
- II. Item(s) for Board Action
 - A. Proposed Changes to Regulation 123-40 Wildlife Management Area Regulations..... Billy Dukes
Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division
 - B. Motion on Recreational Red Snapper Season from Marine Advisory Committee Robert H. Boyles, Jr., Director, SC DNR
- III. Time and Location of Next Board Meeting
- IV. Adjournment

Changes to Chapter 123: Sections 123-40 - Executive Summary
SCDNR Board Meeting- October 6, 2021

(Highlighted text indicates new information from previously-approved regulations package)

123-40 Wildlife Management Area Regulations

- Allows Sunday hunting on US Forest Service lands in the WMA program beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving and continuing through the last day of January, subject to seasons and bag limits as specified for Game Zones (pending final approval from USFS).
- Allows Sunday hunting on certain DNR lands in the WMA program (Woodbury WMA, Liberty Hill WMA, Belfast WMA, Edisto River WMA, Webb WMA, Palachucola WMA, and Hamilton Ridge WMA) beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving and continuing through the last day of January, subject to seasons and bag limits as specified.
- Specifies that youth only dog deer hunts on the Francis Marion National Forest are “buck only.”
- Establishes the Indian Creek Quail Focal Area within the Enoree Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest, establishes hunt schedule for quail and woodcock on the area, and establishes reduced bag limit for quail on the area.
- Requires check-in of harvested deer and turkeys on Wateree River Heritage Preserve WMA and restricts public access during special hunts.
- Liberalizes and standardizes quail hunt dates on Draper, Marsh, Webb WMA, Palachucola, and Hamilton Ridge

General Regulations

- General Regulation 2.5 is modified to allow Sunday hunting on WMAs as specified by the Department.
- General Regulation 2.7 is modified to specify dates for allowable placement of deer stands on WMAs and to require labeling for identification of stand owners.

WATERFOWL & DOVE REGULATIONS

- Regulation 10.12 is modified to include the Francis Marion National Forest and Sumter National Forest as Category II Designated Waterfowl Areas and sets the hunt schedule for those areas as Wednesdays and Saturday mornings.

TEXT CONTAINING CHANGES ON FOLLOWING PAGES

Red Text = Any Change

~~Strikethrough~~ = Text to be deleted

Underline = Text to be inserted

Changes to Chapter 123: Sections 123-40

Document No. [DRAFT]

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAPTER 123

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 50-1-60, 50-1-200, 50-1-220, 50-9-650, 50-11-10, 50-11-105, 50-11-310, 50-11-315, 50-11-320, 50-11-365, 50-11-390, 50-11-410, 50-11-430, 50-11-500, 50-11-520, 50-11-525, 50-11-530, 50-11-580, 50-11-2200, and 50-11-2210

ARTICLE 3

WILDLIFE AND FRESH WATER FISHERIES DIVISION—HUNTING REGULATIONS

SUBARTICLE 1

HUNTING IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

123-40. Wildlife Management Area Regulations.

1.1 The regulations governing hunting including prescribed schedules and seasons, methods of hunting and taking wildlife, and bag limits for Wildlife Management Areas and special restrictions for use of WMA lands are as follows:

A. Game Zone 1

1. US Forest Service WMA lands (Sumter National Forest)

(a) Hunting on Sundays will be allowed for all species beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving and continuing through the last day of January subject to seasons and bag limits as specified below.

(b) Archery Hunts for Deer

(i) Oct. 17 – Oct. 30

(c) Primitive Weapons for Deer

(i) Oct. 1 through Oct. 10

(d) Still Gun Hunts for Deer

(i) Oct. 11 through Oct. 16; Oct. 31 – Jan. 1

(e) Still Gun Hunts for Bear

(i) Game Zone 1 seasons and bag limits apply

(f) Special Party Dog Hunt for Bear

(i) Game Zone 1 seasons and bag limits apply

(g) Small Game

(i) Game Zone 1 seasons and bag limits apply

(h) Hog Hunts with Dogs

(i) Jan. 2 – Jan. 10, Mar. 20 - Mar. 28

B. Game Zone 2

1. US Forest Service WMA lands (Sumter National Forest)

(a) Hunting on Sundays will be allowed for all species beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving and continuing through the last day of January subject to seasons and bag limits as specified below.

(b) Archery Hunts for Deer

(i) Sept. 15 – Sept. 30

(c) Primitive Weapons for Deer

(i) Oct. 1 through Oct. 10

(d) Still Gun Hunts for Deer

(i) Oct. 11 through Jan. 1

(e) Small Game

(i) Game Zone 2 seasons and bag limits apply except for quail and woodcock within the Indian Creek Quail Focal Area on the Enoree Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest

(f) Hog Hunts with Dogs

(i) Jan. 2 - 10, Mar. 20 – 28

6. Belfast WMA

(b) Hunting on Sundays will be allowed for all species beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving and continuing through the last day of January subject to seasons and bag limits as specified below.

10. Liberty Hill WMA

(a) Hunting on Sundays will be allowed for all species beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving and continuing through the last day of January subject to seasons and bag limits as specified below.

14. Indian Creek Quail Focal Area

(a) The area is defined as that area of the Sumter National Forest Enoree Ranger District in Newberry County, bounded on the south by Old Whitmire Highway, private lands, and SC Highway 176; on the east by Brazzelmans Bridge Road, and private lands; on the northeast by the Enoree River; on the north by Wallace Road and private lands; on the west by SC Highway 121 and private lands; and on the southeast by Indian Creek to its intersection with SC Highway 121.

(b) Small Game (except quail)

(i) Game Zone 2 seasons and bag limits apply

(c) Quail

(i) 1st Sat. following Thanksgiving, 1st, 3rd, and 4th Wed. in Dec., 3rd Sat. in Dec., 1st and 4th Sat. in Jan., 3rd Wed. in Jan., 2nd Wed. in Feb., 3rd Sat. in Feb.

(ii) Daily bag limit for quail is 6 per person per day

(d) Woodcock hunting is permitted only on designated quail hunting days within the statewide woodcock hunting season.

(e) All quail and woodcock hunters must sign in and out at the designated check station.

C. Game Zone 3

6. Francis Marion National Forest

(a) Hunting on Sundays will be allowed for all species beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving and continuing through the last day of January subject to seasons and bag limits as specified below.

(a) During deer hunts when dogs are used, buckshot only is permitted. On hunts with dogs, all deer must be checked in by one hour after legal sunset. Individual antlerless deer tags are not valid during dog hunts for deer unless otherwise specified. Tibwin Special Use Area (in Wambaw) is closed to hunting except for Special 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. No fox or coyote hunting with dogs on the Francis Marion.

Applies to Hellhole, Wambaw, and Santee Units of the Francis Marion National Forest

(iv) Youth Only Deer Hunt with Dogs

(2) Requirements and bag limits for youth are the same as the statewide youth deer hunt day except no antlerless deer may be taken.

Applies to Belfast, Liberty Hill, Edisto River, Webb, Palachucola, Hamilton Ridge, and Woodbury WMAs

(b) Hunting on Sundays will be allowed for all species beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving and continuing through the last day of January subject to seasons and bag limits as specified below.

26. Wateree River Heritage Preserve WMA

(a) Data cards are required for hunter and fisherman access. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving WMA. All harvested deer and turkeys must be checked in at the Wateree River check station. Hunters may not enter the WMA prior to 5:00 AM on designated hunts. Hunted areas are closed to general public access during scheduled deer, turkey and waterfowl hunts. Designated as a Quality Deer Management Area.

Applies to Draper, Marsh, Webb, Palachucola, and Hamilton Ridge WMAs

(e) Quail Hunts

(i) 1st and 2nd Sat. in Dec., 3rd and 4th Wed. in Dec., 1st and 2nd Wed. and Sat. in Jan., 1st Sat. following Thanksgiving, 1st, 3rd, and 4th Wed. in Dec., 3rd Sat. in Dec., 1st and 4th Sat. in Jan., 3rd Wed. in Jan., 2nd Wed. in Feb., 3rd Sat. in Feb.

General Regulations

- 2.5 No Sunday hunting is permitted on any WMA lands unless otherwise specified. No turkey hunting is allowed on WMA lands on Sunday.
- 2.7 On WMA lands, construction or use of tree stands is prohibited if the tree stand is constructed by driving nails or other devices into trees or if wire is wrapped around trees. Other tree stands 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 calendar year. All deer stands and temporary climbing devices must be labeled with the DNR 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. All stands and temporary climbing devices must be removed by the end of the deer hunting season.

WATERFOWL & DOVE REGULATIONS

- 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, 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 Complex (including Ervin Dargan, Horace Tilghman), Great Pee Dee River, Potato Creek Hatchery, Sampson Island Unit (Bear Island), Tyger River, Marsh, Wee Tee, Woodbury, Ditch Pond, Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve, Francis Marion National Forest, Sumter National Forest, Santee Cooper, portions of Donnelley, and 40 Acre Rock Waterfowl Management Areas. Hunting on Category II Designated Waterfowl Areas is in accordance with scheduled dates and times.

42. Francis Marion National Forest

(a) Wednesday and Saturday mornings only during regular season.

(b) State bag limits

43. Sumter National Forest

(a) Wednesday and Saturday mornings only during regular season.

(b) State bag limits

Motion on Recreational Red Snapper Season from Marine Advisory Committee

I move that the Marine Advisory Committee recommend to the DNR Board that the Department, through the DNR-designated representative to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, strongly encourage the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeastern Regional Office Administrator to utilize existing authority to expedite the analysis of the July 2021 recreational fishing season landings for red snapper and to take necessary action to make available to recreational fishermen any red snapper catch still allowable this year through the established fishery management plan and Code of Federal Regulations.