

Fall 2023- Spring 2024 Private Lands Alligator Hunt Permit Conditions

- The harvest of alligators 4 feet or greater in total length during the Private Lands Alligator Season is allowed on the property named on this permit. Alligators less than 4 feet taken incidentally must be tagged, but cannot be disposed of commercially.
- Anyone taking alligators on the property listed on this permit must have a copy of the harvest permit and at least one unused SC Private Lands alligator harvest tag with the corresponding number(s) listed on the permit at all times while hunting alligators.
- All persons who participate must be a licensed hunter, or under the age of 16.
- All nonresident hunters or assistants 16 years of age or older must pay a Nonresident Alligator Hunting Fee of \$200 before going afield. This fee can be paid at any normal licensing vendor, online at www.dnr.sc.gov or by calling 1-866-714-3611.
- The Private Lands Alligator season is September 1 through the following May 31.
- The use of *Private Lands Alligator Permits on broken rice fields and other lands adjacent to public waters*:
 - Flooded lands which are subject to *navigable servitude* are public waters regardless of ownership. Only public alligator hunting is allowed on public waters.
 - Taking alligators under the private lands program from remnant rice field dikes or other high ground which is bordered by navigable water on two or more sides is restricted to snares set completely out of the water and where the captured animal cannot retreat into the navigable water body. Alligators must not be taken by shooting unless restrained. Capture and recovery of alligators taken under the authority of the Private Lands Alligator Program must not occur in the navigable waters.
- Once an alligator is killed and before it is transported, a Department-supplied harvest tag must be attached and locked within six (6) inches of the tip of the tail. In the event that the harvest tag is defective and is not usable for the purpose intended, or becomes detached from the alligator hide, the Department must be notified immediately. The Department will be responsible for the replacement of defective, but not lost tags. The alteration of harvest tags is strictly prohibited.
- Before shipping or transporting outside of the USA, carcasses or hides must have CITES tags attached. Anyone desiring to ship or transport such items from the country must contact select Department offices for CITES validation and tagging.
- Any alligator carcass, hide, or part that is not properly tagged or marked as required is declared contraband and must be confiscated.
- Alligators may only be taken using the following equipment during the day or night:
 - Snares (hand-held or set)
 - Archery equipment (includes crossbows)
 - Hand-held harpoons or gigs
 - Snatch hooks
- Such devices may only be used when a line is securely attached to the hook, head, or end of the device in such a manner to prevent separation from the hook, arrow, or head until the carcass is retrieved. The other end of the attached line must be held by the hunter or attached to a stationary or floating object capable of maintaining the end of the line above water when an alligator is attached.
- Free swimming or basking alligators may also be taken with a centerfire rifle from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset (daylight hours). Rimfire firearms and shotguns cannot be used to take free-swimming or basking alligators.
- A person using a firearm to take an alligator not secured with a line or snare must have a gaff or grappling hook or other similar device in possession to immediately locate and recover the carcass. A person who takes an alligator by use of firearms must make a reasonable effort to recover the carcass at the time of taking or for the next ensuing forty-eight hours.
- Lights or spotlights may be used while hunting alligators
- No alligators may be taken by the use of baited hooks or pegs, or by pole hunting. Pole hunting is defined as the act of taking an alligator from a den with a hook or snagging device of any type secured to the end of a pole and includes any devices to induce an alligator to move from a den prior to taking.
- All alligators taken under this program must be killed prior to transport away from the property named on this permit.
- Any alligator that has been captured may not be placed back on the property in order to allow another hunter the opportunity to harvest the alligator.
- A Department-supplied harvest report must be updated by the person taking alligators within twenty-four (24) hours of taking each alligator and prior to transporting the alligator(s) to a processing facility. A copy of the harvest report must accompany the alligator hide and/or carcass at all times.
- Completed harvest forms must be returned to the Department by July 1 of each year following the close of the season regardless of whether or not an alligator was taken by the permittee.
- If a harvest report form is not submitted, the property will not be allowed to participate in the program during the next season.
- The sale or barter of alligator meat under this program is allowed provided the meat was processed in a facility inspected and approved by the SC Department of Agriculture to prepare and package alligator meat for sale. Alligator meat packages must be labeled "SC Alligator" with the quantity in pounds, date of packaging, State Food Inspection number, name of the harvester, and the corresponding harvest tag number.
- Alligator skulls not discarded must be permanently marked "SC Alligator" with the corresponding harvest tag number under which it was taken. Possession of any skull without the harvest tag number is prohibited.
- Alligator parts and hides may be sold provided these parts are appropriately labeled or tagged as required.
- No person shall accept or possess an untagged alligator hide, unmarked alligator skull, or mislabeled or unlabeled alligator meat.
- Alligator hides and parts transported into this state for sale or processing must bear evidence of having been legally taken.
- All alligators taken under the authority of this permit must be disposed of properly by burial, composting, incineration, or disposal at a solid waste landfill that will accept alligator carcasses. Disposal of alligator carcasses into waters of the State, ephemeral and intermittent streams, ditches and swales is prohibited. Disposal on any property without the landowners permission is prohibited.