Agency Name: Department of Natural Resources

Statutory Authority: 50‑1‑200, 50‑1‑210, 50‑11‑310, 50‑11‑350, 50‑11‑390, 50‑11‑500, 50‑11‑530, 50‑11‑2200, and 50‑11‑2210

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Proposed in State Register Volume and Issue: 47/11

House Committee: Regulations and Administrative Procedures Committee

Senate Committee: Fish, Game and Forestry Committee

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Status: Pending

Subject: Individual Antlerless Deer Tags, Antlerless Deer Limits for Private Lands in Game Zones 1‑4, and Youth Deer Hunting Day

History: 5260

By Date Action Description Jt. Res. No. Expiration Date

‑ 11/24/2023 Proposed Reg Published in SR

- 01/09/2024 Received President of the Senate & Speaker 05/08/2024

H 01/09/2024 Referred to Committee

S 01/09/2024 Referred to Committee

S 03/27/2024 Resolution Introduced to Approve 1215

Document No. 5260

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

CHAPTER 123

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 50‑1‑200, 50‑1‑210, 50‑11‑310, 50‑11‑350, 50‑11‑390, 50‑11‑500, 50‑11‑530, 50‑11‑2200, and 50‑11‑2210

123‑52. Individual Antlerless Deer Tags, Antlerless Deer Limits for Private Lands in Game Zones 1‑4, and Youth Deer Hunting Day.

**Synopsis:**

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is proposing to amend the existing regulations antlerless deer limits for private lands in Game Zone 2. The following is a section‑by‑section summary of the proposed changes and additions:

The Notice of Drafting was published in Volume 47, Issue No. 10 of the *State Register* on October 27, 2023.

**Instructions:**

Print the regulation as shown below. All other items remain unchanged.

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

**Text:**

123‑52. Individual Antlerless Deer Tags, Antlerless Deer Limits for Private Lands in Game Zones 1‑4, and Youth Deer Hunting Day.

1. Individual Antlerless Deer Tags are valid in Game Zones 2 ‑ 4 beginning September 15 and in Game Zone 1 beginning October 1. Individual Antlerless Deer Tags are not valid on properties enrolled in the Deer Quota Program. Individual Antlerless Deer Tags do not alter the daily (2 per day) or seasonal limit or change the type of weapons that can be used during special weapons seasons. The 2 free bonus Individual Antlerless Deer Tags that are issued to hunters who purchase 4 individual Antlerless Deer Tags are valid only on private land in Game Zones 2, 3 and 4.

2. Antlerless Deer Limits: Game Zone 1 ‑ Three (3) total for all seasons and weapons combined, no more than 2 per day. ~~Game Zone 2 ‑ Five (5) total for all seasons and weapons combined, no more than 2 per day.~~ Game Zones 2, 3 ~~‑~~ and 4, eight (8) for all seasons and weapons combined, no more than 2 per day. Game Zone season and daily limits do not apply on properties enrolled in the Deer Quota Program.

3. On special mobility impaired and youth deer hunts sanctioned by the Department and during the statewide youth deer hunt day prescribed by the Department, participants may take 2 deer total, either sex. The Statewide Youth Deer Hunt Day on private land and designated Wildlife Management Areas shall be the Saturday immediately following January 1.

4. All antlerless deer must be tagged as prescribed by the Department immediately after harvest and before being moved from the point of kill and the tag must be validated as prescribed by the Department. A valid tag must remain attached until the deer or carcass is quartered or received by a processor.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

The amendment of Regulation 123‑52 will result in increased public hunting opportunities which should generate additional State revenue through license sales. In addition, local economies should benefit from sales of hunting supplies, food and overnight accommodations. Sales taxes on these items will also directly benefit government.

**Statement of Rationale:**

Rationale for the formulation of these regulations is based on over 70 years of experience by SCDNR in managing wildlife populations. Management objectives for specific properties are continually evaluated for needed changes. Best available science regarding population status is used to make decisions in order to balance population management objectives with social expectations and hunting opportunity.