**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50‑5‑1705 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO CATCH LIMITS IMPOSED ON THE TAKING OF CERTAIN FISH, TO IMPOSE CATCH LIMITS FOR TAKING OR POSSESSING IN ANY ONE DAY A COMBINATION OF SPOT, WHITING, AND ATLANTIC CROAKER.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 50‑5‑1705 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑5‑1705. (A) As used in this article, a day means sunrise on one day to sunrise on the following day.

(B) The limits established in this article apply to all state waters.

(C) It is unlawful for a person to take or have in possession more than ten spotted seatrout in any one day.

(D) It is unlawful for a person to take or have in possession more than three red drum in any one day.

(E) It is unlawful for a person to take or possess more than one tarpon in any one day or a tarpon of less than seventy‑seven inches in fork length.

(F) It is unlawful for a person to take or have in possession more than five black drum (Pogonias cromis) in any one day.

(G) It is unlawful for a person to take or possess more than fifteen flounder (Paralichthys species) taken by means of gig, spear, hook and line, or similar device in any one day, not to exceed thirty flounder in any one day on any boat.

(H) It is unlawful for a person to take or have in possession more than one weakfish (Cynoscion regalis) in any one day.

(I) It is unlawful for a person to take or possess more than ten sheepshead (Archosargus probatocephalus) in any one day, not to exceed thirty sheepshead in any one day on any boat.

(J) It is unlawful for a person to take or possess in any one day more than forty‑five of a combination of the following: spot (Leiostomus xanthurus), whiting (Menticirrhus spp.), and Atlantic croaker (Micropogonias undulatus).

~~(J)~~(K) It is unlawful to take or possess hardhead catfish (Ariopsis felis) or gafftopsail catfish (Bagre marinus).

~~(K)~~(L) It is unlawful to gig for spotted seatrout or red drum from December first through the last day of February, inclusive.

~~(L)~~(M) The possession limits do not apply to the possession or sale of properly identified fish imported by seafood dealers or produced by permitted mariculture operations, or to possession as allowed under permit authorized by this chapter.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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