**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50‑5‑2730, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE STATE’S ADOPTION OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS THAT REGULATE THE TAKING OF FISH IN STATE WATERS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT LAWS AND REGULATIONS DO NOT APPLY TO BLACK SEA BASS (CENTROPRIATES STRIATA), TO PROVIDE A LAWFUL CATCH LIMIT AND SIZE FOR THIS SPECIES OF FISH, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THERE IS NO CLOSED SEASON ON THE CATCHING OF BLACK SEA BASS (CENTROPRIATES STRIATA).

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

SECTION 1. Section 50‑5‑2730 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑5‑2730. (A) Unless otherwise provided by law, any regulations promulgated by the federal government under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (PL 94‑265) or the Atlantic Tuna Conservation Act (PL 94‑70) which establishes seasons, fishing periods, gear restrictions, sales restrictions, or bag, catch, size, or possession limits on fish are declared to be the law of this State and apply statewide including in state waters.

(B) This provision does not apply to Black Sea Bass (Centropriates striata) whose lawful catch limit is five per day with a lawful minimum size of thirteen inches. Additionally, there is no closed season on the catching of Black Sea Bass (Centropriates striata).”

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

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