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Indicates New Matter

INTRODUCED

April 2, 2009

**S. 445**

Introduced by Senators Cleary and McGill

S. Printed 4/2/09--H.

Read the first time April 2, 2009.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 13, TITLE 50 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF FISH, BY ADDING SECTION 50-13-2017 TO ESTABLISH THE FLOUNDER POPULATION STUDY PROGRAM IN GEORGETOWN COUNTY, IN THE WATERS OF MURRELLS INLET ESTUARY, PAWLEYS ISLAND ESTUARY, AND THE CREEKS OF LITCHFIELD FLOWING INTO PAWLEYS ISLAND ESTUARY, TO SET FLOUNDER CATCH LIMITS AND PROHIBIT THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL ILLUMINATION POWERED BY GENERATORS, TO SET PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION, AND TO ESTABLISH THE DURATION OF THE PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 5, Title 50 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 50‑5‑17. (A) There is established the Flounder Pilot Program to be administered by the Department of Natural Resources. The program shall institute statewide catch limits for flounder (Paralichthys species) and prohibit artificial illumination powered by generators used to harvest flounder in all inshore estuarine waters from Pawleys Inlet, north to the northern terminus of Main Creek at Garden City Beach.

(B) During the term of the program it is unlawful to use any type of artificial illumination powered by a generator while gigging or fishing for flounder from a boat or while wading in the water that comprises the inshore estuarine waters from Pawleys Inlet, north to the northern terminus of Main Creek at Garden City Beach.

(C) The program shall begin July 1, 2009, and end June 30, 2014.”

SECTION 2. Section 50-5-1705(F) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(F) It is unlawful for a person to take or possess more than ~~twenty~~ ten flounder (Paralichthys species) taken by means of gig, spear, hook and line, or similar device in any one day, not to exceed ~~forty~~ twenty flounder in any one day on any boat.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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