**South Carolina General Assembly**

121st Session, 2015-2016

**A166, R172, H4709**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Hixon, Hodges, Corley, Burns, Hiott, V.S. Moss, Kirby and Newton

Document Path: l:\council\bills\gt\5042cm16.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 984

Introduced in the House on January 20, 2016

Introduced in the Senate on February 4, 2016

Passed by the General Assembly on April 20, 2016

Governor's Action: April 29, 2016, Signed

Summary: SC Marine Resource Act of 2000

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

1/20/2016 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 5](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\01-20-16.docx))

1/20/2016 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 5](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\01-20-16.docx))

1/28/2016 House Committee report: Favorable **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 3](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\01-28-16.docx))

1/28/2016 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Newton

2/3/2016 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\02-03-16.docx))

2/3/2016 House Roll call Yeas‑101 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\02-03-16.docx))

2/4/2016 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\HJ%20Archive\2016\02-04-16.docx))

2/4/2016 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\02-04-16.docx))

2/4/2016 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\02-04-16.docx))

4/13/2016 Senate Recalled from Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 2](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\04-13-16.docx))

4/19/2016 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 25](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\04-19-16.docx))

4/19/2016 Senate Roll call Ayes‑39 Nays‑1 ([Senate Journal‑page 25](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\04-19-16.docx))

4/19/2016 Senate Unanimous consent for third reading on next legislative day ([Senate Journal‑page 25](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\04-19-16.docx))

4/20/2016 Senate Read third time and enrolled ([Senate Journal‑page 10](file:///h:\SJ%20Archive\2016\04-20-16.docx))

4/26/2016 Ratified R 172

4/29/2016 Signed By Governor

5/4/2016 Effective date 04/29/16

5/6/2016 Act No. 166

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=4709&session=121&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[1/20/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\4709_20160120.docx)

[1/28/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\4709_20160128.docx)

[4/13/2016](file:///p:\pprever\2015-16\4709_20160413.docx)

(A166, R172, H4709)

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 50‑5‑15, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS CONTAINED IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA MARINE RESOURCES ACT OF 2000, SO AS TO PROVIDE A DEFINITION FOR THE TERM “SOUTHERN COBIA MANAGEMENT ZONE”; AND TO AMEND SECTION 50‑5‑2730, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO CERTAIN FEDERAL FISHING REGULATIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THESE REGULATIONS DO NOT APPLY TO COBIA LOCATED IN THE SOUTHERN COBIA MANAGEMENT ZONE.**

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

**Southern Cobia Management Zone defined**

SECTION 1. Section 50‑5‑15 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 72 of 2013, is further amended by adding the following appropriately numbered item at the end:

“( ) ‘Southern Cobia Management Zone’ means all waters of this State south of 032° 31.0´ N latitude, the approximate latitude of Jeremy Inlet, Edisto Island.”

**Federal fishing regulations**

SECTION 2. Section 50‑5‑2730 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 83 of 2013, is further 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:

(1) black sea bass (Centropristis striata) whose lawful catch limit is five fish per person per day or the same as the federal limit for black sea bass, whichever is higher. The lawful minimum size is thirteen inches total length. Additionally, there is no closed season on the catching of black sea bass (Centropristis striata); or

(2) cobia (Rachycentron canadum) located in the Southern Cobia Management Zone. Subject to the size limit established by federal regulation, possession of cobia caught in the Southern Cobia Management Zone is limited to one per person per day, and no more than three per boat per day, from June 1 to April 30. It is unlawful to take and possess cobia in the Southern Cobia Management Zone from May 1 to May 31, and at any time federal regulations provide for the closure of the recreational cobia season in the waters of the South Atlantic Ocean.”

**Time Effective**

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

Ratified the 26th day of April, 2016.

Approved the 29th day of April, 2016.

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