**South Carolina General Assembly**

124th Session, 2021-2022

**A40, R53, S36**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Grooms

Document Path: l:\s-res\lkg\007blue.kmm.lkg.docx

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3818

Introduced in the Senate on January 12, 2021

Introduced in the House on March 2, 2021

Last Amended on May 4, 2021

Passed by the General Assembly on May 6, 2021

Governor's Action: May 17, 2021, Signed

Summary: Blue catfish

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/9/2020 Senate Prefiled

12/9/2020 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry**

1/12/2021 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 107](file:///h:\sj\20210112.docx))

1/12/2021 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 107](file:///h:\sj\20210112.docx))

2/18/2021 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\sj\20210218.docx))

2/24/2021 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 20](file:///h:\sj\20210224.docx))

2/24/2021 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 20](file:///h:\sj\20210224.docx))

2/24/2021 Senate Roll call Ayes‑42 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 20](file:///h:\sj\20210224.docx))

2/25/2021 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 14](file:///h:\sj\20210225.docx))

3/2/2021 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\hj\20210302.docx))

3/2/2021 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 12](file:///h:\hj\20210302.docx))

4/29/2021 House Recalled from Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 71](file:///h:\hj\20210429.docx))

5/4/2021 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\hj\20210504.docx))

5/4/2021 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\hj\20210504.docx))

5/4/2021 House Roll call Yeas‑118 Nays‑0 ([House Journal‑page 19](file:///h:\hj\20210504.docx))

5/5/2021 House Read third time and returned to Senate with amendments ([House Journal‑page 8](file:///h:\hj\20210505.docx))

5/6/2021 Senate Concurred in House amendment and enrolled ([Senate Journal‑page 59](file:///h:\sj\20210506.docx))

5/6/2021 Senate Roll call Ayes‑45 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 59](file:///h:\sj\20210506.docx))

5/13/2021 Ratified R 53

5/17/2021 Signed By Governor

6/1/2021 Effective date 06/16/21

6/1/2021 Act No.  40

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/9/2020](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\36_20201209.docx)

[2/18/2021](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\36_20210218.docx)

[2/24/2021](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\36_20210224.docx)

[4/29/2021](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\36_20210429.docx)

[5/4/2021](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\36_20210504.docx)

(A40, R53, S36)

**AN ACT** **TO AMEND SECTION 50‑13‑640, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE POSSESSION OF BLUE CATFISH, SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION OF MORE THAN TWO BLUE CATFISH GREATER THAN THIRTY‑TWO INCHES IN LENGTH IN CERTAIN WATERS OF THIS STATE AND TO PROVIDE A DAILY LIMIT FOR CERTAIN WATERS OF THIS STATE; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑9‑1120, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE POINT SYSTEM FOR FISHING VIOLATIONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A VIOLATION OF THE BLUE CATFISH CATCH LIMIT IS FOURTEEN POINTS; AND TO REQUIRE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE BLUE CATFISH FISHERY IN THE SANTEE AND COOPER RIVER SYSTEMS.**

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

**Blue catfish**

SECTION 1. Section 50‑13‑640 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑13‑640. (A) It is unlawful to possess more than two blue catfish (Ictalurus furcatus) greater than thirty‑two inches in length in any one day in Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, or the upper reach of the Santee River, the Congaree and Wateree rivers, and all other state waterways.

(B) It is unlawful to take more than twenty‑five blue catfish (Ictalurus furcatus) a day in Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, the upper reach of the Santee River, and all other state waterways.

(C) A person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than three hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.”

**Fishing violations**

SECTION 2. Section 50‑9‑1120(3) of the 1976 Code is amended by adding an appropriately lettered subitem to read:

“( ) taking or possessing more than the legal creel or size limit of blue catfish: 14.”

**Blue catfish fishery study**

SECTION 3. The Department of Natural Resources shall conduct a study of the blue catfish fishery in the Santee and Cooper river systems and make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the fishery on or before January 1, 2025.

**Time effective**

SECTION 4. This act takes effect thirty days after approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 13th day of May, 2021.

Approved the 17th day of May, 2021.

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