**South Carolina General Assembly**

124th Session, 2021-2022

**A91, R111, H3957**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Hewitt, Kirby, Bailey and G.M. Smith

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Introduced in the House on February 23, 2021

Introduced in the Senate on March 17, 2021

Last Amended on June 8, 2021

Passed by the General Assembly on June 8, 2021

Governor's Action: June 15, 2021, Signed

Summary: Flounder- catch size and limits

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

2/23/2021 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 40](file:///h:\hj\20210223.docx))

2/23/2021 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 40](file:///h:\hj\20210223.docx))

3/11/2021 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 3](file:///h:\hj\20210311.docx))

3/16/2021 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 18](file:///h:\hj\20210316.docx))

3/16/2021 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 20](file:///h:\hj\20210316.docx))

3/16/2021 House Roll call Yeas‑106 Nays‑3 ([House Journal‑page 21](file:///h:\hj\20210316.docx))

3/17/2021 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 22](file:///h:\hj\20210317.docx))

3/17/2021 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 8](file:///h:\sj\20210317.docx))

3/17/2021 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 8](file:///h:\sj\20210317.docx))

4/22/2021 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 9](file:///h:\sj\20210422.docx))

5/4/2021 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 22](file:///h:\sj\20210504.docx))

5/4/2021 Senate Roll call Ayes‑43 Nays‑1 ([Senate Journal‑page 22](file:///h:\sj\20210504.docx))

5/6/2021 Senate Read third time and returned to House with amendments ([Senate Journal‑page 19](file:///h:\sj\20210506.docx))

5/12/2021 House Senate amendment amended ([House Journal‑page 29](file:///h:\hj\20210512.docx))

5/12/2021 House Returned to Senate with amendments ([House Journal‑page 29](file:///h:\hj\20210512.docx))

5/12/2021 House Roll call Yeas‑109 Nays‑4 ([House Journal‑page 30](file:///h:\hj\20210512.docx))

5/13/2021 Senate Non‑concurrence in House amendment ([Senate Journal‑page 27](file:///h:\sj\20210513.docx))

5/13/2021 House House insists upon amendment and conference committee appointed Reps.  Lowe, Hewitt, Pendarvis ([House Journal‑page 47](file:///h:\hj\20210513.docx))

5/13/2021 Senate Conference committee appointed Campsen, Goldfinch, McElveen ([Senate Journal‑page 28](file:///h:\sj\20210513.docx))

6/8/2021 Senate Free conference powers granted ([Senate Journal‑page 46](file:///h:\sj\20210608.docx))

6/8/2021 Senate Free conference committee appointed Campsen, Goldfinch, McElveen ([Senate Journal‑page 46](file:///h:\sj\20210608.docx))

6/8/2021 Senate Free conference report received and adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 46](file:///h:\sj\20210608.docx))

6/8/2021 Senate Roll call Ayes‑42 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 46](file:///h:\sj\20210608.docx))

6/8/2021 House Free conference powers granted ([House Journal‑page 71](file:///h:\hj\20210608.docx))

6/8/2021 House Roll call Yeas‑111 Nays‑1 ([House Journal‑page 72](file:///h:\hj\20210608.docx))

6/8/2021 House Free conference committee appointed Lowe, Hewitt, Pendarvis ([House Journal‑page 73](file:///h:\hj\20210608.docx))

6/8/2021 House Free conference report adopted ([House Journal‑page 73](file:///h:\hj\20210608.docx))

6/9/2021 Ratified R 111

6/15/2021 Signed By Governor

6/22/2021 Effective date 07/01/21

6/22/2021 Act No.  91

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

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[6/8/2021](file:///p:\pprever\2021-22\3957_20210608.docx)

(A91, R111, H3957)

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 50‑5‑1705 AND 50‑5‑1710, BOTH AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO CATCH AND SIZE LIMITS FOR THE TAKING, POSSESSING, LANDING, SELLING, OR PURCHASING OF CERTAIN FISH FROM THE STATE’S WATERS, SO AS TO DECREASE THE CATCH LIMIT AND INCREASE THE SIZE LIMIT FOR FLOUNDER; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑9‑540, RELATING TO RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING LICENSES AND CHARTER FISHING VESSELS, SO AS TO INCREASE CERTAIN FEES AND TO CREATE AND ELIMINATE CERTAIN LICENSES; TO AMEND SECTION 50‑9‑920, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO REVENUES GENERATED BY CERTAIN LICENSES, SO AS TO REQUIRE THAT A PORTION BE USED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A FLOUNDER STOCKING PROGRAM; AND TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROVIDE A REPORT ON SOUTH CAROLINA’S STOCK OF FLOUNDER.**

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

**Flounder catch limit**

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

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

**Flounder size limit**

SECTION 2. Section 50‑5‑1710(B)(2) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(2) flounder (Paralichthys) of less than sixteen inches total length;”

**Recreational saltwater fishing license and charter vessel license**

SECTION 3. Section 50‑9‑540(A) and (D) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) For the privilege of recreational statewide fishing in saltwater:

(1) a resident must purchase:

(a) a fourteen‑day temporary saltwater fishing license for ten dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(b) an annual saltwater fishing license for fifteen dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(c) a three‑year saltwater fishing license for forty‑five dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(d) a lifetime statewide saltwater fishing license for three hundred dollars at designated licensing locations; or

(e) any other license which grants saltwater fishing privileges;

(2) a nonresident must purchase:

(a) a one‑day temporary saltwater fishing license for ten dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(b) a seven‑day temporary saltwater fishing license for thirty‑five dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(c) an annual saltwater fishing license for seventy‑five dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain; or

(d) any other license which grants saltwater fishing privileges.

(D) For the privilege of operating a charter fishing vessel in the salt waters of this State, the owner or operator must purchase an annual charter vessel license for each vessel. For a vessel:

(1) to carry six or fewer passengers, the fee is two hundred seventy‑five dollars for residents and five hundred fifty dollars for nonresidents;

(2) to carry seven but no more than forty‑nine passengers, the fee is four hundred fifty dollars for residents and nine hundred dollars for nonresidents;

(3) to carry fifty or more passengers, the fee is six hundred fifty dollars for residents and one thousand three hundred dollars for nonresidents.”

**Flounder stocking program funding**

SECTION 4. Section 50‑9‑920(C) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 263 of 2018, is further amended to read:

“(C) Revenue generated from the sale of recreational and commercial marine licenses, permits, and tags shall be deposited to the Marine Resources Fund. Revenue generated from the sale of recreational licenses, permits, and tags must be distributed in accordance with the provisions of Sections 50‑9‑960 and 50‑9‑965, provided that a minimum of five dollars from the sale of each recreational saltwater fishing license must be used for the development and implementation of a flounder stocking program.”

**Repeal**

SECTION 5. SECTION 1 of this act is repealed on June 30, 2024, and the text amended by that SECTION shall revert back to the language contained in the South Carolina Code of Laws as of January 1, 2020.

**Flounder report**

SECTION 6. The Department of Natural Resources shall furnish a written report to the General Assembly on South Carolina’s stock of flounder by December 31, 2023. The report must provide future projections.

**Time effective**

SECTION 7. This act takes effect on July 1, 2021.

Ratified the 9th day of June, 2021.

Approved the 15th day of June, 2021.

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