~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

AMENDED

March 16, 2021

**H. 3957**

Introduced by Reps. Hewitt, Kirby, Bailey and G.M. Smith

S. Printed 3/16/21--H.

Read the first time February 23, 2021.

**A** **BILL**

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.

Amend Title To Conform

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

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 ~~ten~~ five flounder (Paralichthys species) taken by means of gig, spear, hook and line, or similar device in any one day, not to exceed ~~twenty~~ ten flounder in any one day on any boat.”

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

“(2) flounder (Paralichthys) of less than ~~fifteen~~ sixteen inches total length, or more than twenty inches in total length, provided that one flounder (Paralichthys) taken or possessed may be greater than twenty inches, not to exceed two per boat;”

SECTION 3. The amendments contained in SECTIONS 1 and 2 of this act are repealed on June 30, 2025 and the text amended by these SECTIONS therefore shall revert back to the language as contained in the South Carolina Code of Laws as of January 1, 2020.

SECTION 4. The Department of Natural Resources shall furnish a written report to the General Assembly on South Carolina’s stock of flounder by January 30, 2025. The report must provide future projections.

SECTION 5. This act takes effect on July 1, 2021.

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