~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

March 31, 2022

**S. 980**

Introduced by Senators Goldfinch and Campsen

S. Printed 3/31/22--H.

Read the first time February 24, 2022.

**THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NATURAL**

**RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

To whom was referred a Bill (S. 980) to amend Section 50-5-1705 of the 1976 Code, relating to catch limits for estuarine and saltwater finfish, to prohibit a person to take or have in possession, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

DAVID R. HIOTT for Committee.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50-5-1705 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO CATCH LIMITS FOR ESTUARINE AND SALTWATER FINFISH, TO PROHIBIT A PERSON TO TAKE OR HAVE IN POSSESSION MORE THAN TWO RED SNAPPER IN ANY ONE DAY; AND TO AMEND SECTION 50-5-1710(B) OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO SIZE LIMITS FOR ESTUARINE AND SALTWATER FINFISH, TO PROHIBIT TAKING, POSSESSING, LANDING, SELLING, PURCHASING, OR ATTEMPTING TO SELL OR PURCHASE RED SNAPPER OF LESS THAN TWENTY INCHES IN TOTAL LENGTH.

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

SECTION 1. Section 50‑5‑2730 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(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 for black sea bass is thirteen inches total length~~. Additionally,~~ and there is no closed season ~~on the catching of black sea bass (Centropristis striata).~~; or

(2) red snapper (Lutjanus campechanus) whose lawful catch limit is two fish per person per day. The lawful minimum size for red snapper is twenty inches total length and there is no closed season.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect on July 1, 2022.

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