



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
(803)734-3780 • RFA.SC.GOV/IMPACTS

This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number: H. 4387 Introduced on April 26, 2023
Author: Forrest
Subject: Hybrid Striped Bass
Requestor: House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs
RFA Analyst(s): Daigle
Impact Date: January 19, 2024

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill amends the restrictions and limits on striped bass fishing in Section 50-13-230 to include hybrid bass.

The bill will have no expenditure impact on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) because enforcement activities are already in place for striped bass limits across the state and including hybrid bass can be accomplished with existing staff and resources.

Under Section 50-13-30, unless otherwise provided, a person convicted of a violation of Chapter 13 of Title 50 is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, must be fined \$25 to \$500 or imprisoned up to thirty days, or both. This bill may affect local expenditures due to a potential increase in the number of court cases and a potential increase in the local jail populations for violations of the new hybrid bass limits. For reference, there were 52 summons and 10 warnings for striped bass limit violations in 2023. We anticipate that any increase in caseloads will be managed with existing resources. The potential expenditure impact to local jails is undetermined and will depend on the number of violations and sentencing.

This bill may increase General Fund, Other Funds, and local revenues from court fines and fees due to violations of the new hybrid bass limits. However, as the hybrid bass limits are new, the number of fines that will be assessed is unknown, the amount that may be generated is undetermined.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on April 26, 2023

State Expenditure

This bill amends the current restrictions and limits on striped bass fishing in Section 50-13-230 to include hybrid bass. DNR indicates that this bill will not increase the agency's expenses because enforcement activities are already in place for striped bass limits across the state and including hybrid bass can be accomplished with existing staff and resources.

State Revenue

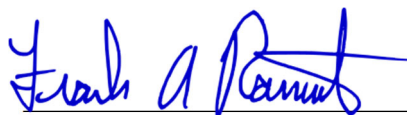
This bill may result in an increase in the fines and fees collected in court. Under Section 50-13-30, unless otherwise provided, a person convicted of a violation of Chapter 13 of Title 50 is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, must be fined \$25 to \$500 or imprisoned up to thirty days, or both. Court fines are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. In 2023, there were 52 summons and 10 warnings for striped bass limit violations. However, as the hybrid bass limits are new, the number of fines that will be assessed is unknown, and the amount that may be generated is undetermined.

Local Expenditure

This bill may result in an increase in local expenditures due to a potential increase in the number of court cases and a potential increase in the local jail populations for violations of the new hybrid bass limits. We anticipate that any increase in caseloads will be managed with existing resources. However, as the number of such offenses that might occur in a given year for hybrid bass is unknown, the potential increase in the local jail population and local expenditure is undetermined.

Local Revenue

This bill may result in an increase in the local revenue from fines and fees collected in court for violations of the new hybrid bass fishing restrictions. The amount of increase is undetermined and will depend on the number of violations.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director