



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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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:	S. 0337	Amended by the Senate on March 11, 2025
Subject:	Blue Catfish	
Requestor:	House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs	
RFA Analyst(s):	Daigle	
Impact Date:	February 19, 2026	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill expands the blue catfish limits in the state, except for those currently applicable for Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, and the upper reach of the Santee River. This bill increases the blue catfish limit from 25 to 150 a day in all state waterways except for Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, and the upper reach of the Santee River. This bill also makes it legal to possess more than 2 blue catfish greater than thirty-two inches in length in any one day in the waterways of the state, except for in Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, and the upper reach of the Santee River.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) indicates any changes in workload due to this bill can be managed with existing resources.

This bill may result in a change in the number of court cases in local courts. Judicial offers administrative support for local courts. Judicial anticipates being able to manage any additional responsibilities due to this bill. However, if this bill results in an unexpected, significant increase in the caseload, and thereby, Judicial's administrative support, Judicial will request additional General Fund appropriations.

This bill may result in a decrease in the fines and fees collected in court. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) anticipates this bill may result in a change to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local revenue due to the change in fines and fees collected in court. For information, Judicial reports that in FY 2024-25 there were 3 cases disposed dealing with blue catfish limits. Therefore, RFA anticipates any change in fines and fees collections in court to be minimal.

This bill may change the number of individuals imprisoned in local jails. The potential change in expenses for local jails will depend upon the number of cases and number of incarcerations.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Amended by the Senate on March 11, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill increases the blue catfish limit from 25 to 150 a day in all state waterways except for Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, and the upper reach of the Santee River. This bill also makes it legal to possess more than 2 blue catfish greater than thirty-two inches in length in any one day

in the waterways of the state, except for in Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, and the upper reach of the Santee River.

It is currently illegal to take more than 25 blue catfish and more than 2 blue catfish greater than thirty-two inches in length in any one day in all waterways of the state. A person in violation of these blue catfish limits is currently guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than \$300 or imprisoned for not more than thirty days.

Department of Natural Resources. This bill increases the limits on blue catfish in the state, which may impact the workload for DNR. DNR indicates that any change in workload can be managed with existing resources.

Judicial. This bill may result in a change in the number of court cases in local courts. Judicial offers administrative support for local courts. Judicial anticipates being able to manage any additional responsibilities due to this bill. However, if this bill results in an unexpected, significant increase in the caseload, and thereby, Judicial's administrative support, Judicial will request additional General Fund appropriations.

State Revenue

This bill may result in a decrease in the fines and fees collected in court. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result in a change to the General Fund and Other Funds revenue due to the change in fines and fees collected in court. For information, Judicial reports that in FY 2024-25 there were 3 cases disposed dealing with blue catfish limits. Therefore, RFA anticipates any change in fines and fees collections in court to be minimal.

Local Expenditure

This bill may change the number of individuals imprisoned in local jails. The potential change in expenses for local jails will depend upon the number of cases and number of incarcerations. For information, Judicial reports that in FY 2024-25 there were 3 cases disposed dealing with blue catfish limits. Therefore, RFA anticipates any change in local jail expenses to be minimal.

Local Revenue

This bill may result in a decrease in the fines and fees collected in court. Court fines and fees are distributed to the General Fund, Other Funds, and local funds. Therefore, RFA anticipates this bill may result in a change to local revenue due to the change in fines and fees collections in court. For information, Judicial reports that in FY 2024-25 there were three cases disposed dealing with blue catfish limits. Therefore, RFA anticipates any change in fines and fees collections in court to be minimal.



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director