

South Carolina

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has broad authority over the fish and wildlife in the state, including investigations and enforcement. Under the [Marine Resources Act](#), the Department has jurisdiction over all saltwater fish, fishing, fisheries, and marine resources within the salt waters of the state. The Department is authorized to manage fish and marine resources; to provide for protection of the salt waters and the marine habitat.

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture, upon giving notice to the owner or the person in possession of a plant pest, may seize, quarantine, treat, or otherwise dispose of the plant pest, host, or article in a manner the Department considers necessary to suppress, control, or eradicate or to prevent or retard the spread of the plant pest. The Department may order the owner or person in possession to treat or otherwise dispose of the plant pest, host, or article.

	Provision Summary	Citation
Invasive Plants and Animals	The Department of Marine Resources will maintain and publish a list of species, varieties, or strains of nonindigenous organisms known or suspected to adversely affect the fish or marine resources of the state.	S.C. Code § 50-5-45(A)
	It is illegal to place in the salt waters of the State, or in privately owned waters directly connected to salt waters of the State, any live, fresh, or frozen whole, part, or product of any listed organism.	S.C. Code § 50-5-45(B)
Invasive Plants	Plant pest includes bacteria, fungi, GE organisms, infectious substances as determined by the director as may be a serious agricultural threat to the State.	S.C. Code § 49-9-15
Invasive Animals	It is unlawful to place or release intentionally any species imported from another state or jurisdiction into public waters in this State without a permit issued by the department. This section does not apply to the use of live bait.	S.C. Code § 50-18-270
	Except bait lost incidental to fishing or fish released into the waters from which they were taken, it is unlawful to intentionally release any aquatic species, regardless of the state or its life cycle, into the waters of this State without a permit.	S.C. Code § 50-13-1635
	List of banned fish where it is illegal to possess, sell, offer for sale, import, bring,	S.C. Code § 50-13-1630

	cause to be brought or imported into this State, or release in the State.	
Use of Bait (unrelated to commercial licensing)	The prohibition on an intentional or unintentional release of a species imported to the state does not apply to the use of live bait.	S.C. Code § 50-18-270
	(A) Except bait lost incidental to fishing or fish released into the waters from which they were taken, it is unlawful to intentionally release any aquatic species, regardless of the state or its life cycle, into the waters of this State without a permit.	S.C. Code § 50-13-1635
	(B) It is unlawful to use any nonindigenous fish as bait that is not already established in the water body being fished except the following minnows: fathead minnows, golden shiners, and goldfish, including “black salties”.	S.C. Code § 50-13-1635