

Freshwater Fishing Regulations www.dnr.sc.gov/freshwater

Methods and Devices

- Game fish may be caught with only hook and line, fly rod, casting rod, pole and line or hand line. Not more than 2 of these devices may be used by any fisherman at the same time, except when fishing in a boat. An unlimited number of lawful fishing devices may be used if every boat occupant (who would normally be required to have a fishing license) possesses a valid fishing license.
 - Bows and arrows for taking nongame fish only and cast nets for catching nongame bait fish may be in possession while fishing for game fish. Possession of cast nets is prohibited in Game Zone 1 except on Lake Keowee, Lake Hartwell and Twelve Mile Creek.
 - Game fish may be used as bait to catch fish recreationally but must be included in daily bag limit.
- Seasons** - No closed freshwater game fish season except in the following areas:
- There are no closed seasons for striped bass except as described below in Game Fish table.
 - All watercraft and fishing are prohibited Nov. 1 through Feb. 28 on Cantey Bay, Black Bottom and Savannah Branch in Lake Marion.
 - Portions of Howard, Corbin and Devil's Fork Creeks in Oconee County are closed to

- fishing from Nov. 1– Mar. 30, and a portion of Thompson River in Oconee County is closed to fishing from Nov. 1– Mar. 30. Closed sections will be marked with signs.
- Hatchery WMA on Lake Moultrie is closed to fishing each Sat. until 12:00 noon and all day the last Sat. of the waterfowl season.
 - Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area is closed to public access and fishing one week prior to and two weeks after the Federal Waterfowl Season.

Prohibited Practices: Game or nongame fish may not be attracted or taken by explosives, electrical devices, poison or similar means.

Selling and Importing

- No freshwater game fish may be sold in this state except by a: 1) SCDNR permitted aquaculturist, 2) SCDNR wholesale aquaculture licensee, 3) SCDNR aquaculture game fish retail licensee, 4) Private pond owner selling less than \$2,500 in product annually.
- It is illegal to possess, import or sell any fish species that is not native to SC waters without a SCDNR permit.
- Sterile grass carp may only be sold, purchased or possessed under a SCDNR permit.

Freshwater Fish Size and Possession Limits

- A total of 40 game fish may be kept in any one day. This total shall not exceed more than the limits or exceptions listed below.
- Special limits and regulations apply to SCDNR managed lakes. See chart on page 16.
- Check with state parks, city reservoirs or county parks for special limits and regulations that apply to those areas.

Species	Blue Catfish
Limit	No more than one blue catfish over 36-inches can be taken from Lakes Marion and Moultrie per person in one day.
Species	Black Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Redeye & Spotted)
Limit	10 fish combined total per day / no statewide length limits
Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Wallace: it is illegal to harvest largemouth bass. • Slade's Lake: 2 largemouth bass per day no less than 12 inches and not more than 15 fish combined total per day. • Lake Wylie, and the Georgia waters of the Savannah River and all its reservoirs: no bass less than 12 inches. • Lakes Marion, Moultrie and the upper Santee River: 5 largemouth bass per day no less than 14 inches; black bass must be landed with the head and tail fin intact.
Species	Striped Bass and/or Hybrids
Limit	10 fish per day
Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Saluda River from Lake Greenwood Dam downstream to the Lake Murray Dam – 5 fish per day and 21-inch minimum size limit. In Lake Murray during July and August, two of the five striped bass creel limit may be less than 21 inches. • In the inshore waters (except that portion of the Savannah River defined below); the territorial sea; the Ashepoo River; Ashley River; Back River in Jasper County and the back River in Berkeley county; Black River; Black Mingo Creek; Bull Creek and Little Bull Creek; Combahee River; Cooper River system (which includes all waters and tributaries, including the Tairrace Canal, of the Cooper River from its point of origin seaward to the freshwater/saltwater dividing line); Coosawhatchie River; Cuckholds Creek; Edisto River; Horseshoe Creek; Lumber River; Lynches River; Great Pee Dee and Little Pee Dee Rivers; Pocotaligo in Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton counties; Salkehatchie and Little Salkehatchie River; Sampit River; Lower Santee River system (which includes all waters and tributaries seaward of the Lake Murray Dam, the Columbia Canal Diversion Dam, and the Lake Wateree Dam to the freshwater/ saltwater dividing line on the North Santee River and the South Santee River, including Lakes Marion and Moultrie); Tulfifinny; Thoroughfare Creek; and Waccamaw River – it is unlawful to take or attempt to take any striped bass from Jun. 1st through Sept. 30th. Any striped bass taken must be returned immediately to the waters from where it came. From Oct. 1st through May 31st – 3 fish per day, 26-inch minimum size limit, fish must be landed with head and tail intact. • In the Savannah River and its tributaries and distributaries and the lands immediately adjacent to them from the J. Strom Thurmond Lake dam downstream to the mouth of the Savannah River. Defined by a line from Jones Island, SC (also known as Oysterbed Island) point at N32.03833°, W80.88917°; across Cockspar Island, Georgia, point at N32.03278°, W80.88222° to Lazaretto Creek, Georgia, point at N32.01722°, W80.88083°. Unlawful to possess more than 2 striped bass, striped bass hybrids, white bass, or any combination of these species. Any lawfully possessed fish of each of these species must be a minimum of 27 inches. • Lake Russell from Lake Hartwell Dam and Lake Secession Dam, including all tributaries of Lake Russell – 2 fish per day, no more than one greater than 34 inches in length.
Species	Cold Water Trout
Limit	10 fish per day, 10 in possession.
Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saluda River - not more than five trout may be taken in any one day from that portion of the lower Saluda River between the Lake Murray Dam and the confluence of the Broad River. • Chattooga River (SC Highway 28 upstream to Reid Creek), and Cheohee Creek (SC Forestry Commission property) - 0 trout per day, 0 in possession (catch and release only) from Nov. 1 through May 14. • Chattooga River (except SC Highway 28 upstream to Reid Creek), Lakes Tugaloo, Yonah and Hartwell, Lake Hartwell Tailwater and Lake Russell - 8 trout per day, 8 in possession. • Whitewater River in Oconee County, Eastatoe River (Heritage Preserve lands) in Pickens County, Middle Saluda River (lower foot bridge at Jones Gap Park upstream to Highway 276), and Matthews Creek (upstream of Caesar's Head State Park) in Greenville County - 7 trout per day, 7 in possession. • Middle Saluda River (Hugh Smith Road upstream to lower foot bridge at Jones Gap State Park) - 0 trout per day, 0 in possession (catch and release year round). • Lake Jocassee - 5 trout per day, 5 in possession. Size limit & exceptions: 15-inch minimum.
Bait/tackle restrictions	Artificial lures and bait can be used when fishing for trout.

Bait/tackle Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthews Creek (from lower boundary of Caesars Head State Park) and Middle Saluda River (Jones Gap State Park lower foot bridge to Highway 276) in Greenville County, Eastatoe River (Heritage Preserve lands) in Pickens County and Whitewater River in Oconee County - Artificial lures only. Lake Jocassee - It is unlawful to fish with corn, cheese, fish eggs or imitations of them as bait on Lake Jocassee. Chattooga River from SC 28 upstream to Reid (Big) Creek and Cheohee Creek within the property boundary of Piedmont Forestry Center (as posted) between Nov. 1 and May 14. Only artificial lures with single hook may be used. Middle Saluda River (Hugh Smith Rd. to the lower foot bridge at Jones Gap State Park), artificial lures with single hook (no treble hooks).
Seasons	Cold water trout can be fished for year-round unless stated otherwise.
Season Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Howard Creek (from Corbin Creek upstream to Limberpole Creek), Corbin Creek (from Howard Creek upstream to SC 130), and Devils Fork Creek in Oconee County are closed to fishing from Nov. 1 through Mar. 30. Chattooga River from SC 28 upstream to Reid (Big) Creek and Cheohee Creek within the property boundary of Piedmont Forestry Center (as posted). All coldwater trout caught between Nov. 1 and May 14 must be released and cannot be harvested. Middle Saluda River (catch and release area) open for fishing only on Mon., Wed., and Sat. during daylight hours with a special daily permit obtained on-site. Cheohee Creek (Forestry Center lands) open to fishing only on Mon., Wed., and Sat. from Nov. 1 through May 14 and June 15 through June 22 of each year during daylight hours.
Species	Crappie, bream (including bluegill, flier, redbreast, warmouth, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, redear and spotted sunfish), white bass, chain pickerel, redbfin pickerel, yellow perch, walleye and sauger
Limit	30 fish per day
Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walleye and sauger - 8 fish per day on Lakes Tugaloo, Yonah, Hartwell, Russell, Thurmond and the Chattooga River. Crappie - 20 fish per day, 8 inch minimum size on Lake Murray.

Freshwater/Saltwater Dividing Line www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/dividingline

The dividing line between saltwater and freshwater on the rivers listed is defined in this section. All waters of the rivers and their tributaries, streams and estuaries lying seaward of the dividing lines are considered saltwaters, and all waters lying landward or upstream from all dividing lines are considered freshwaters for purposes of licensing and regulating commercial and recreational fishing. Except as otherwise provided below, the saltwater/freshwater dividing line is U.S. Highway. 17:

- 1) On Savannah River the dividing line is the abandoned Seaboard Railroad track bed located approximately one and three-fourths miles upstream from the U.S. Highway 17A bridge.
- 2) On Ashepoo River the dividing line is the old Seaboard Railroad track bed.
- 3) On New River the dividing line is at Cook's Landing.

- 4) Long Branch Creek, Rantowles Creek, Shem Creek, Wallace River, Wando River and Wright River are saltwater for their entire lengths.
- 5) On Edisto River the dividing line is the abandoned Seaboard Railroad track bed near Matthews Canal Cut.
- 6) On Ashley River the dividing line is the confluence of Popper Dam Creek directly across from Magnolia Gardens.
- 7) On Cooper River the dividing line is the seaward shoreline of Old Back River at the confluence of Old Back River downstream from Bushy Park Reservoir.
- 8) On the Intracoastal Waterway in Horry County the dividing line is the bridge across the Intracoastal Waterway at the intersection of SC Highway. 9 and U.S. Highway. 17.

SCDNR Managed State Lakes

Lake	County	Acres	Open Days*	Maximum Motor HP	Creel/Size Limits Catfish	Creel/Size Limits Bass	Creel/Size Limits Bream	Minnows Allowed	Boat Ramp	Fishing Pier	Handicap Access
Ashwood	Lee	75	All Days	7.5 HP (Gas)	3	3	20	Yes	X	X	X
Bonneau Ferry WMA**	Berkeley	100	W, Sat, Sun*** Mar. 2 - Oct. 31	Electric Only	No Limit	2	10	Yes	X		
Edgar Brown	Barnwell	100	All Days	10 HP (Gas) North of Hospital Rd eastward. Any HP south of Rd	3	3 (16" minimum)	20	Yes	X	X	X
Cherokee	Cherokee	50	All Days	Electric Only	3	5	25	No	X	X	X
Dargans Pond	Darlington	50	W & Sat (Mar.1 - Sept. 30)	Electric Only	3	3 (16" minimum) (2 bass may be under the size limit)	20	Yes	X	X	X
John D. Long	Union	80	All Days	Electric Only	3	3	20	No	X	X	X
Edwin Johnson	Spartanburg	40	All Days	Electric Only	3	3 (16" minimum)	20	No	X		
Jonesville	Union	35	M,W,Sat	Electric Only	3	3 (12" minimum)	20	No	X	X	X
Lancaster Resv.	Lancaster	62	Thur & Sat	Electric Only	3	2 (16" minimum)	20	No	X		
Mountain Lake 1	Chester	42	Tue, Thur, Sat, Sun	Electric Only	3	1 (16" minimum)	10 larger than 5". No limit on fish under 5", but state limits apply.	No	X		
Mountain Lake 2	Chester	10	Tue, Thur, Sat, Sun	Electric Only	3	1 (16" minimum)	10 larger than 5". No limit on fish under 5", but state limits apply.	No		X	X
Oliphant	Chester	40	M,W,Sat	Electric Only	3	3 (14" minimum)	20	No	X	X	X
Star Fort Pond	Greenwood	27	W,Fri,Sat Apr. 1--Nov. 1	Electric Only	3	3 (12" minimum)	20	No		X	X
Thicketty	Cherokee	100	All Days	6 HP (Gas)	No Limit	10	25	Yes	X		
Paul Wallace	Marlboro	280	All Days	10 HP (Gas)	3	0 (No harvesting)	20	No	X	X	X
George Warren	Hampton	400	All Days	10 HP (Gas)	3	3	20	Yes	X	X	X
Webb Center**	Hampton	7&10	All Days***	Electric Only	No Limit	10	30	Yes			
Sunrise	Lancaster	25	M,W,Sat	Electric Only	3	2 (16" minimum)	20	No	X		
Draper WMA***	York	1, 2 & 5	Wed-Mon	No motors allowed	3	3 (14" minimum)	15	No			

* The days each impoundment is open can change. Contact your nearest SCDNR office to determine the open days of an individual lake.

** Webb Center and Bonneau Ferry Lakes are closed on deer hunting days. Bonneau Ferry closed Saturdays in Apr. until 11:00 AM.

*** Combined daily creel limits from all ponds. Adult/youth fishing only on Bonneau Ferry. Each youth must be accompanied by no more than two adults 18 years of age or older.

Nongame Freshwater Fishing

General Information

Nongame fishing permits and tags may be purchased from SCDNR only. Applications may be obtained at www.dnr.sc.gov or by calling 803-734-3833.

Nongame fishing permits and tags are required, in addition to a valid South Carolina state fishing license (also applies to youth under 16), to use the following devices for recreational purposes: up to 3 trotlines with not more than 150 hooks, 3 to 50 set hooks, 3 to 50 jugs, up to 2 traps, 1 hoop net, 1 gill net no more than 200 yards in length or 5 gill nets, none of which exceed 30 yards in length, 1 skimbrow net, 1 seine, 1 minnow seine, or up to 2 eel pots.

This requirement applies to all freshwaters of the state inland of the saltwater-freshwater dividing lines, except privately-owned ponds.

Nongame fishing devices are not allowed in certain waters. The maximum number of devices allowed per area is shown in the Areas & Limits Section on page 12.

A tag must be attached to the device for which it was issued, and each permit and tag identification receipt must be in the licensee's possession while engaging in the activity.

Game fish must be immediately released if caught by net or trap or any other device used for catching nongame fish.

Commercial Fishing

A commercial freshwater fishing license must be in possession to take nongame fish by any method from public waters and sell or offer for sale such nongame fish, and/or fish with the following nongame fishing devices: 4 or more gill nets (or a total of more than 100 yards of net), 2 or more hoop nets, 3 or more traps, 4 or more trotlines or fish trotlines with a combined total of 151 hooks, 3 or more eel pots, 6 or more crayfish traps or an elver fyke net.

All persons involved in commercial nongame fishing must have a commercial freshwater fishing license if they participate in any way in the actual fishing operation. This includes, but is not limited to, operating a boat, baiting hooks, removing fish from lines, traps or nets.

No more than one blue catfish over 36 inches can be taken from Lakes Marion and Moultrie in one day.

To qualify for a resident commercial freshwater fishing license, one must have been a resident of this state for the past 365 consecutive days and furnish proof to the SCDNR.

Shad/Herring

To take shad or herring for recreational purposes by hook and line, cast net, or skim bow net in freshwaters a person must have a freshwater fishing license. To take shad or herring for recreational purposes using a gill net, a person MUST have a fishing license, gear license and related permits. To take shad or herring for commercial purposes, A person MUST have a commercial fishing license, gear license and related permits. To use a cast net to take herring for commercial purposes, a person MUST have a commercial license and related permits. If fishing in the freshwaters of the state, a person needs a freshwater commercial license. If fishing in the saltwaters of the state, a person needs a saltwater commercial license. See page 18 for net requirements and recreational bag limits. Commercial fishing for shad and herring in freshwaters, including for sale as bait and by use of gill nets, is regulated under saltwater fisheries laws regardless of location within the state (Sec. 50-5-1500 and 50-5-1550). Contact the Charleston License office at 843-953-9301 for commercial and gill net information.

Markers and Identification

Trotlines, traps, eel pots and gill nets must be marked with a floating marker with a minimum capacity of one pint and a maximum capacity of one gallon or equivalent size and must be made of solid, buoyant material which does not sink if punctured or cracked. The floating markers must be constructed of plastic, PVC Spongex, plastic foam or cork. No hollow buoys or floats including plastic, metal or glass bottles or jugs may be used except manufactured buoys or floats specifically designed for use with nongame fishing devices; these may be hollow if constructed of heavy duty plastic material and approved by the SCDNR. The floating markers must be colored white when used the 1st through the 15th of the month and yellow when used the remainder of the month. The owner's name and address must be marked clearly on each floating marker.

Hoop nets set on the Congaree River from the I-77 Bridge to the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree rivers must also be marked with the same floating markers as listed above.

Bait

No game fish, live bait or any bait other than bait listed below shall be used with trotlines, set hooks and jugs: soap, doughballs, cut fish (nongame fish cut into at least three equal parts), shrimp, grapes or meat scraps (shall not include insects, worms and other invertebrates).

On the Edisto, Black, Sampit, Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lumber and Waccamaw rivers, live nongame fish and bream may be used with single-barbed set hooks that have a shank-to-point gap of one and three-sixteenths inches or greater.

On the Black, Great Pee Dee, Little Pee Dee, Lumber and Waccamaw rivers, live nongame fish and bream may be used on trotlines having not more than 20 hooks with a shank-to-point gap of one and three-sixteenths inches.

Game fish used as bait must be included in daily creel limit, 30 bream per day (see page 16).

There are no restrictions on the type of bait permissible in traps or eel pots except that no game fish or parts thereof shall be used as bait.

Prohibited Areas

No nongame fishing devices of any kind may be used in SCDNR-managed lakes (as listed on page 16), or waters within Game Zone 1, except in Lakes Hartwell and Keowee and Twelve-Mile Creek.

Prohibited Practices

Possession or use on the freshwaters of this state of any device or gear designed or used to catch nongame fish not authorized by law is prohibited.

Possession of game fish or tackle designed to catch game fish is prohibited while fishing traps, trotlines, or other nongame fish devices except cast nets and bows and arrows.

It is unlawful for any person to tamper with, fish, or use in any manner the nongame fishing device or gear owned and tagged by another person, or to take from any such device or gear, any fish caught thereon. No fishing device shall be used, placed, set or fished so as to create a hazard to boating.

No trotlines, traps or eel pots shall be placed within 200 yards of any permanent man-made structure on Lakes Marion and Moultrie nor placed anywhere in the Diversion Canal connecting Lakes Marion and Moultrie, the Tailrace Canal nor the area known as the Borrow Pit (also known as "Bar Pit") in Clarendon County.

Nongame devices, such as set hooks, may not be attached or secured to any vegetation or structure on the Congaree National Park property bordering the Wateree or Congaree Rivers. Rules and regulations concerning the Congaree National Park may be obtained from the National Park Service at (803) 776-4396 or at www.nps.gov/cong.

Penalties

The boat, motor, fishing gear and fish of any person who is charged with unlawfully fishing, using or having in possession a gill net or hoop net on any freshwater lake or reservoir shall be confiscated.

Any person who tampers with any non-game fishing device with intent to damage or to make it ineffective for the purpose of taking fish shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$200 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days, and for stealing a device or fish caught in the device shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both.

Upon the conviction of any commercial freshwater fisherman of illegal possession of game fish or the sale or traffic in game fish, SCDNR shall suspend such person's license or privilege to fish in this state for a period of one year.

Updated regulations and information are provided when nongame fish tags or permits are issued. Tags, permits and commercial freshwater fishing licenses are available by visiting any Regional SCDNR Office (see page 66 for locations), through the internet at www.dnr.sc.gov, by writing to: SCDNR-License Section, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202-0167 or calling 803-734-3833. Nongame fish tags are issued at each Regional SCDNR office. Tags purchased through the internet or by mail are mailed from the Columbia office and the privilege is not valid until the tag is received by the licensee.

Free Fishing Days: June 9 & 10, 2012
(For residents only, as specified in Sect. 50-9-730.)

Nongame Freshwater Fishing Methods and Devices	
Some devices are not permitted on certain waters. See Areas & Limits on page 19 for devices and limits allowed in each area.	
Set Hooks	
Description	A single hook and line attached to bushes, limbs, poles, sticks or similar structures.
Permits/Regulations	A permit is required to fish up to 50 hooks (50 hook limit). <i>Persons 65 years or older or under age 16 are not required to purchase a Set Hook Permit, but a label with their name, address and age must be attached to each set hook. A fishing license is required. A permit is not required for 2 set hooks with a valid state fishing license.</i>
Hours/Seasons	Must be removed prior to one hour after official sunrise each day and cannot be reattached prior to one hour before official sunset.
Jugs	
Description	A single hook and line attached to a free-floating device with a minimum capacity of one pint and a maximum of one gallon. May not have more than one line.
Permits/Regulations	A permit is required to fish up to 50 jugs (50 jug limit). Licensee's name and address must be clearly marked on each jug. Jug fishing is legal only in Lakes Greenwood, Secession, Richard B. Russell, Thurmond, and Stevens Creek. <i>A permit is not required for 2 jugs with a valid state fishing license. A jug permit is not required for residents assisting jug permit holders.</i>
Hours/Seasons	Must be removed from the water before one hour after official sunrise each day and not replaced prior to one hour before official sunset.
Trotlines	
Description	2 or more hooks attached to a line which is rigged horizontally and marked with a white or yellow floating marker (See Markers and Identification on page 17). Stainless steel hooks are prohibited statewide. <i>Hooks used in Lakes Marion and Moultrie ONLY must measure 7/16 inch or less between point and shank.</i>
Permits/Regulations	A tag is required for each trotline with up to 50 hooks. Trotlines with more than 50 hooks require a tag for every 50 hooks or less. No trotline shall be attached in any manner to another trotline or to the support or float of another trotline. No trotlines allowed within 100 feet of the mouth of any tributary stream.
Hours/Seasons	Trotlines must be inspected and fish removed at least every 24 hours. From Apr. 1 to Oct. 1, no trotline is permitted in any waters from one hour after official sunrise to one hour before official sunset, unless the trotline is sunk to the bottom or a minimum depth of four feet below the surface. From Oct. 2 to Mar. 31, trotlines may be left in the water 24 hours per day at any depth.
Traps & Eel Pots	
Description	A device described below marked with a white or yellow floating marker (See Markers and Identification on page 17)
Trap Type 1	The trap may be made of wire or textile material and be cylindrical in shape of a length not more than 6 feet and a width of not more than 3 feet. The mesh shall not be smaller than 1 inch by 1 inch, and there shall be only one application of exterior wire to the trap. The muzzle shall have one of the following designs: A trap door on the second muzzle or catch muzzle which remains in a closed position and which only opens for the entry of fish into the trap; or constructed of netting so that the opening of the small end of the second muzzle or catch muzzle is held in the shape of a slit and the trap configuration constructed such that as the trap rests on the bottom, the slit shall be oriented horizontally with the greatest vertical opening being no greater than 1 inch.
Trap Type 2	The trap may be made of wood strips or slats and be cylindrical or rectangular in shape. The length shall not exceed 6 feet, and the width or diameter shall not exceed 2 feet. The throat opening of the catch muzzle in a resting position shall not exceed 3 inches measured in any direction. The sides, top and rear of the trap shall have a minimum of one inch opening between the slats to allow for the escape of small catfish. This shall apply only to the last 12 inches of the trap.
Eel pot	Pots no larger than 24 inches by 48 inches and constructed of wire with a mesh size no smaller than 1/2 by 1/2 inch, except for the throat or muzzle and the end opposite the throat or muzzle. The throat opening shall not exceed 2 inches measured in any direction.

Permits/Regulations	A tag is required for each trap or eel pot. A permit is required for the harvest of eels in both freshwater and saltwater. Traps and eel pots may be suspended in water at a depth which does not create a hazard to watercraft. No trap or eel pot shall be placed within 100 feet of the mouth of any tributary stream. No crab pot or trap of like design may be used in the fresh waters of this state.
Hours/Seasons	No closed season.
Hoop Nets	
Description	Nets made of textile netting (no wire) of a mesh size between 1 and 2 inches square enclosing a series of round hoops with two or more muzzle openings made of a netting material. The maximum size net allowed is 16 feet by 5 1/2 feet.
Permits/Regulations	Hoop nets must rest on the bottom and cannot be placed within 100 feet of the mouth of any tributary stream.
Hours/Seasons	No closed season.
Gill Nets	
Description	Nets with a mesh size greater than 4 1/2 inches stretch mesh. The maximum length is 200 yards and no net, cable, line or other device used for support of the gill net can extend more than halfway across the stream or body of water. Nets must be marked with a white or yellow floating marker (See Markers and Identification on page 17).
Permits/Regulations	Gill nets shall be placed on a first-come basis, and no net can be placed within 200 yards of another gill net.
Hours/Seasons	The season for taking nongame fish other than shad and herring is Nov. 1 to Mar. 1 (where authorized) on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only. Fishing time begins at 12:01 AM on Wednesday, and ends at midnight on Saturday.
Other Devices (shad and herring see page 17)	
Description	Devices described in this section may be used in any body of fresh water including tributaries of rivers or creeks except in prohibited areas. A state fishing license is required (Lakes & Reservoir Permits are not valid). Tags are not required.
Bows and Arrows, Spears, Gigs & Cast Nets:	
Skimbow Net	A hand-operated dip net with the bow constructed of wood or metal with wire or textile netting with a mesh size not greater than 1 1/2 inches square. The bow shall not exceed 75 feet in any direction and may be used only from Feb. 1 through Apr. 30 for shad or herring.
Minnow Seine	Must not be greater than 4 feet in width by 20 feet in length with a mesh size of not more than 1/4 inch square mesh. It is unlawful to have in possession a minnow seine from 10 PM to official sunrise.
Tires	Must not exceed 20-inch rim. Rules and regulations of power companies may not allow for the placing of tires.
Seine	A net having a stretch mesh of not less than 1 inch and not more than 1 1/2 inches which does not exceed 75 feet in length or 6 feet in depth. It shall be unlawful to anchor a seine and leave it unattended.
Shad Gill Net	A gill net used for taking or attempting to take shad in the inshore salt waters must have a stretched mesh size of no smaller than five and one-half inches and a length not exceeding nine hundred feet. A gill net used for shad in the freshwaters must have a stretched mesh size of no smaller than five and one-half inches and be no longer than six hundred feet. Gill nets for taking shad may be freely drift fished or set. Only one shad gill net may be drift fished by occupants of a boat, and it must be attended at all times when deployed. Additional boats in tow may not be used to increase the number of authorized nets. The recreational limit for shad is 10 shad, with the exception of 20 shad in the Santee river.
Herring Gill Net	A gill net used for taking or attempting to take herring in the salt waters of this State must have a mesh size of two and one-half inches stretched and a length no greater than nine hundred feet. A gill net used for taking or attempting to take herring in freshwaters must have a stretched mesh of two and one-half inches stretched and a length no greater than six hundred feet. Only one herring gill net may be used by occupants of a boat, and the drift net must be attended at all times when deployed. Additional boats in tow may not be used to increase the number of authorized nets. The recreational limit is one bushel per day.

Nongame Areas and Limits

Described limits are the maximum number of nongame devices allowed per license holder.

Ashepool River:

Set hooks - 50
Eel pots - No limit

Ashley River:

Set hooks - 50
Eel pots - No limit

Big Pee Dee River - See Great Pee Dee River

Black Creek: (Darlington, Florence & Chesterfield Counties including Lakes Robinson & Prestwood)

Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Black River:

Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Bridge Lake: (Dorchester County: Nongame gill nets in season)

Set hooks - 50
Broad River: (Includes the waters from the North Carolina state line to the confluence of the Broad and Saluda rivers):

Traps - 5
Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Set hooks - 50
Seines-1 (from Highway 34 bridge upstream)

Bull Creek: (Horry & Georgetown counties):

Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Nongame gill nets in season
Eel pots - No limit
Traps - 50

Buffalo Creek:

Seines-1
Bush River: (Laurens County):
Seines-1

Catawba River: (From Lake Wylie Dam to the backwaters of Lake Wateree, including all reservoirs):

Traps - 2
Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Set hooks - 50

Combahee River:

Set hooks - 50
Eel pots - No limit

Congaree River: (From the Gervais Street Bridge in Columbia to the I-77 Bridge in Columbia):

Traps - 50
Trotlines - 2000 hooks total
Hoop nets - 50 w/commercial license
Congaree River: (From the I-77 Bridge to confluence of the Congaree and Wateree rivers):

Traps - 10 max. w/ commercial license
Trotlines - 2000 hooks total
Hoop nets - 10 w/commercial license (see Markers & Identification)
Set hooks - 50

Cooper River: (Traps, trotlines, set hooks and eel pots are not permitted upstream from Wadboo Creek):

Traps - 50
Trotline - 150 hooks total

Fyke Nets - As allowed for eel fishing by regulation

Set hooks - 50
Eel pots - No limit

Pump nets - No limit

Coosawhatchie & Tullifinny Rivers:

Set hooks - 50

Durbin Creek:

Seines - 1

Edisto River:

Set hooks - 50
Eel pots-No limit

Enoree River:

Traps - 2
Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Set hooks - 50
Seines - 1 from Southern Railroad in Greenville County downstream

Great Pee Dee River: (From I-95 to NC state line):

Traps - 50
Trotlines - 2000 hooks total
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50
Hoop nets - 50 w/commercial license. North of SC 34 only

Great Pee Dee River: (From I-95 to the saltwater line):

Nongame gill nets in season
Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Set hooks - 50
Eel pots - Below Highway 701 bridge only, No limit
Traps - 50

Jefferies Creek: (Florence County):

Nongame gill nets in season
Trotlines - 150 hooks total

John's Hole Lake: (Dorchester County):

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50
Trotlines - 150 hooks total

Lake Greenwood:

Traps - 5
Trotlines - 150 hooks total

Lake Hartwell:

Traps - 5
Trotlines - 150 hooks total

Lake Jocassee:

All nongame devices prohibited, including cast nets

Lake Keowee:

Traps - 5
Trotlines-150 hooks total
Lakes Marion and Moultrie (Waters between confluence of Wateree and Congaree rivers and backwaters of Lake Marion):

Traps - 50
Trotlines - 2000 hooks total

Lake Murray:

Traps - 5
Trotlines - 150 hooks total

Lake Richard B. Russell:

Traps - 5
Trotlines - 150 hooks total

Lake Secession:

Jugs - 50
Traps - 2
Trotlines - 150 hooks total

Lake Thurmond & Stevens Creek Reservoir:

Traps - 5
Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Jugs - 50

Lake Wateree:

Traps - 5
Trotlines - 150 hooks total

Lake Wylie:

Traps - 5
Trotlines - 150 hooks total

Little Pee Dee River:

Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Little Pond Lake (Dorchester County):

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Little River:

Seines - 1 from Mars Bridge in McCormick County upstream

Log Creek (Edgefield County):

Seines - 1

Long Cane Creek (Above Patterson Bridge):

Seines - 1

Louder's Lake (Darlington County):

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Lumber River:

Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Lynches River:

Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Mallards Lake (Dorchester County):

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Mims Lake (Dorchester County):

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Mouth of Four Holes Lake (Dorchester County):

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Mulberry Creek (Greenwood County):

Seines - 1

New River:

Set hooks - 50

Old River:

Set hooks - 50
Trotlines - 150 hooks total

Pacolet River:

Traps - 2
Set hooks - 50
Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Seines - 1

Rabon Creek (Laurens County):

Seines - 1
Redbank Creek (Saluda County west of Highway 121):

Seines - 1

Reedy River:

Traps - 2
Set hooks - 50
Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Seines - 1 from Southern RR in Greenville County downstream
Anderson County:

Seines - 1

Rock's Lake (Dorchester County):

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Salkehatchie River:

Set hooks - 50
Saluda River (From Southern RR Trestle in Greenville County to backwaters of Lake Greenwood

and from Lake Greenwood Dam to backwaters of Lake Murray):

Traps - 2
Set hooks - 50
Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Seines - 1 in Anderson, Laurens and Greenville counties only except in Anderson County seines may be used in river tributaries.

Saluda River (From Lake Murray Dam to the Gervais St. Bridge in Columbia):

Traps - 2
Trotlines - 150 hooks total

Sampit River:

Nongame gill nets in season
Traps - 50

Set hooks - 50

Santee River (Downstream from Wilson Dam on Lake Marion. No nongame gear (except skimbrow nets) allowed upstream of U.S.G.S. Gauging Station 1715 about 2.4 miles below Santee Dam):

Traps - 50
Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Eel pots - No limit

Savannah River (Below Stevens Creek Dam):

Traps - 50
Hoop nets - 50 w/commercial license.
Set hooks - 50

Nongame gill nets in season

Trotlines - 2000 hooks total

Eel pots - No limit

Shuler Lake (Dorchester County):

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Steed's Lake (Dorchester County):

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Stevens Creek (Above Clark's Hill Bridge):

Seines - 1
Thicketty Creek (Cherokee County):
Seines - 1

Turkey Creek (Edgefield & Greenwood counties):

Seines - 1

Twelve - Mile Creek:

Traps - 2
Set hooks - 50

Trotlines - 150 hooks total

Tyger River:

Traps - 2
Set hooks - 50

Trotlines - 150 hooks total

Seines - 1

Waccamaw River:

Trotlines - 150 hooks total
Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50

Eel pots - No limit below junction of Big Bull Creek

Warrior Creek (Laurens County):

Seines - 1

Wateree River:

Traps - 50
Set hooks - 50
Trotlines - 2000 hooks total

Hoop nets - 50 w/commercial license

Wilson Creek (Greenwood County):

Seines - 1

Woods Lake (Dorchester County):

Nongame gill nets in season
Set hooks - 50