



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
SCIENTIFIC COLLECTION PERMIT  
WILDLIFE

This application is for amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and other wildlife. Fisheries scientific collection permits can be found at <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/fish/pdf/OriginalScientificPermitDoc.pdf>

Need for a scientific collection permit for wildlife is outlined under Section 50-11-1180 Authority of department to issue permits to collect protected wildlife for scientific or propagating purposes, S50-11-1180 defines “take” to mean harass, hunt, capture, or kill; and “protected wildlife” means any wildlife, part, product, egg, offspring nest, dead body, or part thereof which is managed or protected or the taking of which is specifically regulated by the department.

Collecting permits for endangered species will be issued only in accordance with Section 50-15-50.

**Application Instructions** Filing a complete application avoids unnecessary delays.

1. Applicant

Scientific collection permits are intended for issuance to an individual

Scientific collection permits are intended for issuance to individuals or institutions, such as public agencies, colleges, universities or businesses. In the case of a permit issued to an institution an individual must be identified as the responsible party. Sub-permittees may be listed on the application, and will be included on the issued permit. Any sub-permittee working in the absence of the responsible party must have a copy of the original permit in his or her possession. If, at any time, it is determined that additional personnel are required to complete the project the responsible party may request an amendment to the existing permit.

2. Collection Categories

Collecting operations will be placed in one of three categories, each has restrictions pertaining to the methods of collection, collection site involved, qualifications and species taken. An applicant should review the collecting categories and request the lowest one under which the project objective can be accomplished. A lesser category than that requested may be assigned by the Department if upon review it is deemed justified.

A. State-wide

(1) State and Federal Wildlife Biologist

This category is for individuals carrying out work duties as part of their employment by a state or federal agency. For example, SCDNR, USFWS, USFS, and APHIS.

Restrictions:

- i. Unattended collection devices must be identified by name and permit number.
- ii. Permit will designate area to site and/or county level if known.

B. Designated Area Permit

(1) Professional

This category is for individuals carrying out work duties as part of their employment by universities and academic institutions, consulting firms, power companies, non-profit agencies, and other public agencies.

Restrictions:

- i. Collection restrictions and limits will be determined by an evaluation of project design and specified on the permit. If no restrictions or limits are specified on the permit, no limits are imposed.
- ii. Unattended collection devices must be identified by name and permit number.

(2) Nonprofessional

This category is for teachers and schools and individuals working in a personal capacity (i.e., permit needed for activities not associated with any job duty).

Restrictions:

- i. Collection restrictions and limits will be determined by an evaluation of project design and specified on the permit. If no restrictions or limits are specified on the permit, none are imposed.
- ii. Unattended collection devices must be identified by name and permit number.
- iii. Permit will designate area (precise location) of proposed activity. For reptiles and amphibians, specification to the county or regional level is accepted.

3. Qualifications of Applicant

Present background information of the person named on the permit pertaining to their expertise and ability to carry out the proposed activity. If the use of fish toxicants or bird trapping or handling is requested, clearly state experience.

4. References

Include two references (other than relatives and outside the responsible party's affiliation – agency, institution, etc.) that possess knowledge of the individual's ability to perform the proposed activities and have expertise in the project area sufficient to offer a valid recommendation for the responsible party to be issued a permit. Reference letters should be attached to the application form if possible.

5. Description of Collection Activities

Completely fill in the following information on the application form or attach a project proposal of the proposed activity that includes the following:

A. Clearly state the objective of the project or overall study.

B. Identify the importance or need of proposed activity and explanation of how the proposed activity will add appreciably to the knowledge of the resource involved.

- C. Duration of project. Permits may be issued for varying periods of time and all permits expire on December 31 of the calendar year. Permits can be renewed upon submission of an application and payment of a ten-dollar renewal fee if the Department determines the applicant and program or project is still qualified.
- D. List the species (or groups) to be taken.
- E. State exact number or range of individuals to be taken and the sampling frequency (e.g., xyz species, 30, sampling Saturdays in May and June; xyz species, 100-200, sampling every other week February 1 to June 30).
- F. Description of procedures and specific method(s) of take.
- G. Location where proposed activity is to be conducted; exact locations and/or area identified by gps location, road(s) and/or road intersection(s), area boundary (e.g., state forest), stream segment, etc. In addition to a written description, maps will be accepted. For reptiles and amphibians, specification to the county or regional level is accepted; bird activity locations need to be to the site level. This information is necessary to properly evaluate the impact on individual species, provide coordination among researchers, etc.
- H. Specimen disposition – If individuals are killed, state proposed final disposition – such as a museum collection, burial, etc. If individuals are to be captured, marked and released identify the type of tag, band or mark including the numbering system and release location.
- I. Briefly describe how the information gathered under the permit will be compiled for access by other researchers, collectors, etc.

6. Additional Permit Requirements

- A. A number of species in South Carolina are protected by both State and Federal laws. If you have applied for and/or received a Federal permit for the proposed activity, please attach a copy of such permit or application. We will specify if any additional permits are required after reviewing the application. All Federal permits are invalid unless accompanied by the appropriate State permit.
- B. A condition of permit issuance requires a summary of all activities conducted during the permit period. No information reported to the Department will be used outside the Department without the specific written permission of the permittee. The reported information will be used to monitor the effect of collection activities on various species. Failure to file this report at the end of the permit period shall be considered grounds for refusing renewal of the permit in subsequent years.
- C. Upon review the Department may add additional requirements (e.g., need to coordinate activities with similar projects).

7. Application Fee

The applicant shall pay \$10.00 to defray the necessary expense with the issuance of the collecting permit. Make check out to SCDNR.

8. Renewal  
Permits expire on December 31 of each calendar year. Renewals will be considered upon receipt of an application form, \$10.00 application fee, and final report from the previous year or last year a permit was issued. The same application form is used for renewal and new permits.
9. Final Report  
List by species and location the number collected; method of collection; status (e.g., released, marked and released including the type of marking); final disposition if killed (e.g., burial, type of collection, etc); and results relating to objectives stated in application.

**Send completed application and fee to:**

Emily Kearse  
SCDNR  
PO Box 167  
Columbia, SC 29202  
KearseE@dnr.sc.gov

**If you have any questions:**

For reptiles, amphibians:

Andrew Grosse  
SCDNR - Herpetologist  
GrosseA@dnr.sc.gov

For alligators:

Morgan Hart  
SCDNR – Alligator Biologist  
HartM@dnr.sc.gov

For bats:

Jennifer Kindel  
SCDNR – Bat Biologist  
KindelJ@dnr.sc.gov

For land birds:

Amy Tegeler  
SCDNR – Bird Conservation Coordinator  
TegelerA@dnr.sc.gov

For sea and shore birds:

Felicia Sanders  
SCDNR – Sea and Shorebird Biologist  
SandersF@dnr.sc.gov

For wading birds:

Christy Hand  
SCDNR - Wading Bird Biologist  
HandC@dnr.sc.gov