**South Carolina General Assembly**

123rd Session, 2019-2020

**S. 713**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Grooms

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Introduced in the Senate on March 27, 2019

Currently residing in the Senate Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry**

Summary: Blue catfish

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

3/27/2019 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\sj\20190327.docx))

3/27/2019 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\sj\20190327.docx))

View the latest [legislative information](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=713&session=123&summary=B) at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[3/27/2019](file:///p:\pprever\2019-20\713_20190327.docx)

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 50-13-640 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE POSSESSION OF BLUE CATFISH, TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS MORE THAN TWO BLUE CATFISH LONGER THAN THIRTY-TWO INCHES PER DAY IN LAKE MARION, LAKE MOULTRIE, OR THE UPPER REACH OF THE SANTEE RIVER, AND THE CONGAREE AND WATEREE RIVERS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR A DAILY CATCH LIMIT OF TWENTY-FIVE BLUE CATFISH A DAY IN LAKE MARION, LAKE MOULTRIE, AND THE UPPER REACH OF THE SANTEE RIVER; TO AMEND SECTION 50-9-1120(3) OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO THE POINT SYSTEM FOR FISHING VIOLATIONS, TO PROVIDE THAT A VIOLATION OF BLUE CATFISH CATCH LIMITS IS FOURTEEN POINTS; AND TO REQUIRE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE BLUE CATFISH FISHERY IN THE SANTEE AND COOPER RIVER SYSTEMS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 50-13-640 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50-13-640. (A) It is unlawful to possess more than ~~one~~ two blue catfish (Ictalurus furcatus) greater than ~~thirty‑six~~ thirty-two inches in length in any one day in Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, or the upper reach of the Santee River, and the Congaree and Wateree Rivers.

(B) It is unlawful to take more than twenty-five blue catfish (Ictalurus furcatus) a day in Lake Marion, Lake Moultrie, and the upper reach of the Santee River.

(C) A person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than three hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.”

SECTION 2. Section 50-19-1120(3) of the 1976 Code is amended by adding an appropriately lettered new item to read:

“( ) taking or possessing more than the legal creel or size limit of blue catfish: 14.”

SECTION 3. The Department of Natural Resources shall conduct a study of the blue catfish fishery in the Santee and Cooper River systems and make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the fisheries on or before January 1, 2025.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect July 1, 2019.

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