**South Carolina General Assembly**

119th Session, 2011-2012

**A210, R224, S1364**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Cromer

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Introduced in the Senate on March 22, 2012

Introduced in the House on April 25, 2012

Passed by the General Assembly on May 30, 2012

Governor's Action: June 7, 2012, Signed

Summary: Sheepshead size and catch limits

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

3/22/2012 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 4](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\03-22-12.docx))

3/22/2012 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 4](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\03-22-12.docx))

4/18/2012 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 13](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\04-18-12.docx))

4/19/2012 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 48](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\04-19-12.docx))

4/19/2012 Senate Roll call Ayes‑35 Nays‑1 ([Senate Journal‑page 48](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\04-19-12.docx))

4/24/2012 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 19](file:///h:\sj%20archive\2012\04-24-12.docx))

4/25/2012 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\04-25-12.docx))

4/25/2012 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\04-25-12.docx))

5/23/2012 House Committee report: Favorable **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 7](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-23-12.docx))

5/29/2012 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 22](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-29-12.docx))

5/29/2012 House Roll call Yeas‑65 Nays‑39 ([House Journal‑page 22](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-29-12.docx))

5/30/2012 House Read third time and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 15](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2012\05-30-12.docx))

6/5/2012 Ratified R 224

6/7/2012 Signed By Governor

6/18/2012 Effective date 06/07/12

6/19/2012 Act No. 210

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[3/22/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\1364_20120322.docx)

[4/18/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\1364_20120418.docx)

[5/23/2012](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\1364_20120523.docx)

(A210, R224, S1364)

**AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 50‑5‑1705 AND 50‑5‑1710, BOTH AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO LAWFUL SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS FOR CERTAIN FISH, SO AS TO PROVIDE LAWFUL SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS FOR SHEEPSHEAD (ARCHOSARGUS PROBATOCEPHALUS).**

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

**Lawful catch limits for sheepshead**

SECTION 1. Section 50‑5‑1705 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 169 of 2010, is further amended to read:

“Section 50‑5‑1705. (A) As used in this article, a day means sunrise on one day to sunrise on the following day.

(B) It is unlawful for a person to take or have in possession more than ten spotted seatrout in any one day.

(C) It is unlawful for a person to take or have in possession more than three red drum in any one day.

(D) It is unlawful for a person to take or have in possession more than one tarpon in any one day.

(E) It is unlawful for a person to take or have in possession more than five black drum Pogonias cromis in any one day.

(F) It is unlawful for a person to take or possess more than twenty flounder (Paralichthys species) taken by means of gig, spear, hook and line, or similar device in any one day, not to exceed forty flounder in any one day on any boat.

(G) It is unlawful for a person to take or have in possession more than one weakfish Cynoscion regalis in any one day.

(H) It is unlawful for a person to take or possess more than ten sheepshead (Archosargus probatocephalus) in any one day, not to exceed thirty sheepshead in any one day on any boat.

(I) It is unlawful to take or possess Hardhead Catfish Ariopsis felis or Gafftopsail Catfish Bagre marinus.

(J) It is unlawful to gig for spotted seatrout or red drum from December first, through the last day of February inclusive.

(K) The possession limits do not apply to the possession or sale of properly identified fish imported by seafood dealers or produced by permitted mariculture operations, or to possession as allowed under permit authorized by this chapter.”

**Lawful size limits for sheepshead**

SECTION 2. Section 50‑5‑1710(A) of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 85 of 2007, is further amended to read:

“(A) Except as provided in Article 21, it is unlawful to take, possess, land, sell, purchase, or attempt to sell or purchase:

(1) spotted seatrout (Cynoscion nebulosus) (winter trout) of less than fourteen inches in total length;

(2) flounder (Paralichthys) of less than fourteen inches total length;

(3) red drum (Sciaenops ocellatus) (channel bass or spottail bass) of less than fifteen inches in total length, or more than twenty‑three inches in total length;

(4) black drum Pogonias cromis of less than fourteen inches or more than twenty‑seven inches in total length;

(5) weakfish Cynoscion regalis of less than twelve inches in total length; or

(6) sheepshead (Archosargus probatocephalus) of less than fourteen inches in total length.”

**Time effective**

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 5th day of June, 2012.

Approved the 7th day of June, 2012.

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