~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

AMENDED--NOT PRINTED IN THE HOUSE

Amt. No. 1A (3957C004.RT.CZ21.docx)

May 12, 2021

**H. 3957**

Introduced by Reps. Hewitt, Kirby, Bailey, and G.M. Smith

S. Printed 5/4/21--S.

Read the first time March 17, 2021.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTIONS 50‑5‑1705 AND 50‑5‑1710, BOTH AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO CATCH AND SIZE LIMITS FOR THE TAKING, POSSESSING, LANDING, SELLING, OR PURCHASING OF CERTAIN FISH FROM THE STATE’S WATERS, SO AS TO DECREASE THE CATCH LIMIT AND INCREASE THE SIZE LIMIT FOR FLOUNDER.

Amend Title To Conform

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

SECTION 1. Section 50‑5‑1705(G) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

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

SECTION 2. Section 50‑5‑1710(B)(2) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(2) flounder (Paralichthys) of less than ~~fifteen~~ sixteen inches total length;”

SECTION 3. Section 50‑9‑540(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 50‑9‑540. (A) For the privilege of recreational statewide fishing in saltwater:

(1) a resident must purchase:

(a) a fourteen day temporary saltwater fishing license for ~~five~~ ten dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(b) an annual saltwater fishing license for ~~ten~~ fifteen dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(c) a three year saltwater fishing license for ~~thirty~~ forty‑five dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(d) a lifetime statewide saltwater fishing license for three hundred dollars at designated licensing locations; or

(e) any other license which grants saltwater fishing privileges;

(2) a nonresident must purchase:

(a) a ~~fourteen~~ seven day temporary saltwater fishing license for ~~eleven~~ thirty‑five dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain;

(b) an annual saltwater fishing license for ~~thirty‑five~~ seventy‑five dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain; or

(c) ~~a three year saltwater fishing license for one hundred five dollars, three dollars of which the issuing sales vendor may retain~~ a one day temporary saltwater fishing licenses for ten dollars, one dollar of which the issuing sales vendor may retain; or

(d) any other license which grants saltwater fishing privileges. A nonresident who uses a guide must purchase a temporary or annual saltwater fishing license.”

SECTION 4. Section 50‑9‑920(C) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(C) Revenue generated from the sale of recreational and commercial marine licenses, permits, and tags shall be deposited to the Marine Resources Fund. Revenue generated from the sale of recreational licenses, permits, and tags must be distributed in accordance with the provisions of Sections 50‑9‑960 and 50‑9‑965, provided that a minimum of five dollars from the sale of each recreational saltwater fishing license must be used for the development and implementation of a flounder stocking program.”

SECTION 5. SECTION 1 of this act is repealed on June 30, 2024, and the text amended by that SECTION shall revert back to the language contained in the South Carolina Code of Laws as of January 1, 2020.

SECTION 6. The Department of Natural Resources shall furnish a written report to the General Assembly on South Carolina’s stock of flounder by December 31, 2023. The report must provide future projections.

SECTION 7. This act takes effect on July 1, 2021.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑