**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**A16, R32, S219**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Goldfinch

Document Path: SFGF-0010BC25.docx

Introduced in the Senate on January 15, 2025

Introduced in the House on March 5, 2025

Last Amended on February 26, 2025

Currently residing in the House

Governor's Action: May 8, 2025, Signed

Summary: Snapper-Grouper Fishery

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

3/5/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs**

1/15/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 9](h:\sj\20250115.docx))

1/15/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 9](h:\sj\20250115.docx))

2/19/2025 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Fish, Game and Forestry** ([Senate Journal‑page 13](h:\sj\20250219.docx))

2/26/2025 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 25](h:\sj\20250226.docx))

2/26/2025 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 25](h:\sj\20250226.docx))

2/26/2025 Senate Roll call Ayes-44 Nays-0 ([Senate Journal‑page 25](h:\sj\20250226.docx))

2/27/2025 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 11](h:\sj\20250227.docx))

3/5/2025 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 9](h:\hj\20250305.docx))

3/5/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 9](h:\hj\20250305.docx))

4/29/2025 House Committee report: Favorable **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 5](h:\hj\20250429.docx))

5/1/2025 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 19](h:\hj\20250501.docx))

5/1/2025 House Roll call Yeas-107 Nays-0 ([House Journal‑page 20](h:\hj\20250501.docx))

5/1/2025 House Unanimous consent for third reading on next legislative day ([House Journal‑page 21](h:\hj\20250501.docx))

5/2/2025 House Read third time and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 12](h:\hj\20250502.docx))

5/6/2025 Ratified R 32

5/8/2025 Signed By Governor

5/16/2025 Effective date 05/08/25

5/16/2025 Act No. 16

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=219&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/15/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/219_20250115.docx)

[02/19/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/219_20250219.docx)

[02/26/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/219_20250226.docx)

[02/26/2025-A](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/219_20250226a.docx)

[04/29/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/219_20250429.docx)

(A16, R32, S219)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 50‑5‑2730, RELATING TO THE APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL FISHING REGULATIONS IN STATE WATERS, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE SEASON, CATCH LIMITS, AND MINIMUM SIZES FOR CERTAIN SPECIES UNDER THE SNAPPER‑GROUPER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.

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

Federal fishing regulations declared to be law of State, exceptions

SECTION 1. Section 50‑5‑2730 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 50‑5‑2730. (A) Unless otherwise provided by law, any regulations promulgated by the federal government under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act (PL 94‑265) or the Atlantic Tuna Conservation Act (PL 94‑70) which establishes seasons, fishing periods, gear restrictions, sales restrictions, or bag, catch, size, or possession limits on fish are declared to be the law of this State and apply statewide including in state waters.

(B) This provision does not apply to:

(1) black sea bass (Centropristis striata) whose lawful catch limit is five fish per person per day or the same as the federal limit for black sea bass, whichever is higher. The lawful minimum size for black sea bass is thirteen inches total length and there is no closed season;

(2) red snapper (Lutjanus campechanus) whose lawful catch limit is two fish per person per day. The lawful minimum size for red snapper is twenty inches total length and there is no closed season; or

(3) all other species under the Snapper‑Grouper Fishery Management Plan. The lawful catch limit for a species under that plan is the limit as published in the 2024-2025 South Carolina Hunting and Fishing Laws and Regulations Guide, or the federal limit for the species, whichever is higher. The lawful minimum size limit for a species under that plan is the size as published in the 2024-2025 South Carolina Hunting and Fishing Laws and Regulations Guide, or the federal limit for the species, whichever is lower. There is no closed season.

Time effective

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 6th day of May, 2025.

Approved the 8th day of May, 2025.

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