



Beginning in 1910 as the Office of the Chief Game Warden, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has had in 99 years just six directors: James Henry Rice (1910-1913), A.A. Richardson (1913-1958), James W. Webb (1959-1974), James A. Timmerman, Jr. (1974-1997), Paul A. Sandifer (1997-2003) and John E. Frampton (2003 to present). Since its inception the agency's name has changed four times. Its staff now numbers 800, and its responsibilities include managing game, nongame and endangered wildlife, both inland and in South Carolina's coastal zone; water and land resource management and conservation; Office of State Climatologist; and state Geological Survey.

On July 1, 1994, the DNR was formed by the merger of the former Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, Water Resources Commission (non-regulatory programs), Land Resources Conservation Commission (non-regulatory programs), State Geological Survey (State Geologist) and S.C. Migratory Waterfowl Committee.

Boards and Advisory Committees

The DNR is governed by the seven-member S.C. Natural Resources Board, with one member representing each of the state's six congressional districts and one at large. The board meets monthly, usually the third Friday. Citizens advisory committees meet periodically. The public is invited to attend all meetings and comment is encouraged. Upcoming meetings are announced through news releases on the DNR webpage at: www.dnr.sc.gov, local newspapers, or the DNR Communications Office at Newsdesk@dnr.sc.gov.

Several advisory boards and committees keep South Carolina citizens in active participation with the S.C. Natural Resources Board and the DNR. These include the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, S.C. Migratory Waterfowl Committee, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee, Law Enforcement Advisory Committee, Marine Resources Advisory Committee, Marine Recreational Fisheries Advisory Committee and Land, Water & Conservation Advisory Committee.

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries develops and implements programs that manage and conserve the wildlife and freshwater fishery resources of the state. Division programs are divided among two sections: Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. The main offices are located at 1000 Assembly Street in Columbia, with regional offices in Clemson, Florence and Charleston.

The Wildlife Section protects, conserves and enhances the state's wildlife species, their habitats and associated wildlife for the public benefit of present and future generations and ensures the best possible hunting and viewing opportunities for the public.

The section is responsible for the development, operation and maintenance of the state's Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Program, which has an objective of providing affordable public hunting and a quality outdoor experience for the citizens of South Carolina. Through department-owned WMA lands and Natural Area Heritage Preserves, the section provides a long-term intensively managed habitat base for the protection, enhancement and utilization of a wide variety of wildlife species.

Wildlife Section staff provide technical assistance to private landowners and public and private entities to effectively and efficiently manage, enhance and/or control wildlife on their property and to maximize the benefit of renewable resources through applied management programs. Species-specific programs are administered for deer, turkey, small game, waterfowl, furbearers and alligators. Focus Area wetland and wildlife initiatives, such as the ACE Basin Project, are coordinated by the section, as well as cooperative projects among government, public and private entities.

The section's Nongame and Endangered Species Team supports and administers research, survey and monitoring projects, as well as recovery initiatives for federal and state-listed threatened and endangered species. Both rare species and species of concern are checked periodically for indicators of degradation. Field biologists work with other scientists, industries, schools, environmental groups and private landowners in



decisions relative to conservation of these species. Revenue from both the Check for Wildlife on your state income tax form and the Wildlife Conservation license plates supports these projects.

The Freshwater Fisheries Section has among its objectives the protection, enhancement and conservation of South Carolina's inland aquatic resources and the provision of recreational fishing opportunities for the state's citizens. The section has five components: hatcheries, regional operations, state public fishing lakes, research and diadromous fisheries.



Section activities are directed to provide the information and services needed to maintain and improve South Carolina's freshwater fishery resources. All public water fish kills are investigated and those caused by unnatural events are pursued to recover suffered damages.

Eighteen public fishing lakes are maintained for anglers' enjoyment. Five fish hatcheries produce the species and numbers of fish necessary to maintain productive fishing opportunities and restoration of imperiled species. Access and other angling improvements are developed and maintained to enhance angler convenience and success. Essential biological data are collected, analyzed and reported with appropriate management recommendations. Diadromous fish populations are monitored and enhanced through operation of the St. Stephen Fish Lift and fish passage at the Pinopolis Lock.

Marine Resources

The Division of Marine Resources is responsible for the management and conservation of the state's marine resources. The division conducts routine monitoring and research on the state's marine resources and makes recommendations for the management of those resources. The division is headquartered at the Marine Resources Center on Charleston Harbor.

Biologists open and close marine fishing seasons, recommend size and catch limits for fish, track trends in abundance of marine species and review coastal development activities. Through the use of permits and permit conditions the managers control the harvest of fish, shrimp, crab and shellfish.

The division monitors the status of marine species and the marine environment. Through the use of ocean-going vessels, modern laboratory equipment and computer-generated maps, staff monitor inshore and offshore finfish and shellfish populations and their environments. Research is aimed largely at understanding life histories and the impacts of nature and man on important marine organisms. A field laboratory — the Waddell Mariculture Center — near Bluffton is dedicated to the development of methods for the reproduction and grow-out of marine animals in man-made ponds for private culture operations as well as production of hatchery-reared fish that can be released into coastal waters to bolster natural stocks. The division is headquartered in Charleston with field offices in Bluffton, Georgetown and Bennett's Point.



Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement Division is responsible for enforcement of state and federal laws that govern hunting, recreational and commercial fishing, recreational boating and other natural resources conservation concerns. The division, operating from its Columbia headquarters at 1000 Assembly Street, conducts South Carolina's hunter and boater education courses and investigates boating and hunting accidents. DNR enforcement officers regularly conduct search and rescue missions to outlying areas and assist other law enforcement agencies in investigations.

South Carolina's corps of natural resources enforcement



officers is organized into four regions covering groups of the state's 46 counties and coastal marine shoreline and waters out to 200 miles. Regional offices are located in Clemson, Columbia, Florence and Charleston. Regional offices and the officers working from them are connected by a 24-hour radio system with a primary station in Columbia. A 24-hour toll-free number — 1-800-922-5431 — is maintained for emergencies requiring immediate law enforcement assistance from a natural resources officer. Any person may call this number anonymously to report a conservation law violation or provide information that could lead to the arrest of a violator and become eligible for a cash reward through the Operation Game Thief Program.

Outreach and Support Services

The Division of Outreach and Support Services, with offices in Columbia (1000 Assembly Street) and Charleston (Marine Resources Center on James Island), supports all DNR divisions and programs in the areas of procurement, accounting, engineering, human resources, legal, audit, mail services, graphics, duplicating, editorial advisement, photography, video and news/media services. The Technology Development Program manages the agency's information technology including all systems and networks, help desk services, database administration and programming, Geographic Information Systems, remote sensing, electronic document management and world wide web applications development. OSS administers all agency funds, including federal, state and other revenue. The division is also accountable for the agency's equipment inventory, all fixed assets and land owned or leased by the agency. Engineering staff provides assistance to state, county and municipal government entities in the design, construction and renovation of boating access facilities.

The Boat Titling, Registration and Licensing Section provides customer service for more than 400,000 registered boats. Hunting and fishing licenses are sold through DNR offices, license agents (totaling more than 700), a toll-free number and the internet via the DNR website, www.dnr.sc.gov. Residents applying for special disability and lifetime licenses should contact any DNR office. DNR offices are located in Charleston, Clemson, Columbia and Florence. The Charleston and Columbia DNR offices can process Registration and Titling of New Boats and Outboard motors, transfers of boats and outboard motors, registration renewals, duplicate titles, duplicate boat and outboard motor decals and hunting and fishing license sales. The Clemson and Florence offices can process registration renewals, duplicate boat and outboard motor decals and hunting and fishing license sales. DNR offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the exception of state holidays.



Outreach and Support Services coordinates DNR's outreach, education and public relations efforts. Ongoing activities are Natural Resource Schools, SC Reel Kids, *South Carolina Wildlife Magazine*, promotion of nature-based recreational activities, Junior Duck Stamp Contest, Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic, Camp Wildwood, *South Carolina Wildlife Television* show and much more.

Land, Water & Conservation

The Land, Water and Conservation Division implements programs established by law that manage and conserve the state's land and water resources. This is accomplished by providing guidance in resource development and management through planning, research, technical assistance and public education. The division's main office in Columbia is at 1000 Assembly Street. Field offices are located in Clemson, Florence and Charleston.

The Aquatic Nuisance Species Program works to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native invasive species, such as hydrilla, in the state's public waters. Invasive plants and animals can harm a variety of water uses, including public water supply, recreation and power generation. The Flood Mitigation Program coordinates floodplain management



and National Flood Insurance Program functions in the State. The division coordinates DNR review of environmental impacts of construction and alteration activities in the 38 inland counties of South Carolina. Analytical laboratory services are provided to all divisions of the DNR.

The State Climatology Office is the state’s official archive and focal point for climate and weather information. The office serves state government and the public by providing documented historical climate information, seasonal and severe weather predictions, agricultural weather services, drought response planning and hurricane and tornado tracking and impact assessment.

Hydrology staff conduct routine monitoring and scientific studies of the State’s surface and ground-water resources and provide technical assistance to water users.

The Geological Survey develops geologic maps of the state, conducts geologic framework studies and provides assistance in geologic hazard mitigation.

Habitat Protection programs protect special natural and cultural resources through the Heritage Trust Program and work with local advisory councils to manage the state’s 10 scenic rivers. DNR works with the state’s 46 soil and water conservation districts to provide technical assistance and information on best management practices for land and water conservation. Services include farm planning, urban and rural flood control, soil conservation, water quality initiatives and wildlife management.

Information Directory

Boat Titling & Registration.....	803-734-3857
Human Resources	803-734-4400
Hunter & Boater Education	800-277-4301
Land, Water & Conservation.....	803-734-9100
Geological Survey	803-896-7708
Law Enforcement.....	803-734-4002
To Report Violations	1-800-922-5431
Licenses, Permits, Stamps Columbia Office.....	803-734-3833
Charleston Office	843-953-9301
Licenses by Phone.....	866-714-3611
Marine Resources Division.....	843-953-9300
Outreach & Support Services.....	803-734-3624
Clemson Regional Office	864-654-1671
<i>S.C. Wildlife</i> Magazine Subscriptions & Wildlife Shop	803-734-3967
Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries	803-734-3886