



Photo by Susan Murray

How to be safe Around Alligators

- Keep your distance from alligators.
- Do closely supervise children and leash pets when around bodies of water.
- Don't feed other wildlife or throw fish scraps & trash in bodies of water alligators may live in.
- Never disturb nests or small alligators.

For nuisance alligator concerns

CONTACT:

The Gatehouse: 843-768-6641

If SIPOA staff determine that removal is warranted, a professional alligator trapper licensed by SCDNR will be contacted to remove and euthanize the animal.

It is **ILLEGAL** and **DANGEROUS** to feed or harass alligators.

Fine: \$1,000

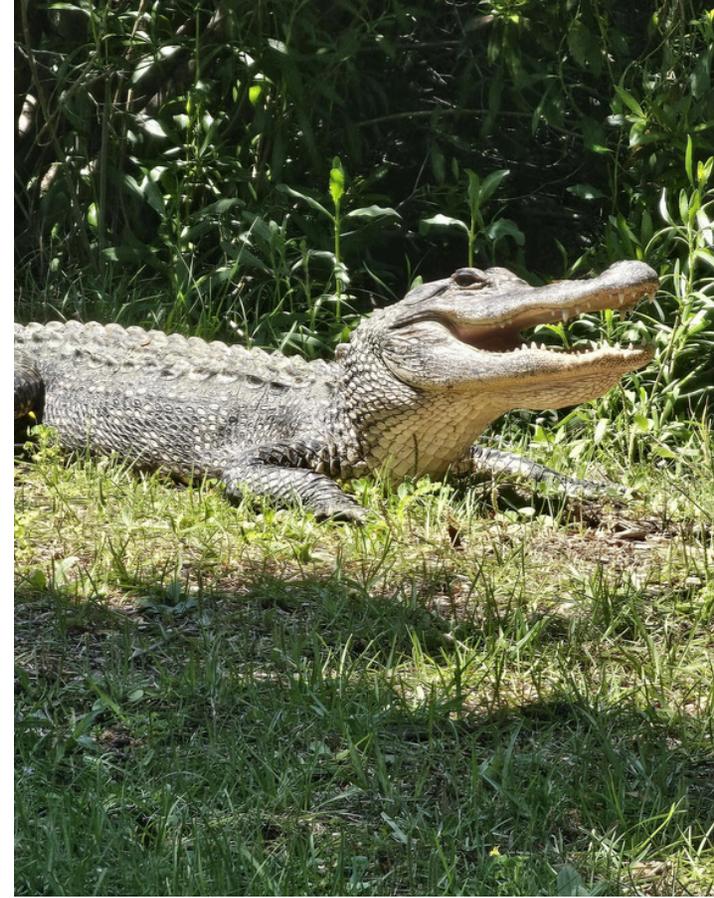
CALL 911, NOT THE GATEHOUSE, FOR FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, OR POLICE

Resources

SIPOA's Wildlife Sightings Portal



More information from SCDNR, or call 843-953-9856



SEABROOK ISLAND
Property Owners Association

Alligator mississippiensis

Alligator Safety

Description

Alligators are cold-blooded reptiles and are generally black in color with creamy white underbellies. They have rows of rough scales (scutes) along their backs and large broad snouts. Juvenile alligators have several yellow and white bands along their bodies. They range in size from 9 inches to 13 feet long.

Typical Behaviors

Ambush predators: They attack from the water. If you see an alligator laying on the bank, it is most likely basking (warming their bodies in the sun).

Bellowing: A growling/rumbling noise made by males to attract females during mating season.

Movement: During the spring/summer, juveniles (<6ft) move around frequently for food and to avoid larger males.

Habitat

Alligators were once federally listed as an endangered species due to poaching and habitat loss, and are still protected today. Primarily freshwater animals, the coastal marshlands of South Carolina provide quality habitat for alligators. They can be found in any freshwater habitat, including lakes, rivers, ponds, swampy areas, and occasionally brackish and saltwater areas.



Prey & Food

Alligators are opportunistic feeders and can't necessarily distinguish their normal prey from a house pet, or a splashing person from a fish. Alligators are most active from dusk to dawn, and feed on fish, turtles, wading birds, snakes, frogs, small mammals, and sometimes smaller alligators.

Management & Control

Nuisance Alligators:

Those that have become habituated or aggressive with people and pets (from feeding), or show signs of illness or injury. SCDNR does not allow relocation. Alligators have a strong homing instinct, making relocation ineffective. Also, if it is a nuisance in one location, it will be in another.

Nuisance alligators will be euthanized.

