

Seabrook Island Fishing Guidelines and Etiquette, *Short Version*

For a detailed outline of Seabrook Island's Fishing Guidelines and Etiquette, please visit the SIPOA website: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/eb5afdb604cb4935a9ee24c7c17fc5bc?item=8>

1. Introduction

Seabrook Island is a private coastal community offering a variety of fishing opportunities. This overview provides guidelines for surf, river, stream, pond, and marsh fishing, and fishing from bridges on Seabrook Island. Adherence to these guidelines ensures a safe and enjoyable experience for all residents and visitors.

2. License Requirements

All individuals fishing, crabbing, or shell fishing in saltwater on Seabrook Island must comply with **SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) regulations and possess a valid SC fishing license** (<https://saltwaterfishing.sc.gov/license.html>). This includes all marshes, creeks and inlets, and any ponds that are tidal. However, a fishing license is not required for freshwater fishing in non-tidal freshwater ponds and lakes. Resident and non-resident licenses can be obtained online at the SC Department of Natural Resources (www.dnr.sc.gov) (<https://gooutdoorssouthcarolina.com>) or call 843-762-5000.

3. Fish, Fishing Regulations

The SCDNR (www.dnr.sc.gov) has specific seasonal size, limit, and equipment regulations that change from time to time for fishing, crabbing, and shell fishing (<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/regulations.html>)

- **Town Ordinance prohibits chumming** within 600 feet of the beach
Definition: Chumming means the depositing into water chopped or ground bait consisting of raw meat or fish parts including blood and oil thereof (excluding poultry) in an attempt to catch fish.
- This does NOT affect or prohibit the baiting of **crab traps** or the placement of natural bait upon a **hook and line**.

4. Surf Fishing Guidelines

Fishermen and swimmers should be cognizant and considerate of each other, use common sense, and treat each other with mutual respect so all can enjoy the beach and cohabitate the shore peacefully together.

5. Bridge Fishing Guidelines/Safety Issues

- **Be mindful of traffic when fishing from bridges.**
- Do not obstruct the roadway or walkways. Follow posted signs and guidelines.

6. Post-Fishing Etiquette

- **Clean Up:** Ensure all trash, bait, and equipment are cleaned up and disposed of properly.
- **Bait:** Do not leave bait on the beach or near fishing or crabbing areas.
- **Keep equipment** (fishing, crabbing) from cluttering the area and store all equipment safely after use
- **Hooks/crab traps:** Properly dispose of hooks and other sharp objects to prevent injuries and adhere to crab trap regulations
- **Shellfish:** Any discarded or open shells should be disposed of properly; do not leave shells in public areas.

7. Beach Patrol Authority

The Seabrook Island Beach Patrol and SIPOA Patrol Officers have the authority to issue warnings or citations, and to ask fisherman or swimmers to move if in their judgement they feel there is a safety issue. They are responsible for ensuring the safety of all beachgoers and responding to any incidents.

8. Golf Course Ponds/Lakes

For safety reasons, the Seabrook Island Club does not permit non-golfers to be on the course. Do not fish the ponds/lakes on the golf courses or practice areas.

9. Conclusion

By following these guidelines, you contribute to the preservation of Seabrook Island's natural beauty, the freedoms for all to enjoy our special island, the rights of fishermen and swimmers, and the safety of all its residents and visitors.

Thank you for your cooperation and happy fishing!