

Fish Species

Partial List

Black Crappie
(*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)



Bluegill
(*Lepomis macrochirus*)

Bowfin
(*Amia calva*)



Channel Catfish
(*Ictalurus punctatus*)

Largemouth Bass
(*Micropterus salmoides*)



Redbreast Sunfish
(*Lepomis auritus*)

Striped Bass
(*Morone saxatilis*)



Yellow Perch
(*Perca flavescens*)



Ethics and Safety

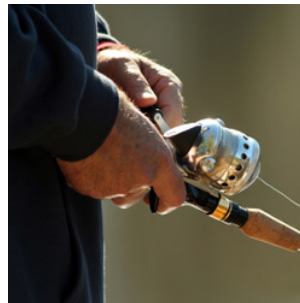


Are you an ethical angler?

- Are you considerate of other anglers? Are you quiet and respectful of others space?
- Do you practice Leave No Trace principles? Do you remember to leave the Park cleaner than when you arrived?
- Do you abide by all of the Park's rules and regulations?
- Do you practice catch and release fishing?

Are you a safety conscious angler?

- Do you wear sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray and clothing to protect you from the natural elements?
- Do you always look behind you and to the side before casting to prevent hooking another person?
- Do you take note of your surroundings? Do you have a Park map and a compass to use if you should decide to get off the trail system?
- Are you alert for ant mounds, snakes and stinging insects?
- Are you careful around the water? If fishing from a boat, do you always wear a life jacket or have a PFD (personal floatation device)?



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Congaree National Park



Congaree National Park Fishing Regulations



100 National Park Rd. • Hopkins, SC 29061
(803) 776-4396 • www.nps.gov/cong

Regulations

1. Do I need a fishing license to fish in Congaree National Park?

Yes. Persons fishing in the Park are required to have a valid South Carolina State fishing license. This fishing license must be in your possession while fishing in the Park. Additionally, identification indicating your name and address must also be in your possession while fishing in the Park.

2. Are there any exceptions?

Yes. Details concerning these exceptions can be found in the South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 50. The exceptions are as follows:

- Persons under sixteen (16) years of age do not require a fishing license.
- Residents who have attained the age of sixty-four (64) years may obtain a lifetime fishing license for a small fee. Those residents that have attained the age of sixty-five (65) on or before July 1, 2005 may obtain this license at no cost.
- Residents who are in the military and stationed outside the United States may fish without a license if they have a copy of their official leave papers.
- Disabled veterans who are residents of South Carolina for at least one (1) year, may apply for a fishing license at no cost.
- Residents who are certified as totally disabled may obtain a fishing license at no cost.

3. How do I obtain a South Carolina state fishing license?

A recreational fishing license can be purchased online, by telephone at 1-866-714-3611, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, or by visiting South Carolina Department of Natural Resources license sales agents across the state.

4. Are there any places in the Park where I am not allowed to fish?

Fishing is permitted in all areas of Congaree National Park. Fishing is not allowed from or within 25 feet of any man-made structure, including bridges, boardwalk, and overlooks.

5. When can I fish in the Park?

Fishing is permitted in the Park twenty-four (24) hours a day and there is not a closed freshwater game fish season in the Park except as stated in Section twelve (12) of the S.C. Code of Laws, Title 50, concerning Striped Bass.

Regulations

4. What type of fishing is allowed in the Park?

Recreational fishing is allowed in the Park. Commercial fishing is not allowed.

5. What fishing devices can I use in the Park?

Game fish may be caught with only a closely attended hook and line, which includes a casting rod, fly rod, pole and line, cane pole or hand line. Not more than two (2) of these devices may be used by any person fishing at the same time, except when fishing from a boat. When fishing from a boat, an unlimited number of lawful fishing devices may be used provided every boat occupant (who would normally be required to have a fishing license) possesses a valid fishing license.

6. Are there any fishing devices I cannot use in the Park?

Yes. Non-game fishing methods and devices may not be used. These include but are not limited to set hooks, jugs, trotlines, gill nets, hoop nets, traps, eel pots, bows and arrows, spears, cast nets, skimbow nets, minnow seines, tires, and seines. Furthermore fishing by the use of firearms, drugs, poisons, explosives, electricity or other means is not allowed.

8. Is there a limit on the type of bait I can use while fishing in the Park?

Yes. Live or dead minnows or other bait fish, amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or fish roe cannot be used in the Park. Game fish may be used as bait, but must be included in the daily creel limits.

9. May I use fish attractants?

No. Chumming or placing preserved or fresh fish eggs, fish roe, food, fish parts, chemicals, or other foreign substances in Park waters is not allowed.



Regulations

10. May I dig for bait in the Park?

No. Digging for bait is not allowed in the Park.

11. What do I do with unwanted fish?

Any fish that does not meet size and/or species restrictions or fish that are not to be kept must be returned carefully and immediately to the water. These fish will not be included in the catch or possession limit provided that at the time of catching the person did not already possess the legal limit of fish.

12. What is the daily creel limit on game fish?

You may not catch more than forty (40) game fish in any one (1) day provided that the following creel limits are met.

- No more than ten (10) of the total may be Striped Bass (Rockfish) or hybrid White Bass (Striped Bass - White Bass) or any combination thereof; however, because the waters of the Congaree River are in the Lower Santee River system the following regulations apply for Striped Bass:
 - From June 1st through September 30th it is unlawful to possess any Striped Bass.
 - From October 1st through May 31st, it is unlawful to take or possess more than three (3) Striped Bass per day.
 - From October 1st through May 31st, it is unlawful to take or possess a Striped Bass less than twenty-six (26) inches in total length.
- No more than ten (10) of the total may be Black Bass (Large Mouth, Small Mouth, Red-eye Bass (Coosae) or any combination thereof).
- No more than ten (10) of the total may be trout.
- No more than thirty (30) of the total may be any game fish not specified, such as crappie, bream, Yellow Perch, Walleye, Sauger, etc.
- For catfish, there are no limits, except for one (1) Blue Catfish allowed per day that must be over thirty-six (36) inches in length taken from south of the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers.

13. Where may I find and research these regulations?

The Park rules and regulations may be found in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 2.3 and in Congaree National Park Superintendent's Compendium. Adopted State regulations may be found in the South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 50. Links to these regulations can be found on the Park's webpage at www.nps.gov/cong.