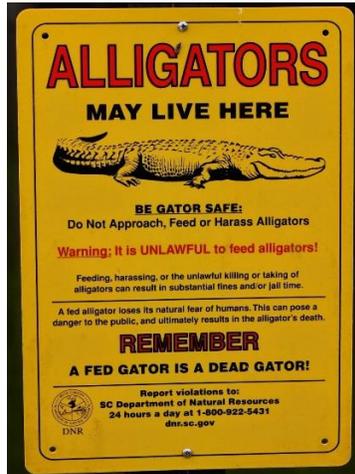


WARNING!



It is illegal to taunt, harass or feed any wildlife by The State of South Carolina. By feeding turtles, fish and other wildlife in the waters or surrounding area can and will attract alligators which makes them become aggressive and dangerous toward humans.

VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW!

Report violators directly to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) or to your community manager at Sentry Management immediately!



South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
24 hours a day
1-800-922-5431

OR



Sentry Management
4454 Bluffton Park Crescent, Ste. 107
Bluffton, SC 29910
843-605-4244 • hiltonhead@sentrymgt.com

**How to Be SAFE around Alligators:
The DO's & DON'Ts**

Being safe around alligators only takes a little common sense and a basic understanding of alligator behavior.

Still, alligators are large carnivorous predators that demand respect. They can be enjoyed while being observed in the wild by heeding the following steps:

- **Don't feed the alligators:** feeding threatens the safety of both people and animals. Do not feed other animals that inhabit the waters with alligators.
- **Keep your distance:** alligators can move with bursts of speed on land over short distances. A safe distance from an adult should be maintained at 60 feet. If it hisses or lunges at you, you are too close.
- **Do not attempt to move alligators out of the road:** If you see an alligator on the move, leave it alone and let it pass through.
- **It is illegal to harass or throw things at alligators:** Molesting, injuring or killing alligators is punishable by law with fines up to \$2500 and 30 days in jail.
- **Never disturb nests or small alligators:** female alligators protect their young and can become aggressive if provoked.
- **Do not attempt to keep alligators as pets:** Although they start out cute and small, they grow into the large predator that you see outdoors.
- **Keep you pets and children away from alligators:** when they are hungry, alligators act on the hunting instinct and might attempt to feed on your house pet. Keep your pets on a leash & your children away from the waters edge. Splashing can attract alligators that think a prey animal is injured. Be cautious when fishing and avoid heavy vegetation in & around the waters edge.

Advice to Remember

"Alligators are fascinating creatures and should by all means be enjoyed as part of the natural beauty of our region. But please remember that they are wild animals and should be respected as such. Once they become too familiar with people, they lose their fear of humans, necessitating their removal from the area for the safety of everyone concerned. A few precautions on our part can help both humans and alligators co-exist safely."

~ Dr. J. Whitfield Gibbons ~
Savannah River Ecology Laboratory
Director of Outreach

Always be
"Alligator Safe"
near the water



DNR

SCDNR - Lower Coastal Region
Nuisance Alligator Control Program
1282 Webb Avenue
Garnett, SC 29922

*Lower Coastal Region includes;
Hampton, Jasper, Colleton & Beaufort Counties*



The American Alligator

(Alligator mississippiensis)

Living Among the "Modern Day Dinosaurs" Safety Tips & Facts to Keep in Mind



For Nuisance Alligator Concerns

Please contact your HOA, POA or Management
Company Representative

You may also contact:

Cindy G. Glick or **Zadok Moss**
NACP Coordination Asst. NACP Coordinator

SCDNR ~ Webb Wildlife Center WMA

Ofc: (803) 625-3569 Email: glickc@dnr.sc.gov
or

SCDNR Radio Room Dispatch @ (803) 955-4000
(after normal business hours)

American Alligator (*Alligator Mississippiensis*)

Description:

The name "alligator" comes from the Spanish "el lagarto," meaning lizard. Alligators are cold-blooded reptiles and are generally black in color with creamy white underbellies. They have rows of rough scales, or scutes, along their backs and large, broad snouts. Juvenile alligators have several yellow and white bands along their bodies. Alligators warm themselves by basking in the sun. This is generally seen when they are on the bank of a body of water. They will open their mouths while basking as a cooling method when they become too warm.



Distribution & Habitat:

Alligators were once federally listed as an endangered species. This was due in part to a gradual population decline because of habitat loss and poaching. Their status has since been changed to "Threatened upon similarity of appearance" due to their similarity to the American Crocodile. Alligators are common in many areas of the Southeast and can be found from Florida to North Carolina. In South Carolina American Alligators make extensive use of high quality habitat offered by the coastal marshlands. Alligators live in swampy areas, rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. Although they are primarily freshwater animals, alligators will venture into brackish and salt water areas.

Fun Facts!

The American Alligator can live up to 50-60 years in the wild.

Alligators & their relatives are the last living reptiles that were closely related to dinosaurs.

Reproduction & Offspring:

Breeding season for the American alligator coincides with warm weather. With the start of the season in May, males "bellow" to females and other males in the area. Alligator courtship is complex and involves different vocal calls, body posturing, snout & back rubbing, bubble blowing, slapping the surface of the water with their heads, and scent signals. By June pairs have mated, and females begin building ground nests out of nearby vegetation. Late June to mid July the female will lay 20-60 eggs and defend the nest. The incubation period tends to be 63-65 days. When the eggs hatch the female carries her young to the water. Hatchlings begin to feed almost immediately on insects, crustaceans, and snails. Females sometimes aggressively defend their young for more than a year. When an American Alligator reaches 6 feet in length, it is considered an adult. Alligators usually become sexually active when they are 7-9 feet in length.

Fun Fact!

There is only one other alligator species, the Chinese Alligator.



Prey & Food Habits:

Alligators are opportunistic feeders. Adults eat fish, turtles, wading birds, snakes, frogs, small mammals and even smaller alligators they find near the shoreline of their habitat. Alligators are most active and tend to feed between dusk and dawn. Alligators cannot necessarily distinguish their normal prey, such as a raccoon, from a domestic house pet. To an alligator, a splash in the water potentially means a food source. It is a good rule of thumb to keep your pets on leashes and keep your distance from the water's edge, especially during these times.

Management & Control: NUISANCE Alligators

Nuisance Alligators are animals that exhibit aggressive behaviors to humans or domestic animals, have become habituated to people (from feeding), show symptoms of debilitating illness or injury, or inhabit recreational waters intended primarily for swimming.

Alligators have a strong homing instinct. Therefore, relocating alligators that have been deemed a 'nuisance' is ineffective because they can return home. Also, if they are truly a nuisance in one location, they will be a nuisance in the next location as well.

Alligator relocation is illegal in SC.

If an alligator is deemed a nuisance it will need to be "removed", which means it will be killed. In 1989, the SCDNR initiated a Nuisance Alligator Control Program which permits contracted trappers to remove specific individuals.

REMOVAL PROCEDURE

1. If you have an HOA, POA or management company representative, contact them. They will determine if the animal needs to be removed.
2. If you do not have one of the above, please call the SCDNR Webb Center WMA.
3. Once the animal is determined to be a true nuisance, a Nuisance Alligator Depredation Permit will be issued.
4. The Permit and associated paperwork will be mailed to you along with a Tag and instructions for use.
5. Upon receipt of the Permit & Tag, you or someone you designate can capture and euthanize the animal.
6. After removal, complete the Harvest Summary included in your packet. Return it with the Permit and any unused Tags by the date requested.

Be 'Alligator Safe' around the water

Nearly any water body in the coastal plain of South Carolina may contain alligators, and the mere presence of alligators in or adjacent to their natural habitat in South Carolina is a normal occurrence and not normally an emergency requiring the animal's removal, according to biologists with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources. Furthermore, alligators less than four feet are typically not large enough to be dangerous to people unless handled. Never approach an alligator of any size, keep your distance and leave them alone!

In addition, keep these safety tips in mind:

- Never feed alligators. Not only is it illegal in South Carolina to feed alligators, it also teaches them to associate people with food. This can cause alligators to lose their natural fear of humans. In many cases, fed alligators will begin to approach at the sight of people and may become aggressive in seeking a handout. These animals will be euthanized to prevent unwanted alligator interactions. Also, don't dispose of fish scraps or crab bait in the water at boat ramps, docks, swimming, or camping areas. You can inadvertently be feeding alligators.
- If you see someone feeding alligators, contact the S.C. Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-922-5431.
- Avoid swimming in areas known to harbor large alligators. As the size of an alligator increases, so does the size of prey that it can consume. Don't swim or play in the water between dusk and dawn in areas with alligators. Alligators normally are more active during the night and can mistake splashing noises for prey. Only swim in areas designated for swimming. Higher levels of human activity found in designated swimming areas typically make alligators keep their distance. Other potential dangers include steep drop offs, stumps, rocks, and other underwater obstructions that you may not be able to see if the location is not a designated swimming area. Also, never swim alone, not just because of alligators, but also as a normal safety measure.
- Keep pets out of the water, even in designated swimming areas, if alligators are present. Pets are more susceptible to being attacked as they resemble normal prey items for alligators. Do not swim with your dog as it can attract the attention of alligators.
- Don't approach an alligator, keep your distance and leave them alone. Alligators can move in quick bursts over short distances but normally do not try to run after people. If an alligator hisses, it's a warning that you are too close.
- If an alligator is in a place where it cannot reasonably be expected to get back to the water without posing a risk to itself or to others, or is in a location that presents an immediate hazard, such as a road, school, pool, parking lot, etc., contact the DNR at 1-800-922-5431. Never attempt to capture or move an alligator by yourself.
- If bitten seek immediate medical attention, regardless of how minor the injury. Alligator bites can result in serious infections.

http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2016/jun/jun28_alligator.html
