

How to be Safe Around Alligators:

- Keep your distance from alligators.
- Be mindful of children and keep pets on a leash when in or 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.



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

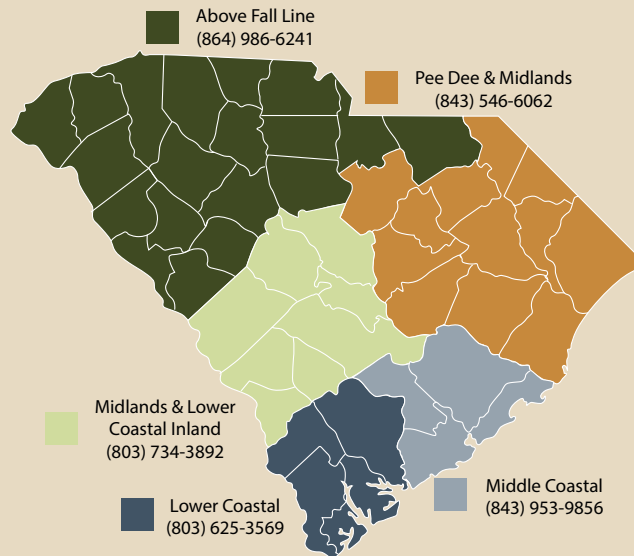


For nuisance alligator concerns

Please contact:
Your HOA, POA, or
management company first;

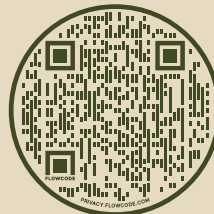
In case of emergency or after hours:
1-800-922-5431;

Your regional nuisance alligator coordinator



For more information on alligators & how to safely share space with them:

<https://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/herps/alligator.html>



The American Alligator: Living Among “Modern Day Dinosaurs”

(Alligator mississippiensis)



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 9in to 13ft long.



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.



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.

→ Public Hunt

Conducted on public and private lands, this lottery-style hunt begins at noon on the second Saturday of September and ends at noon on the second Saturday of October.

→ Private Lands Hunting Program

Established as a means for large landowners with a significant amount of alligator habitat to manage their alligator populations on a sustained-yield basis.

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

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.

