

Public Safety/Environment & Wildlife Committee

Joint Workshop

May 14, 2026 – 9:00 AM

[Watch Live on YouTube](#)

Seabrook Island Town Hall, Council Chambers
2001 Seabrook Island Road
Seabrook Island, SC 29455



AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND FOIA STATEMENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Chapter 32 (Beach Rules) Discussion of Amendments to Chapter 32 (Beach Rules)

- Vehicles
 - E-Bikes
 - E-Foils/Hydrofoils
 - Landsailing
 - Windsurfing
 - Paramotors
 - Staff/Administrative approval of certain vehicles on beach
 - Training for individuals driving on the beach
 - Anchoring motorized vessels within 100 yards of beach

- Beach Activities
 - Stunt Kites
 - Live Shelling
 - Beach lost/found
 - Drones (Requirement to stay away from people/animals)
 - Overnight camping
 - Noise
 - Nudity
 - Size of holes dug on beach
 - Prohibition on metal shovels
 - Shade structures

- Fishing
 - Fishing within 50' of dolphins
 - SCDNR fishing license required
 - No more than 4 fishing poles per person
 - Fishermen must stay within 25' of poles
 - Prohibition on shark fishing
 - Drone use in shark fishing

- Swimming
 - Swimming only areas of beach
 - Prohibition on surfing of any kind, fishing, stunt kites, and landsailing in beach only areas
 - Swimming v. Fishing rules (Language in draft ordinance)
 - Prohibition on swimming in Captain Sam's Inlet
 - Beach Patrol authority to recall swimmers

- Beach Fires
 - Restricting number of fire permits issued
 - Location (Wet/Dry sand)
 - Fires built in holes 3' wide by 1' deep
 - TOSI/SJFD cancelling permits and/or refusing to issue permits during burn bans
 - Fires during turtle nesting season
 - Distance of beach fires from dunes

- Wildlife
 - Definition of "harassment" and broadening number of animals that cannot be harassed on the beach
 - Feeding wildlife
 - Damaging dunes, sea oats, sea grass, dune fencing, and beach signage

- Miscellaneous
 - On/Off-Leash Pet Rules (Boardwalk #9)
 - Commercial Activity
 - Weddings on the beach/Large gatherings
 - Prohibition on polystyrene (Cups and plasticware)
 - Prohibition on balloons, confetti, and glitter
 - Service animal rules
 - Overlooked/Missed Issues

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

BEACH RULES ISSUE TRACKER

ISSUE	PUBLIC SAFETY COMMENTS	E & W COMMENTS	NOTES	STATUS
1.) Definition of "the beach".			Both committees concur in expanding the definition of the beach to include the dry sand up to the primary sand dune, bulkhead, revetment, or seawall.	✓
2.) Location of beach fires.	3/17 - PSC unanimous to move fires to wet sand only. (MS to speak w/ SIPOA about moving fires to wet sand.) 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - Lengthy discussion on moving fires to wet sand. It appeared there was a conditional approval of moving fires to wet sand provided the number of permits issued per day are restricted.		?
3.) TOSI or SJFD cancelling fire permits.	3/17 - PSC agrees that TOSI or SJFD can cancel permits based on weather. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - No discussion		?
4.) Fires in holes at least 3' wide by 12" deep.	3/17 - Unanimous this requirement in draft ordinance should stay. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - No discussion		?
5.) No fishing within 50' of dolphins.	3/17 - Defer to E & W. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - RH mentioned, no discussion. 3/30 - No discussion.		?
6.) Must have SCDNR fishing license.	3/17 - Defer to E & W. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - No discussion		?
7.) Four fishing poles per person.	3/17 - Defer to E & W. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - RH mentioned, no discussion. 3/30 - No discussion.		?
8.) Fisherman must stay within 25' of fishing poles.	3/17 - Supports. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - No discussion		?
9.) Prohibition on shark fishing.	3/17 - Discussed. Stated the presence of people fishing for sharks is a Public Safety hazard. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - RH mentioned prohibiting shark fishing from shoreline. No discussion. 3/30 - No discussion.		✓
10.) Landsailing.	3/17 - Not allowed in swimming only areas. 4/21 - Agreement with total prohibition.	3/12 - MA recommended and committee agreed to a prohibition of all wind powered land vehicles on the beach. 3/30 - Okay with total prohibition.		✓
11.) Swimming only areas of beach.	3/17 - Discussed establishing these areas during the months beach patrol is present. Establish near BW's 1, 2, and near the club. JB proposed discussing this with Camp St. Christopher. No surfing, fishing, landsailing, or kitesurfing in these areas. 4/21 - Beach Patrol stated that provided the boundaries of these areas are easily identifiable, the activities that are or are not allowed in these areas are easily enforced.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - JC stated he was concerned about the increased signage this might require. Agreed these areas should only exist in peak season.		?
12.) Fishing v. Swimming	3/17 - Revert to current beach rules outside of established swimming areas. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - Defer to PSC. 3/30 - No discussion.		✓
13.) Paramotors.	3/17 - Agreed this is a motorized vehicle and is already prohibited on the beach.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - Agreed these are already included in the definition of a motorized vehicle.		✓
14.) Stunt kites.	3/17 - Not allowed in swimming only areas. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - RH recommended total prohibition. MA concurs. 3/30 - Again, stated they support a total prohibition.		✓
15.) On/Off Leash dog area at BW 9.	3/17 - Ok with the proposal to move the off/on leash border up to BW 9. DM was okay with this proposal for now, but wanted to get the input of SIDogs. 4/21 - Brief discussion. No consensus.	3/12 - Unanimous approval with moving the On/Off-Leash border up to BW #9. 3/30 - Concerned that if the border were moved to BW #9, this would greatly restrict the portion of the beach that off-leash owners might have access to. RH said that ultimately, this is a PSC issue.		?
16.) Commercial activity.	3/17 - Unanimous to leave current language as-is. 4/21 - DM stated he was cautious if there were a carve out for photography, other carve outs might be needed. Stated that if the system isn't broke, don't fix it.	3/12 - Discussed, but no decisions/consensus made. 3/30 - RH stated he is in favor of a carve out for photography, but ultimately will defer to PSC.		?
17.) Weddings on the beach.	3/17 - Unanimous approval of allowing weddings to continue, provided there are no commercial activities taking place on the beach connected to the wedding. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - Discussed, but no decisions/consensus made. 3/30 - No discussion.		?

18.)	E-Bikes	3/17 - Unanimous to leave current language as-is. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - RH mentioned, no objections from EWC.	✓
19.)	Ban on styrofoam/polystyrene cups and plasticware..	3/17 - No discussion.	3/12 - RH mentioned, no discussion. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
20.)	Balloons, confetti, and glitter.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - RH mentioned, no discussion. 3/30 - RH mentioned this prohibition, no objection from EWC.	?
21.)	Live shelling.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - RH mentioned, no discussion. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
22.)	Feeding wildlife.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
23.)	Metal shovels.	3/17 - Discussed. Unanimous approval to allow metal shovels. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
24.)	Drones.	3/17 - No change to current ordinance, provided there is a prohibition on shark fishing using drones. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - RH discussed requiring drones to stay away from people and animals. MA stated this is a reasonable restriction provided the town has the legal authority to do it. JC stated he would need to consult the town attorney. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
25.)	Shade structures.	3/17 - No action, but will defer to Beach Patrol staff. DM stated he sees umbrellas as a safety hazard. 4/21 - Beach Patrol stated they have no problem telling people that block their access to the beach to relocate. RE stated that people are compliant, but an ordinance would be nice.	3/12 - RH recommended requiring the structures stay on the dry sand. Also recommended ropes that tether the structures to the ground be less than 3' in length lateral from the tent. RH okay with requiring umbrellas be properly secured. 3/30 - Defer to PSC.	?
26.)	Nudity.	3/17 - Unanimous consent on incorporating language into ordinance establishing no nude bathing. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - Okay with JC drafting language prohibiting nudity, but wants to ultimately defer to PSC. 3/30 - No discussion.	✓
27.)	Administrative approval of vehicle use on the beach.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - Okay with allowing staff approval of vehicle use on the beach provided the vehicles are used in connection with an SC or SIPOA contract. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
28.)	Training for staff driving vehicles on beach.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - MA and JC discussed training for staff needing to operate vehicles on beach. MA mentioned the training as it relates to nesting birds. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
29.)	Broadening the number of animals that cannot be harrassed on the beach.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - Discussed broadening the definition of "harrassment" to include a prohibition on riding bikes or running through flocks of birds of special concern. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
30.)	Harrassment of animals generally.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - RH asked about if there was a prohibition on harrassing animals generatly. JC recommended, if this was a policy decision that the committee wanted to make, this prohibition should be in another part of the town code rather than in the beach rules. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
31.)	Prohibition on swimming in Cap'n Sams.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - Agreement to leave it in the draft ordinance.	3/12 - No objection to leaving it in the draft ordinance. 3/30 - No discussion.	✓
32.)	E-Foils.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - MA recommended and committee agreed to a prohibition on E-Foils. 3/30 - Again, stated these should be prohibited.	?
33.)	Beach lost and found.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - JC recommended specifying in the ordinance where lost and found is kept and for how long. Committee was in unanimous agreement. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
34.)	Fires during turtle nesting season.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - DW and MA discussed restricting fires during turtle nesting season. 3/30 - MA stated he would like more time to consider this issue. 3/30 - No discussion.	?

Will not be part of Chapter 32.

35.)	Holes dug on the beach.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - RH discussed limiting the size of holes that could be dug on the beach. Committee was not in agreement, however the committee did recommend requiring holes be attended to at all times. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
36.)	Damaging dunes and/or defacing beach signage.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - Unanimous agreement to include prohibition on defacing beach signage, bouys, sea oats, sea grass, and dune fencing.	3/12 - RH recommended incorporating language prohibiting damaging sea oats, sea grass, and dune fencing. No discussion. 3/30 - No discussion.	✓
37.)	Town/SJFD not issuing fire permits during burn bans.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - RH asked if the Town could refuse to issue permits during burn bans. JC stated he thought we could, but would need to consult town attorney. 3/12 - No discussion.	?
38.)	Restricting number of fire permits issued.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - No discussion.	3/30 - RH mentioned a neighboring municipality that greatly restricts number of permits issued per day. JC stated he thought we could do this. Appeared later in the meeting there was consensus to limit fire permits per day.	?
39.)	Anchoring motorized vessels within 100 yards of beach.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - Wanted to discuss safety of the Camp St. Christopher area generally with L. Rezac. Wants to consult the town attorney. Inclusion of jet skis was also discussed. PSC was in agreement to include state statute related to jet skis.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
40.)	Noise.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - DM instructed JC to draft objectified language related to a noise ordinance. "Plainly audible" was discussed.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
41.)	Overnight camping.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - Brief discussion. Recommended no action.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - No discussion.	?
42.)	Lewd behavior.	3/17 - No discussion. 4/21 - DM stated this will be deferred to the May Joint Workshop.	3/12 - No discussion. 3/30 - No discussion.	?

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08

ADOPTED _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN CODE FOR THE TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA; CHAPTER 32, WATERWAYS AND BEACHES; SO AS TO AMEND CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRES ON THE BEACH; TO AMEND THE RULES PERTAINING TO FISHING AND SWIMMING ON THE BEACH; TO PROHIBIT SWIMMING AND WADING IN CAPTAIN SAMS INLET; TO GRANT BEACH PATROL AND CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER THE AUTHORITY TO RECALL SWIMMERS FROM THE WATER; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5-7-30 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, each municipality of the state, in addition to the powers conferred to its specific form of government, may enact regulations, resolutions, and ordinances, not inconsistent with the Constitution and general law of the state, including the exercise of powers in relation to roads, streets, markets, law enforcement, health, and order in the municipality or respecting any subject which appears to it necessary and proper for the security, general welfare, and convenience of the municipality or for preserving health, peace, order, and good government in it; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 5-7-140 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, the corporate limits of any municipality bordering on the high-tide line of the Atlantic Ocean are extended to include all that area lying between the high-tide line and one mile seaward of the high-tide line. Further, the corporate limits of any municipality bordering on the high-water mark of a navigable body of water, other than the Atlantic Ocean, are extended to include all that area lying between the high-water mark and the low-water mark. In both cases, such areas shall be subject to all the ordinances and regulations that may be applicable to the areas lying within the corporate limits of the municipality, and the municipal courts shall have jurisdiction to punish individuals who are found guilty of violating the provisions of the municipal ordinances where the misdemeanor occurred; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5-7-145 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, a coastal municipality may enact and enforce regulations it determines to be necessary for the safety of all persons on the beach; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5-7-150 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, every coastal municipality has criminal jurisdiction over piers and other structures and the waters of the ocean, a sound, or an inlet within one mile of those portions of the strand within the corporate limits. The corporate limits of the municipality are extended in a straight line from the strand into the ocean, inlet, or sound from the point where the corporate limits of the municipality reach the high-water mark of the strand. If an extension overlaps with the criminal jurisdiction of another political subdivision, the jurisdiction of each political subdivision extends to the equidistant point from the high-water mark of each strand; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 32 of the Town Code for the Town of Seabrook Island (the “Town Code”) establishes various rules and regulations applicable to beaches and waterways within the Town of Seabrook Island; and

WHEREAS, following a review of its existing rules and regulations, the Mayor and Council for the Town of Seabrook Island desire to amend certain provisions of Chapter 32 of the Town Code to further enhance public health and safety, to protect wildlife and critical habitat areas, and to preserve the integrity of the town’s coastal resources; and

WHEREAS, during a duly called meeting on October 9, 2025, the Town’s Environment and Wildlife Committee reviewed the proposed amendments to the Town Code, at which time the committee made a recommendation [IN FAVOR OF/IN OPPOSITION TO] adoption of the same; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is authorized to amend the Town Code, pursuant to the provisions set forth in Section 1-9 (“Amendments to Code”) and the procedures established in Chapter 2, Article III, Division 2 (“Ordinances and Resolutions”), of the Town Code; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-344(D) of the Town Code, a public hearing on the proposed amendments was advertised and held on [HEARING DATE], with public comments duly noted; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has thoroughly considered this matter and believes the proposed amendments to the Town Code are in the best interest of the Town and will satisfy the objectives set forth herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted by the Constitution and the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND:**

SECTION I. Amending Chapter 32 of the Town Code. The Town Code for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina; Chapter 32, Waterways and Beaches;; is hereby amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 32-1. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare by regulating the use of beaches and waterways within the town. This chapter is intended to:

- (a) Protect the coastal environment, including beaches, dunes, vegetation, waterways, wetlands, and wildlife habitats;
- (b) Preserve water quality and prevent pollution, litter, and other forms of environmental degradation;
- (c) Ensure that swimming, fishing, boating, kayaking, and other recreational activities may be conducted safely and without conflict;

- (d) Reduce risks to persons and property arising from hazardous conditions and unsafe activities;
- (e) Promote the quiet enjoyment of beaches and waterways for residents and visitors alike; and
- (f) Conserve the scenic, cultural, and economic value of the town's coastal and marine resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Sec. 32-2. Authority.

- (a) Pursuant to Section 5-7-30 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, each municipality of the state, in addition to the powers conferred to its specific form of government, may enact regulations, resolutions, and ordinances, not inconsistent with the Constitution and general law of the state, including the exercise of powers in relation to roads, streets, markets, law enforcement, health, and order in the municipality or respecting any subject which appears to it necessary and proper for the security, general welfare, and convenience of the municipality or for preserving health, peace, order, and good government in it.
- (b) Pursuant to Section 5-7-140(a) of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, the corporate limits of any municipality bordering on the high-tide line of the Atlantic Ocean are extended to include all that area lying between the high-tide line and one mile seaward of the high-tide line. These areas are subject to all the ordinances and regulations that may be applicable to the areas lying within the corporate limits of the municipality, and the municipal courts have jurisdiction to punish individuals violating the provisions of the municipal ordinances where the misdemeanor occurred in the area defined in this section.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 5-7-140(b) of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, the corporate limits of any municipality bordering on the high-water mark of a navigable body of water, other than the Atlantic Ocean, are extended to include all that area lying between the high-water mark and the low-water mark. These areas are subject to all of the ordinances and regulations that may be applicable to the areas lying within the corporate limits of the municipality, and the municipal courts have jurisdiction to punish individuals violating the provisions of the municipal ordinances where the misdemeanor occurred in the areas defined in this section.
- (d) Pursuant to Section 5-7-145(a) of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, a coastal municipality may enact and enforce regulations it determines necessary for the safety of all persons on the beach.
- (e) Pursuant to Section 5-7-150 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, Every coastal municipality has criminal jurisdiction over piers and other structures and the waters of the ocean, a sound, or an inlet within one mile of those portions of the strand within the

corporate limits. The corporate limits of the municipality are extended in a straight line from the strand into the ocean, inlet, or sound from the point where the corporate limits of the municipality reach the high-water mark of the strand. If an extension overlaps with the criminal jurisdiction of another political subdivision, the jurisdiction of each political subdivision extends to the equidistant point from the high-water mark of each strand.

Sec. 32-3. Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply, unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

- (a) *Apparent high-water mark* means the visible line along the shore indicating the highest point regularly reached by water under normal tidal conditions. It is not a fixed elevation, but may be identified by natural indicators including, but not limited to, the wrack line of seaweed, shells, or driftwood; changes in sand color or texture; the absence of non-littoral vegetation; and evidence of scouring or erosion.
- (b) *Beach* means that area lying seaward of the primary front sand dune, bulk head, revetment, or seawall, and landward of the low-water mark of the Atlantic Ocean and North Edisto River, together with those lands which are subject to periodic inundation by tidal and wave actions so that no non-littoral vegetation is established.
- (c) *Dune* means a naturally occurring or artificially created mound or ridge of sand, landward of the beach, formed by wind or wave action and typically stabilized in part by vegetation, which serves to protect upland areas from the effects of wind, waves, tides, and storm events.
- (d) *Fire* means any open flame, combustion, or ignition source, whether contained or uncontained, including, but not limited to, bonfires, campfires, wood-burning fires, fire pits, or similar devices, regardless of size. For purposes of this chapter, “fire” does not include decorative flames, such as candles, lanterns, torches, or battery-operated lights, nor does it include stoves, grills, heaters, or similar devices which are intended for cooking or heating.
- (e) *Primary frontal sand dune* means a continuous or nearly continuous mound or ridge of sand with relatively steep seaward and landward slopes landward of the beach and subject to erosion and overtopping from high tides and waves during major coastal storms. The inland limit of the primary frontal sand dune is at a point where there is a distinct change from a relatively steep shape to a relatively mild slope.
- (f) *SCDES-BCM* means the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, Bureau of Coastal Management.

Secs. 32-~~41~~—32-19. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. BEACHFRONT MANAGEMENT

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Sec. 32-20. Plan adopted.

The updated Comprehensive Beach Management Plan for the Town of Seabrook Island, dated December 17, 2024, is hereby adopted by reference as if fully set forth in this section, and shall constitute the town's comprehensive beach management plan in accordance with applicable South Carolina Law. An official copy of the 2024 Comprehensive Beach Management Plan Update shall be maintained on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

~~Sec. 32-21. Definitions.~~

~~(a) For purposes of this article the term "beach" means (i) for that area bordering on the high-tide line of the Atlantic Ocean, that area lying between the high-tide line and the low-tide line, and (ii) for that area bordering on the high-water mark of the North Edisto River, that area between the high-water mark and the low-water mark.~~

~~(b) For purposes of this article, the term "primary frontal sand dune" means a continuous or nearly continuous mound or ridge of sand with relatively steep seaward and landward slopes landward of the beach and subject to erosion and overtopping from high tides and waves during major coastal storms. The inland limit of the primary frontal sand dune is at a point where there is a distinct change from a relatively steep shape to a relatively mild slope.~~

~~(c) For the avoidance of doubt, (i) excluded from the definitions set forth in this section 32-21 is any property, privately owned, whose seaward boundary extends below the high-tide line or the high-water mark and (ii) the town's police jurisdiction extends one mile seaward of the low-tide line of the Atlantic Ocean.~~

Secs. 32-~~21~~2—32-40. Reserved.

DIVISION 2. RESTRICTIONS

Sec. 32-41. Beach and dune protection.

(a) No person shall alter, destroy or remove any portion of a primary frontal sand dune without first obtaining a permit from all applicable governmental authorities.

(b) Other than (1) emergency personnel, (2) service personnel, (3) Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) personnel and its authorized contractors, each in the performance of their responsibilities, (4) Seabrook Island beachfront property owners and their contractors (with respect to the beach trust property described in Section 31 of the Protective Covenants for Seabrook Island Development, with the prior approval of SIPOA), and (5) members of the Seabrook Island Turtle Patrol and the members of the Turtle Stranding Team in the performance of their South Carolina Department of Natural

Resources (SCDNR) permitted activities, and all activities ancillary thereto, no person shall walk on any portion of the primary frontal sand dune other than at designated beach accesses owned and maintained by SIPOA or privately owned access points constructed in accordance with regulations promulgated by ~~SCDES-BCM~~the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). This section 32-41(b) shall not in any way impair/remove the necessity to comply with any applicable state and federal law.

- (c) All sand fencing seaward of the primary frontal sand dunes shall comply with ~~SCDES-BCM~~the SCDHEC, Office of Coastal Resource Management guidelines contained in the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act, and may not be installed until all applicable state, federal and town permits have been issued.
- (d) No alterations shall be made to the natural shoreline, inlet location, dune system, or to existing natural beach elevation without the Town Council's approval and until all applicable state, federal or town permits have been issued.
- (e) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this section 32-41 shall limit (1) beachfront property owners and their invited guests and employees and guests of St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center from accessing the beach from their property or accessing their property from the beach in either case by means of private beach accesses constructed in accordance with regulations promulgated by ~~SCDES-BCM~~SCDHEC or (2) the routine landscaping of the beach trust and beachfront private property.

Sec. 32-42. Vehicle use.

- (a) Motor vehicles of any type or kind shall not be driven or operated on the beaches of Seabrook Island, except for those expressly authorized below:
 - (1) Vehicles operated by an official or employee of any municipal, county, state or federal agency, department or unit;
 - (2) Vehicles operated by an official or employee of any bona fide public safety agency, including, but not limited to, law enforcement, code enforcement, fire suppression and emergency medical services;
 - (3) Vehicles operated by an official or employee of any contractor, agency or entity providing goods or services on the beach under contract with or at the request of the town;
 - (4) Vehicles operated by an official or employee of the following community organizations which are necessary for the performance of maintenance services, the provision of security services and/or the transportation of personnel and equipment on behalf of the organization:
 - a. Seabrook Island Property Owners Association;

- b. Seabrook Island Club;
 - c. Seabrook Island Turtle Patrol;
 - d. Seabrook Island Utility Commission;
 - e. St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center;
- (5) Small open motorized vehicles and medical devices may be operated by, or for the benefit of, individuals who have a physical or mental disability which: i) is recognized by state or federal law, and ii) which would otherwise preclude their use and enjoyment of the beach;
- (6) Class 1 pedal-assist electric bicycles which are duly permitted by the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association for use within the Seabrook Island Development and which display a valid SIPOA decal while operating on the beach. For the purposes of this section, "class 1 pedal-assist electric bicycles" shall have the same meaning as "electric-assist bicycles" and "bicycles with helper motors," as defined in S.C. Code of Laws, § 56-1-10; and
- (7) Any other vehicles deemed essential by the town and duly operating under one of the following types of special vehicle use permits:
- a. *Standard vehicle use permits.* Standard vehicle use permit requests shall be submitted to the town administrator in writing no less than 30 days prior to the date upon which the applicant seeks to use a vehicle on the beach. Permit requests shall be forwarded by the town administrator to the town council for consideration at the next available town council meeting. If the town council determines that the use of a vehicle is essential to the applicant's intended purpose, then it may approve the issuance of a permit by resolution. In approving a permit, the town council may attach such reasonable conditions as it deems necessary to protect public health and safety.
 - b. *Emergency permits.* Emergency vehicle use permit requests shall be made to the town administrator, either verbally or in writing, as soon as practicable. If the town administrator determines that the use of a vehicle is necessary to mitigate an immediate threat to public health and safety, he or she may authorize a permit, either verbally or in writing. In approving a permit, the town administrator may attach such reasonable conditions as he or she deems necessary to protect public health and safety.
- (b) Except in cases of an emergency, vehicles which are authorized to be driven or operated on the beach pursuant to this section shall comply with the following requirements at all times:

- (1) Vehicles shall be operated in such a manner so as not to endanger or unreasonably disturb beachgoers, wildlife or marine life, and designated critical habitat areas, including shorebird and turtle nesting areas;
- (2) Vehicles shall not exceed a speed of ten miles per hour when operated on the beach;
- (3) Vehicles shall be operated on the wet sand; vehicles may not be operated on dry sand except to gain access to the wet sand;
- (4) Vehicles shall not be driven onto or within any dune or vegetated area;
- (5) Vehicles shall enter the beach only from authorized access points; and
- (6) All vehicles being operated on the beach, excluding those specified in subsections (a)(5) and (a)(6), shall be equipped with four-wheel drive.

Sec. 32-43. Wildlife and marine life protection.

(a) Harassment of wildlife and marine life prohibited.

- (1) In addition to any other applicable state or federal laws, no person shall harass any of the following species of wildlife and marine life:
 - a. Any species of sea turtle which has been designated as an "endangered" or "threatened" species by any state or federal agency with applicable jurisdiction, including the nests, eggs and young of such species;
 - b. Any species of bird which has been designated as an "endangered" or "threatened" species by any state or federal agency with applicable jurisdiction, including the nests, eggs and young of such species; and
 - c. Any species of marine mammal which is protected by the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, or which has been designated as an "endangered" or "threatened" species by any state or federal agency with applicable jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, Atlantic bottlenose dolphins.
- (2) For the purpose of this section, the term "harass" shall mean:
 - a. Any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance that kills or injures, or has the potential to kill or injure, any protected species listed in subsection (a)(1); and
 - b. Any act that has the potential to harm or otherwise disturb (but not kill or injure) any protected species listed in subsection (a)(1) by disrupting behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to: migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

- (3) Nothing herein shall preclude or otherwise limit the activities of any individual, employee, group or organization which has been duly authorized by an agency or department of the state or federal government, including, but not limited to, employees or members of the Avian Conservation Center, the Seabrook Island Turtle Patrol, the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network, and the South Carolina Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

~~(b) Restrictions on swimming in Captain Sams Inlet.~~

- ~~(1) Except in the case of emergency, it shall be unlawful for any person to swim in the waters of Captain Sam's Inlet:~~

- ~~a. During the period two hours before to two hours after low tide, as predicted by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the Kiawah River Bridge Tide Station (NOAA Station ID #8667062); and~~

- ~~b. When one or more Atlantic bottlenose dolphins are present in the inlet.~~

- ~~(2) In instances when an individual is swimming in Captain Sams Inlet outside of those times where swimming is prohibited pursuant to subsection (b)(1), and one or more dolphins subsequently enter the inlet, the individual swimming in the inlet shall immediately return to the shore and cease swimming upon observing the dolphins or being made aware of their presence in the inlet.~~

~~(e)~~(b) *Beached, injured or stranded animals.*

- (1) Beached, injured or stranded animals shall be reported immediately to the town, Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) security, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office or the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

Sec. 32-44. Beach rules for domestic household animals/pets.

- (a) *General requirements for domestic household animals/pets.* Domestic household animals/pets shall not be allowed on any beach within the municipal limits of the town except as provided for herein.

- (1) *Restricted area.* A restricted area is hereby established beginning at a line extending from Boardwalk #1 to the Atlantic Ocean and continuing in a northeasterly direction to Captain Sams Inlet. No person shall bring or otherwise allow any domestic household animal/pet into the restricted area at any time, whether on a leash or off of a leash.

- (2) *Limited restriction area.* A limited restriction area is hereby established beginning approximately 300 yards northwest of a line extending from Boardwalk #9 (Pelican Watch Boardwalk) to the Edisto River and continuing in a northwesterly direction to

Privateer Creek. No person shall bring or otherwise allow any domestic household animal/pet into the limited restriction area that is not on a leash at all times.

(3) *General beach area.* In all other areas of the beach other than the restricted area and the limited restriction area described above, the following requirements shall apply:

- a. *Peak season:* From April 1 to September 30, no person shall bring or allow any domestic household animal/pet into the general beach area between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. that is not on leash at all times. No person shall bring or allow any domestic household animal/pet into the general beach area from 5:01 p.m. to 9:59 a.m. that is not on a leash or, if not on a leash, is not effectively controlled while on the beach.
- b. *Non-peak season:* From October 1 to March 31, no person shall bring any domestic household animal/pet on the beach that is not on a leash or, if not on a leash, is not effectively controlled while on the beach.

(4) *Definitions.*

- a. For purposes of this section the term "effectively controlled" shall mean that the behavior of a domestic household animal/pet is restrained by a competent person from: (A) entering any area on or adjacent to the beach in which a domestic household animal/pet is prohibited; (B) destroying or damaging any property; (C) attacking or threatening to attack any person or any other domestic household animal/pet in any manner; or (D) being a nuisance to other beach goers.
- b. For purposes of this section, the term "nuisance" shall mean causing annoyance, inconvenience or discomfort to the public health, safety and welfare.
- c. For purposes of this section the term "competent person" shall mean a person of suitable age and discretion and physically capable of restraining and controlling the domestic animal/pet in his or her care in order to prevent harm to persons, property or to other animals.
- d. For purposes of this section, the term "on a leash" shall mean that the domestic household animal/pet is restrained by a competent person using a physical restraint made of cord, rope, strap, chain or other material effective for restraining the type and size of domestic household animal/pet, the physical restraint being no more than 16 feet in length, secured to the animal's collar or harness and continually held by a competent person.
- e. For purposes of this section, the term "off a leash" shall mean that the domestic household animal/pet is not on a leash as defined herein. Domestic household animals/pets under voice control or under control of remotely operated devices such as electronic collars shall be considered to be "off of a leash."

- (5) No later than one year from the effective date of this section, council shall review the terms of this section, and determine whether it has worked effectively and achieved the objective of balancing the interests of all users of the beach. Following such review, council shall amend this section, if and to the extent, it deems necessary.

Sec. 32-45. Removal of horse waste.

Every horseback rider or sponsor of horseback rides on the beach shall remove or cleanup any excrement resulting from such horseback ride as promptly as is reasonably practical following the conclusion of each ride.

Sec. 32-46. Littering prohibited.

No person shall leave, or cause or permit to be left, any glass, bottle, glassware, can or pieces thereof, cigarette or cigar butts, or any garbage, waste, litter, trash, debris or refuse of any kind on the beach or within the waters adjacent to the beach.

Sec. 32-47. Negligent operation of vessels.

- (a) *Vessel defined.* The term "vessel" means every description of watercraft on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water.
- (b) *Prohibited.* No person may use any vessel or manipulate any water skis, aquaplane, surfboard, or similar device in a negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person.
- (c) *Use of alcohol, narcotic, etc., prohibited.* No person shall use or retrieve a vessel, or use any water skis, aquaplane, surfboard or similar device while under the influence of alcohol, any narcotic drug, barbiturate, marijuana, or hallucinogen.

Sec. 32-48. Launching or retrieving vessel.

- (a) No person shall launch or retrieve a vessel, excluding sailboats, surfboards, rafts, inner tubes, kayaks or similar devices, anywhere on the beach seaward of the mean high-water mark, except in the case of emergency.
- (b) No person shall propel or cause to move any vessel, except sailboats, surfboards, rafts, inner tubes, kayaks or similar devices from the water onto the sand or anywhere on the beach above the mean low-water mark, except in the case of an emergency.

Sec. 32-49. Vessels on beach.

Vessels may not be left overnight on any part of the beach, except in the case of an emergency.

Sec. 32-50. Overnight storage of beach equipment prohibited.

Unless the town grants special permission in writing, tents, tent frames, chairs, umbrellas, clothing, coolers, toys or other beach equipment left unattended on the beach after sunset shall be deemed abandoned, and the town shall have the right to take possession and dispose of such items.

Sec. 32-51. Fires on the beach.

(a) In general. ~~No~~ It shall be unlawful for any person ~~shall to~~ build, ~~start,~~ ignite, or maintain a fire or open flame on the beach, except as expressly permitted by this section, ~~or use any propane fired grill, cooker, or heating device heated by fire on the beach.~~

(b) Beach fire permits.

(1) Permit required. No person shall build, ignite, or maintain a fire on the beach without first obtaining a beach fire permit from the town.

(2) Application. Beach fire permit applications shall be submitted on a form made available by the town administrator and must include:

- a. The name, address, and contact information of the applicant who, upon issuance, shall serve as the permittee;
- b. The date, start time, end time, and location of the proposed beach fire; and
- c. If the applicant does not own the property where the beach fire is proposed to be located, written authorization from the owner of record.

(3) Due date.

a. Applications must be submitted at least two business days in advance of the proposed bonfire date, as follows:

<u>Proposed Bonfire Date</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
<u>Saturday, Sunday, or Monday</u>	<u>By 12:00 p.m. on the preceding Thursday</u>
<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>By 12:00 p.m. on the preceding Friday</u>
<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>By 12:00 p.m. on the preceding Monday</u>
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>By 12:00 p.m. on the preceding Tuesday</u>
<u>Friday</u>	<u>By 12:00 p.m. on the preceding Wednesday</u>

b. If a town holiday falls within the review period, one (1) additional business day shall be required.

c. Same-day and next-day applications will not be accepted.

d. Permits may be issued up to six (6) months prior to the proposed bonfire date.

(4) Non-transferable. Upon issuance, a beach fire permit shall be valid only for the date, time, and location specified therein. Responsibility for the permit may not be transferred to any person other than the permittee.

(5) Denial due to multiple violations. The town may deny the issuance of a beach fire permit to any applicant who has been found guilty of two (2) or more violations of this section during the preceding twelve (12) months.

(c) General requirements. All permitted beach fires shall comply with the following:

(1) Permittee requirements. The permittee shall:

- a. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- b. Assume personal responsibility for ensuring compliance with the requirements of this section;
- c. Remain physically present at the beach fire at all times;
- d. Carry a copy of the permit, either in paper or digital form, while the beach fire is active; and
- e. Present a copy of the permit upon request by a fire official or code enforcement officer.

(2) Location requirements. All beach fires shall be located:

- a. On dry sand;
- b. At least ten (10) feet landward of the apparent high-water mark;
- c. At least twenty-five (25) feet from any boardwalk, walkover, dune, dune vegetation, bulkhead, revetment, or seawall;
- d. At least fifty (50) feet from another beach fire, an authorized vehicle access point, or a marked turtle nest; and
- e. In a location designated by the town administrator as suitable for beach fires. Designated locations shall be reviewed no less than annually in consultation with the fire marshal and other appropriate parties.

(3) Other requirements.

- a. Beach fires must be contained within a fire pit at least three (3) feet in diameter and twelve (12) inches deep.

- b. The use of chemical accelerants, including, but not limited to, gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluid, and similar substances, is strictly prohibited.
- c. Only clean, dry firewood may be burned. The burning of treated or painted wood, wood containing nails or other hardware, glass, metals, plastics, and other materials is strictly prohibited.
- d. Beach fires may not be ignited before 5:00 p.m. and must be extinguished by 10:00 p.m.
- e. Beach fires must be extinguished with water until cold to the touch.
- f. Ashes and unburned wood must be removed from the beach or buried at least twelve (12) inches below the surface.
- g. All holes and pits must be filled and the surface restored to its natural condition before leaving the beach.
- h. The surrounding area must be cleared of all trash and debris before leaving the beach.

(d) Permit cancellation and revocation.

(1) Authority. Beach fire permits may be cancelled or revoked by the town administrator, fire marshal, or code enforcement officers of the town whenever such action is deemed necessary to protect public health, safety, or welfare.

(2) Cancellation. Grounds for permit cancellation shall include, but are not limited to:

- a. Hazardous weather or environmental conditions, such as high winds, drought, extreme heat, or the issuance of state or county burn bans; and
- b. The declaration of a state of emergency within the town.

(3) Revocation. Grounds for permit revocation shall include, but are not limited to:

- a. Violation of any condition or requirement of the permit or this section;
- b. Use of prohibited materials or accelerants;
- c. Failure to properly attend, control, or extinguish a fire;
- d. Any circumstance in which the fire poses a threat to life, property, wildlife, or natural resources; or
- e. Submitting false, misleading, or incomplete information in the permit application.

(4) Notice. Notice of permit cancellation or revocation shall be provided to the permittee as soon as practicable by phone, email, text message, or other reasonable means.

(e) Authority to extinguish. Fire officials and code enforcement officers of the town may order the immediate extinguishment of any fire that is unpermitted, unsafe, or otherwise in violation of this section. Failure to comply shall constitute a violation of this section.

(f) Prohibited activities. Notwithstanding any other provision or requirement to the contrary, the following activities are strictly prohibited on the beach:

(1) The ignition, operation, or use of any grill, stove, heater, or similar device intended for cooking or heating, regardless of fuel or power source; and

(2) The ignition or display of decorative open flames, including, but not limited to, candles, lanterns, tiki torches, and similar items.

~~For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this section 32-51 shall prohibit or otherwise limit anyone with permission from the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association from building, starting, igniting or maintaining a fire above the high water mark.~~

Sec. 32-52. Fireworks on the beach restricted.

No person shall use, fire, shoot, discharge or ignite fireworks on the beach, except as permitted by the town in writing.

Sec. 32-53. Glass containers prohibited.

All glass containers are prohibited on the beach, except those in coolers or other appropriate container. Glass containers may temporarily be removed briefly from coolers or container for the purpose of transferring the contents to a paper or plastic cup.

Sec. 32-54. Holes/structures on the beach.

Anyone digging a hole in or creating a structure on the beach must restore the sand surface to its natural condition before leaving the beach.

Sec. 32-55. Commercial activity.

No person shall sell or offer for sale any goods or merchandise, or solicit any trade or business on the beach.

Sec. 32-56. Chumming.

- (a) For purposes of this section, "chumming" means the depositing into water chopped or ground bait consisting of raw meat or fish parts including blood and oil thereof, but excluding poultry, in an attempt to catch fish.
- (b) No chumming shall be allowed on or within 600 feet of the beach.
- (c) Nothing in this section shall affect or prohibit the baiting of crab traps or the placement of natural bait upon a hook and line.

Sec. 32-57. Fishing on the beach.

If a code enforcement officer determines that the simultaneous occurrence of fishing and swimming within the same waters adjoining the beach creates a safety hazard to any person, the officer is authorized to order the immediate cessation of one or both activities. Such order shall remain in effect until such time as the officer indicates that it is safe to resume. In the officer's discretion, an alternative location on the beach may be designated for the continuation of fishing or swimming during the pendency of the order. Failure to comply with any order issued pursuant to this section shall constitute a violation thereof. Code enforcement officers shall have the authority to require persons engaged in fishing from the beach to cease fishing if, in their judgement, circumstances indicate that cessation of fishing is in the interest of public safety. In the event the code enforcement officer determines that fishing from the beach may be unsafe for other users of the beach, the code enforcement officer may order any person engaged in fishing from the beach to immediately cease fishing until such time as he or she indicates that it is safe to resume fishing. The code enforcement officer may indicate that fishing may occur at an alternative location on the beach during the time that the cease fishing order is effective. Failure to comply with an order of the code enforcement officer shall be deemed a violation of this section.

Sec. 32-58. Swimming and wading prohibited in Captain Sams Inlet.

Except in the case of emergency, it shall be unlawful for any person to swim or wade in the waters of Captain Sams Inlet.

Sec. 32-59. Power to recall swimmers.

Code enforcement officers of the town are hereby vested with the authority to recall any person from the waters adjoining the beach when, in the officer's discretion, such person is in danger of drowning, is otherwise imperiled, poses a risk to the safety of others, or when conditions of wind, water, weather, or any other hazard, including the physical or mental condition of the person in the water, are such that continued presence in the waters would endanger the health, life, or safety of that person, rescue personnel, or others. Failure to comply with any order issued pursuant to this section shall constitute a violation thereof.

Sec. 32-60. Penalties.

Unless otherwise prescribed by law, any person violating the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to the penalties set forth in section 1-7.

SECTION 2. Conflicting Ordinances Repealed. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, clause, or provision of this ordinance shall be deemed to be unconstitutional, unenforceable, or otherwise invalid by the final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall be construed to have been the legislative intent of Town Council to pass said ordinance without such unconstitutional provision, and the validity of all remaining sections, subsections, paragraphs, clauses, or provisions of said ordinance shall not be affected thereby. If said ordinance, or any provision thereof, is held by the final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction to be inapplicable to any person, group of persons, property, kind of property, circumstances or set of circumstances, such holding shall not affect the applicability thereof to any other persons, property or circumstances.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective from and after January 1, 2026.

SIGNED AND SEALED this ____ day of _____, 2025, having been duly adopted by the Mayor and Council for the Town of Seabrook Island on the ____ day of _____, 2025.

First Reading:
Public Hearing:
Second Reading:

TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

Bruce Kleinman, Mayor

LEGAL REVIEW

ATTEST

Stafford J. McQuillin, Town Attorney

Peter D. Wiggins II, Town Clerk



Mayor Bruce Kleinman

Seabrook Island Town Hall

2001 Seabrook Island Road

Seabrook Island, SC 29455

Dear Mayor Kleinman,

I hope this note finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of SIDOGS to proactively share our perspective on a potential change we understand may be under consideration—designating the area from Boardwalk 9 toward the buoys in front of Camp St. Christopher as leash-only year-round.

While we recognize this request has not formally come to us for input, we wanted to offer our thoughts early, in the spirit of collaboration and shared stewardship of the beach.

First, we want to acknowledge the underlying concern. We understand that some dog owners would value a place to walk their dogs on leash without encountering off-leash dogs—particularly for dogs that are reactive or more comfortable with space. That is a reasonable desire, and one we take seriously.

That said, after careful consideration, we do not believe a rule change in this area is the right solution.



This stretch of beach serves a distinct and important purpose today. It is a particularly valued off-leash area for many residents—especially older individuals—who rely on its proximity to Boardwalk 9, its relatively lower dog traffic, and the more protected standing space near the boardwalk. For many, it offers one of the most accessible and manageable ways to enjoy time on the beach with their dogs.

It is also heavily used by villa owners at that end of the island. If this area were converted to leash-only, those residents would need to travel past the Club by road to reach an off-leash area of meaningful size. In practical terms, this would shift access away from a group that currently depends on it, in order to accommodate another group's preference.

In other words, the benefit to one group would come at a clear detriment to another.

It is also important to note that this concern is entirely seasonal. During peak season, the existing 10:00am–5:00pm leash requirement already provides a reliable and predictable window for leash-only walking across the entire beach.

We also took the time to walk the distance from Boardwalk 1 to the existing leash-only area, which is approximately four minutes at a slow pace. While we recognize that any distance may be meaningful to some, this does suggest that a leash-only option is already reasonably accessible.

Additionally, due to tidal changes, the area beyond the Club is increasingly difficult to access from other parts of the beach. At most tides, passage between the Club and Boardwalk 9 is no longer available. As a result, closing this section to off-leash use would effectively eliminate a significant portion of the remaining usable off-leash space on that end of the island.



For these reasons, we believe maintaining the current rules preserves a more equitable balance of access.

That said, we would welcome the opportunity to explore alternative solutions that could better support leash-only users without reducing existing off-leash access. For example, there was previously a path from the Pelican's Nest Villa area that provided closer access to the leash-only section. Reopening that path, or creating a similar access point further up, could meaningfully improve accessibility for those seeking a more controlled walking environment.

We are grateful for the Town's thoughtful approach to managing shared spaces and for your continued engagement with the needs of the community. SIDOGS remains committed to being a constructive partner in these conversations, and we would be happy to discuss this further at any time.

Warm regards,

SIDOGS Board of Directors

On behalf of our membership of 258 Seabrook Island residents

From: [Turtle Patrol](#)
To: [Pete Wiggins](#); [Darryl May](#); [Ray Hamilton](#)
Subject: Bonfires on Seabrook
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 12:57:53 PM

I apologize for the long delay in responding to your request regarding the Turtle Patrol's position on beach bonfires during turtle season. Since the Turtle Patrol acts strictly under a permit from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources ("SCDNR"), it would be inappropriate for me to submit a position without input from SCDNR.

I just received their response. The primary concern with bonfires is the light they create after sundown, which can cause issues for nesting females and emerging hatchlings. The recommendation is that beach illumination not be permitted after 10 pm at the latest. Seabrook's current policy—that fires must be extinguished by 10 pm and that bonfires must not be within 50 feet of a turtle nest—seems to comply with SCDNR requirements.

Additionally, below is a link to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services' discussion of open burning which may be useful in further discussions.

<https://des.sc.gov/programs/bureau-air-quality/air-pollutants/open-burning>

Again I apologize for any inconvenience this delayed response may have caused.

Sincerely,

Jane Magioncalda
SCDNR 2026 Permit Holder MTP543

--

Seabrook Island Turtle Patrol
hello@siturtlepatrol.com
[SITP Website](#)
[SITP Facebook](#)
[SITP Instagram](#)

If you believe that you received this email in error or if you would no longer like to receive emails like this, please reply with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.