

## SC Department of Health and Environmental Control Cross-Agency Collaboration

The following provides a high-level overview of the Department of Health and Environmental Control's cross-agency collaboration with both the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

### DHEC and SCDA:

1. DHEC provides funding, technical assistance, and coordination of efforts to the SCDA to expand farmers' market services in health disparate areas of the state, to inventory farmers' markets and roadside markets in the state and to implement the S.C. Farm to Institution Program. Contract ended September 30, 2018.
2. DHEC, DSS, and SCDA partner to provide the seasonal "Farmers' Market Nutrition Program": implementing nutrition and physical activity standards for child care facilities and assuring the standards meet national best practice standards; providing training and technical assistance to child care providers on nutrition and physical activity to help them comply with the standards; supporting the implementation of outdoor learning environments; collaborating on "SC Farm to Institution" and supporting the implementation of "SC Farm to Preschool;" providing trainings to child protective workers and foster parents in the proper use of child safety restraints; and providing technical support to the State Child Fatality Review Committee, which guides prevention efforts across the state that address child fatalities (non-motor vehicle related).
3. DHEC's Don't Waste Food SC campaign is designed to increase awareness of the economic, environmental, and social impacts of wasted food. The initiative centers on prevention, donation and composting and includes multiple shareholders such as state agencies (e.g., Commerce, Education and Agriculture) as well as food banks, food rescue organizations, retailers, restaurants, hospitals, and others. It also includes ambassadors that promote the campaign (e.g., individuals, schools, and businesses).
4. DHEC's Division of Oral Health works with the SCDA to administer the Public Health Dental Prevention Program.
5. DHEC and SCDA work collaboratively on the Rapid Response Grant from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The focus of the grant is to minimize the time between agency notification of a human or animal food contamination event, implementation of effective control measures and traceback of implicated foods. The two agencies work with other state food safety regulators, emergency management, law enforcement, industry, and other stakeholders to provide an integrated rapid response to human food and animal feed emergencies.
6. DHEC's Division of Food and Lead Risk Assessments has a MOU with SCDA for the regulation of food and dairy products. This MOU clarifies jurisdictions and prevents duplication of efforts regarding the inspection and enforcement of food safety laws.
7. DHEC and SCDA work together to calibrate laboratory balance weights.

## DHEC and DNR:

8. DHEC Vital Statistics provides a matching service to DNR for individuals with hunting/fishing licenses to remove deceased individuals from their mailing list.
9. DNR provides wildlife and fisheries technical expertise in determining environmental impact of a chemical/oil release.
10. DHEC and DNR cooperate with USGS on low-flow frequency (7Q10) studies.
11. DHEC partners with DNR regarding surface water impact of mining and solid waste activities to flora and fauna.
12. DHEC and DNR work together on surface water quality modeling. DNR has a role in providing technical comments for several DHEC water programs.
13. DHEC works with DNR on programmatic initiatives including living shorelines monitoring and assessment, regional sediment management planning and abandoned and derelict vessel identification and removal. DHEC works with DNR to ensure the wise management of natural resources in the coastal zone, and DNR provides technical comments and recommendations on both Critical Area Permitting and Coastal Zone Consistency activities.
14. DHEC and DNR work together on the statewide coastal plan groundwater modeling.
15. DNR collects fish for DHEC tissue analysis in coastal saltwater where DHEC shock boats are ineffective
16. DHEC and DNR partner to operate the South Carolina Estuarine and Coastal Assessment Program. DHEC collects and analyzes the water quality parameters while DNR does fish and benthic fauna.
17. DNR provides boats and personnel to clear lakes/water bodies following a chemical/oil or radiation release.
18. DHEC's Division of Food and Lead Risk Assessments partners with DNR on the legal harvesting and sale of fish and wildlife as food allowed to be used in retail food establishments.
19. DHEC and DNR share information about molluscan shellfish when needed. DHEC is responsible for the environmental water quality sampling of all shellfish growing areas, growing area sanitary survey reports, certified shellfish shipper inspections, and the protection of public health from the consumption of molluscan shellfish. DNR is responsible for licensing individuals to harvest shellfish and the evaluation of shellfish resources.
20. DHEC and DNR Law Enforcement coordinate law enforcement efforts when assistance is requested. DHEC is responsible for patrol efforts and the control of harvest of all shellfish harvested from growing areas in the state. DNR Law Enforcement will assist when requested by DHEC personnel to enforce Title 50 laws/statutes when necessary and incident to arrest. DHEC works with DNR and PalmettoPride with the "See It, Report It" outreach campaign partnership designed to prevent illegal tire dumping. The group shares resources and promotes the effort through radio, billboards, social media, and other tools.
21. DNR provides recommendations and technical comments in review of mine applications in determining adverse effects on wildlife or freshwater, estuarine, or marine fisheries.
22. DHEC works with DNR to ensure that bird deaths are reported to the appropriate state agency.
23. DHEC provides input on Scenic Rivers management plans.

24. DHEC and DNR collaborate and share information to investigate reported fish kills in waters of the state.
25. DNR provides expertise and available laboratory resources for species and disease identification in response to fish kills and/or other aquatic incidents.
26. DNR has the capability and responsibility to conduct enumeration studies at fish kills. These studies help determine natural resource damage assessments used by DHEC and other appointed State Resource Trustee agencies.
27. DHEC Rabies Prevention collaborates with the DNR to produce public information regarding rabies vectors, in particular bats.
28. DHEC Rabies Prevention works with the DNR in cases where a wild animal is being kept or sold illegally. They also assist us with cases where the perpetrator is being uncooperative or by delivering animals for head removal in preparation for rabies testing.