SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

South Carolina became the 29th state to form a state legislative sportsmen’s caucus under the National Assembly of Sportsmen’s Caucus (NASC) umbrella in 2006, and since its establishment, the South Carolina Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus has been the leading voice for sportsmen and women in the South Carolina General Assembly. In addition to being one of the most active sportsmen’s caucuses in the country, South Carolina Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus members have been key in the growth of the NASC network. Representative Mike Pitts served as President of the NASC Executive Council, South Carolina hosted the NASC Sportsman-Legislator Summit in 2008 and in 2012, and Representative Brian White currently serves as President of the NASC Executive Council. The Caucus hosts regular functions including luncheons, fishing trips, and policy-centric meetings that educate Caucus members about important sportsmen’s issues and facilitate interaction with South Carolina sportsmen’s community. The Caucus also helps host the South Carolina Sporting Clays Classic with the National Wild Turkey Federation in Edgefield that brings together the South Carolina sportsmen’s community for a day of comradery building. The South Carolina Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus is one of only five officially recognized caucuses in the Palmetto State.

Policy Highlights

- The Caucus was instrumental in the passage of HB 3800 in 2020 which expanded the apprentice hunting license program to support efforts to recruit new hunters.
- To address the decline in the turkey population, Caucus members led the charge to update turkey hunting regulations through the passage of SB 575 in 2019.
- Caucus leadership sponsored legislation (HB 4727) was signed into law in 2018 permanently reauthorizing and make other revisions to the South Carolina Conservation Bank.

Economic Impact and Conservation Funding

- In 2019, $29.21 million generated for conservation funding through the American System of Conservation Funding.
- SC’s sportsmen and women support more than 40,000 jobs and contribute $2.3 billion to the state’s economy.