

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
BUREAU OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT**

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**STATEWIDE, WITHIN CRITICAL AREAS**

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**EMERGENCY ORDER  
REMOVAL OF BOATS & DEBRIS FROM CRITICAL AREAS  
24-EO-TSD5**

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The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, Bureau of Coastal Management (SCDES BCM or the Department), an agency of the State of South Carolina, organized and existing under the authority of the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act, S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-10 *et seq.*, finds that emergency conditions may occur associated with Tropical Storm Debby beginning on August 5, 2024, statewide within the beach/dune system, beaches, tidelands, and/or coastal waters critical areas in the State of South Carolina and therefore located within the “critical area” jurisdiction of the Department. These conditions may expose and create an imminent threat to the existing habitable structures or critical infrastructure adjacent to the critical areas.

The Department finds that this imminent threat constitutes temporary emergency conditions that may endanger the health, safety, welfare, and resources of residents of the coastal zone as well as the general population of the State of South Carolina. Accordingly, the Department, pursuant to the authority of S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-130(D)(1), hereby issues an Emergency Order to allow property owners or government authorities statewide, whose lands and buildings abut the critical areas, to remove boats and debris from the critical areas, in those areas impacted by Tropical Storm Debby. The local government with jurisdiction over the site must be notified of the activity.

This Emergency Order, 24-EO-TSD5, will expire on November 3, 2024 (90 days from the date of this Order). Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-130(D)(1), property owners may request an individual emergency order from the Department if an emergency persists.

Specifically, all work must conform to the following requirements:

1. Best management practices and measures must be employed during removal of all boats and debris.
2. All removed material must be disposed of properly on high ground.
3. For work conducted within beaches or beach/dune system critical areas during the sea turtle nesting season (May 1st – October 31st), the applicant must monitor daily sea turtle activity each morning prior to work being performed. The applicant may be able to utilize volunteers from the SCDNR Marine Turtle Conservation Program to fulfill this requirement. If not, they must hire an environmental practitioner/consultant to do so. Regardless, a permit for monitoring for the purposes of avoiding and minimizing impacts to sea turtles associated with debris removal must be acquired from SCDNR. Please visit the following link and choose Monitoring Permit: <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/permit.htm>. All nesting activity (evidence of successful nesting and false crawls) must be documented daily with GPS coordinates and photos. Any successful nests will need to be marked and all debris removal activities must avoid impacts to the nest and future hatchlings (e.g., do not place any obstacles, construction equipment, etc. in their pathway to access the ocean upon hatching). Should a nest be built within the debris removal footprint, please contact the SCDNR Marine Turtle Conservation Program Coordinator, Michelle Pate 843-384-0605 (cell) or 843-953-9052 (office). Debris removal should start no earlier than 10:00 am daily during the sea turtle nesting and hatching season. In the event a nest is disturbed during debris removal and/or an adult sea turtle or hatchling is encountered, all work must cease and the SCDNR Marine Turtle Conservation Program Coordinator should be contacted immediately.

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August 5, 2024



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Matthew J. Slagel  
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Bureau of Coastal Management  
SC Department of Environmental Services

8/5/2024

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Date