

TRENDS AND CONDITIONS STATEMENT

a. Agency Primary Responsibilities – Based On Statute

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) shall exercise the regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to wild animal life and exercise regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to marine life. The agency's primary responsibilities are based on the following statutes and Constitutional authority: Chapters 370, 372, and 327, Florida Statutes and Article 4, Section 9 and Article 10, Section 16, Florida Constitution.

b. What Led the Agency to Select Its Priorities?

In August 2002, the FWC conducted on-line surveys of stakeholders and the general Florida citizenry seeking input on the current condition of and desired future direction for the FWC. These surveys asked a range of questions designed to determine the FWC's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; current level of service; desired future state and other areas of interest.

The FWC compiled the survey results, and held a meeting of stakeholders to confirm the survey findings and provide more detailed understanding through solicitation of further comments. These comments were gathered by providing all stakeholder attendees a laptop computer for use during the meeting to enter their comments.

Results of all stakeholder and citizen input were compiled and analyzed by FWC staff into "areas of concern". These areas of concern became the focus of redefining FWC's priorities (See attachment A).

c. How the Agency Will Generally Address the Priorities Over A Five-Year Period

Based upon the stakeholder areas of concern, FWC revamped its goals and strategies into a new Agency Strategic Plan containing a mission, vision, agency goal, elements of success, guiding principles, values, competencies, strategies and priority issues (see Attachment B).

When FWC began developing plans for implementing the Strategic Plan, we realized we were not optimally organized to deliver on the Plan. We concluded we were merged as a result of the 1998 constitutional change, but not integrated; we could not adequately address habitat, use conflict and exotic and imperiled species issues our stakeholders identified; and we were not as efficient or effective as needed.

The solution is to align like functions, flatten the organization, and provide better support to our mainline programs better. This resulted in a proposed restructuring of the agency designed to better deliver on the Plan and provide "more bang for the buck", so that savings can be invested back into the agency.

The restructuring primarily (1) integrates biological functions to better focus on the habitat, user conflict and species issues identified by stakeholders, while maintaining our core focuses on fishing and hunting; and (2) better organize support functions into Offices that serve to support the Programs.

The 2004 Legislature approved the restructure and it was signed by the Governor (see new structure in Attachment D).

The new structure has six (6) Programs: Habitat and Species, Research (the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute), Law Enforcement, Marine Fisheries, Freshwater Fisheries and Hunting & Game Management.

In support of these Programs are the following thirteen (13) Offices: Finance and Budget, Policy and Stakeholder Coordination, Legal, Human Resources, Licensing and Permitting, Recreation Services, Information Technology, Data Portal, Community Relations, Legislative Affairs, Strategy and Planning, Inspector General, and Regional Operations.

A description of each Program and Office follows:

Habitat and Species Management (301 FTE's)

This Program will be responsible for habitat and species conservation efforts. These efforts include lake restoration, land acquisition, aquatic plant control, management of state lands and development of recreational uses on these lands, non-game species, imperiled species recovery, and exotic species management.

Law Enforcement (901.5 FTE's)

The responsibilities of Law Enforcement will remain unchanged in the proposed new structure.

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (317 FTE's)

All FWC research on marine, freshwater fish and wildlife will be conducted or contracted through this Program.

Marine Fisheries Management (26 FTE's)

This Program will be responsible for marine fisheries management (rule development, liaison with federal fishery councils), angler outreach and artificial reefs.

Freshwater Fisheries Management (69.5 FTE's)

This Program will manage freshwater lake and river fish populations, operates fish management areas, urban fishing projects, aquatic outreach and fish culture and stocking,

Hunting and Game Management (45 FTE's)

Game Management will manage waterfowl, alligators, turkeys, deer and small game species. It is responsible for hunter safety and ranges, and hunting regulations and publications.

Finance and Budget (76 FTE's)

This Office will be responsible for financial operations, revenue, budget development and facilities management.

Community Relations (14.5 FTE's)

Community Relations will coordinate FWC media relations, development and production of publications, public relations and message creation.

Policy and Stakeholder Coordination (6 FTE's)

External Relations will coordinate FWC stakeholder relations, development of partnerships, rule-development processes and development of agency positions.

Licensing & Permitting (25 FTE's)

All FWC licensing and permitting functions will be coordinated by this office. It will also issue recreational and commercial licenses.

Executive Director (7 FTE's)

This Office will contain internal support functions such as legal, inspector general, planning, information technology, legislative and human relations.

Legal (9 FTE's)

The Legal Office provides for all legal services to the Commission and its divisions and offices. Legal services include representation in litigation, preparation of legal

opinions, development and review of contracts and other legal instruments, drafting and review of legislation and rules, and general legal counseling relating to FWC operations.

Human Resources (6 FTE's)

The Human Resources Office provides service and support to agency employees and management in the areas of personnel laws and rules, training coordination, diversity division, retirement benefits, collective bargaining, discipline administration, workers' compensation, unemployment compensation and non-transactional processes for classification and pay recruitment and selection, attendance and leave and payroll.

Recreation Services (11 FTE's)

The Recreation Services Office provides recreation planning and design services for FWC-managed areas; coordinate implementation of wildlife viewing structures, trails and other recreation enhancements; provide technical assistance to local governmental and other agencies to develop wildlife viewing sites and divisions; and to develop interpretive products and divisions that increase awareness of recreation opportunities on FWC-managed properties and understanding of how the FWC manages these natural areas to sustain the wildlife and recreation opportunities that depend on them.

Information Technology (18 FTE's)

The purpose and function of the Information Technology Office is to coordinate the planning, budgeting, acquisition, development, implementation, use, and management of information technology for FWC; provide technical support and guidance to programs and offices to assist them to meet their goals and priorities; provide executive direction, administrative services, planning, organizing, directing, developing policy, cost recovery, IT staff training, and coordination for IT activities across the agency; plan for, implement, and operate network security, servers, network infrastructure (LAN, WAN, MAN), Email services, desktop, and helpdesk services; develop, acquire, implement, and maintain computer software applications using in-house or out-sourced resources; develop, maintain, and enhance the FWC Internet and intranet websites, and; coordinate the FWC's records retention and destruction procedures for the agency.

Data Portal (3 FTE's)

The purpose and function of the Data Portal Office is to provide a "one-stop-shopping" environment for data and information needed by agency employees and the public to make sound decisions regarding fish and wildlife conservation. The data portal is intended to solve the problem of "too much information" by making data and information readily available in a customizable, personalized format using a web browser connected to the intranet or internet. Basic functions being incorporated into the data portal include dissemination of agency news, document and work flow management, employee access to human resource and fiscal information, FWC issue team collaboration, search and query tools for natural resource data and information, transactional capability for tasks such as

entering data or applying for permits, and delivery of geographic information system (GIS) products and services. The Office also is responsible for the agency's data management functions, including developing data standards, data warehousing and integration, and search and retrieval of data and information.

Legislative Affairs (3 FTE's)

The Legislative Affairs Office is responsible for the development and coordination of State and Federal legislative activities for the Commission; lobbies for the passage of the agency's legislative package and provides information on other legislation that is considered by the Florida Legislature and Congress; works in conjunction with the Director of Finance and Budget to lobby for passage of the agency's budget requests; assists legislators and Commission constituents; endeavors to establish a positive rapport with legislators and their staff, other governmental staff, lobbyists, and citizen groups involved with legislative activities of the agency.

Strategy & Planning (3 FTE's)

The purpose and function of the Strategy and Planning Office is to coordinate the development, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Agency Strategic Plan and Program and Office plans; to coordinate revision of these plans; to monitor and evaluate coordination and teamwork among and within Programs and Offices; to develop planning processes and procedures; and to provide process mapping and meeting facilitation assistance to the programs and offices. This Office often employs consultants and facilitators to conduct its work.

Inspector General (7 FTE's)

The Inspector General Office provides a central point for coordination of and responsibility for activities that promote accountability, integrity, and efficiency in government. The IG accomplishes these goals through internal audits, investigations, and management reviews. Additionally, the OIG conducts investigations brought under the agency's Ombudsman Program and investigates complaints that fall under the state's whistle-blower statute.

Regional Operations (27 FTE's)

The purpose and function of the Regional Operations Office is to keep the agency's mission, policies and service consistent across the state; facilitate the coordination and implementation of agency programs at the regional and local level through effective communication and leadership; conduct public workshops and survey conservation groups and landowners, and appropriate public officials and agencies to solicit input on proposed

regulation changes; and integrate agency operations, engage stakeholders, and execute projects and decision-making at the lowest practicable level.

Detailed Strategic Plans for each Program and Office are being developed during September and October 2003. Following Gubernational and Legislative action on the restructure proposal, detailed annual work plans will be developed for each Program and Office. These work plans state what will be done and how it will address the Agency Strategic Plan.

d. The Justification Of Revised Or Proposed New Programs And / Or Services

Not Applicable.

e. Justification Of Final Projection For Each Outcome And Include An Impact Statement Relating To Demand And Fiscal Implications, And Provide The Policy Context And Guidelines Used By The Agency To Develop Its 5-Year Workforce Plan

- **Justification Of Final Projection for each Outcome**

Outcome 1 A: Percent of critical habitat (hot spots) protected through land acquisition, lease or management contract

This outcome focuses on conserving critical fish and wildlife habitat. FWC's primary means of doing so are Forever Florida funds. Based on anticipated funding levels, we project an ability to increase protected habitat by 2% over the next 5 years.

Outcome 1 B: Percent of wildlife species that are increasing or stable

In general, there is an inverse relationship between human and wildlife population trends. As Florida's human population continues to increase, we tend to see a concomitant decrease in wildlife populations. This is due primarily to habitat loss or degradation both in Florida and, for migratory species such as songbirds, in Latin America, also.

As a result, we project that with anticipated funding levels FWC can "hold the line" and not allow additional species to suffer population declines.

Outcome 1 C: Percent of freshwater fish populations that are increasing or stable

The situation for freshwater fish is analogous to wildlife as described in Outcome 1 B, above. We expect to "hold the line" on species declines over the next five years.

Outcome 1 D: Percent of marine fishery stocks that are increasing or stable

The situation with marine fisheries is somewhat different than wildlife or freshwater fisheries. A number of marine fish species are declining due to over fishing, primarily in federal waters. We expect to improve this circumstance, along with our federal and other state partners, to where we experience an increase in the number of species with populations that are stable or increasing.

Outcome 1 E: Number of public contacts by law enforcement

Past experience shows that this number will fluctuate based on a number of factors outside the control of FWC that include: vacancies, natural disasters, weather, resource use by the public, and more recently, demands for homeland security directed patrols. All of these factors impact the ability of officers to make direct public contacts. Given the difficulty of predicting all these factors, we project contacts to remain at current levels.

Outcome 1 F: Percent of research projects that provide management recommendations or support management actions

We expect to continue ensuring all research projects provide recommendations to or otherwise support management actions.

Outcome 2 A: Percent change in licenses and permits issued

We expect license sales to continue to increase slightly, primarily as a result of improved water levels in Florida lakes and a continued increasing interest in saltwater fishing.

Outcome 2 B: Percent change in the number of information and education materials provided to citizens

FWC will continue to move towards providing more material on-line as opposed to printing the material.

We expect an increase in the number of informational materials to be offset by a reduction in educational materials as a result of FY 03-04 budget cuts.

- **Policy Context and Guidelines Used By the Agency To Develop Its 5-Year Workforce Plan**

When the original LRPP instructions were distributed in June 2000, agencies were asked to “examine and provide the impact of reducing the workforce by 25% over a five year period.” The FWC applied zero-based analysis principles in examining its activities for potential reduction.

Directors within the agency were asked to examine and prioritize their operations and report what the actions and impacts would be of a 25% workforce reduction over five years. They were instructed to consider the following questions:

- Does the service and/or activity need to be provided?
- What is the optimum level of a service to meet the need and achieve a stated goal or objective?
- What is the best mix of activities?
- What are suitable alternatives?

In addition, the following assumptions were applied:

- Across the board reductions are not the sole means to accomplish the work force reductions.
- Service and activities are prioritized and lower priorities are eliminated.
- Mission critical services and activities are funded to meet the optimum level of a service.
- Savings are created beyond the spending targets may be redirected to agency priorities, including employee incentives.
- Best management practices are used, where appropriate.
- Reductions may include privatizations, shifts to community-based care, and downsizing (primarily through attrition). Privatization must allow current state workers to bid for services.
- Reforms to the career service system will allow more flexibility.

The results of this analysis were further reviewed and refined by the Executive Director and reviewed and approved by the Commissioners. Annual updates are accomplished in the same manner.

- f. List Of Potential Policy Changes Affecting The Agency Budget Request or Governor's Recommended Budget**

- g. List Of Changes, Which Would Require Legislative Action, Including The Elimination Of Programs, Services And / Or Activities**

Blue Crab License, Penalty, and Trap Retrieval; Black Sea Bass Trap Retrieval; Counterfeit Lobster Trap Tags

This legislative proposal will resubmit SB 2490/HB 1345 from the 2006 Legislative Session. When the bill did not pass, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Commission) extended the moratorium on blue crab commercial fishing in June 2005. The implementation of the management program in July 2007 is contingent on legislative action.

The proposal establishes a hard shell blue crab endorsement fee of \$125, a soft shell blue crab endorsement fee of \$250, a displaced-netters blue crab endorsement fee of \$125, an incidental take blue crab endorsement fee of \$25, and a trap tag fee of \$0.50 per tag. Twenty-five dollars (\$25) from the soft shell, hard shell, and displaced-netters endorsements, would be dedicated to funding the derelict trap retrieval program. Along with adding blue crab traps to the trap retrieval programs already in place for the spiny lobster and stone crab fisheries, the proposal includes a fee of \$10 for every blue crab trap retrieved by the program. However, the retrieval fee would be waived for the first five traps belonging to a holder of a blue crab trap endorsement. The blue crab trap retrieval fees are consistent with those in the spiny lobster and stone crab trap fisheries.

The proposal establishes administrative and criminal penalties for the commercial blue crab fishery: up to \$5000 administrative fine, suspension or revocation of saltwater fishing privileges, and 3rd degree felony. The penalties would apply for any judicial disposition other than acquittal or dismissal. These penalties would provide consistency with those in the stone crab fishery. They would also provide consistency with those in the spiny lobster fishery, subject to passage of the bill, which also includes an administrative penalty for counterfeit lobster trap tags (see below).

Black Sea Bass Trap Retrieval Fees

The proposal adds black sea bass traps to the post-season trap retrieval program including a \$10-per-trap retrieval fee.

Counterfeit Lobster Tags

The proposal establishes an administrative penalty of up to \$5000 and a suspension of commercial saltwater fishing privileges for up to 24 months to be assessed for making or possession of counterfeit spiny lobster trap tags. This penalty would apply for receipt of a judicial disposition other than acquittal or dismissal. Establishing this penalty would provide consistency of administrative penalties with the stone crab trap fishery and with the requested administrative penalty for the blue crab trap fishery.

1) Financial Business Plan

This proposal would offer funding strategies to overcome projected budget deficits and pave the way to user-pay, user-benefit operations. The strategies could include increasing hunting and fishing license fees, repealing the shoreline exemption for those who are required to purchase a recreational saltwater fishing license, authorizing specialty license

tag revenues to be use for marketing of specialty license plates, a voluntary Heritage license for seniors, a voluntary conservation decal and a license check-off for voluntary donations. The strategies are based on the strong conservation ethic of Florida's hunters and anglers and the desire of all Floridians to contribute to the wildlife they value. At current levels, budget deficits for Florida's conservation programs could approximate \$13.8 million by FY 2010-11. The 2006 Legislature has asked that state agencies explore self-supporting funding strategies to pay for agency programs.

Potential Issues for 2007 Session

The issues below are not finalized at this time but could be introduced during the 2007 Session.

2) Increase Age Requirement for Boating Safety Education Course

This proposal is a result of the Boating Advisory Council's recommendation and informal discussions of the issue with stakeholders. As presented, by the year 2018 this legislation will require boat operators of all ages to take a boating safety course and obtain proof of course completion in order to operate a boat with 10 horsepower or more. The initial affected group would be operators 25 and under in 2008 and would increase in 5-year increments annually through 2018.

3) Seagrass Protection

This issue would establish non-criminal penalties for propeller scarring and vessel grounding on seagrasses. Additionally, the proposal would seek to earmark revenues received from seagrass violations towards seagrass restoration. FWC staff and the Department of Environmental Protection are working closely with the Seagrass Working Group to draft the proposals.

h. List of all task forces studies, etc., in progress

Financial Business Plan

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has developed a financial business plan to address budget deficits projected for the next five years. This development included several surveys of the agency's stakeholders and the general public to gauge the direction that the agency should follow. The surveys also tested responses on possible funding strategies that would help alleviate the burden on the trust funds. FWC has recommended a proposal that would offer funding strategies to overcome projected budget deficits and pave the way to user-pay, user-benefit operations. The strategies could include increasing hunting and fishing license fees, repealing the shoreline exemption for those who are required to purchase a recreational saltwater fishing license, authorizing specialty license tag revenues to be use for marketing of specialty license plates, a voluntary Heritage license for seniors, a voluntary conservation decal and a license check-off for voluntary donations. The strategies are based on the strong conservation ethic of Florida's hunters and anglers and the desire of all Floridians to contribute to the wildlife

they value. At current levels, budget deficits for Florida's conservation programs could approximate \$13.8 million by FY 2010-11. The 2006 Legislature has asked that state agencies explore self-supporting funding strategies to pay for agency programs.

Public Boat Ramps and Piers Study

FWC, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Lee County, is conducting a boating access facilities inventory and economic study. The study will clarify the economic value of boating regionally and will include an inventory of boat ramps, marinas, dry-storage for boats, docks, etc. The study will be completed in three work stages: Phase I includes inventory of boating access facilities, Phase II is the Global Information System (GIS) component which will generate GIS data layers of field data and development of a web host, and Phase III is the economic study of all data including development of a site suitability analysis, cost study of new infrastructure, estimation of present and projected supply and demand, time horizons, etc. A pilot project in Lee County was initiated to fool-proof the state-wide project. The economic studies will estimate the present and projected demand for boating facilities, quantify the economic impact of recreational boating to Florida, and estimate capital cost of new or improved facilities. The study is in its middle stages.

Florida Recreational Boating Survey

A recreational boating survey was initiated to take a statewide sampling of the opinions of registered Florida boat owners regarding general boating safety, FWC law enforcement services, and general boating activities. Results are being compiled and a thorough analysis will be completed.

Derelict Vessel Grants Research

Research and documentation have been conducted and completed to assist the commission implement a plan for the procurement of any available federal disaster funds for the removal of derelict vessels, as per the requirement of HB 7175 that was passed during the 2006 Session.

Due Process Procedures

The Commission conducted a series of seven workshops in August 2006, to explain the Commission's current due process procedures as they relate to rulemaking and to gauge stakeholder satisfaction with the existing procedures. Public input suggested that there was no mandate to change the agency's due process procedures, but rather to better implement those procedures, especially through enhanced communication with the interested public.

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Exhibit 1: Advisory Committees**

Advisory Committee Name and Composition	Authorization (statutory or managerial initiative)	Purpose and Activities	Revenues (by fund source)*	Expenses (by fund source)*	Extent to Which Purposes Have Been Achieved	Rationale for Continuing or Discontinuing
Stone Crab Advisory Board 5 members representing the commercial fishing industry: Ronnie Day, Jerry Butler, Frank Reppa, Jo Anne Lawson; FWC staff: Dennis David	Managerial Initiative F.A.C. 68B-13	To advise the Commission on management strategies for the stone crab fishery. This Board has evolved from the Stone Crab Appeals and Advisory Board, which was created in 2001.	Revenue is provided by the agency from the marine fisheries management activity (MRC TF) as needed to cover expenses.	From MRCTF: FY 04/05 - \$10,000 FY 05/06 - N/A FY 06/07 - N/A	Board has proposed solutions to several issues regarding the stone crab fishery effort management program that have been adopted.	<u>Continue:</u> Board provides important advice on problems and solutions in the stone crab fishery.
Artificial Reef Advisory Board 12 members: Ed Kalakauskis - Jax Offshore Fishing Club; Eilene Beard - SCUBA Shack, Pensacola; Bill Lindberg - University of Florida Dept of Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences; Steve Bortone - Sanibel Captiva Marine Lab; Kathy FitzPatrick - Martin County; Clif Payne - USACOE; Robert Turpin - Escambia County; Chris Koepfer - Lee County; Leda Cunningham - Reef Environmental	Managerial Initiative	To provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on goals and objectives for the state's artificial reef program,	Revenue is provided by the agency from the marine fisheries management activity (MRC TF) as needed	From MRCTF: FY 04/05 - N/A FY 05/06 - \$700 From FGTF: FY 06/07 - \$3,000 all expenses are fully grant supported	Artificial Reef Strategic Plan has been completed. Currently establishing Operational Best Management Practices for Artificial Reef planning,	<u>Continue:</u> Board reviews and provides recommendation to FWC staff and Commissioners on Best Management Practices and operational

Education Foundation; Ken Banks - Broward County; Jon Dodrill - FWC Artificial Reef Program; Bob Harris - Attorney for PADI.

including strategic and operational planning.

design, construction, and assessment.

Planning for artificial reef siting and construction.

Ad Hoc Blue Crab Advisory Board

13 members: Commercial fishers: Garry Tillis, Frank Sewell, George Sweetman, Debra Creel, Robert Mosler, James Barwick, David Capo, John Chaney, Joe Barker, Ted Firestine, Martin Dunson Russell Stewart; Wholesale crab dealers: Kelly Beall, Walter Flores

Managerial Initiative

To provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on management of Florida's blue crab fishery by focusing on the promotion of a healthy and profitable industry through management and regulation.

Revenue is provided by the agency from the marine fisheries management activity (MRCTF) as needed to cover expenses.

From MRCTF: FY 04/05 - \$31,796 FY 05/06 - \$2,500 FY 06/07 - \$2,000

The Board, with the help of a facilitator, worked together to formulate the Blue Crab Effort Management Program.

Continue: The fees and penalties for the management plan are pending Legislative approval during the 2007 Session. The Ad Hoc Board will need to meet to address any issues that arise during Session. The proposal includes a permanent Advisory Board to continue recommendations on the fishery.

Marine Life Workgroup

13 members: Brian Keller - Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; Marty Tanner - Aquaculture Review Council; Don DeMaria - Live Rock collector - Keys; Richard Londeree - Live Rock collector - Tampa; Jeff Cramer - Bycatch collector, Organized Fishermen of Florida; Bill Parks - Dive collector - North of Keys; Ken Nedimyer - Dive collector - Keys; Jeff Turner - Dive collector, aquaculture; Forest Young - Dive collector - multiple endorsements; Pete Kehoe - Dive collector - multiple endorsements; Denise Reppa - Dive collector in Lee County, curio trade; Henry Feddern - dive collector, research biologist, Lad Adkins - non governmental organization, Reef Environmental Education Foundation

Managerial Initiative

To provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on the biological and management needs of Florida's marine life industry.

Revenue is provided by the agency from the marine fisheries management activity (MRC TF) as needed to cover expenses.

From MRCTF: FY 04/05 - \$ 2273
FY 05/06 - \$ 7645
FY 06/07 - \$ 5200

The workgroup met three times in 2005 and two to three meetings are anticipated before 2007. It has facilitated the smooth implementation of the new Marine Life Effort Management Program and is currently helping to revise the list of species included in the rule as well as their size and bag limits.

Continue: Workgroup is developing management recommendations that should help sustain the marine life fishery.

Snook Workgroup

21 members: Ted Forsgren, Curtis Bostick, Howard Wells, and Mike Kennedy - recreational anglers, Coastal Conservation Association; Dave Markett, Butch Constable, Pat Kelly, and Richard Grathwahl - recreational anglers, Florida Guides Association; Gary Borland, Tom Fraser, Rick Grasset, and Roger Birt - recreational anglers non-aligned; Brian Liem - recreational non-aligned shore based angler; Susan Cocking - recreational angler and outdoor writer; Wade Thompson, Sawyer Smith, and Ron Riley - recreational snook

Managerial Initiative

To review and discuss the recent stock assessment results and determine what type of fishery they want for the future and suggest regulations to

Revenue is provided by the agency from the marine fisheries management activity (MRC TF) as needed to cover expenses.

From MRCTF: FY 04/05 - N/A
FY 05/06 - N/A
FY 06/07 - \$30,452

A facilitator has led two meetings and three more are anticipated to review rule proposals and review snook stock assessments. The facilitator is helping this diverse group generate management recommendations

Continue: Workgroup is developing management recommendations that should help sustain the snook fishery.

tournament directors; Ken Leber - biologist with Mote Marine Lab; Jason Scratweiser - recreational angler, biologist, International Game Fish Association; Tom Twyford - recreational angler, West Palm Beach Fishing Club; Rick Roberts - recreational angler, Snook Foundation

accomplish that goal.

considerations for Commission regarding the future of the snook fishery.

Red Drum Workgroup

25 members: Ted Forsgren, Jim Gray, and Mike Locklear -recreational anglers, Coastal Conservation Association; Pat Kelly, Dave Markett, Ray Markham, and Danny Guarino - recreational anglers, guides, Florida Guides Association; Jack Curlett - recreational angler, Ocean Reef Club; Jason Scratweiser - recreational angler, biologist, International Game Fish Association; Gary Meyer - recreational angler, South Florida Fly Fishing Club; Vic Tison - recreational angler, guide, Inshore Saltwater Anglers; Charlie Rogers - recreational angler, tournament director, Redfish Nation, Wacassa Fishing Club; Rodney Smith - recreational angler, Florida Sport Fish Association; Arthur Allison - recreational angler, tournament director, Redfish Tour; Wright Taylor - recreational angler, red drum tournament director in Naples; Merrily Dunn - recreational angler, guide; Jody Campbell - recreational angler in Big Bend; Michael Leary - recreational angler Gainesville; Tim Tucker - recreational angler, writer; Stephen Holmes -

Managerial Initiative

To review and discuss the recent stock assessment results and determine what type of fishery they want for the future and suggest regulations to accomplish that goal.

Revenue is provided by the agency from the marine fisheries management activity (MRC TF) as needed to cover expenses.

From MRCTF: FY 04/05 - N/A
FY 05/06 - \$2500
FY 06/07 - \$9500

This workgroup, along with FWC staff, is reviewing the recent red drum stock assessment to formulate best management practices for the future of red drum fishery.

Continue: Workgroup is developing management recommendations that should help sustain the red drum fishery.

recreational angler, writer;
 Jimmy Musconis - county
 commissioner, Panhandle;
 Ronnie Day - commercial
 fisherman, Organized
 Fishermen of Florida; Fred
 Myers - recreational angler
 Panama City; Andreas
 Smith - recreational angler
 Panama City; Joe Roberts,
 Indian River guide

**Ad hoc Spiny Lobster
 Advisory Board**

14 members: Commerical
 Trap Fishers: Bruce Irwin,
 Mary Stafford, George
 Niles, Manuel Toldedo, Jeff
 Crammer; Commercial
 Divers: Peter Cone, Robert
 Cardin; Recreational
 Fishers: Hal Flowers, Cyril
 Daughtery, Richard Sewell,
 Wholesale Seafood
 Dealers: Peter Bacle,
 Manuel Prieguez, non-
 government representative:
 Manuel Torres; Florida Keys
 National Marine Santuary
 Respresentative: Bill
 Goodwin

Managerial
 Initiative

As part of
 a three-
 year
 evaluatio
 n of the
 spiny
 lobster
 fishery,
 the
 Board
 was
 created o
 provide
 advice
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 recomme
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From
 MRCTF:
 FY 04/05 -
 N/A
 FY 05/06 -
 54,400
 FY 06/07 -
 42,700

The Board
 has met six
 times, with
 the use of
 a facilitator,
 but will
 require
 additional
 meetings
 to
 accomplish
 their goals.

Continue:
 The
 Boards
 draft
 recommen
 dations
 will be
 available
 for
 Commissi
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 considerat
 ion. The
 agency
 will
 continue
 to meet
 and work
 on
 reaching
 consensu
 s opinions
 on several
 issues
 throughou
 t 2007.

Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council

11 Members: All seats have expired and awaiting appointments from the Governor's Office. Membership includes representation from: Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (1), Department of Environmental Protection (1), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1), Director of the Florida Museum of Natural History or designee (1), Professional wildlife organization (1), Private wildlife institution (1), Florida university or college with expertise in nongame biology (1), Business interests from a private consulting firm with expertise in nongame biology (1), Statewide organization of landowner interests (1), Conservation organization (2)

372.992, F.S.

To recommend policies, objectives, and specific actions for nongame wildlife research and management to the Commission.

Revenue is provided by the agency from the habitat and species conservation program (NWT F) as needed to cover expenses.

From NWTF: FY 04/05 - \$500
FY 05/06 - \$200
FY 06/07 - \$2000

The Council has sporadically provided recommended policies, objectives and actions related to nongame wildlife since its creation. However, the Council has been less active since the agency's reorganization. The agency intends to work with the Council to revise the Council and its functions to better advise the agency on nongame issues

Continue: As part of its restructure efforts, the Commission will evaluate a revision of the Council to better advise the agency on non-game issues.

Florida Panther Technical Advisory Council (FPTAC)

7 Members, Appointed by the Governor: Two representatives of state/federal agencies responsible for the management of endangered species: Dana Bryan, Richard Clark Two representatives with experience in research management of large felines or large mammals: Michael Conroy, Dr. Joseph Clark Three representatives from the public at large: Dr. Nicolay Kapustin, Laurie

372.673, F.S.

To serve in an advisory capacity to the Commission on technical matters of relevance to the Florida panther recovery program, and to recommend specific

The Council has been dormant for several years; however, revenue will be provided by the agency from the

N/A The Council has been dormant for several years.

The newly appointed Council has not met as of 11/06.

Continue: Governors office has recently appointed 7 new members to the Council.

MacDonald, Frank
Montalbano

actions that should be taken to accomplish the purposes of this act; to review and comment on research and management programs and practices to identify potential harm to the Florida panther population; to provide a forum for technical review and discussion of the status and development of the Florida panther recovery program.

Panther Recovery Program (FPR MTF) as needed to cover expenses.

Listing Process Stakeholder Panel (LPSP)

This panel included 15 members when it last met in 2003. Membership included: Sam Ard, Florida Cattleman's Assn.; Dr. Todd Engstrom, Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council;

Managerial Initiative

To provide recommendations on how to address issues regarding the state listing

Revenue is provided by the agency from the habitat and specie

No activity in FY 04/05 and FY 05/06, and none projected for FY 06/07.

The Panel produced a report in 2003 with recommendations regarding the state's imperiled species listing

Discontinue: The Panel last meeting was in 2003 and their mission was fulfilled

Ted Forsgren, Coastal Conservation Assn.; Manley Fuller, Florida Wildlife Federation; Jim McGlincy; Susan George, Defenders of Wildlife; Steve Godley, Florida Home Builders Assn.; Phil Leary, Florida Farm Bureau; Lauri MacDonald, Sierra Club; Florida Coastal Island Sanctuary; Barbara J. Powell, Everglades Coordinating Council; Doug Rillstone, Florida Chamber of Commerce; Pat Rose, Save the Manatee Club

process for determining if a species is endangered, threatened, or a species of special concern.

process. with the passage of the listing process rule in 2005.

Management Advisory Groups (conservation / land management planning)

259.032, F.S.

There are no standing members because the membership varies with the location area of the land. Generally, there are representatives from cooperating agencies, local government, NRCS, adjacent property owner(s), conservation NGO(s), user group(s) (variable), other stakeholders as appropriate.

To engage stakeholders and the public in the drafting of ten-year Conceptual Management Plans for each FWC-managed areas, which include wildlife management areas, wildlife environmental areas, and mitigation parks.

Revenue is provided by the agency from the habitat and species conservation program (CARLTF) as needed to cover expenses: Budgeted: FY 04/05 - \$19,350 FY 05/06 \$12,800 FY 06-07 projected approximately \$40,000

Fulfills requirements of Florida Statute, as well as providing public input to planning efforts. Provides important guidance to FWC and the beginning of the conservation planning process.

Continue: Provides crucial public input into the development of land management goals, objectives, and strategies, at the beginning of the management planning process; allows FWC to be proactive in identifying potentially contentious issues.

**Manatee Technical
Advisory Council
(MTAC)**

No current members.
Council membership
expired in 2003.

Managerial
Initiative

To
provide
advice
and
recommen-
dations
concerni-
ng
manatee
issues.

No
activity
in FY
04/05
and
FY
05/06,
and
none
project-
ed for
FY
06/07.

No activity in
FY 04/05
and FY
05/06, and
none
projected for
FY 06/07.

The
Council
achieved
its purpose
by
providing
valuable
recommen-
dations to
the
Commission
on
manatee
related
issues.

Discontinue:
The
MTAC
terms for
membersh-
ip expired
in
February
2003.

**Captive Wildlife
Technical Assistance
Group**

11 members selected from
a cross-section of interests
involved with captive
wildlife: Ms. Julie Alexa
Strauss - Corporate
Counsel for FELD
Entertainment, Inc. (Ringling
Bros. and Barnum & Bailey
Circus); Dr. Terri Parrot-
Nenezian - Doctor of
Veterinarian Medicine
specializing in wildlife and
exotics; Mr. Dan Martinelli -
Treasure Coast Wildlife
Hospital, Executive Director;
Wildlife Rehabilitator; Mr.
Eugene Bessette -
Ophiological Services,
Founder and Director,
Venomous Reptile
Licensee; Mr. Joe
Christman - Curator of
Mammals for Disney's
Animal Kingdom; Dr. Leroy

Managerial
Initiative

To
review
and
provide
recommen-
dations
for
captive
wildlife
regulatio-
ns and
issues.

Reven-
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provid-
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cover
expen-
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FY 04-05 -
Created
From
MRCTF:
FY 05-06 -
\$22,610
From GR:
FY 06-07 -
\$31,987

Recommen-
dations are
made
concerning
all aspects
of captive
wildlife.

Continue:
Provides a
valuable
forum for
the review
and
developm-
ent of
rules,
statutes,
and
managem-
ent policy
for captive
wildlife.

Coffman - Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine, Former State Veterinarian and Director of Animal Industry with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Mr. Ken Johnson - Representative for the Humane Society of the United States; Dr. Susan Clubb - Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine and Co-owner of Hurricane Aviaries; Mr. Bill Armstrong - Hillsborough County Animal Control, Director; Mr. R. Donovan Smith - Close Up Creatures, Inc., Founder and Director and NGALA Private Reserve, Founder; Ms. Gloria Noble Johnson - Cougar Ridge Education Center, Inc., Founder.

Boating Advisory Council

18 members selected as provided by statute: Mr. Ronald Baker - Marine Special Events; Senator Michael Bennett - Florida Senate; Ms. Rebecca Bragg - Canoe or Kayak Enthusiasts; Ms. Susan Engle - Florida Inland Navigation District; Mrs. Jennifer Castle Field - Marine Industries; Mr. Robert Gill - Commercial Fishing Industry; Mr. William Griswold - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; Colonel Julie Jones - FWC, Division of Law Enforcement; Mr. Richard Jones - Water-related Environmental Groups; Mr. Joseph Kennedy - U.S. Power Squadrons; Ms. Jessica Koelsch - Manatee Protection Interests; Ms. Peggy Mathews - Marine Manufacturers; Ms. Cindy Muir - Department of Environmental Protection;

327.803, F.S.

To make recommendations to the Commission and Department of Community Affairs regarding issues affecting the boating community, including boating and diving safety education, boating-related facilities, including marinas and boat testing facilities,

Revenue is provided by the agency from the boating and water ways activity as needed to cover expenses.

From MRCTF:
 FY 04-05 - \$9,800
 FY 05-06 - \$10,750
 FY 06-07 - \$12,000

Recommendations are made concerning all aspects of boating, including legislation and rules.

Continue: Provides a valuable forum to receive commentary regarding issues and activities of concern to the boating community.

Ms. Lisa Neal - Boating Public; Representative Ralph Poppell - Florida House of Representatives; Ms. Virginia Queen - Commercial Vessel Owners/Operators; Mr. Edward Seguna, II - Boating Public; Mr. John Stewart - Scuba Diving Industry

boat usage, boat access, and working waterfronts.

Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force

Scientists, engineers, economists, members of citizen groups, and members of government. No current (named) membership is established at this time.

The Florida Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force was established in October 1997 by the Department of Environmental Protection. The task force was formalized under the auspices of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Florida Marine Research Institute through legislation (Chapter 370.06092) enacted in July 1999. The role of the task force is to provide recommendations for research, detection, monitoring, prediction, mitigation, and control of harmful algal blooms in Florida.

370.06092, F.S. & continued as managerial initiative

To determine research, monitoring, control and mitigation strategies for red tide and other harmful algal blooms in Florida waters. Provides its recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.

None. No meetings were held in the previous three fiscal years.

None. No meetings were held in the previous three fiscal years.

The Task Force finished its statutorily required work and published its recommendations in October 1999.

Continue: Use of advisory boards is an important element of FWC's strategic plan. In the future, it will be important to obtain perspectives and guidance from an advisory board to effectively develop management strategies for harmful algal blooms.

Marine Stock Enhancement Advisory Board

The board is comprised of twelve persons with strong ties to the recreational fishing community: Pat Dorsy, Mike Ehlers, Ted Forsgren, Don Hansen, Van Hubbard, Glenda Kelley, David Meehan, Lowe Morrison, Dennis Peters, James Tucker Sr., Blair Wickstrom, Karl Wickstrom, Lloyd Wruble

Managerial Initiative

To determine research priorities for stocking marine fisheries species and provide recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.

Revenue is provided by the agency from the research program as needed to cover expenses.

From MRCTF:
FY 04/05 \$1,096
FY 05/06 \$1,462
FY 06/07 \$1,500

The board has been effective in guiding the marine stock enhancement strategies since 1998. It has been instrumental in shipping legislative funding initiatives as recently as the 2006 Florida legislative session.

Continue: Use of advisory boards is an important element of FWC's strategic plan. In the future, it will be important to obtain perspectives and guidance from an advisory board.

Waterfowl Advisory Council

3 members, individually appointed by the Governor: Elliott S. Gassner, Chairman; appointed by Speaker of the House: Howard Stitzel; and appointed by President of the Senate: Timothy M. Goldfarb.

372.5714, F.S.

To provide advice and guidance for the Waterfowl Management Program, and advise the Commission regarding the administration of revenues generated by the sale of the Florida waterfowl permit.

Revenue is provided by the agency from the wildlife program (SGTF) as needed to cover expenses.

From SGTF:
FY 04/05 - \$1,000
FY 05/06 - \$1,000
FY 06/07 projected \$1,000.

The Council has provided insight into several Waterfowl Management Program areas.

Discontinue: As part of its restructure efforts, FWC would like to implement a new stakeholder group, with broader and more diverse membership, including active representatives of key hunting and conservation organizations. This approach would give the

agency flexibility to add new stakeholders as they arise. This effort would require modifying/ repealing s. 372.5714, F.S. The current Council agrees with the strategy and will be invited to join the new stakeholder group.

***Trust Fund Legend:**

CARL TF - Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund

FGTF - Federal Grants Trust Fund

FPRMTF - Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund

GR - General Revenue

MRCTF - Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund

NWTF - Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund

SGTF - State Game Trust Fund

i. List of all task forces studies, etc., in progress

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Lee County, is conducting a boating access facilities inventory and economic study. The study will clarify the economic value of boating regionally and will include an inventory of boat ramps, marinas, dry-storage for boats, docks, etc. The study will be completed in three stages: Phase I includes inventory of boating access facilities, Phase II is the Global Information System (GIS) component which will generate GIS data layers of field data and development of a web host, and Phase III is the economic study of all data including development of a site suitability analysis, cost study of new infrastructure, estimation of present and projected supply and demand, time horizons, etc. The study is currently in Phase I.

The Commission also has created a Commercial Fishing Net Working Group (Group) whose goal is to evaluate new and emerging commercial fishing nets and net gear that would not violate the Net Limitation Amendment, as per Article X, Section 16, Florida Constitution. The Net Working Group consists of members from the commercial net fishing industry and agency staff. During the first meeting, the Group agreed to test two nets: one with a three inch stretched mesh; and one with a two inch stretched mesh. Testing has been planned to take place at three coastal locations: Wakulla and Franklin counties, Martin County, and Lee County. The work was postponed after the first test in coastal and near-shore waters of Wakulla and Franklin counties due to a lawsuit filed by some of the members of the Group (Wakulla Fishermen Association) against the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Additionally, the Commission is currently conducting a pilot program to equip law enforcement officers with laptop computers. In January 2005, twenty-five officers and supervisors in the Panhandle Region were equipped with laptop computers. The pilot program's goals are to determine the feasibility of connecting remote laptop computers using wireless air cards to the state's law enforcement computer databases and the state's Computer Aided Dispatch system. The officers are able to complete standard law enforcement paperwork to include citations, warnings, reports, property receipts, arrest affidavits and court documents. They are also able to connect to the agency's network to allow using the laptops to perform standard administrative functions such as e-mail, People First, and have internet access. The project will run until July 2006.

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