

**Marine Special Activity Licenses: 68B-8, F.A.C.  
RRC Consent Agenda – December 2008**

- Rule revision concepts previously presented to the Commission by the Division of Marine Fisheries Management in April 2008.
- Proposed rule revision concepts entered into the Rules Review Committee (RRC) Process.
- Stakeholder Coordination: no concerns expressed by stakeholders.
  - Public workshop on Marine Animal Health issues held January 22 and 23, 2008.
  - Public workshop on Special Activity License Program rule revision concepts held February 11, 2008.
  - All SAL holders received a review of potential rule changes in advance of the second workshop.
- Proposed revisions presented to Commission in September 2008 as part of the Rule Review Committee (RRC) agenda item. Approval to proceed with draft rules received.
- SAL holders will be provided with a copy of the proposed draft rule, as revised based on comments from prior reviews.
- Rule Revisions Under Consideration:
  - 68B-8.002 Definitions  
Purpose – To define or re-define terms that are used throughout the rule.  
Add definitions: Bred in Captivity, Captivity, Catadromous, Estuarine, and Release.  
Redefine: Marine organism, Restoration.
  - 68B-8.003 General Conditions and Restrictions  
Purpose – To improve customer service by increasing application windows, incorporating other agencies within the application review process, reduction of documentation requirements, and clarification of activities that require licensing.  
(2)2: adds second window for submission of Education/Exhibit SAL applications involving prohibited marine species [adding April 1; currently only November 1].  
(7) Releases – exempts aquaculture activities from SAL if activity is pursuant to an MOU between FWC and DACS entered into to preserve the health and genetic diversity of wild fisheries stocks.  
(8) Adds requirement for an SAL in order to tag fish – except tournaments are allowed to tag up to five fish for purposes of awarding prizes.  
(11) Allows retention of original SAL to cover possession of specimens after SAL period has expired.
  - 68B-8.006 Scientific Research Special Activity License  
Purpose – To expand the types of activities that may be conducted pursuant to this license.  
Adds research activities associated with restoration and mitigation as allowable under a Research SAL.

- 68B-8.007 Education/Exhibition Special Activity License  
 Purpose – To modify display requirements for marine animals collected for education or exhibition purposes.  
(e) Adds consideration of the physical environment specimens will be kept in; includes maximum size for species and life span considerations.
  
- 68B-8.009 Prohibited Species Collection Criteria  
 Purpose – To provide applicants with more concise criteria regarding how requests to collect prohibited species are evaluated.  
(4)(b): adds consistency with the FWC Marine Prohibited Species Policy to review criteria.
  
- 68B-8.010 Stock Collection and Release Special Activity License  
 Purpose – To provide clarification of activities that require a Special Activity Licensing, clarify application of genetic standards for release activities to SAL requests, and modify health certification requirements based on recommendations made by participants of the Marine Animal Health workshop.  
(2) Exempts activities done pursuant to a FWC MOA with DACS from SAL requirement [MOA would contain best management provisions to protect the health and genetic diversity of wild fish stocks].  
(5) Applications for the Collection and Release SAL will undergo a genetic risk assessment using a flow chart [incorporated by reference] entitled “Decision Process for the Genetic Risk Assessment of Release Activities Involving Marine Organisms, February 2009” based on information contained in the applicant’s Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan.  
(6)d Delete mandatory requirement for a health certification for marine organisms to be released into the wild; if applicable such certification may be required. Applicability is based on knowledge of health issues for species to be released.
  
- 68B-8.012 Snook Special Activity License  
 Purpose – To allow the exchange of aquacultured snook that are transferred but not sold.  
(5) One holder of this SAL could now give brood stock or progeny to another SAL holder; currently all transfers must be by a sale with appropriate documentation.
  
- 68B-8.013 Non-Conforming Gear Special Activity Licenses and Exemptions  
 Purpose – To allow scientific researchers to apply for and receive this license in order to test experimental gears; currently only commercial fishers may apply for and receive this license.