

Review and discussion of major proposed rule changes to wildlife and fisheries regulations for 2009-10. Agenda Item 6 A (2). August 1, 2008.

68A-5.001 Issuance of Statutory Licenses, Stamps and Permits; Issuance of Duplicates.

The proposed rule would be a technical change, deleting an outdated process for issuing a duplicate license.

68A-9.004 Permits for Hunting or Other Recreational Use on Wildlife Management Areas.

The proposed rule would increase the price for a Recreational Use Permit on the Nassau WMA from \$197 to \$385.

68A-13.007 Hunting Regulations on Public Small-Game Hunting Areas. The proposed rule would allow licensed and registered motorcycles and mopeds to be operated on roads open for registered vehicular traffic.

68A-15.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife Management Areas.

The proposed rule would allow licensed and registered motorcycles and mopeds to be operated on roads open for registered vehicular traffic.

68A-15.015 Quota Permits; Antlerless Deer Permits; Special Opportunity Permits.

The proposed rule would allow the number of quota permits issued for each Wildlife Management Area or Wildlife and Environmental Area to be established by order of the Executive Director.

68A-15.063 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Northwest Region - The proposed rule changes would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs as follows:

(a) Blackwater WMA – allow vehicular access on named or numbered roads only on that portion of the area south of State Road 4 and east of County Road 191 where vehicles may be operated on established roads only.

(b) Tate’s Hell WMA - increase the number of spring turkey quota permits from 35 to 200.

(c) Yellow River WMA – establish the Burnt Grocery Creek area (the area west of Burnt Grocery Creek and north of Bernice Road and Old Fisher Mill Road) within Yellow River WMA with the following open seasons: 88-day archery season; 3-day muzzleloading gun season; 9-day small game season; 11-day archery and muzzleloading gun season; four 3-day spring turkey hunts; allow fishing and frogging throughout the year; prohibit trapping; legal to take – all legal game, wild hog, fish frogs and furbearers; allow antlerless deer to be taken only during the first 30-days of the archery season; and change the spring turkey season in the Grassy Point area from three 2-day hunts to four 3-day hunts.

68A-15.064 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - South Region - The proposed rule changes would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs as follows:

(a) Allapattah Flats WMA – increase the length of migratory bird season to statewide dates.

(b) Picayune Strand WMA – increase the length of the small game season from 16 days to 44 days.

68A-15.065 Specific Regulations for Wildlife Management Areas - Northeast Region - The proposed rule changes would revise or establish specific area regulations on WMAs as follows:

(a) Lake Monroe WMA (NEW) – establish a new wildlife management area with the following open seasons: 30-day archery season, 9-day muzzleloading gun season, 58-day general gun season, 56-day small game season, 37-day spring turkey season, statewide migratory bird season (except crow may be taken during the first phase of crow season only); allow fishing and frogging year-round; legal to take shall be all legal game, fish, wild hog, frogs and furbearers; prohibit camping; allow motorized vehicles only in designated parking areas; prohibit use or possession of swamp buggies, track vehicles and all-terrain vehicles; allow hunting with dogs only during the small game and migratory bird seasons and only with bird dogs or retrievers; and prohibit fires.

(b) Richloam WMA / Baird Unit – prohibit hunting with dogs, except bird dogs and retrievers.

68A-17.004 General Regulations Relating to Wildlife and Environmental Areas.

The proposed rule would allow licensed and registered motorcycles and mopeds to be operated on roads open for registered vehicular traffic.

Marine Fisheries

Special Activity Licenses

68B-8.002 Definitions. For consistency with the FWC Genetics Policy for the Release of Finfish in Florida, the definitions applicable to chapter 68B-8 (Marine Special Activity License Program [SAL]) would be updated.

68B-8.003 General Conditions and Restrictions. The proposed rule changes would improve customer service by allowing SALs for education/exhibition to be issued twice a year instead of only once, incorporating a review and approval of applicable applications by State Parks personnel into the SAL process, and reduce documentation requirements for possession of marine organisms after expiration of the SAL. One proposed change would clarify application of the release prohibition to aquaculture activities when there is the potential to impact wild stock. Another proposed change would promote consistency of data collection and sharing of information by fish tagging programs by requiring a SAL for all marine fish tagging activities and prohibiting the tagging of marine fish without a specific scientific purpose. [Note: the proposed changes will not preclude a tournament from tagging up to five fish for purposes of awarding prizes to tournament participants.]

68B-8.006 Scientific Research Special Activity License. The proposed rule changes would expand the types of activities that could be authorized by a Scientific Research SAL in order to facilitate hard bottom restoration research and monitoring activities.

68B-8.007 **Education/Exhibition Special Activity Licenses.** The proposed change would apply the requirement to consider the quality of the display or housing environment for all captive marine species instead of just prohibited marine species when reviewing a SAL application for education/exhibition.

68b-8.009 **Prohibited Species Collection Criteria.** The proposed rule changes would add provisions of the Indigenous Marine Prohibited Species Policy not previously incorporated into rule in 2004 to provide more concise criteria for evaluating license requests to harvest marine prohibited species.

68B-8.010 **Stock Collection and Release Special Activity Licenses.** The proposed changes to this rule would: 1) provide clarification that new aquaculture activities are required to obtain an SAL when they have the potential to impact wild stocks [Note: an SAL would not be required in cases where FWC coordinates health and genetic standards with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services], 2) update genetic standards for releases currently in rules consistent with the “FWC Genetics Policy for Release of Finfishes in Florida”, and 3) modify health certification requirements based on recommendations made by participants of the Marine Animal Health workshop.

68B-8.012 **Snook Special Activity License.** The proposed change to this rule would allow the transfer of aquacultured snook whether or not a sale has occurred while maintaining oversight of the health and genetic diversity of the wild snook populations. For example, this would allow the donation of aquacultured snook to a private pond owner; currently only a transfer involving the sale of aquacultured snook is allowed.

68B-8.013 **Non-Conforming Gear Special Activity License and Exemptions.** The proposed change to this rule would allow scientific researchers to apply for and receive a SAL to test new gear types. Currently only commercial fishers are eligible to apply for and receive this type of SAL.