

Implementation of the FWC Business Plan

Following the direction of the Commission regarding the FWC Business Plan presented at the September 2006 Commission meeting, FWC staff have proceeded to confirm market research on the pros and cons of increasing hunting and fishing fees and implementing other public conservation fees. Presentation at the December Commission meeting will include:

1. A report on the completed research and research under way.
2. A projection of the return associated with marketing fees and licenses. This is for informational purposes only at this time. Staff does not recommend pursuing an increase in hunting and fishing licenses or fees prior to an analysis of the research.
3. The timeline for implementation of selected programs, including: marketing of the panther, manatee and bass (Go fishin') tags; adding a check-off box to all hunting and fishing licenses to allow for donations to specific programs, such as the Bass Conservation Center; and the introduction of a conservation program to give recreational users other than hunters and fishermen the opportunity to make a donation to support wildlife resources.
4. A description of the proposed Voluntary Heritage License to allow seniors 65 years of age and older to support youth hunting and fishing.
5. A description of the manner in which the shoreline fishing exemption can be removed to create greater equity among fishermen; exceptions to the license.