

2009 Session – Fees Authorized for Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Shoreline Exemption Repeal – SB 1742

- Repeal of the saltwater shoreline exemption will become effective Aug. 1, 2009; the current exemption only applies to Florida residents
- A reduced fee shoreline license at \$7.50 is created and will be required of Florida residents who fish from land or from a structure fixed to the land. It will become available July 15, 2009.
- Current exemptions will still apply:
 - children under 16 (resident and nonresident)
 - seniors 65 years of age and older (residents only)
 - qualified Florida residents with disabilities
 - Florida residents in the military who are home on leave for 30 days or less
 - any person who has been accepted as a client for developmental services by the Department of Children and Family Services
 - anyone fishing from a pier that has a valid pier license (resident and nonresidents)
- Additional exemptions from the new shoreline license are created:
 - Florida residents on food stamps, temporary cash assistance or Medicaid; they will need their benefit card and proof of identity
 - Residents fishing within their county of residence with live or natural bait using poles or lines not equipped with a fishing line retrieval mechanism; this exemption mirrors the same provision for freshwater fishing and is often referred to as the “cane pole” exemption.
- It is estimated that 115,000-185,000 Florida residents will purchase the new saltwater shoreline license. Estimated revenues of \$900,000 will be used for marine fisheries research, marine species management, marine law enforcement (and some outreach and administration), as specified in law. Also, Florida will qualify for approximately \$862,000 in additional federal matching revenues.
- Repealing the shoreline exemption spared 600,000 to 800,000 Florida anglers (29% tourists) from having to purchase a federal fishing registration:
 - Starting in 2010, The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Act) will require anglers fishing in federal waters, or for certain federally managed fish in state waters (such as striped bass and shad), to obtain an annual federal registration
 - A provision in the Act exempts states that have an adequate saltwater licensing system. The federal rule implementing this new license stipulates that Florida’s current shoreline exemption for residents would prevent Florida’s designation as an exempted state
 - The fee charged is anticipated to fall between \$15 and \$25 per angler and is authorized to commence in 2011
- The economics worked against Florida – it would have cost Florida anglers a minimum of \$9 million in federal fees:
 - If the federal registration is \$15, Florida anglers will pay \$9,000,000-\$12,000,000 to the federal coffers with no State benefit
 - If the federal registration is \$25, the Federal Government could receive as much as \$20,000,000 from Florida’s anglers with no State benefit

Fees Authorized in HB 1423

Effective July 1, 2010 – proposed by Florida Wildlife Federation, Florida Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation, United Waterfowlers, Snook Foundation, and the Future of Hunting in Florida organization; revenues to be used for the conservation, research, and management of the particular species/habitat; up to 10% of the proceeds from hunting and sport fishing permits to promote hunting and sport fishing activities with an emphasis on youth participation:

- Waterfowl permit increased from \$3 to \$5; has not been increased since established in 1979
- Turkey permit for residents increased from \$5 to \$10; last increased in 1987
- Turkey permit for non-residents increased from \$100 to \$125; last increased in 2003
- Creates an annual \$5 deer permit
- Snook permit increased from \$2 to \$10; has not been increased since established in 1989
- Lobster permit increased from \$2 to \$5; has not been increased since established in 1989
- Special use permit maximum fee increased from \$100/day and \$250/week to \$150/day and \$300/week; Commission sets fee by rule; for limited entry hunting or fishing activities; has not been increased since established in 1996
- Wildlife management area permit maximum fee increased from \$25/year to \$30/year to hunt on, fish on (or otherwise use for outdoor recreational purposes) wildlife management areas; Commission sets fee by rule; last increased in 1989
- Creates a specific wildlife management area permit with a maximum fee of \$5/day and \$30/year to hike, camp, or otherwise engage in other outdoor recreational activities; the \$30/year fee was last increased in 1989 (see above), however, the Commission has not assessed this fee for non-hunters or non-fishers

Estimated revenues in FY 2010-11:

Waterfowl Permit Fees -	\$ 0
Turkey Permit Fees -	200,000
Deer Permit Fees -	500,000
Snook Permit Fees -	1,900,000
Lobster Permit Fees -	400,000
Special Use Permit Fees -	0
Wildlife Mgt Areas Permit Fees, Hunting/Fishing -	200,000
Wildlife Mgt Areas Permit Fees, Camping/Hiking -	<u>1,100,000</u>
Total	\$4,300,000

Effective September 1, 2009 – revenues to be used in current programs – conservation, research, and management of the respective species:

- Save the Manatee specialty license plate fee increased from \$20 to \$25
- Conserve Wildlife specialty license plate fee increased from \$15 to \$25
- Titling a vehicle previously titled out-of-state fee directed to FWC's non-game program (birds, reptiles, amphibians, and land mammals and their habitats) increased from \$4 to \$10

Revenues beginning in FY 2009-10:

Save the Manatee specialty license plate -	\$ 200,000
Conserve Wildlife specialty license plate -	200,000
Vehicle title -	<u>1,800,000</u>
Total	\$2,200,000