

A Letter From the Director

Greetings Anglers,

I'm so glad you've picked up the newly-remodeled version of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's *Fishing Lines: An Angler's Guide to Florida's Marine Resources*.

The new *Fishing Lines* has several changes we think you will find useful. This publication includes information on saltwater fishing, catch-and-release techniques, Florida's marine habitats, conservation efforts, marine fisheries programs and an updated saltwater fish identification guide.

We all want Florida's precious marine fisheries to thrive for years to come. FWC is constantly working to improve your fishing experience, but it is ultimately up to you to help ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the beauty and excitement of fishing in Florida's unique ecosystems. Each one of us can take simple steps to do our part in conserving fisheries for the future.

A basic way to conserve fisheries is to become familiar with the fishing regulations and commonly caught species in your area. You can also learn how to properly handle fish that will be released to give them the best possible chance of survival. Be sure to keep trash out of the water and dispose of any fishing line and other garbage in a proper receptacle ashore. Finally, be sure to follow safe boating practices, become familiar with waterways, proceed carefully through seagrass beds and always abide by the law.

Keep reading to learn more about how you can positively impact our treasured fisheries. By following these simple steps, you can help conserve Florida's marine resources for generations to come.

Have an idea on how to improve our communication with you? Share it by emailing Marine@MyFWC.com or calling (850) 487-0554.

Tight Lines,

Jessica McCawley

Director, Division of Marine Fisheries Management
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

