

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

**From:** Dr. Thomas Eason, Director, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation

**Date:** April 14, 2016

**Subject:** Bird Island, Martin County, Critical Wildlife Area Success

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**Purpose:**

To provide the Commission with updated information on nesting birds at the island known as MC2 or Bird Island Critical Wildlife Area (CWA).

**Summary:**

Bird Island CWA was established by the Commission in June, 2014. The year-round closure protects nesting birds on a spoil island in Martin County. Species which benefit include wood stork, brown pelican, roseate spoonbill, American oystercatcher, and several other wading birds. Signs were installed in the waters surrounding the island in January, 2015. Since its establishment as a CWA, nest productivity appears to have increased dramatically.

**Staff Recommendation:**

This presentation is for informational purposes and any discussion or direction that the Commission may have.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Dr. Brad Gruver, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation