

# MEMORANDUM



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

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

**Date:** February 10, 2016

**Subject:** Panama City Crayfish Management Plan

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**Purpose:**

The purpose of this item is to present to the Commission a draft Panama City crayfish management plan, and associated draft rules. Staff will seek Commission approval to advertise the proposed rules and request public comment on the draft plan.

**Summary:**

The Panama City crayfish (PCC, *Procambarus econfinae*) is currently listed as a Species of Special Concern, but was determined to meet the criteria for listing as Threatened. In association with the proposed listing action, staff has prepared a draft PCC management plan and concepts for permitting. The proposed rules will delete the PCC from the list of Species of Special Concern and add the PCC to the list of Threatened Species. The draft management plan provides information on PCC life history, distribution, and threats, and presents a conservation goal: to ensure the long-term conservation of the PCC throughout its range so that it no longer warrants listing by the state of Florida. Two conservation objectives, 16 conservation actions, and an implementation strategy are presented to support achievement of the conservation goal.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff is requesting Commission approval to advertise the proposed listing rules and solicit public comment on the draft PCC management plan, including concepts for permitting.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Melissa Tucker, Assistant Section Leader, Species Conservation Planning Section