



This presentation provides an overview of how staff propose to prioritize and deliver agenda items to the Commission for consideration during the fiscal year extending from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

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Report date: January 14, 2016

## Creating a Work Plan

- Consider Agency Strategic Plan – emphasis on Commission Policy Focal Areas
- Review previous and current year work plan accomplishments
- Consider resources available
- Put forward items which require Commissioner action



Many projects and activities require advance planning.

The Commission has expressed interest in certain areas that staff should focus on.

# Commission Meeting Structure



Staff understand that Commission meetings provide a limited amount of time for business to be conducted. This presentation will focus on items staff will be planning to occupy the larger block of time on this graphic.

## Strategic Initiatives (Feb. 2014)

- Running the Business
- Imperiled Species Management Plan
- Expand Participation in Conservation
- Conservation through Innovation
- Conflict Wildlife
- Boating as a Gateway to Conservation and the Outdoors



**Running the Business** – Continue to review internal infrastructure (team and process), identify the areas of business operations and practices that represent high risk, prioritize them and modify them to address risks.

**Imperiled Species Management Plan** – Continue to implement the Imperiled Species Management Plan and begin implementing prioritized species actions and integrated conservation strategies by the end of 2015.

**Expand Participation in Conservation** – Increase conservation participation among youth and families representing Florida's diverse population by expanding partnerships to implement FYCCN and other programs that promote fishing, hunting, boating, wildlife viewing, shooting sports, and conservation appreciation.

**Conservation through Innovation** – Implement a comprehensive approach, using innovative conservation tools and strategies, to address marine fisheries management and management of private lands. Strategies may include enhancing partnerships, incentives, and streamlining regulations.

**Conflict wildlife** – Ensure continued support and appreciation for fish and wildlife by implementing an integrated programmatic approach across FWC to minimize adverse impacts associated with selected native and non-native fish, wildlife and plants. Successful efforts should minimize human health and safety, environmental, social and economic impacts.

**Boating as a Gateway to Conservation and the Outdoors** – Strengthen and promote the conservation connections of boating while protecting people and natural resources, and improving boating related opportunities.

## Types of Work Plan Items

- Follow Up on Strategic Initiatives and Commission Policy Focal Areas
- Report on New Issues
- Provide Updates on Council Actions
- Propose Rules/Draft Rules/Final Rules
- Approval of Species Management Plans
- Seek Approval of Legislative Proposals, Budget Requests and Other Administrative Items



Traditionally, staff bring items to the Commission in the major categories of staff reports, updates, various administrative approvals and items that are a part of the formal rule making process.

The rest of the presentation will link the specific action items proposed with our agency strategic plan initiatives, Commission Policy Focal Areas, themes, and goals.

# Florida's Fish and Wildlife Populations and Their Habitats



This theme from our Agency Strategic Plan reflects FWC's commitment to conserving and managing diverse and healthy fish and wildlife populations and the habitats they depend on. Management includes a broad spectrum of activities that include conservation of specific populations so they do not become imperiled. Conservation of fish and wildlife also requires sufficient quantities and quality of habitats in public and private ownership. The development of these management actions are based on using the best available science, including the social sciences and the engagement and input of stakeholders. Outreach and enforcement of regulations also play a part in this theme.

## Strategic Linkages

### Commission Policy Focal Area -- Habitat Conservation and Management

- Priorities for Conservation
  - Provide reports on landscape level activities like Everglades restoration

### Imperiled Species Management Plan

- Provide updates on plan implementation
- Bring rules for approval as needed
- Submit requests for evaluating new species



The Imperiled Species Management Plan is being submitted for your consideration during this meeting.

The evaluation of any new species follows a process set forth in Florida Administrative Code (FAC) Rule 8A-27.0012 and if any requests are received then Commission briefings would occur in the Fall of 2016.

# Florida's Fish and Wildlife Populations and Their Habitats

## Fish and Wildlife Populations

- Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines
- Updates on Chipola River bass conservation
- Status of genetic studies for bass
- Discussion about Choctaw bass



## Habitat

- Update on aquatic habitat creation, enhancement and restoration efforts
- Establish Critical Wildlife Areas as needed



**Strategies: Manage listed species so they no longer meet Florida's listing criteria; Manage species to keep them from meeting Florida's endangered and threatened listing criteria; Protect fish and wildlife species through effective outreach and enforcement.**

Staff periodically need to update permitting guidelines, such as those for the Gopher Tortoise, as a part of implementing the approved management plan.

In 2015, new regulations were approved to afford additional protection to the Chipola River Bass and staff will report on efforts taken to educate the public and monitor success.

Genetic studies are underway to evaluate bass species, including the Choctaw bass, and status reports and discussions are planned to advise the Commission on findings and any conservation needs.

**Strategies: Protect lands and waters critical to sustaining healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations through diverse incentive programs; Manage habitats to sustain healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations;**

Habitat focused projects are continuing at Orange Lake and the Upper St. John's River Reservoirs. Water storage projects next to the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes will also provide wildlife habitat and fishing opportunities in the future.

As needed, staff bring certain decisions about Critical Wildlife areas to the Commission for decisions.

## Interactions with Fish and Wildlife, including Fishing, Hunting, Boating and Wildlife-Viewing Opportunities



This Theme from our Agency Strategic Plan, Fishing, Hunting, Boating and Wildlife-Viewing Opportunities, focuses on where we connect with a very significant percentage of Florida's residents and visitors.

Floridians have a wide array of jobs directly related to wildlife recreation, commercial fishing, seafood processing, and the boating industry estimated at over 452,786 individuals

*Jobs related to hunting, fishing and wildlife -viewing have an economic value estimated at \$19.7 billion to Floridians.*

The next slides will focus on various ways we will work to address this theme. These include managing hunting and fishing areas and opportunities; recruiting participants; protecting wildlife and people; using minimal regulations and addressing conflict wildlife.

## Strategic Linkages

### Commission Policy Focal Area: Future of Fish and Wildlife Conservation

- Expand Participation in Conservation
  - Reports on expanding access to fishing and hunting for disabled persons
- Conflict Wildlife
  - Updates on Lionfish Removal efforts



Staff will report on efforts to address access to the disabled for freshwater fishing and hunting.

**Goal: Minimize adverse environmental, social, economic and health and safety impacts from fish, wildlife and plants that are known, or have a potential, to cause adverse impacts.**

Staff will work on wildlife conflict issues and periodic reports will be made to the Commission

## Strategic Linkages

### Commission Policy Focal Areas:

#### Innovative Management Tools

- Report on progress to explore innovative marine fish management approaches

#### Conservation Policy Scanning

- Monitor state and federal legislative issues and address fish and wildlife related matters proactively
- Continue to participate in federal marine fishery regulatory reform such as the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act



# Interactions with Fish and Wildlife...

## Minimal regulations

- Reports on saltwater stock assessments and meetings of federal Councils and Commissions
- Modify rules related to Captive Wildlife possession



## Quality opportunities

- Report on results of Black Bass regulation changes
- Continue efforts to manage trap fisheries
- Eel harvest regulations
- Address rule changes for marine fisheries as needed.



**Goal:** Use minimal regulations to manage sustainable fish and wildlife populations, manage access to fish and wildlife resources, and protect public safety.

**Strategy:** Continually evaluate proposed and existing regulations, based on resource management benefits, public safety concerns, and economic and social impacts, to improve or eliminate regulations as warranted.

**Strategy:** Coordinate with partners and stakeholders to ensure that appropriate authorities and regulations exist to maintain sustainable fish and wildlife populations.

**Strategy:** Manage captive and non-native wildlife movement and trade through proactive and responsive enforcement, regulation and education, with an emphasis on species that pose a high risk to our native fish and wildlife.

Staff will be working on sections of Florida Administrative Code Rules 68A-6, 68A-9 and 68A-12 to identify improvements and return to the Commission as appropriate.

**Goal:** Provide residents and visitors with quality fishing, hunting, boating, and wildlife viewing opportunities that meet their needs and expectations while providing for the sustainability of those natural resources.

In 2015, major changes were made to the statewide black bass regulations. Staff anticipate bringing a report to the Commission on the initial results of those changes.

On September 10, 2015, DMFM staff met with Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) staff to coordinate the 2016-2017 workplan. Work items were sorted into high, medium, and low priorities. By placing an issue on the workplan, staff proposes to address it in the coming fiscal year. However, the time frame for resolution of issues may be longer than a single year. Workplan development takes into account Commissioner input, stock assessment schedules, recommendations of DMFM and FWRI staff, public concerns, federal issues, and issues carried over from the previous year's workplan. The majority of these issues will be collaborative efforts between DMFM and FWRI. However, as with every workplan, there are a few items that will be handled solely by DMFM.

## Interactions... Including Hunting...

**Goal: Provide residents and visitors with quality fishing, hunting boating and wildlife-viewing opportunities that meet their needs and expectations while providing for the sustainability of those natural resources**

- Establish new areas for public hunting and other recreational access and adjust existing areas as needed
- Approve new and adjusted hunting opportunities
- Report on all anticipated migratory bird seasons including draft rules as needed (Feb 2017)
- Report on final migratory bird seasons including final rules as needed (April 2017).



Many parts of the agency come together to work on hunting opportunities.

Proposed establishment orders for Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) or Wildlife and Environmental Areas (WEAs) or Miscellaneous Areas (MAs) --- As opportunity arises, staff will present proposed orders to establish new WMAs/WEAs/MAs or to disestablish existing WMAs/WEAs/MAs. Proposed establishment orders are generally included on the consent agenda, although any substantive rule changes associated with establishment orders would be presented for consideration and formal action.

Development and presentation of proposed rules associated with hunting and game management statewide and on public hunting areas – Hunting and Game Management (HGM) staff will coordinate the development of proposed hunting and game management rules including but not limited to rules and statutes regulating the take of alligators, development and establishment of deer management units, and regulations governing the take of turkeys. HGM staff accept rule change proposals from the public, other FWC staff, stakeholders, and wildlife management area cooperators on a year-round basis. Staff will review these and bring forward for Commission review and approval at the appropriate times throughout the year. Since public hunting area regulations must be incorporated into area brochures, changes that would be implemented for the 2017-2018 hunting season would need to be considered for final adoption at the February 2017 Commission meeting at the latest.

Proposed 2017-2018 migratory bird seasons and federal frameworks – The proposed federal schedule for establishing migratory bird season frameworks for the 2017-2018 season will allow for the Commission to take timely action to conform Commission rules to changes in the frameworks. Therefore, a report on anticipated migratory bird seasons (both early and late) including draft rules as necessary will be presented at the February 2017 Commission Meeting with final rules presented at the April 2017 Commission Meeting.

## Strategic Linkage

Focal Area – Habitat Conservation and Management

- Providing Sustainable Access
  - Provide update on issues such as the Biscayne National Park rule development process



**Goal:** Provide residents and visitors with quality fishing, hunting, boating and wildlife viewing opportunities that meet their needs and expectations while providing for the sustainability of those natural resources.

## Interactions ...Including Boating

**Goal:** Enhance the safety and outdoor experience of those who hunt, fish, boat and view wildlife

- Review rules guiding establishment of boating restricted areas, especially those submitted by local governments
- Report on Anchoring and Mooring Pilot Program. (November 2016)



**Strategy:** Enhance the boating safety and waterway experience of residents and visitors through improved access, management, education and enforcement.

There may be boating safety rules submitted for consideration.

**NOTE:** The Commission is required by statute to submit a report on the pilot program to the Governor and the leaders in both legislative bodies by January 1, 2017.

## Sharing Responsibility for Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management with an Emphasis on Developing Conservation Values in Our Youth



We have made a high level commitment to working with youth. We want to ensure that future generations care and are able to actively support and practice fish and wildlife conservation stewardship. This theme from our Agency Strategic Plan focuses on our Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network, stakeholder outreach and engagement, and our use of volunteers to help in many of our programs.

## Strategic Linkage

### Expand Participation in Conservation

- Reports on FYCCN activities and partnerships



### Focal Area: Innovative Management Tools

- Updates on work with Marine Fisheries Focus Groups



**Goal:** Increase opportunities for residents and visitors, especially youth, to actively support and practice fish and wildlife conservation stewardship.

**Goal:** Ensure residents, visitors, stakeholders, and partners are engaged in the processes of developing and implementing conservation programs.

# Sharing Responsibility for Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management...

**Goal:** Ensure residents, visitors, stakeholders and partners are engaged in the processes of developing and implementing conservation programs.

- Highlight accomplishments in our efforts to ensure the future of hunting in Florida.
- Provide Updates on Various Efforts, including Trophy Catch
- Recognize partners



## Strategies:

Foster a common vision among partners and the FWC to maintain and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats through interagency coordination, mutually beneficial goals and initiatives.

Engage residents, visitors, stakeholders and partners to understand their perspectives, develop and implement conservation programs, and implement fishing, hunting, boating and wildlife-viewing management activities .

Staff will provide updates on our cooperative efforts with other agencies and of our partnerships with non-governmental entities to advance fish and wildlife conservation.

We continue to focus on getting others involved in the hunting heritage by:

- 1) providing basic introductions to hunting and the shooting sports;
- 2) getting youth to complete a hunter safety course, and
- 3) giving those who desire to go hunting an opportunity to learn additional hunting skills and to participate on a safe, mentored hunt.

Recognitions include Hunter Safety Instructor of the Year and Youth Hunting Program Landowner of the Year and outstanding partners.

Trophy Catch will be headed into its 4<sup>th</sup> full year and growth is anticipated to continue. Updates on partnerships, angler submittals and recognitions of leaders are planned.

## ...Developing Conservation Values in Our Youth

**Goal: Ensure current and future generations support fish and wildlife conservation**

- Periodic updates and reports on events and accomplishments
- Partner Recognitions



**fyccn!**

**Florida Youth Conservation  
Centers Network**

### Strategies:

Expand and promote the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network through leveraging FWC programs and staff, and developing public and private partnerships and sponsorships.

Develop and deliver standardized youth conservation curricula and fishing, hunting, boating and wildlife viewing outdoor activity programs, and assist with adapting programs and curricula to meet the needs of diverse communities.

**Goal: Increase opportunities for residents and visitors, especially youth, to actively support and practice fish and wildlife conservation stewardship.**

### Strategy:

Provide and promote opportunities for residents and visitors, especially youth, to participate in conservation stewardship activities, including FWC volunteer opportunities.

# Responsive Organization and Quality Operations



This theme from our Agency Strategic Plan describes activities that ensure we provide exceptional customer service, are accountable, operate efficiently and effectively and continually explore new ways to improve our services. We are also committed to helping Florida business and job growth. To do this requires that we understand the needs of our stakeholders, residents and visitors and maintain and build a highly qualified workforce that is responsive, works transparently and uses available resources in an honest and fiscally responsible manner.

## **Commission Policy Focal Area and Strategic Initiative: Running the Business**

Evaluate our processes and modify them to address risks as needed.

**Goal: Ensure the FWC has highly effective and adaptive business practices.**

(Note: Photos illustrate an officer providing fishing regulations, a scientist sampling for red tide that impacts public health as well as fish and wildlife resources, one of our offshore fishing reef projects, and an officer on patrol in a state park.)

## Responsive Organization and Quality Operations

**Goal:** Provide resources and support for the safety and protection of residents and visitors, our natural and cultural resources, and for emergency responses to critical incidents and environmental disasters.

- Updates on Division of Law Enforcement efforts in response to emergencies.

**Goal:** Ensure the FWC has highly effective and adaptive business practices.

- Reports on our budget and other business of the agency
- Updates on our diversity plan implementation
- Reports on accomplishments of staff and recognitions from internal and external sources



### Strategies:

Provide immediate and effective disaster response and recovery through mutual-aid efforts with local, state, and federal partners.

Provide search, rescue and recovery services in coordination with local, state and federal entities to ensure the safety of residents and visitors.

Protect natural and cultural resources through proactive and responsive enforcement efforts.

### Strategies:

Manage existing and secure additional resources necessary to achieve fish and wildlife conservation and meet residents, visitor and stakeholder needs.

Foster a diverse, accountable, responsive and skilled workforce who effectively serves Florida's residents and visitors.

Reports – we will bring budget matters to the Commission and convey information about staff accomplishments.



## Division of Marine Fisheries Management Workplan 2016-2017

Review and Discussion

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Division of Marine Fisheries Management

Version 1

This is a review and discussion of the Division of Marine Fisheries Management's (DMFM) proposed 2016-2017 workplan. This workplan is for the period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. On September 10, 2015, DMFM staff met with Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) staff to coordinate the 2016-2017 workplan. Work items were sorted into high, medium, and low priorities. By placing an issue on the workplan, staff proposes to address it in the coming fiscal year. However, the time frame for resolution of issues may be longer than a single year. Workplan development takes into account Commissioner input, stock assessment schedules, recommendations of DMFM and FWRI staff, public concerns, federal issues, and issues carried over from the previous year's workplan. The majority of these issues will be collaborative efforts between DMFM and FWRI. However, as with every workplan, there are a few items that will be handled solely by DMFM.

Authors: Jessica McCawley, Melissa Recks, Martha Bademan, and Stephanie Walthall,

Report date: October 20, 2015

# Incorporating Input into Future Management

- Statewide workshop input was incorporated into DMFM's annual Workplan discussion with FWRI

## Marine Fisheries Workplan

- Planning meeting held annually between DMFM and FWRI
- Considers:
  - State and federal items
  - Research results that indicate management might be needed
  - Stock assessment schedules
  - Stakeholder concerns about issues
- Items chosen for upcoming year as well as considered for next 5 to 10 years



At the July 2015 statewide marine fisheries management workshops, staff received input from stakeholders on issues and concerns that were considered for the upcoming workplan. Many of the items brought up by stakeholders were issues staff was already working on, but some new items were also raised. These new issues were discussed in DMFM's annual workplan coordination meeting with FWRI and in some cases, items were chosen for inclusion in the 2016/2017 Workplan.

The marine fisheries Workplan process began as an annual meeting between DMFM staff and FWRI leadership to plan management and research efforts for the coming fiscal year. Prior to 1998, marine fisheries were managed by the Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) and management and research staff were not housed in the same agency. The annual Workplan meeting was part of the contract between the MFC and the research group but the meeting has been continued to aid in coordinating research efforts with management needs.

Staff include both state and federal management items in the Workplan. Also considered for the Workplan are results from FWRI research that indicate management measures might be necessary, such as the results of a stock assessment. Staff monitor which state and federal stock assessments are scheduled to be completed in the coming year. Staff also consider topics that stakeholders have expressed concern about for inclusion in the Workplan. Some items that are included in the Workplan are items chosen for the upcoming year, but the discussions with FWRI also considers research and management items for the next 5-10 years.

## Marine Fisheries Workplan Challenges

- High interest in a diversity of marine issues at state and federal levels
  - Need to prioritize among many items
  - Some items on workplan already known to be multi-year projects
  - More items on workplan than can be completed in a year
  - Items have varying levels of complexity
- Interest in new or developing items can shift focus away from previous priorities



There are a number of challenges associated with prioritizing items to be included in the workplan each year. These challenges revolve around the high interest in marine fisheries issues at both the state and federal level. The number of marine issues is large and diverse and thus requires prioritization among the many issues and species each year. Of the items that are chosen for the workplan, some are already known to be multi-year projects. There are also more items listed on the workplan than can be completed in a year and some items change and evolve as information becomes available on a specific item. Items on the workplan also have varying levels of complexity, ranging from the relatively simple (e.g., modifying boundary lines) to the complex (e.g., modifications to all the trap fisheries), with some items becoming unexpectedly complex as they progress. The complexity of the item affects the staff time needed to complete the project and therefore limits the amount of staff time available to address other issues.

Also, as the year progresses, interests in new or developing items can shift the focus away from previous priorities already included in the workplan. This occurs when new, critical issues develop rapidly.

## Prioritization and Considerations

- Resource concerns – regional, statewide, and federal levels
- Stock assessment schedule effects timing
- Economic importance
- Speed at which the item moves forward varies
  - Complexity
  - Urgency of the situation
  - Level of stakeholder coordination desired
- Triage – influx of short term needs affect ability address long term issues
- Items are constantly reordered and reprioritized



There are a number of considerations that go into prioritizing items on the workplan. Foremost are concerns about sustainability and conservation of a resource. These resource concerns could be at a regional, statewide, or federal level. The timing and frequency of state and federal stock assessments as well as the economic importance of a fishery also affects the prioritization of items on the workplan and the order in which staff brings them forward for Commission consideration.

The speed at which an item moves forward often varies based on the complexity of the item, the urgency of the situation and the level of stakeholder coordination desired for the item. For example, online and email surveys take time to develop and conduct, but scheduling and carrying out public workshops often requires even more planning and time. Items may develop more slowly if multiple meetings with stakeholder groups are required to gain common understanding before making a recommendation. These and other factors all affect the length of time needed to complete staff work for an item before it is ready for Commission consideration.

Throughout the year staff is doing triage on the items by trying to address the short term needs while maintaining work and progress on longer term projects. As one would expect, limited resources impact our ability to address all the needs in a timely manner. All of these factors, coupled with the need to address new or shifting priorities means items are constantly reordered and reprioritized as the year progresses.

Checklist of Current Workplan Items		
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Red Grouper Bag Limit</li> <li>✓ CD Transferability</li> <li>✓ Amberjack</li> <li>✓ RS Endorsement</li> <li>✓ Shellfish</li> <li>✓ Lionfish Importation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Forage Fish Resolution</li> <li>✓ King Mackerel</li> <li>✓ NE Florida Shrimping Area</li> <li>✓ Eel Size and Bag Limit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Menhaden</li> <li>— Slipper Lobster</li> <li>— Marine Life Sales</li> <li>— Consistency of Back-Logged Federal Items</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Dwarf Seahorses</li> <li>— Barracuda</li> <li>— Gulf Gag Grouper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Gulf Black Sea Bass</li> <li>— Flounder</li> <li>— Mutton Snapper</li> <li>— Yellowtail Snapper</li> <li>— Mangrove Snapper</li> <li>— Hogfish</li> <li>— Snowy Grouper</li> <li>— Atlantic Golden Tilefish</li> <li>— Speckled Hind/Warsaw</li> <li>— Electronic Reporting</li> <li>— Species Removed from Federal Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Non-regulated Marine Species</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Bully Nets</li> <li>— Snook</li> <li>— Trap Fisheries Management</li> <li>— Red Drum</li> <li>— Goliath Grouper</li> <li>— Mullet</li> <li>— Orange Cup Coral</li> <li>— Sharks</li> <li>— MSA Reauthorization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Special Acts Evaluation/Repeal</li> <li>* Sea Anemones</li> <li>* Shrimp</li> <li>* Blueline Tilefish</li> <li>* 688 &amp; E Rule Clean-up</li> <li>* Fishery Strategic Plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Horseshoe Crabs</li> <li>— Spot and Atlantic Croaker</li> <li>— Red Drum Tournament Permit</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Bay Scallops</li> <li>* Oysters</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Hispanic Outreach</li> <li>* Sector Reallocation</li> <li>* Gulf and Atlantic Red Snapper</li> <li>* Indian River Lagoon</li> <li>* Wholesale/Retail Sales Requirements</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Completed</li> <li>— Expected to be completed this year</li> <li>— Carryover</li> <li>* Ongoing</li> <li>— On hold</li> </ul> </div>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Turtle Excluder Devices (TED's)</li> </ul>	

This is a checklist of the items that are on the current (2015-2016) workplan that extends through June 30, 2016. They are partitioned into high, medium, and low priorities. Within each category, the items are further divided into *completed*, *expected to be completed this year*, *ongoing*, *carryover*, and *on hold* categories. *Ongoing* items are multi-year projects, advisory boards/workgroups, or items expected to continue into the 2016-2017 workplan. *Carryover* items are those we expected to complete in 2015-2016 but were unable to finish. In other cases, some parts of *carryover* items have or will be completed, but additional issues related to these items surfaced and will be addressed in next year's workplan. Of the 55 items listed, 10 are *completed*, three are *expected to be completed* during this current workplan year, and 24 will roll over into the 2016-2017 workplan. There are four items *on hold* for the 2015-2016 workplan year and 14 items are considered to be ongoing.

## Proposed 2016-2017 Workplan Items

HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
<p>Spotted Seatrout Lionfish Reef Ecosystem Management Gulf Grouper</p>	<p>Habitat and Water Quality* Shrimp Sheepshead Pinfish and Pigfish Cobia Citizen Science Opportunities* Regional Preferences vs. Streamlined Regulation* Managing Species as Complexes* Regulatory Discards* Predator Species Depredation and Nuisance Behavior*</p>	<p>Dolphin Bag/Size Limit* Blackfin Tuna* Tripletail Tournament Fishing in Southwest Florida</p>
<p>Snook Trap Fisheries Management Oysters Mullet Bay Scallops Sharks Orange-Cup Coral Wholesale/Retail Sales Requirements* Hispanic Outreach MSA Reauthorization Gulf Red Snapper Atlantic Red Snapper Goliath Grouper Sector Reallocation - multiple species Red Drum</p>	<p>BBB &amp; E Rule Clean-up Gulf Black Seabass Flounder Sea Anemones Fishery Strategic Plans Mutton Snapper Yellowtail Snapper Mangrove Snapper Hogfish Snowy Grouper Blueline Flatfish Atlantic Golden Tilefish Spotted Hind/Wrasse Grouper Electronic Reporting Species Removed from Fishery Management</p>	<p>Menhaden Marine Life Sales Slipper Lobster Marbled Grouper</p>

**Blue = Federal Issue**

= New

= Carryover

\* = Statewide Workshop Item



This is a list of the proposed 2016-2017 workplan items. They are partitioned into high, medium, and low priorities. Within each category, the items are distinguished as *new* or *carryover* issues. Of the 53 items listed, 19 are listed as new items for the upcoming workplan. Items that are listed in *black* are state issues and those that are listed in *blue* are federal issues. Overall there are 35 state issues and 18 federal issues. Items that were surfaced as part of the statewide workshops are marked with an asterisk.

## Stock Assessments for Current and 2016-2017 Workplan

### State

Red Drum (2015)  
Snook (2015)  
Spotted Seatrout (2016)  
Sheepshead (2016)  
Black Sea Bass (2016)  
Stone Crab (2017)

### Federal

2015

#### Gulf

Gray Triggerfish  
Red Grouper

#### Atlantic

Menhaden  
Red Drum

#### Gulf and Atlantic

Smoothhound Sharks

2016

#### Gulf

Vermillion Snapper  
Data poor species

#### Atlantic

Red Snapper  
Gray Triggerfish  
Spot and Croaker  
Tilefish

#### Gulf and Atlantic

Back Grouper  
Goliath Grouper

2017

#### Gulf

Gag Grouper  
Greater Amberjack

#### Atlantic

Blueline Tilefish  
Red Grouper



This is a list of the state and federal stock assessments that are expected to be completed during the current or the upcoming 2016-2017 workplan.

## Staff Recommendation

As staff continue to work on implementation of our Strategic Initiatives, additional high priority actions may be identified and added to this work plan.

Staff requests your approval and any additional direction on the 2016-2017 Work Plan.



Staff submits these proposals to you for approval and requests additional direction on any items you would like to see come before you during the next fiscal year.

The following slides are considered backup material and are not anticipated to be part of the actual presentation



## List of Terms

### Priorities

- **High** - items that are most important to develop and complete in a timely manner
- **Medium** - items that are important but do not take precedence over high priorities
- **Low** - items that are important enough to include in the workplan but may only be done as time permits

### Item Classifications

- **To Be Completed** - items that are not yet completed but are expected to be completed during the current workplan year
- **Ongoing** - multi-year projects that will continue into the next workplan cycle
- **Carryover** - items that will be continued into the next workplan cycle
- **New** - brand new issues that will be added to next year's workplan
- **On Hold** - items that are no longer under active development



This slide contains a list of terms that are used in this document to prioritize and classify workplan items.

## 2016-2017 High Priority Items - NEW



### Spotted Seatrout

- Various concerns form around the state
- Assessment coming 2016

### Lionfish

- Continues to be an item of concern
- Stakeholder ideas for continued removal



### Spotted Seatrout

DMFM has received a series of concerns about the current status of seatrout in various parts of the state, especially in the Indian River Lagoon. Panhandle stakeholders are reporting low numbers of legal sized seatrout over the past few years and the fishers in southwest Florida report that seatrout are much less common in Collier and Lee counties. Assessment coming in fall 2016.

### Lionfish

Lionfish continue to pose a threat to Florida's reefs and waters. At DMFM's recent statewide open-agenda workshops, stakeholders voiced a variety of ideas regarding further removal efforts, including authorizing the use of traps to target lionfish and extending the recent lobster-related lionfish incentive program year-round.

## 2016-2017 High Priority Items – NEW



### Reef Ecosystem Management

- FKNMS regulatory review
- BNP Fisheries and General Management Plans
- Management of the northern portions of Florida's coral reef tract
- Conservation of ESA-listed coral species
- Boater education



### Reef Ecosystem Management

There are multiple efforts on-going to address management of Florida's coral reefs and the ecosystems they support. FWC is currently working with our partners on many of these efforts and will address various other aspects of these efforts in the future, as appropriate. Related issues include the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary's (FKNMS) on-going regulatory review, implementation of the recently finalized Fishery and General Management Plans for Biscayne National Park, a stakeholder-based effort to identify management measures for the northern portion of the reef tract, management of coral species historically and recently listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and stakeholder requests to improve boater education related to resource issues in south Florida.

### Sector Separation and Separate Management of Charter and Headboat Fleets

Red snapper sector separation sunsets in 2017 but the Gulf Council is working on amendments that would continue sector separation, and potentially manage headboats and charter boats differently from each other, at least for red snapper and gag grouper. Traditional and allocation-based management tools are being discussed, but the advisory panels that are working on this issue favor allocation based approaches like the headboat EFP (which expires at the end of 2015).

## 2016-2017 High Priority Items – NEW



### Gulf Grouper

- Grouper IFQ put in place in 2010
- Council will propose changes presented by industry, Council Advisory Panels, and the Council's Socioeconomic Science and Statistical Committee
- State rulemaking may be required



### Gulf Grouper (IFQ 5 Year Review)

The Gulf Council implemented an IFQ program for the commercial harvest of groupers in 2010. The program's five year review is coming up, and will examine potential changes suggested by industry, Council Advisory Panels, and the Council's Socioeconomic Science and Statistical Committee. If state rulemaking is required, staff will bring potential changes for state waters to a future Commission meeting.

## 2016-2017 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover



### Snook

- Assessment due Fall 2015
- Evaluate management philosophies, goals, and regulations following its release

### Trap Fisheries Management

- Issues related to trap fisheries targeting lobster, stone crab, blue crab, and baitfish



### Snook

The 2015 stock assessment is nearing completion. FWC has committed to work with stakeholders to evaluate snook management philosophies, goals, and regulations following its release.

### Trap Fisheries Management

There are many multiple issues associated with Florida's trap fisheries that have been identified and need to be considered in the coming year, including, but not limited to, trap marking and trap reduction programs.

## 2016-2017 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover



### Oysters

- Need short-term and long-term plans for monitoring and assessment of population
- Consider potential need for regulatory changes

### Mullet

- Discard Issues associated with the roe fishery
- Request for regional regulatory changes



### Oyster:

FWC will need to develop short-term and long-term plans for monitoring and assessment of the Apalachicola Bay oyster population. Oyster regulations also need to be evaluated to determine if changes need to be made.

### Mullet

Increased participation in the mullet roe fishery in recent years continues to result in discard-related issues. DMFM is working with the fishery to address these problems and will evaluate if management changes are needed. Staff has also received requests to remove a local law related to reduced bag limits for mullet during the roe season and to consider lifting the weekend closure for silver mullet on the Atlantic coast.

## 2016-2017 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover



### Bay Scallops

- Local interest in changes to management including the timing of the scallop season

### Wholesale/Retail Sales Requirements

- Dockside and roadside sales
- Recreational bag limit sales



### Bay Scallops

Staff has received multiple inquiries from local governments that are interested in reevaluating the timing and harvest limits associated with the bay scallop season. FWRI is considering developing index-based reference points to give a longer-term target for sustainability and is also evaluating how they survey the resource. This additional information could be used to better evaluate the status of the population and help guide management. The Commission may wish to consider regulatory changes for this fishery if the research indicates that it is warranted.

### Wholesale/Retail Sales Requirements

Staff will evaluate FWC policies related to dockside/roadside sales without a Wholesale Dealer license and sale of fish harvested recreationally on for-hire trips by a commercially licensed charter captain.

## 2016-2017 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover



### Sharks

- Continued user conflicts related to shore-based fishing
- Reports of increased depredation on other species

### Orange Cup Coral

- Invasive species of stony coral



### Hispanic Outreach

- Project to promote fishing opportunities within the Hispanic community



### Sharks

DMFM continues to receive complaints about user conflicts related to shore-based shark fishing. Staff will continue to work with a variety of stakeholders to develop management practices to help ease these conflicts. Staff will also evaluate possible measures to address concerns about increased depredation of other species by sharks.

### Orange Cup Coral

This is an invasive species of stony coral that people have been requesting permission to harvest. FWC is conducting research and may consider ways to allow for removal.

### Hispanic Outreach

FWC continues to work on promoting fishing opportunities within the Hispanic community.

## 2016-2017 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover



### Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Reauthorization

- Remain active in the process
- Provide comments on bills when necessary

### Gulf Red Snapper

- GMFMC is considering management options
- Commission rulemaking may be considered



### Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) Reauthorization

The MSA, which is the primary federal law that directs conservation and management of federal fisheries is up for reauthorization. FWC will remain active in this process by working with Florida's federal legislative delegation and providing comments on any relevant bills.

### Gulf Red Snapper

The GMFMC is considering a wide variety of management strategies for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico, including regional management of the recreational fishery, inter-sector trading, a for-hire individual fishing quota program, and sector separation. Depending on the action taken by the GMFMC, the Commission may wish to consider complimentary actions for state waters.

### Sector Separation and Separate Management of Charter and Headboat Fleets

Red snapper sector separation sunsets in 2017 but the Gulf Council is working on amendments that would continue sector separation, and potentially manage headboats and charter boats differently from each other, at least for red snapper and gag grouper. Traditional and allocation-based management tools are being discussed, but the advisory panels that are working on this issue favor allocation based approaches like the headboat EFP (which expires at the end of 2015).

## 2016-2017 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover



### Atlantic Red Snapper

- Stock assessment due in 2016
- South Atlantic Council working on a long-term management plan

### Goliath Grouper

- Joint-Council committee evaluated available scientific information
- Stock assessment due in 2016
- Councils will consider if, and how to move beyond the moratorium



### Atlantic Red Snapper

An assessment on Atlantic red snapper is due in the next year. Regardless of the assessment results, SAFMC will be working on a long-term plan for management that includes both commercial and recreational sectors.

### Goliath Grouper

A Joint-Council committee on goliath grouper recently evaluated scientific information and recommended that a stock assessment be conducted. Review of the assessment is expected to be completed in 2016. Once the assessment is completed, the Councils will discuss management issues including how to move beyond the moratorium. The Commission may wish to address the moratorium in state waters pending the Councils' decisions.

## 2016-2017 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover



### Sector Reallocation

- Both the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils will be discussing allocations of several species, such as mackerels and groupers
- Staff may seek direction from the Commission on specific reallocation options

### Red Drum

- Federal assessments planned
- Gulf Council may consider allowing recreational harvest in some federal waters



### Sector Reallocation

The Councils will be considering reallocation of several species in the near future, including mackerels and groupers. This is a directive from the Council Coordinating Committee and NOAA catch share policy. FWC staff will need to stay involved in the conversations and may need to engage the Commission to gather direction on specific reallocation options.

### Red Drum

Red drum assessments are scheduled to be completed in 2015 for the Atlantic fishery and 2016 for the Gulf of Mexico fishery. The GMFMC is considering allowing recreational harvest of red drum in federal waters out to nine miles in the central Gulf states. Allowing recreational harvest in federal waters will depend on the status of the Gulf red drum stock.

## 2016-2017 Medium Priority Items - **NEW**

### Habitat and Water Quality

- Issue of considerable concern for stakeholders



### Shrimp

- Examine how fishery is operating today
- Evaluate state regulations
- Federal permits in Gulf waters



### Sheepshead

- Concern that current bag limit is too liberal
- Regulations could be extended into federal waters



### Habitat and Water Quality

Stakeholders who attended the statewide workshops expressed considerable concern about the impacts of water quality and habitat loss on fisheries, and several stakeholders suggested that FWC take a more active role in these discussions.

### Shrimp

The shrimp industry has undergone significant changes since the current regulations were implemented. An examination into the current fishery practices could be used to improve and streamline the regulations. This would be carried out under the Marine Fisheries rule cleanup process and is supported by the Agency Strategic Plan. In addition, the permit moratorium for participation in the Gulf federal shrimp fishery expires in October 2016. Staff will likely need to work with the industry and engage the Commission for direction relative to Gulf Council management actions.

### Sheepshead

With the substantial increase in guide, charter and recreational anglers specifically targeting sheepshead, there is concern that the bag limit of 15 per harvester per day is too liberal. DMFM has also received request to extend any FWC regulations into adjacent federal waters.

## 2016-2017 Medium Priority - NEW

### Pinfish and Pigfish

- Local complaints within lower Indian River Lagoon



### Cobia

- Stakeholder concern for the stock, especially in the Panhandle

### Citizen Science Opportunities

- Desire by recreational community to become involved
- FWRI exploring ways to incorporate angler-reported data into assessments
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council workshop in Jan. 2016



### Pinfish and Pigfish

There have been local complaints within the lower Indian River Lagoon about the lack of pinfish and pigfish. The most likely cause for the decline is the loss of seagrass between 2010 and 2012, but the fish have apparently not returned even though the some of the seagrass has.

### Cobia

We have once again heard concerns about the status of cobia, specifically in the Panhandle. At least one report of a poor season last year, with this year being the worst season ever.

### Citizen Science Opportunities

There is a desire by many in the recreational community to become involved, and was a topic of common discussion during the workshops. FWRI is currently exploring ways in which angler-reported data can be beneficial. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council will host a citizen science workshop in January of 2016 to explore ways to create citizen science programs that can contribute to stock assessments.

## 2016-2017 Medium Priority – NEW



### Regional Preferences vs. Streamlined Regulations

- Requests to manage species regionally
- Requests to standardize and streamline regulations

### Managing Species as Complexes

- Stakeholders noting that recreational regulations are too complex
- Potential to simplify regulations and reduce regulatory discards



### Regional Preferences vs. Streamlined Regulations

We continue to hear requests to manage various species regionally. This is in direct contrast to requests to standardize and streamline the regulations. Is there is best option for Florida, and in which situations?

### Managing Species as Complexes

Many speakers during the statewide workshops noted that recreational regulations are too complex, and some suggested managing species, such as reef fish, as complexes with the same or aggregate regulations for all species within the group. This would require a significant amount of work to implement, and we would likely need the federal councils onboard, but it could simplify regulations and potentially reduce regulatory discards.

## 2016-2017 Medium Priority – NEW



### Regulatory Discards

- Stakeholder concern about mortality rates

### Predator Species Depredation and Nuisance Behavior

- Concern that certain species are interfering with fishing activity



### Regulatory Discards

Hearing a lot of concerns about regulatory discards and concerns about mortality associated with “highgrading.” FWRI has observers onboard to get a handle on discards.

### Predator Species Depredation and Nuisance Behavior

Hearing a lot of concerns that species such as goliath grouper, sharks, and bottlenose dolphin are interfering with fishing activity.

## 2016-2017 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carryover



### 68B & E Rule Clean-Up

- Systematic examination of marine fisheries rules
- Collaborative project with DMFM, LE, and Legal

### Gulf Black Seabass

- Bycatch issues



### 68B & E Rule Clean-Up

DMFM is conducting a systematic examination of marine fisheries rules in coordination with FWC, LE, and the Legal Office in an effort to improve consistency and clarify the fishing regulations. Substantial progress has been made already during Phases I and II of the project, but the effort is ongoing and will continue into the next workplan cycle. Additional issues that may be addressed as a part of this effort include:

- Extending authority into federal waters when our regulations are consistent
- Extension of the default recreational bag limit into federal waters
- Verification of existing references to LAT-LONG combinations in rule
- Review of the seafood safety regulations in 68E-27
- Outdated references to federal rules
- Reef fish IFQ requirements
- Transit provisions

### Gulf black sea bass

Staff will continue to research the issue of fishermen harvesting black sea bass in stone crab traps and bycatch of stone crabs and finfish in black sea bass traps

## 2016-2017 Medium Priority - Ongoing/Carryover



### Flounder

- No regulations in federal waters

### Sea Anemones

- Finishing a 3 year study on *Condylactis*
- Evaluate *Condylactis* closure
- Evaluate other species of anemones



### Flounder

There is no flounder FMP for federal waters. The Commission may want to consider extending regulations into federal waters.

### Sea Anemones

FWRI will be completing a three year study of *Condylactis*. After the conclusion of the research, the *Condylactis* closure will be evaluated and management changes may be considered for this and other species of anemones.

## 2016-2017 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carryover



### Fishery Strategic Plans

- Staff will continue to work on FSPs for major regulated species

### Mutton Snapper

- Stock assessment completed in 2014
- South Atlantic Council considering regulations to reduce fishing pressure on spawning fish



### Fishery Strategic Plans

Staff will continue working on Fishery Strategic Plans (FSP) for the major regulated species. Several plans are currently in development and draft stages, including red drum, stone crab, snook, and flounder.

### Mutton Snapper

A SEDAR stock assessment was completed in 2014. There has been increased concern from the SAFMC, stakeholders, and Law Enforcement about areas in federal and state waters that need protection during spawning aggregations. The South Florida joint council committee discussed bag limit decreases and other measures to protect spawning aggregations. At the June 2015 Council meeting, the South Atlantic Council directed staff to start an amendment for mutton snapper to reduce fishing pressure on spawning fish.

## 2016-2017 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carryover

### Yellowtail Snapper

- Industry requesting a change to the commercial fishing year and removing the circle hook requirement



### Mangrove Snapper

- Stakeholder concerns about state and federal size and bag limit discrepancies

### Hogfish

- Assessment recently completed
- East Florida/Florida Keys stock overfished and undergoing overfishing
- Management changes may be needed



### Yellowtail snapper

The commercial industry has requested changing the commercial fishing year so that the ACL closures would be less disruptive to the fishery. In addition, industry is requesting removing the circle hook requirement for this species in the Gulf (circle hooks are not required when fishing for this species where they are targeted in the Atlantic). The Gulf and South Atlantic Councils are moving forward with management changes. The Commission may wish to consider rule making in state waters.

### Mangrove Snapper

Some stakeholders at the South Florida Workshops in 2013 raised concerns about the state and federal size and bag limit discrepancies (currently 5 fish at 10" in state waters, and 10 fish at 12" in federal waters). However, smaller fish are found in state waters, so the discrepancies may be appropriate. Management changes may need to be considered.

### Hogfish

A federal stock assessment for hogfish was recently completed and is currently under review. Based on the outcome of this assessment, management changes may be warranted. Many stakeholders have expressed concern for the health of the hogfish stock and feel the regulations need to be stricter. The SAFMC is also considering changes to the size limit.

## 2016-2017 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carryover



### Snowy Grouper

- South Atlantic Council recently approved management changes to the recreational fishery
- Commission rulemaking may be considered

### Blueline Tilefish

- Deepwater species that is overfished and undergoing overfishing
- South Atlantic Council recently approved management changes
- Not regulated in Atlantic state waters



### Snowy Grouper

In August 2015, the SAFMC increased the commercial and recreational quotas, reduced the recreational season from year-round to May-Aug., and increased the commercial trip limit. The Commission may consider consistent actions for state waters during the next workplan cycle

### Blueline Tilefish

Blueline tilefish is a deepwater species that is overfished and undergoing overfishing. In March 2015, SAFMC reduced recreational and commercial possession limits and the quotas, and created a recreational season from May through August. Blueline tilefish are not regulated in Atlantic state waters but are managed federally and are harvested in some areas of state waters. Management restrictions may be coming for federal waters off Florida, and the Commission may want to consider consistency with federal rules.

## 2016-2017 Medium Priority - Ongoing/Carryover



### Atlantic Golden Tilefish

- Species has a low recreational annual catch limit (3,019 fish)
- South Atlantic Council may look at different ways to manage the recreational fishery moving forward

### Speckled Hind and Warsaw Grouper

- SAFMC considering spawning area closures
- State regulations inconsistent with federal regulations
- Additional protection requested in state waters



### Golden Tilefish

Golden tilefish has a low recreational ACL and has closed early due to the ACL being met/exceeded in recent years. Staff recommend FWC wait and see what SAFMC does with this fishery moving forward before taking action on the state level.

### Speckled Hind and Warsaw Grouper

The SAFMC is considering spawning area closures for multiple snapper grouper species as a means to protect speckled hind and warsaw grouper. FWC's regulations in state waters are inconsistent with federal regulations. The harvest of these species is allowed from state waters but prohibited in federal waters of the South Atlantic. Stakeholders and the SAFMC have requested additional protections in state waters.

## 2016-2017 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carryover



### Electronic Reporting

- Federal wholesale dealers required to report electronically
- Commission rulemaking may be considered

### Species Removed from Federal Management

- Commission may consider extending regulations into federal waters for species no longer under federal management



### Electronic Reporting

Federal wholesale dealers are required to report electronically and the councils are considering electronic reporting requirements for federal for-hire vessels. The Commission may want to consider similar rulemaking for state wholesale dealers or state for-hire boats.

### Species Removed from Federal Management

Several Florida species have been removed from federal management or may be removed from federal management in the near future. DMFM staff will review these species and consider whether extending state regulations into federal waters is appropriate.

## 2016-2017 Low Priority - NEW



### Dolphin Bag/Size Limit

- Angler concerns that the dolphin bag limit of 10/person is too high
- Additional comments that since dolphin have a high release mortality there is no need for a size limit

### Blackfin Tuna

- Not regulated in state or federal waters
- Stakeholder concerns that some fishermen are taking advantage of the lack of regulations and harvesting large numbers of this species



### Dolphin Bag/Size Limit

A common theme in multiple statewide workshops was that the recreational bag and/or vessel limit for dolphin needs to be modified. Many stakeholders expressed that there was no need for an individual recreational angler to harvest 10 dolphin or a vessel to take 60 dolphin/day. Many stakeholders also expressed that because of high release mortality there should be no size limit.

### Blackfin Tuna

Blackfin tuna are not federally regulated. They are not a highly migratory species; therefore, neither NOAA HMS nor the Councils will regulate them. The state has the ability and authority to regulate them. The two main concerns are the increase in total harvest and the size of fish harvested. Recreational landings have surged from a historically low 10,000 pounds annually since 1981 to 100,000 pounds in recent years. The average size of the blackfin tuna recreationally harvested has decreased from nearly 30 inches to below 20 inches over just the past 10 years.

## 2016-2017 Low Priority - NEW



### Tripletail

- Seasonally abundant inshore and nearshore
- Recent increase in commercial harvest
- GA requesting FL regulations be consistent with theirs

### Tournament Fishing in SW Florida

- Stakeholder concern for fishery resources and habitat based on amount of tournaments held in southwest Florida



### Tripletail

Florida and Georgia share a migratory group of Atlantic tripletail, that is seasonally abundant in in shore and nearshore waters from summer to early fall. Commercial harvest in Florida has increased over the recent years, with a peak in 2014. Charters in the Gulf have also begun to target tripletail. Georgia wishes for our current regulations (15in minimum size limit and a 2 fish bag limit) become consistent with their own, an 18in minimum size limit and a 2 fish possession limit for both recreational and commercial sectors.

### Tournament Fishing in Southwest Florida

Hearing concern in southwest Florida regarding the number of tournaments held in that region, and the possible negative impacts effecting the fishery resources and habitat.

## 2016-2017 Low Priority - Ongoing/Carryover



### Menhaden

- Develop electronic reporting for fishery
- Need mechanism in place by Jan. 2016 to close fishery when quota is reached

### Marine Life Sales

- Aquarium enthusiasts are selling/exchanging marine life species
- No mechanism in the marine life rule for this activity



### Menhaden

The Atlantic fishery is subject to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) quota, and Florida exceeded its quota in 2013 and 2014. FWC is working with the ASMFC to limit the impacts of the quota closures on small-time bait fishermen. Electronic reporting will likely be necessary for the fishery in order to monitor harvest rates relative to the quota, because the Commission will need to have a mechanism in place by January 2016 to close the fishery when the quota is reached.

### Marine Life Sales

\*ML Under Reporting

\*ML Recreational Sale - Aquarium enthusiasts sometimes sell/exchange marine life species (and corals) that they are propagating, breeding, collecting, and holding. Some of these organisms are native while others are not, however there is no mechanism in the marine life rule to allow for this activity.

\*Non-regulated Marine Species - Through the Marine Life Workgroup process, several marine species outside of the marine life rule were identified as potential candidates for possible size or bag limits. It has been recognized that there are possibly other species not related to the marine life fishery that may benefit from certain restrictions. Staff from various divisions have been discussing potential management of many non-regulated marine species.

## 2016-2017 Low Priority – Ongoing/Carryover



### Slipper Lobster

- Concern over population decline

### Marbled Grouper

- Possible candidate to be listed as federally endangered



### Slipper Lobster

FWC staff has been hearing concern over numbers of slipper lobster declining.

### Marbled grouper

It appears this species may meet criteria for listing as a federally endangered species. FWC may need to take action in the listing process.