

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

From: Dr. Thomas Eason, Director, Division of Hunting and Game Management

Date: February 10, 2016

Subject: Consent Agenda Item: Miami Tiger Beetle Biological Review Group

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to request that the Commission approve a biological review group to assess the status of the Miami tiger beetle for listing as a State-designated Threatened species.

Summary:

On June 29, 2015, FWC received a request to evaluate the status of the Miami tiger beetle for listing as a state-designated Threatened species from the Center for Biological Diversity, Al Sunshine, Sandy Koi, and Chris Wirth. The evaluation request met the requirements for completeness as described in Rule 68A-27.0012(2)(b) F.A.C. Following Rule 68A-27.0012 Procedures for Listing and Removing Species from Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species List, staff reviewed the information included in the request, and determined that the biological score was greater than 27. Biological scores greater than 27 are further evaluated using the state listing criteria found in Rule 68A-27.001(3) F.A.C. Evaluations for state listing require that the Commission designate a biological review group of 3, 5, or 7 members. Seven experts in tiger beetle biology have been identified to serve on the biological review group for the Miami tiger beetle: David Almquist, an invertebrate zoologist with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory; Dr. William Hoback, a professor at Oklahoma State University; Dr. David Pearson, a professor at Arizona State University; Dr. Tom Schultz, a professor of biology at Denison University in Ohio; Dr. Timothy M. Collins, a professor at Florida International University; Dr. Samantha Wisely, a professor at the University of Florida; and Jonathan Mays, an assistant research scientist in the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. The group's findings will be included in a peer-reviewed biological status review report to be presented to the Commission with a listing recommendation at a future meeting.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends Commission approval of David Almquist, Dr. Timothy M. Collins, Dr. William Hoback, Jonathan Mays, Dr. David Pearson, Dr. Tom Schultz, and Dr. Samantha Wisely as the Miami Tiger Beetle Biological Review Group.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Brad Gruver, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation