

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

From: Kipp Frohlich, Interim Director, Habitat and Species Conservation

Date: June 19, 2018

Subject: Consent Agenda – Draft Rule, Florida’s Endangered and Threatened Species List

Purpose:

Obtain approval of revisions to Rule 68A-27.003, the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List, to reflect recent changes to the status designations for federally-listed species, which were made by the federal government under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Summary:

Rule 68A-27.0012(1), F.A.C. states “If a species native to Florida is added or reclassified under the ESA, and is a species within the Commission’s constitutional authority, the species shall be so listed or reclassified in the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species rule pursuant to the notice provisions on Subsection 120.54(6), F.S., relating to adoption of federal standards.”

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service recently designated the following species as threatened pursuant to the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Species: Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) and giant manta ray (*Manta birostris*).

The proposed amendment will keep the Federally-designation Endangered and Threatened Species component of the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List consistent with current Federal designations.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve staff request to notice revisions to Rule 68A-27.003(1), F.A.C. to add these species to Federally-designated Endangered and Threatened component of Florida’s Endangered and Threatened Species List under the Adoption of Federal Standards provisions of Chapter 120.54(6), F.S., and adopt these revisions with no further public hearings.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Brad Gruver, Section Leader, Species Conservation Planning