

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners  
**From:** Jessica McCawley, Director, Marine Fisheries Management  
**Date:** November 18, 2015  
**Subject:** Strategic Follow-Up – Marine Fisheries Innovation

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**Purpose:**

This item is an update on staff efforts related to the Commission focal area on Marine Fisheries Innovation. Staff will present the results of conducting an online survey and 19 statewide workshops. The stakeholder suggestions that were chosen for incorporation into the 2016/2017 marine fisheries workplan will be indicated in staff's presentation. (The entire marine fisheries workplan will also be presented at this Commission meeting as part of the agency workplan agenda item.)

**Summary:**

During the strategic discussion on October 9, 2013, the Commission identified as a priority (focal area) staff looking for innovative ways to manage marine fisheries for sustainability and improve opportunities for public use. In order to seek stakeholder feedback, the Commission directed marine fisheries management staff to gather input from stakeholders regarding innovation, priorities and challenges. Staff conducted an online survey during the month of June to get feedback about stakeholders' top marine fisheries management priorities, such as water quality and habitat, as well as to determine what species were most important to them. Nearly 7000 responses to this survey were received from a wide variety of stakeholder groups. The survey results were then taken to 19 public workshops around the state and used to gather additional information. Attendees at these workshops had additional topics of concern. Stakeholder concerns and comments were considered during the annual DMFM/FWRI staff workplan development discussion that sets the proposed priorities for the coming year. Staff will present the stakeholder comments and highlight a number of topics that were generated from this effort that will be included in marine fisheries management 2016-2017 workplan.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff is presenting this item for informational purposes and any discussion the Commission may have.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Jessica McCawley, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries Management