



MEMORANDUM

To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Diane R. Eggeman, Director, Hunting and Game Management
Date: November 18, 2015
Subject: Consent Agenda: Draft Rule – Alligator Management

Purpose:

Staff is seeking approval to publish rule amendments to make minor modifications that will clarify alligator trapping license requirements/exemptions for persons participating in the Statewide Alligator Harvest Program and the Private Lands Alligator Management Program.

Summary:

Changes to the alligator-related statutes were requested by FWC as a part of the 2015 Legislative package. The proposed changes were extensively vetted with the public and stakeholders. The changes were enacted by the 2015 Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, are effective and therefore two Commission Rules regarding alligator management need amending to provide consistency and clarity. Rules 68A-25.032, governing the Private Lands Alligator Management Program, and 68A-25.042, governing the Statewide Alligator Harvest Program, have references to licensing requirements that need updating.

The new statutory language includes exemptions from alligator trapping licenses for minors, military and disabled veterans special events, permanently disabled residents, and contracted nuisance alligator trappers. A few other minor changes are proposed as well.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the proposed rule amendments clarifying licensing requirements and exemptions for advertising and filing for adoption as soon as possible, without further public hearing unless one is requested by the public.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Harry J. Dutton, Alligator Management Program Coordinator, Division of Hunting and Game Management