

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners  
**From:** Mr. Kipp Frohlich, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation  
**Date:** December 13, 2018  
**Subject:** Imperiled Species Program Permitting Guidelines

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**Purpose:**

Provide an overview and seek approval for Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines covering nine State-designated Threatened species.

**Summary:**

As part of the Imperiled Species Management Plan (ISMP), staff was directed to create Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines (Guidelines) for all species included in the ISMP. Guideline development began in 2016, and to date a total of 22 Guidelines have been approved, covering 24 species. Staff is now bringing an additional six sets of Guidelines for Commission review and approval. Guidelines contain information on species biology and habitat needs, identify what constitutes take through habitat modification, and provide guidance on survey methodology and voluntary conservation practices. The Guidelines outline activities not expected to cause take, methods for avoiding take and in some cases authorize take for certain activities such as emergency actions for human safety or certain forestry management activities. The Guidelines also provide options for achieving conservation benefit as described in Rule 68A-27.007, F.A.C., through a combination of minimization and mitigation when take cannot be avoided.

The six Guidelines for Commission review cover nine species: crystal darter, Florida bog frog, Georgia blind salamander, little blue heron, reddish egret, roseate spoonbill, tricolored heron, Sherman's short-tailed shrew, and Southern tessellated darter. One set of Guidelines addresses the four wading birds. All nine species are designated as State Threatened, and in addition to their listing status, most have other existing protections including cave protection statutes, Forestry and Wildlife Agricultural Best Management Practices, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requirements for Outstanding Florida Waters, and overlap with DEP Environmental Resource Permitting standards.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Approval of the Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for the crystal darter, Florida bog frog, Georgia blind salamander, little blue heron, reddish egret, roseate spoonbill, tricolored heron, Sherman's short-tailed shrew, and Southern tessellated darter.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

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