

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners  
**From:** Jessica McCawley, Director, Marine Fisheries Management  
**Date:** February 20, 2019  
**Subject:** Federal Legislation Update

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**Purpose:**

Staff will provide Commissioners with a review and discussion of relevant legislation impacting fish and wildlife that either chamber of the United States Congress considered in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress or is considering in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**Summary:**

This presentation will summarize the major legislation from the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress and address legislation in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

In the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, both chambers of Congress acted on several bills affecting fish and wildlife conservation management in Florida. FWC staff tracked these bills and advocated for positions that benefited Florida. For example, FWC staff was active on legislation relating to marine fisheries, such as fishery disaster funding for hurricanes Irma and Michael, fishery access in Biscayne National Park, Gulf red snapper management, sharks, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act reauthorization, recreational fishing reforms, aquaculture, and spiny lobster. In addition to these issues, FWC supported proposed changes to the Sportsmen's Act, existing Pittman-Robertson state grants for hunter education, the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations for funding wildlife conservation efforts, the Farm Bill, and other wildlife conservation and hunting-access efforts.

In the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, which began on January 3, 2019, FWC staff will continue to monitor legislative activities and advocate for outcomes that are best for Florida.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff welcomes Commission input and guidance on federal legislative items as presented.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Jessica McCawley, Director, Marine Fisheries Management