

DRAFT RULE
Imperiled Species Management Plan Guidelines - 68A-27.003, F.A.C.
Update No. 1 – February 14, 2019
Consent Item 4
February 20, 2019

Summary of Change: Based on input from the public, the effective date will be added to the rule language to add make it clear when the guidelines become incorporated into rule by reference. The effective date will be inserted into the final rule.

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DIVISION: Freshwater Fish and Wildlife

RULE NO.:68A-27.003

RULE TITLE: Rules Relating to Threatened or Endangered Species

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: As part of the approval of the Imperiled Species Management Plan in 2016, the Commission added language to 68A-27.003 about authorizing activities in Commission-approved guidelines. The Commission also approved Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines (Guidelines) for the Florida sandhill crane, Everglades mink, Florida Keys mole skink, Key ringneck snake, Rim rock crowned snake, and White crowned pigeon in November of 2016. The Commission approved Guidelines for the Blackmouth shiner, Barbour’s map turtle, Black Creek crayfish, Santa Fe cave crayfish, Big Cypress fox squirrel, Florida pine snake, and Florida burrowing owl in February of 2018. Finally, the Commission approved Guidelines for the Florida bog frog, Georgia blind salamander, Crystal darter, Southern tessellated darter, Sherman’s short-tailed shrew, and four Threatened wading birds: the Little blue heron, Tricolored heron, Reddish egret, and Roseate spoonbill in December of 2018. All these Commission-approved guidelines clarify activities that do not require a permit and provide information about how FWC issues permits. To authorize activities that are exempt from permitting and to clarify which guidelines are Commission approved, staff have proposed adding language and hyperlinks to make this document accessible to the public electronically. The purpose of this rule is to authorize activities in the Commission approved guidelines and provide clear access to those guidelines. The effect of this rule is to incorporate the Commission approved guidelines into rule by reference and hyperlink to the documents within the Florida Administrative Register.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

68A-27.003 Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List; Prohibitions.

- (1) No change.
- (2) State-designated Threatened species:
 - (a) No person shall take, possess, or sell any threatened species included in this subsection or parts thereof or their nests or eggs except as authorized by Commission rule or by permit from the Commission or when such conduct is authorized in a management plan as defined in this chapter and approved by the Commission, or as authorized in Commission-approved guidelines.
 - (b) The following Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines are incorporated into the rule by reference on (EFFECTIVE DATE) and can be found online at: Alligator snapping turtles (to be assigned*), Barbour’s map turtle (to be assigned*), Black Creek crayfish (to be assigned*) Blackmouth shiner (to be

assigned*), Big Cypress fox squirrel (to be assigned*), Crystal darter (to be assigned*), Everglades mink (to be assigned*), Florida bog frog (to be assigned*), Florida brown snake (to be assigned*), Florida burrowing owl (to be assigned*), Florida Keys Mole skink (to be assigned*), Florida pine snake (to be assigned*), Florida sandhill crane (to be assigned*), Georgia blind salamander (to be assigned*), Key ringneck snake (to be assigned*), Rim rock crowned snake (to be assigned*), Santa Fe Cave crayfish (to be assigned*), Saltmarsh topminnow (to be assigned*), Sherman's short-tailed shrew (to be assigned*), Southern tessellated darter (to be assigned*), Threatened wading birds (to be assigned*), White-crowned pigeon (to be assigned*).

(b) through (h) renumbered (c) through (i).

NOTE: Staff is requesting Commission approval to advertise the proposed amendment and file for adoption as soon as possible. If the rule amendment is approved for both advertisement and final adoption, Commission staff will file the rule for adoption as allowed by s. 120.54(3) Florida Statutes, without further public hearing.

*The PDF of these guidelines can be found at <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/species-guidelines/>. The final hyperlink to the Commission approved guidelines will be inserted into the final rule.