

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Budget Status Report – Week 3

FY 2019/20 Legislative Budget Request

Charlotte Jerrett, March 22, 2019

Senate

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government received its budget allocations; the Subcommittee recommended \$408.0 million and 2,099.50 employees for FWC. Details are available [HERE](#) on pages 8-9 in the Subcommittee's publication. The subcommittee proposals for FWC are summarized in the attached side by side analysis. The Senate proposed appropriation bill can be found [HERE](#).

New Issues:

The Subcommittee recommended the following FWC Strategic Support initiatives: Public Assistance and Management of Invasive Species, Derelict Vessel Removal Program and Wildlife Management Area Private Landowner Remittance.

The following Operational Support initiatives were funded: Transfer Environmental Crimes Investigators to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Law Enforcement Officer Reserve Program, Babcock Webb Wildlife Management Area Office and Septic Upgrades, Replacement Lease Space, Cybersecurity Remediation, Bryant Building Facility Repairs and Upgrades, Enterprise Mobile Development Initiative, Youth Conservation Education Donations, Stone Crab Research and Monitoring, FWRI Facility Safety and Security Repairs, AND Red Tide Research.

The following Optimize Federal and Grant Funding initiatives were recommended: Hurricane Irma Marine Fisheries Disaster Recovery, Hurricane Irma Marine Debris Removal, Boating Infrastructure, Florida Boating Improvement Program and Artificial Reef Construction Program.

The following projects were recommended to be funded with non-recurring appropriations: Facility Upgrades to Parker Manatee Aquarium, ZooTampa Florida Panther Medical Facility and Habitat, and Zoo Miami Expansion and Renovation of Hospital.

Reductions:

The subcommittee recommended a reduction \$18,450,000 of excess budget authority.

Trust Fund Sweeps:

No Trust Fund Sweeps were recommended.

Employee Compensation:

No adjustments in employee compensation were recommended.

Budget Conforming Bills: Budget conforming bills are bills traveling with the GAA that contain substantive changes to law that are necessary to support the budget as outlined in the GAA. Implementing bills are available here:

[SPB 2502 - Implementing the 2019-2020 General Appropriations Act](#)

House

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and Natural Resources received its allocations this week; the Subcommittee recommended \$402.2 million and 2,112.5 employees for FWC. Details are available [HERE](#) on pages 11-15 in the Subcommittee's publication. The subcommittee proposals for FWC are summarized in the attached side by side analysis. The House proposed appropriation bill can be found [HERE](#).

New Issues:

The Subcommittee recommended the following FWC Strategic Support initiatives: Derelict Vessel Removal Program, Fish Eating Creek WMA Campground Phase II and Wildlife Management Area Private Landowner Remittance.

The following Operational Support initiatives were funded: Transfer Environmental Crimes Investigators to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Law Enforcement Enhanced Patrol and Support, Aviation Enhancement, Support Aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Enhancement, Law Enforcement Officer Reserve Program, Regional Communications Center Consolidation, Overtime Pay for Sworn Law Enforcement Officers, Law Enforcement Body Worn Camera's, Non-Native Conflict Species Management, Cybersecurity Remediation, Bryant Building Facilities Repairs and Upgrades, South Regional Office Flood Abatement - Phase II, Southwest Regional Office Roof Replacement, Enterprise Mobile Development Initiative, Youth Conservation Education Donations, Stone Crab Research and Monitoring, FWRI Facility Safety and Security Repairs, Center for Red Tide Research, Replacement of Motor Vehicles, Replacement of Boats, Motors and Trailers.

The following Federal and Grant Funding initiatives were recommended:

Hurricane Irma Marine Fisheries Disaster Recovery, Hurricane Irma Marine Debris Removal, Boating Infrastructure, Florida Boating Improvement Program and Artificial Reef Construction Program.

The following projects were recommended to be funded with non-recurring appropriations: Coral Reef Disease Response and Restoration, ZooTampa Manatee Hospital, Parker Manatee Aquarium at the South Florida Museum, and Lake Restoration Projects.

Reductions:

The subcommittee recommended a reduction \$17,389,582 of excess budget authority. They recommended the reduction of two FTE positions that have been vacant in excess of 180 days. The following reductions were included in the Agency Schedule V-IIIB reduction schedule and recommended in the House proposed budget: Reduce Lake Restoration, Reduce Transfer to the Department of Agriculture/Institute of Food and Agriculture (IFAS) for Invasive Exotic Plant Research, Eliminate the Fostering Success Pilot Program, Reduce Small-Game Management, Reduce Public-Information Related to Game Wildlife, and Reduce Game Management and Hunting Opportunity Development.

Trust Fund Sweeps:

No Trust Fund Sweeps were recommended.

Employee Compensation:

No adjustments in employee compensation were recommended.

Budget Conforming Bills:

Budget conforming bills are bills traveling with the GAA that contain substantive changes to law that are necessary to support the budget as approved in the GAA. Implementing bills are available here:

[PCB APC 19-02 - Implementing the 2019-20 General Appropriations Act](#)

[PCB APC 19-03 - Collective Bargaining](#)

[PCB APC 19-04 - State-Administered Retirement Systems](#)

Next Steps

The next stop for the Senate and House budgets will be their respective full Appropriations Committees. In these meetings, the proposed bills will be considered along with any amendments proposed after the subcommittee completed their budget work. After approval, the budget bills will be placed on their respective Calendars for a floor vote. At some point after passage of Senate and House budget bills, they will hold a budget conference to

reconcile the differences between their respective budgets. After both chambers pass the conference budget, it will be sent to the Governor. Once the Governor, who has line item veto authority for the budget, takes his action, the State will then have its beginning budget for Fiscal Year 2019/20.