



PERMIT APPLICATION – RESEARCH
CONDITIONAL/PROHIBITED/NONNATIVE SPECIES PERMIT
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, Wildlife Impact Management
 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600
NonnativePermitApps@MyFWC.com

(Please print or type)

NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

ORGANIZATION/AGENCY/BUSINESS NAME: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS (for FWC inspection): _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ COUNTY: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ COUNTY: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PRIMARY PHONE NUMBER: _____ SECONDARY PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

I authorize the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to send me requests for additional information and final agency permitting actions by either e-mail or express delivery. Future agency actions will be provided henceforth by email or express delivery.

Have you ever been convicted or found guilty, of any criminal or non-criminal violation, regardless of adjudication or plea entered, of any wildlife violation (including a violation of Chapter 379, Florida Statutes (F.S.); Section 828.12, F.S.; rules of the Commission; similar laws or rules in another jurisdiction) or crime involving cruelty to animals?

YES NO

If yes, please explain and list the type of violation(s) cited and the county/state where the violation occurred:

Have you ever had a fish- or wildlife-related license or permit suspended or revoked? **YES** **NO**

If yes, please explain:

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Certification: I hereby swear and affirm by signature that the information submitted in this application and supporting documents is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statement herein may subject me to criminal penalties. Finally, I understand and agree to comply with the State laws and rules governing nonnative species and agree to comply with same. I also agree to comply with the data reporting requirements for this permit.

Research involving nonnative species (including Conditional and Prohibited species):

This application is needed if you intend to conduct a research project on nonnative species that will include any of the following:

1. Collection of nonnative species from FWC Wildlife Management Areas, excluding collection from the 22 FWC-managed lands listed in [Executive Order \(EO\) 17-11](#) (note: EO 17-11 does not authorize the transportation of live Conditional or Prohibited species from those areas; a permit is needed for live transport of any lawfully-captured nonnative species.)
2. Transport and/or possession of live Conditional or Prohibited species
3. Collection and release of nonnative species

Research involving the release of nonnative species not listed as Conditional or Prohibited, except for lionfish (finfish of the genus *Pterois*):

A permit is needed to release any nonnative species into the state, in accordance with Rules 68-5.003(1)(a)-(d), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), which states in part:

(1) No person shall transport into the state, introduce, or possess, for any purpose that might reasonably be expected to result in liberation into the state, any freshwater fish, aquatic invertebrate, marine plant, marine animal, or wild animal life not native to the state, without having secured a permit from the Commission, except:

- (a) Fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*).*
- (b) Variable platy (*Xiphophorus variatus*).*
- (c) Coturnix quail (*Coturnix coturnix*).*
- (d) Ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*).*

For permit applications requesting authorization to release any nonnative species, please include in the research proposal any species and related quantities of nonnative fish and/or wildlife you intend to collect or release, the proposed location of collection or release, and the planned final disposition of any research animals.

Research involving Conditional species:

All research involving Conditional species must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of [Rule 68-5.005, F.A.C.](#)

A detailed research proposal must accompany this permit application. The proposal must state with particularity the research objectives, methodology, study duration, and any planned safeguards to ensure proper containment of the species. Methodology should include how specimens are to be obtained. If specimens are to be collected from the wild, specific information as to locations where they will be collected, methods of collection, and time period of collection should be included, as well as the planned final disposition or euthanization of any specimens.

An annual record of progress toward the research project objectives shall be maintained, and such research proposal and record of progress must be available to inspection upon request of Commission personnel. Permits expire twelve (12) months from the date of issuance and shall not be renewed until a detailed report of research findings is received and approved by the Commission. The report shall include a description of activities undertaken during the permit period, progress toward research project objectives, and any proposed additional activities to be undertaken during any renewal period. Such reports are public records subject to the requirements for public disclosure under Chapter 119, F.S.

Any transport of live Prohibited species and any transportation containers must comply with the requirements detailed in Chapter 68-5 and 68A-6, F.A.C.

For research involving possession of live Conditional reptiles, attach a [Critical Incident/Disaster Plan](#).

Research involving lionfish (finfish of the genus *Pterois*):

In accordance with [Rule 68-5.009, F.A.C.](#), a permit for research involving lionfish cultivation shall be issued only to a principal investigator who is a faculty member of a college or university, is affiliated with an accredited institution, or is a member of a federal, state, or county agency.

Permits shall only be issued for the purposes of researching lionfish population control measures or mitigating negative impacts to native species and ecosystems.

Lionfish held outdoors for research purposes may only be held in a water body that has the lowest point of the top edge of its levee, dike, bank, or tank at an elevation of at least one (1) foot above the 100-year flood elevation determined by reference to elevation maps issued by the National Flood Insurance Program, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Such water body shall have no water discharge or shall be constructed with a barrier system designed to prevent escape of adults, juveniles, and eggs in the water effluent discharged from the permittee's property.

Lionfish held indoors may only be held in culture systems having no water discharge, having a water discharge through a closed drain system, or other system designed to prevent discharge of water containing adults, juveniles, and eggs from the permittee's property.

A detailed research proposal shall accompany this permit application. The proposal shall state the research objectives, methodology, study duration, and planned safeguards to assure proper containment of the species. An annual record of progress toward the research project objectives shall be maintained, and such research proposal and record of progress shall be available for inspection upon request of Commission personnel.

The permit shall expire twelve (12) months from the date of issuance and shall not be renewed until a detailed report of research findings is received and approved by the Commission. The report shall include a description of activities undertaken in the permit period, progress toward research project objectives, and any proposed activities to be undertaken during any renewal period. Such reports are public records subject to the requirements for public disclosure under Chapter 119, F.S.

Any escape or release of lionfish, or the eggs thereof, shall be reported immediately to the Commission.

Research involving Prohibited species:

In accordance with [Rule 68-5.007, F.A.C.](#), a permit for research involving Prohibited species shall only be issued to a principal investigator who is a faculty member of a college or university, is affiliated with an accredited institution, or is a member of a federal, state, or county agency.

A detailed research proposal shall accompany this permit application. The proposal shall state with particularity the research objectives, methodology, study duration, and planned safeguards to assure proper containment of the species. Methodology should include how specimens are to be obtained. If specimens are to be collected from the wild, specific information as to locations where they will be collected, methods or collection, and time period of collection should be included, as well as the planned final disposition or euthanization of any specimens and a list of personnel that will have access to the Prohibited species.

All research on Prohibited aquatic species shall be conducted in indoor facilities in containers or other confinement facilities designed to prevent escape and having no exterior water discharge or having a water discharge through a closed drain system that terminates in a dry-bed wastewater retention area with no public access.

All research on Prohibited terrestrial wildlife species shall be conducted in indoor facilities in cages or other confinement facilities that prevent escape.

A critical incident and disaster plan for securing animals on site, evacuating, and/or euthanizing animals in the event of a natural disaster or critical incident shall be submitted by the applicant and approved by the Commission before a permit will be issued. The critical incident and disaster plan shall include methods to transport and return evacuated animals back to the research facility. Commission personnel will review the critical incident and disaster plan to ensure the State of Florida is adequately protected from the risk of introduction of the species.

All research facilities where research involving Prohibited species is to be conducted will be inspected by Commission personnel or an authorized representative of the Commission prior to issuance of a permit. Scheduled and unannounced inspections to ensure general security measures are followed may be conducted at any time during the permit period.

The permit shall expire twelve (12) months from the date of issuance and shall not be renewed until a detailed report of research findings is received and approved by the Commission. The report will include a description of activities undertaken in the permit period, progress toward research project objectives, and proposed additional activities to be undertaken during any renewal period. Such reports are public records subject to the requirements for public disclosure under Chapter 119, F.S.

Any transport of live Prohibited species and any transportation containers must comply with the requirements detailed in Chapter 68-5 and 68A-6, F.A.C.

Submit completed application materials to:
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