

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Budget Status Report – Week 4
FY 2019/20 Legislative Budget Request
Charlotte Jerrett, March 29, 2019

Senate

The Senate Committee on Appropriations took up and passed its General Appropriations Act (GAA), implementing bill, and budget conforming bills this week. One amendment was filed and approved; the amendment increased the overall agency budget by \$50,000 in non-recurring general revenue for a project associated with the Florida Aquarium. The new appropriation total is \$408.1 million, with 2,099.50 FTE positions. The GAA (SB 2500) can be found [HERE](#); the FWC budget starts on page 250, line item 1788. Further details on Senate budget recommendations are available below and on the attached side-by-side comparison spreadsheet.

New Issues:

The committee 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, Zoo Miami Expansion and Renovation of Hospital, and Florida Aquarium – Expansion of Threatened Coral Archive Project.

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 to 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:

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

[SB 2504 - State Employees](#)

[SB 7016 - State Administered Retirement Systems](#)

House

The House Appropriations Committee also took up and passed its GAA, implementing bill, and budget conforming bills this week. The House **position on FWC's budget remains the same as reported last week** with \$402.2 million and 2,112.50 employees. The House GAA for FWC can be found [HERE](#); the FWC budget starts on page 249, line item 1788. Further details on House budget recommendations are available below and on the attached side-by-side comparison spreadsheet.

New Issues:

The committee 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 committee 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 to 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:

[HB 5003 - Implementing the 2019-20 General Appropriations Act](#)

[HB 5005 - Collective Bargaining](#)

[HB 5007 - State-Administered Retirement Systems](#)

[HB 5009 - State Employees Group Insurance Program](#)

[HB 5301 - Information Technology Reorganization](#)

[HB 5401 - Department of Environmental Protection](#)

Next Steps

The next stop for the Senate and House budgets bills will be the Floor of the Senate and Floor of the House, respectively, for final passage. 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.