



# FY 2020/21 Legislative Budget Request

October 3, 2019  
Commission Meeting



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Report Date: September 8, 2019

Author: Charlotte Jerrett

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Michael Rivera  
([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Florida's\\_Historic\\_Capitol\\_and\\_Florida\\_State\\_Capitol\\_2.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Florida's_Historic_Capitol_and_Florida_State_Capitol_2.JPG)), „Florida's Historic Capitol and Florida State Capitol 2". Soft Edges by FWC, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/legalcode>

# 2020/21 Legislative Budget Request Action Items:

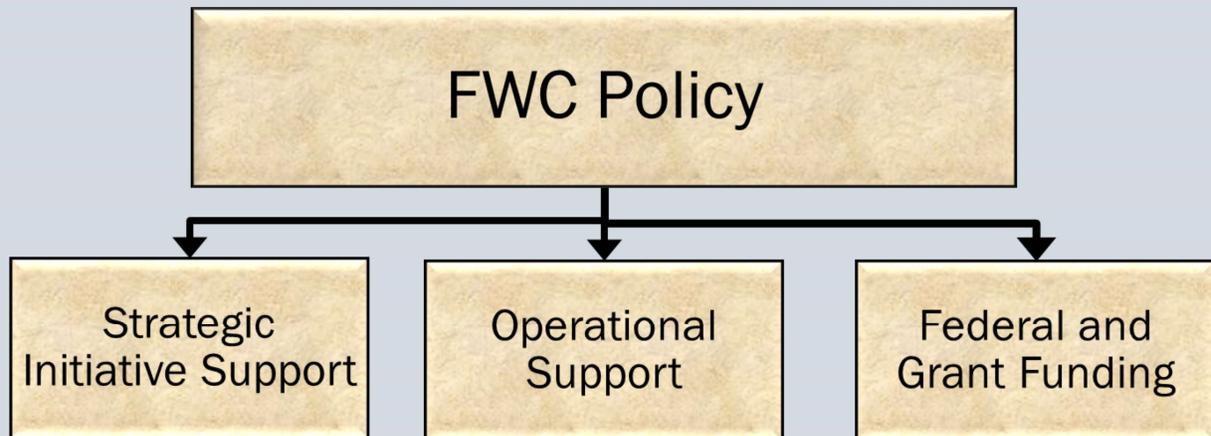
Legislative Budget Request Funding  
Issues

Schedule VIIB-2 Potential Reductions



In this Legislative and Budget Report, we will be covering the Agency Legislative Budget Request and the Agency Legislative Package, for the 2020 Legislative Session. I'd like to thank Commissioner Sole for working with staff as we developed these needs.

# FY 2020/21 Legislative Budget Request



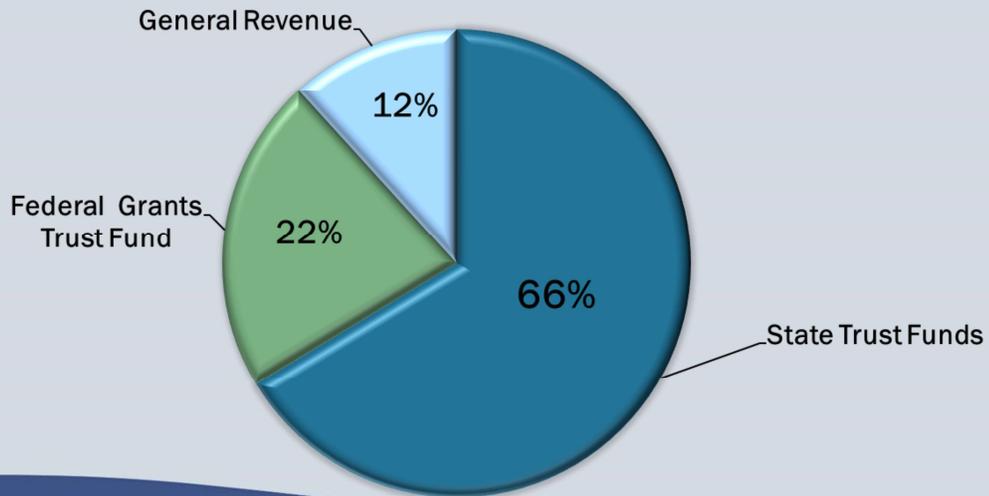
Agency policy is the major driver for agency budget requests. These are found in Commission Focal Areas and Agency Strategic Initiatives. The budget requests are divided into 3 main groupings:

- 1) Strategic Initiative Support
- 2) Operational Support
- 3) Optimize Federal Funding

## **Strategic Initiatives:**

- 1) Expand Participation in Conservation
- 2) Conflict Wildlife
- 3) Conservation through Innovation – Private Lands
- 4) Conservation through Innovation – Marine Fisheries Management
- 5) Imperiled Species Management Plan
- 6) Running the Business
- 7) Boating as a Gateway to Conservation

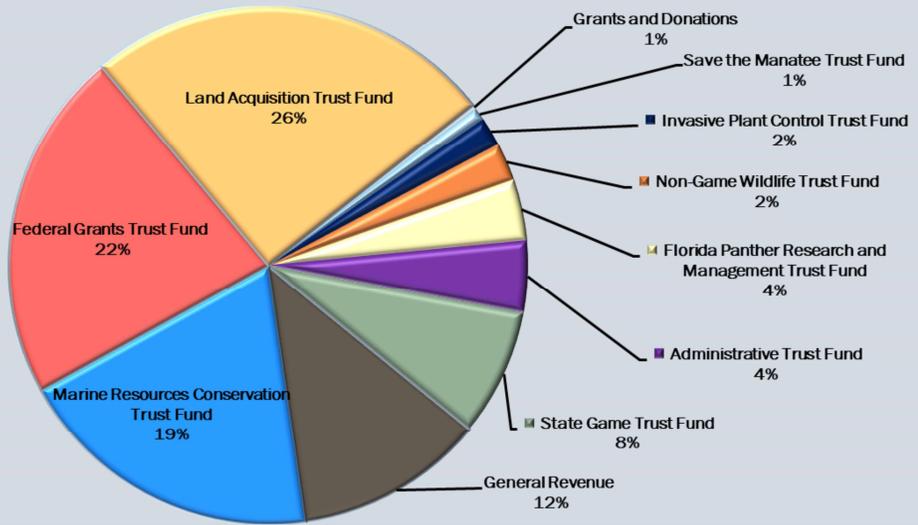
# FY 2019/20 FWC Budget \$396 Million



FWC's Budget is funded primarily from State Trust Funds. We operate from a total of 14 different trust funds with numerous, diverse revenue streams.

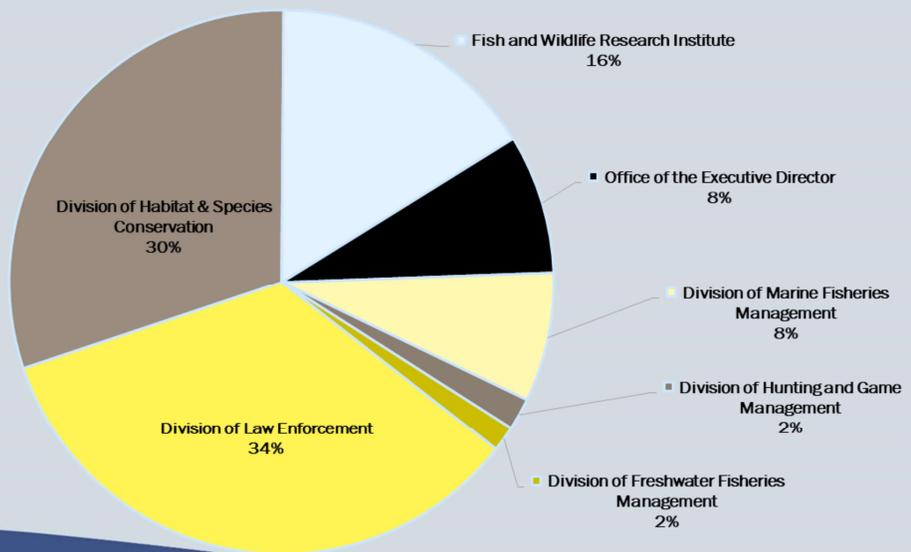
Examples Include: Hunting and Fishing Licenses and Permits, Vessel Registration Fees, Doc Stamps, Grants, etc.

**Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
FY 2019/20 Budget by Fund  
\$396 Million**



FWC operates from 14 different trust funds.

**Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
FY 2019/20 Budget by Division  
\$396 Million**



The largest division in terms of funding is the Division of Law Enforcement; Detail of Divisions and Offices is available in the [FWC Programs](#) document.

# Disaster Impacts

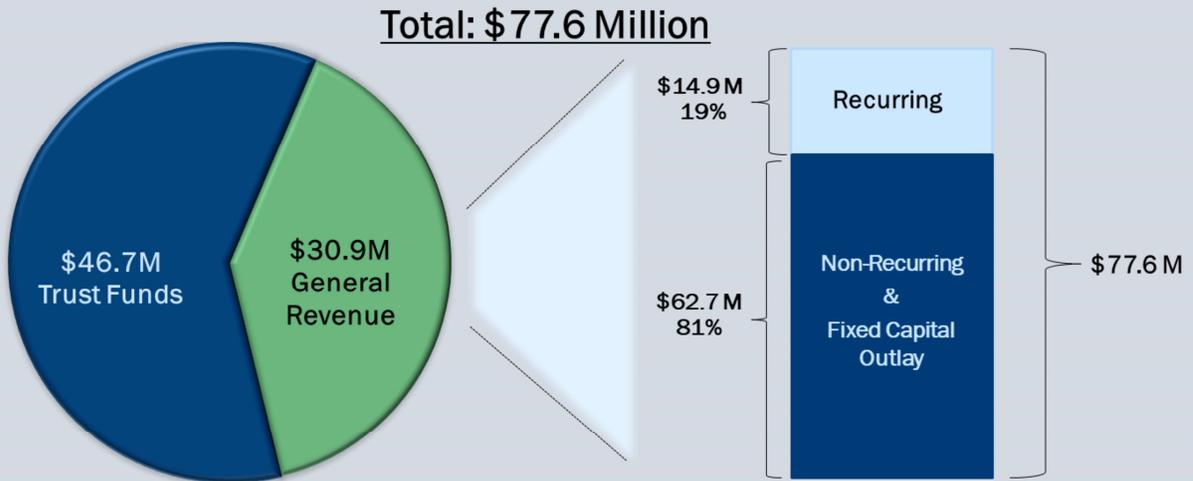
as of August 27, 2019

Year	Disaster	Projected Reimbursement	Actual Reimbursement	Fund
2016	Hurricane Hermine	\$1,061,029	\$615,302	SGTF
2016	Hurricane Matthew	\$997,385	\$372,115	SGTF
2017	Hurricane Harvey	\$1,117,750	\$0	MRCTF
2017	Hurricane Maria	\$38,271	\$0	MRCTF
2017	Hurricane Irma	\$2,675,932	\$0	GR
		\$11,440,127	\$414,630	MRCTF
2018	Hurricane Michael	\$818,431	\$0	GR
		\$5,122,992	\$1,280,577	SGTF
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$23,271,920</b>	<b>\$2,682,624</b>	



The last several years have been difficult for the State with efforts focused on hurricane recovery. FWC has been a large part of those efforts, and they have taken a toll on available trust fund balances. Because of the use of funds for storm relief priorities, we are relying heavily on General Revenue funding for this year's budget request.

# FY 2020/21 Legislative Budget Request



Our total budget request is \$77.6M, but you can see the total request is mostly non-recurring funding, or 81% of the total request. In addition, because fund balances have been used for storm relief efforts, about 40% of our total request is supported by General Revenue funding.

# FY 2020/21 Legislative Budget Request

## Strategic Initiative Support

- Coral Reef Disease Response and Restoration - \$820,000 TF
- State Reef Fish Survey - \$3,000,000 TF
- Red Tide - \$1,960,000 GR; 2 FTE
- Combatting Burmese Pythons - \$1,000,000 GR



**Coral Reef Disease Response** - This budget will directly support coral disease response objectives, which include the preservation of genetic material to support future restoration efforts in Florida. Florida's coral reefs are a vital part of Florida's economy as they support fisheries, tourism and coastal protection. Recurring budget will augment existing capabilities, provide a dedicated field team, and support an increase in outplanting nursery-reared corals to the reefs.

**State Reef Fish Survey** - The proposed SFRS would improve recreational reef fish data collection by identifying the universe of reef fish anglers in Florida and allowing FWC to collect recreational harvest and effort data specifically from these anglers. As with GRFS, these data would be used to provide more accurate, reliable, and credible information for management of reef fish by supplementing Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data. Such data are critical to accurate stock assessments and the successful management of these highly popular and economically important fisheries.

**Center for Red Tide Research** - This funding will improve red tide monitoring and prediction in Florida by supporting new technologies to enhance our observations in areas frequently impacted by blooms, as well as areas important for bloom formation and termination in the Gulf of Mexico. The enhancement of partnerships and the transfer of this level of ocean observing expertise to local and regional monitoring agencies will facilitate the development and implementation of more rapid and specific red tide monitoring tools and will provide further insight into the factors underlying the variability among blooms that can be used to build stronger predictive forecasts.

**Combatting Burmese Pythons** - This issue will enable the FWC to increase current efforts to address the continued threat that Burmese pythons have on Florida's ecosystems. Additional budget authority will support the expansion of detection and removal programs through the development and use of new technology, expansion of existing programs that compensate individuals for python removal, and increased partnerships with other government agencies and businesses.

# FY 2020/21 Legislative Budget Request

## Strategic Initiative Support

- Management of Conflict Species - \$1,561,000 GR/TF
- Enhanced Wildlife Disease Response - \$350,000 TF
- Lake Restoration and Enhancement - \$2,000,000 TF
- Expanding Mechanical Control Technology  
For Invasive Plant Management - \$4,000,000 TF
- Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance - \$266,000 TF



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**Management of Conflict Species** – This issue will result in the development of tools that can be utilized by commercial fishermen to decrease densities of lionfish while providing them with an economic benefit. Additionally, incentives will be given to recreational divers for the removal of lionfish. Additionally, this issue will enable the FWC to keep pace with the increasing public demand for assistance with alligator and American crocodile conflicts by enhancing current programs. Expanding outreach campaigns to leverage social media will provide valuable information to those most likely to encounter alligator and American crocodile conflicts. Strengthening the statewide nuisance alligator program partnership with contracted trappers provides a valuable public service for the State.

**Enhanced Wildlife Disease Response** - Emerging diseases are currently impacting Florida's wildlife and could have a significant impact to susceptible species. The current budget and staffing for the Wildlife Health program are insufficient to meet the real and immediate threat of emerging wildlife diseases to Florida's wildlife. With additional sustained funding, FWC can address current threats and build capacity to detect and respond to fish and wildlife diseases.

**Lake Restoration and Enhancement Projects** - These projects will improve habitat conditions resulting in greater utilization by fish and wildlife, expand public access, and increase public and business-based outdoor recreation. The increase will be used on publicly owned freshwater and marine aquatic habitats to fund restoration/enhancement projects.

**Expanding Mechanical Control Technology for Invasive Plant Management** – Funds will provide for expanded use of mechanical control in management of invasive plants.

**Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance** – The Deer Management Program and the Wildlife Health Section are leading efforts to actively and passively surveil wild white-tailed deer mortality to determine if CWD is already present in Florida, and to detect the disease early if it is introduced. Detecting CWD at the earliest stages of herd infection could lead to reduced impacts on the statewide white-tailed deer herd and wildlife that depend on the species as a prey (Florida panthers, bobcats, bears, alligators). Citizens of Florida will benefit from catching this disease early through reduced impacts on this popularly pursued game species for hunting and wildlife watching. The FWC will benefit by maintaining an active hunter base providing needed revenues to support agency conservation efforts.

# FY 2020/21 Legislative Budget Request

## Operational Support

- Long-Term Stored Vessel Study – \$231,000 GR
- Blackwater Fisheries Research & Development Center - \$1,780,000 TF
- Cloud Computing Solutions – \$694,811 TF
- Paving Entrance JW Corbett Wildlife Management Area Palm Beach County Shooting Sports Park - \$3,000,000 TF



**Long Term Stored Vessel Study** - This issue will provide for the completion of the first year of a study on the impacts of long-term stored vessels on local communities and the State. Following the study, a report will be completed that will reveal findings of the study and recommendations for the future.

**Blackwater Fisheries Research & Development Center** – Funds will provide for ADA compliance and increases in fish production needs; the facility was built in 1938.

**Cloud Computing Solutions** – Section 282.206, Florida Statutes, creates a cloud-first policy in state agencies. Agencies are to first consider cloud-computing solutions in the technology sourcing strategies for technology initiatives that either minimize or do not require the use of state data center infrastructure. To comply with Florida Statutes, FWC will need to assess its applications within the State Data Center, remediate any applications that are not cloud compliant, and procure cloud services.

**Paving Entrance JW Corbett Wildlife Management Area Palm Beach County Shooting Sports Park** – The current paved area stops approximately 2 miles from the entrance and often deteriorates from current usage and inclement weather.

# FY 2020/21 Legislative Budget Request

## Operational Support

- Patrol Vehicle and Vessel Replacement - \$7,900,000 GR
- Taser Replacement - \$400,000 GR
- Aviation Fleet Modernization - \$11,000,000 GR
- Aviation Operations - \$200,000 GR
- Marine Navigation Repair and Management - \$566,000 TF



**Patrol Vehicle and Vessel Replacement** – This issue replaces patrol vehicles, boats, motors, and trailers that meet the DMS criteria for replacement and have become unsafe or cost-prohibitive to operate.

**Taser Replacement** - The Division of Law Enforcement is switching to a phased-in approach for the replacement of CEWs that will aim to procure a portion of the total devices in need of replacement rather than obtaining all devices at once. Additional budget authority is needed to provide for one year of anticipated costs associated with our new Taser contract. This issue will provide for the replacement of approximately 240 CEWs. This would allow the DLE to purchase this equipment to support critical law enforcement functions without an interruption of services.

**Aviation Fleet Modernization** - This issue would provide for two new aircraft with updated safety features and avionics equipment, modernizing our rotary wing aircraft fleet and increasing our capabilities while ensuring pilot safety. Acquisition of these aircraft will also increase our ability to survey and track red tide events and harmful algal blooms, monitor any future oil spills, improve search and rescue response times, allow us to partner with the Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) on homeland security issues, and allow us to partner with the Florida Forest Service during wildfire events.

**Aviation Operations** - This issue would allow for the improvement of aircraft air worthiness, operational readiness, and pilot safety, increasing the coverage area and response capabilities of search and rescue missions for lost or missing boaters. Additional budget authority would also allow the DLE's aviation section to increase its abilities in helping to protect Florida's commercial fishing fleet and resources.

**Marine Navigation Repair and Management** - This issue will provide budget authority to ensure the safety of boats on our state waterways and to continue to set the standards for other governmental entities to emulate with regards to the maintenance of waterway markers. If left unresolved, this backlog of damaged regulatory signs could become navigational hazards to the boating public statewide.

# FY 2020/21 Legislative Budget Request

## Optimize Federal and Grant Funding

- Irma Federal Fisheries Disaster Declaration (Yr 2) - \$18,880,871 TF
- Boating Access and Improvement (FCO) - \$6,906,175 TF
- Artificial Reefs Construction (FCO) - \$600,000 TF

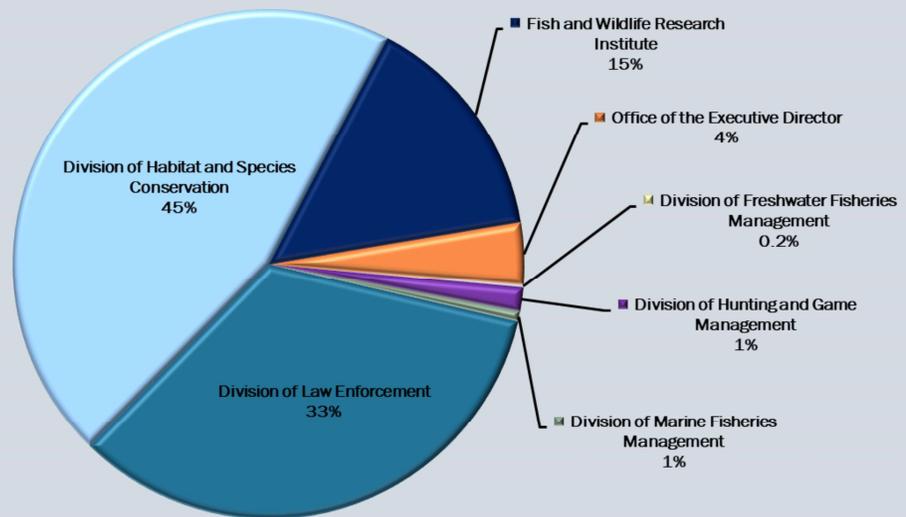


**Federal Disaster Declaration** – Hurricane Irma resulted in substantial damage to coral reef systems, adversely affected mangrove and seagrass communities on both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts including the Florida Keys and Florida Bay; dispersed marine and land debris from destroyed fishing traps and other storm-related waste; degraded biotic sponge community habitat; cut power to wholesale and seafood retail facilities; damaged saltwater wholesale and retail facilities and equipment; and created the worst displaced derelict vessel disaster the state has experienced in recent times. This issue will provide for operating costs necessary to help with the effort to recover, repair, and sustain the health of Florida's marine fisheries and associated economies.

**Boating Access and Improvement** – This issue will provide funding for the extensive maintenance and repair of boat ramps operated and maintained by the FWC, construction of new boat ramps, assistance with the increased responsibility for oversight of waterway markers in Florida, and joint boat access partners on public lands, such as the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Water Management Districts, and other governmental entities. Additionally, this issue will provide grant funding to counties, municipalities, and other governmental agencies from funds transferred from the Fuel Tax Collection Trust Fund and from county vessel registration fees. Projects that meet the criteria under the Florida Boating Improvement Program include recreational channel marking, public launching facilities, derelict vessel removal, and other boating related activities that enhance boating access for recreational boaters. Most projects take more than one year to complete due to permit requirements, environmental issues, and other delays, therefore fixed capital outlay funding will allow for these projects to be completed without a delay in operations.

**Artificial Reefs** - Assessment or monitoring of artificial reefs is essential to understanding the effectiveness of reef design, material, location and use patterns in achieving the objectives for which the reefs were built. Assessment data will guide future reef development efforts. This capability more effectively brings the Division into compliance with its charge to wisely manage and protect marine reef fish resources associated with artificial reefs, while causing no harm to the marine environment.

## FY 2020/21 Schedule VIII B-2: Potential Reductions \$27,961,083



In your packets commissioners, is a complete list of the agency's issues. Those will not be covered in detail in this presentation, but I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



# Agency Legislative Package

October 3, 2019

Commission Meeting



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Report Date: September 8, 2019

Author: Jessica Crawford

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([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Florida's\\_Historic\\_Capitol\\_and\\_Florida\\_State\\_Capitol\\_2.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Florida's_Historic_Capitol_and_Florida_State_Capitol_2.JPG)), „Florida's Historic Capitol and Florida State Capitol 2". Soft Edges by FWC, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/legalcode>

# Public Records Exemption – Protection of Wildlife Species Location Information for Conservation

- Access to Florida’s public records are rights protected under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and Article 1, Section 24, of the Constitution.
- The Legislature may provide exemptions of records by general law.
- Current public records laws require Florida state agencies to disclose information and research findings, including data shared with FWC from external partners.



Current public records laws require Florida state agencies to disclose information and research findings, including data shared with FWC from external partners. Research data includes, but are not limited to, population trends, migratory patterns, reproductive ecology, distribution data, den locations, satellite telemetry, point localities for artificial reefs, mark-recapture data, etc. Collaboration with NGO’s, universities, other management agencies, and private consultants is extremely beneficial when making management decisions for species that FWC is tasked with conserving.

Some individuals use information from FWC resources (i.e. websites, annual reports, closed investigations, etc.) for their own benefit, through nefarious activity. This data is currently being used by some individuals who have little to no concern for the conservation of the state’s precious resources and, instead, choose to benefit by over-collecting, collecting and selling on the black market, and otherwise harassing wildlife. The use of FWC-gathered data in this manner undermines the agency’s ability to properly manage the resource for long-term benefit.

For collaborative conservation efforts, it remains important to make data available to individuals and entities who are not committing crimes with it. Some oversight is needed to ensure that FWC is not providing information to the public that ultimately undermines efforts to conserve wildlife. The purpose of this legislative change is to ensure that wildlife location data be available for legitimate conservation, education, and outreach purposes.

# Public Records Exemption – Protection of Wildlife Species Location Information for Conservation

- This proposal would exempt location information for species that are State-Listed Threatened, Federally-Listed Endangered and Federally-Listed Threatened from public records.
- Reasons for exemption:
  - Hinder management
  - Detrimental effect on the species



The State of Florida has a responsibility to protect species that are listed as endangered or threatened for their survival as well as for future generations to enjoy. This proposal is specific to exempting location information for species that are State-Listed Threatened, Federally-Listed Endangered and Federally-Listed Threatened.

Conservationists, researchers, and scientists will now have confidence data shared with FWC will be utilized appropriately and not used to exploit the resource through public records. Collaboration, with FWC, would fill data gaps that the agency is currently aware of and allow better management decisions to be made as well as have access to a data repository for years to come. This data repository would become a compilation of multiple reliable sources both internal and external of FWC. This exemption will also hinder illegitimate parties from undermining FWC's management efforts all while protecting valued legitimate stakeholders as well as state resources.

## Legislative and Budget Report Staff Recommendation:

Approve New Budget  
Issues and  
Schedule VIII B Reduction  
Issues

Approve the Agency  
Legislative Package

Authorize the Executive Director in  
consultation with the Chairman or  
the Commission Budget Liaison to  
make adjustments to these issues  
as needed through the 2020  
Legislative Session



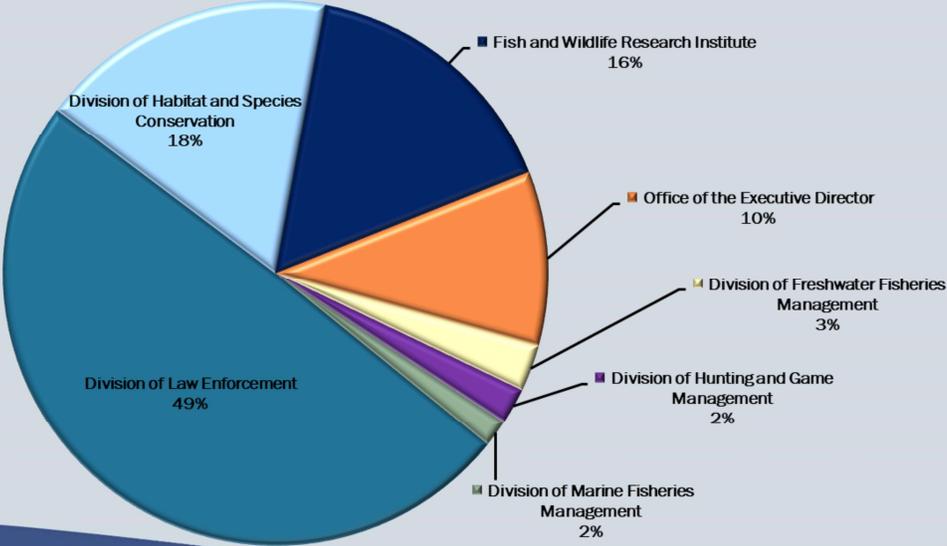
Staff recommends adoption of the budget issues and reductions as presented, with an authorization for the Executive Director to consult with the Chairman or the Commission Budget Liaison as needed, to make any adjustments that may be necessary as we continue to move through the process.

Staff recommends that the proposal be approved for submission to the Legislature for the 2020 Session. In addition, staff requests that the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chairman, be allowed to make adjustments on this proposal and advise staff on other legislation, as needed, through the 2020 Session.

Slides following this slide are back-up slides.



**Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
FY 2019/20 FTE by Division  
2,112.50**



The largest division in terms of positions is the Division of Law Enforcement with 1,043 FTE.