January 24, 2020

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Legislative Affairs Office
2020 Session Report – Week 2

Overview

Week 2 of the 2020 Session is officially in the books!

FWC's legislative package in the House is found in HB 549 (Pub. Rec./Site-specific Location Information of Endangered and Threatened Species), sponsored by Representative Overdorf; and in the Senate in SB 812 (Public Records/ Endangered and Threatened Species), sponsored by Senator Hutson.

HB 549

- filed on November 6th
- referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee, Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee, and State Affairs Committee on November 15th
- No action week 2

SB 812

- filed on November 6th
- referred to Environment and Natural Resources, Governmental Oversight and Accountability, and Rules on November 21st
- on January 6th, it was placed on the agenda for Environment and Natural Resources to be heard on January 13th
- on January 13th, it was heard in Environment and Natural Resources and passed unanimously as a committee substitute (CS)
- it is now in Governmental Oversight and Accountability
- No action week 2

In addition to agency legislation, FWC works continuously with the Legislature on other bills that affect fish and wildlife. FWC staff regularly meet with bill sponsors, committees, and their staffs pertaining to such legislation. Following the FWC Legislative Package section, there is a section entitled Other Bills of Interest to FWC that lists the bills the agency is monitoring, describing each bill's impact primarily as it relates to fish and wildlife, and the actions that have occurred with each bill. As Session moves forward, more bills may be added to this list

This report will be updated on a weekly basis to indicate the current status of the bills and if there are any changes as they move through committees.

Staff is also working with the Legislature on the development of FWC's budget for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year. The accompanying budget report and worksheet is written by FWC's Chief Financial Officer, Charlotte Jerrett.

The weekly substantive and budget reports can be found on FWC's Legislative Affairs website.

FWC Legislative Package

HB 549 by Representative Overdorf and SB 812 by Senator Hutson: These bills would exempt from public record the specific site location information of state threatened species, federally endangered species, and federally threatened species.

Other Bills of Interest to FWC

LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	**Description**	**Action Summary**
CS HB 327 by Representative Smith **SB 688** by Senator Wright	**Illegal Taking, Possession, and Sale of Bears** These similar bills increase the penalties for taking a bear or possessing a freshly killed bear during the closed season. If a person takes a bear or possesses a freshly killed bear during the closed season, he/she commits a Level 3 violation (first degree misdemeanor) and forfeits any FWC license or permit issued for three years after the date of the violation. If a person commits a subsequent offense, he/she is permanently ineligible for issuance of any FWC license or permit. The bill also specifies that a person who possesses for sale or sells a bear taken during the closed season commits a Level Four violation (third degree felony).	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. Prior to Session convening, HB 327 was introduced and heard in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee on November 13th, during Committee Week Five. It was voted favorable with a CS. A CS was filed on November 14th. **Week 1:** HB 327 was heard in Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee on January 15th. It was voted favorable and is now in State Affairs. No action for SB 688. **Week 2:** HB 327 was heard in State Affairs on January 23rd. it was voted favorable and has been placed on the calendar, on second reading. No action for SB 688.
HB 417 by Representative Duggan **CS SB 606** by Senator Bean	**Anchoring Limitation Areas** These similar bills designate the Ortega and Cedar Rivers in Duval County as anchoring limitation areas. Anchoring limitation areas restrict the anchoring of a vessel in such areas at night with certain exceptions. The amendment that passed to SB 606 (which made it a CS) added Kings Bay within the municipal boundaries of Crystal River in Citrus County to the list of designated anchoring limitation areas.	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. **Week 1:** No action for HB 417. CS SB 606 was introduced and heard in Environment and Natural Resources on January 13th. It was voted favorable with a CS. A CS was filed January 14th and it is now in Community Affairs.

LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	**Description**	**Action Summary**
		Week 2: No action.
SB 520 by Senator Gruters **HB 1433 by Representative Yarborough**	**Drones** These identical bills expand the authorized uses of drones by law enforcement agencies and other specified entities for specified purposes (specific to state agencies or political subdivisions, it authorizes the use of a drone for vegetation or wildlife management on publicly owned land or water as well as the assessment of damage due to a flood, wildfire or natural disaster).	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. **Week 1:** SB 520 was introduced and heard in Criminal Justice on November 12th. It was voted favorable and is now in Infrastructure and Security. No action for HB 1433. **Week 2:** HB 1433 is scheduled to be heard in Criminal Justice Subcommittee on January 28th. No action for SB 520.
HB 659 by Representative Fischer **SB 822 by Senator Albritton**	**Drones** These identical bills create an exception from the prohibition against law enforcement agencies using drones to gather information. The bills authorize the use of drones by a non-law enforcement employee of FWC or of the Florida Forest Service for the purpose of managing and eradicating invasive exotic plants or animals on public lands.	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. **Week 1:** HB 659 was introduced and heard in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee on January 15th. It was voted favorable and is now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee. SB 822 was introduced and heard in Environment and Natural Resources on January 13th. It was voted favorable and is now in Governmental Oversight and Accountability. **Week 2:** HB 659 is scheduled to be heard in Agriculture & Natural Resources

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		Appropriations Subcommittee on January 28th. SB 822 is scheduled to be heard in Governmental Oversight and Accountability on January 27th.
HB 933 by Representative Watson, C. **SB 1176** by Senator Perry	**Captive-bred Animal Culture** These identical bills require DACS to submit a list of research and development projects and a captive-bred animal culture plan to the Governor and Legislature. It requires a certificate of registration for captive-bred animal producers and creates a Captive-bred Animal Culture Advisory Council. It also provides prohibited acts and penalties.	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. **Week 1:** No action. **Week 2:** No action.
HB 1177 by Representative Thompson **SB 1744** by Senator Torres, Jr.	**Personal Watercraft** These identical bills provide certain requirements for persons operating, riding on, and being towed behind watercraft (must wear a wet suit bottom, must wear a helmet if under the age of 18, etc.). It increases the age requirement for operation of watercraft. It prohibits the owner of, or person having charge of or control over, a watercraft from authorizing or knowingly permitting operation by certain persons. It provides specified liability insurance coverage, instruction, and information requirements for companies that provide watercraft. It provides conditions prohibiting operation of certain watercraft and requires persons operating watercraft to have specified documentation on board.	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. **Week 1:** No action. **Week 2:** No action.
HB 1329 by Representative Plasencia **SB 826** by Senator Mayfield	**Marina Evacuations** These identical bills prohibit vessels under 500 gross tons from remaining in certain marinas (located in a deep-water seaport) that have been deemed not suitable for refuge during a hurricane or after	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. **Week 1:** No action.

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Bill	**Description**	**Action Summary**
	issuance of a hurricane watch or warning for waters of the marina. It provides for civil penalties.	**Week 2:** No action.
SB 1378 by Senator Rouson **HB 1407** by Representative Webb	**Vessels** These identical bills specify the operation of a vessel is at slow speed, minimum wake only if it is fully off plane and completely settled into the water. A person may not operate a vessel faster than slow speed, minimum wake upon approaching within 300 feet of any emergency vessel with its emergency lights activated; or any construction vessel or barge when it is actively engaged in operations and displaying an orange flag from the tallest portion of the vessel or barge. The bills prohibit the anchoring or mooring of a vessel to, or within 20 feet of, a mangrove; or to upland vegetation upon, or within 20 feet of, public lands, under certain conditions. The bills increase the civil penalties relating to certain at-risk vessels and prohibited anchoring or mooring.	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. **Week 1:** No action. **Week 2:** No action.
SB 1786 by Senator Stewart	**Vessel Safety** This bill prohibits a vessel operator from endangering the life, limb, or property of another person by allowing passengers to ride on the bow of the vessel. It provides that careless operation includes causing wake to law enforcement vessels under certain circumstances.	It has three committees of reference in the Senate. **Week 1:** No action. **Week 2:** No action.
SB 1788 by Senator Stewart	**Boating-restricted Areas** This bill authorizes municipalities and counties to establish certain boating-restricted areas by ordinance for areas within 200 feet of any shoreline.	It has three committees of reference in the Senate. **Week 1:** No action. **Week 2:** No action.

LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	**Description**	**Action Summary**
SB 7032 by Criminal Justice **HB 7015 by Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee**	**OGSR/ Body Camera Recordings obtained by Law Enforcement Officers** These identical bills amend a provision which provides an exemption from public records requirements for body camera recordings obtained by law enforcement officers under certain circumstances. It removes the scheduled repeal of the exemption.	It has two committees of reference in both the House and Senate. **Week 1:** SB 7032 was introduced and heard in Criminal Justice on January 14th. It was submitted as a committee bill and voted favorable. Committee bill text was filed on January 15th and it was referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability and Rules. HB 7015 is scheduled to be introduced and heard in the Criminal Justice Subcommittee on January 21st. **Week 2:** SB 7032 is scheduled to be heard in Governmental Oversight and Accountability on January 27th. HB 7015 was heard in Criminal Justice Subcommittee on January 21st. It was voted favorable and is now in State Affairs.
HB 777 by Representative Gregory **SB 1310** by Senator Mayfield **SB 1414** by Senator Mayfield	**Fish and Wildlife Activities** These three compare bills would prohibit certain harassment of hunters, trappers, and fishers in or on any public lands, public waters or fish management areas. It would authorize FWC to designate two additional free fishing days (from four to six). It would prohibit the keeping, possessing, importing, selling, bartering, trading, or breeding of reptiles of concern, conditional reptiles, or prohibited reptiles, except for educational or research purposes. It would create a hunting, fishing, and camping supplies sales tax holiday and would provide for the time period and administration of the program.	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. **Week 1:** HB 777 was discussed during the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference. No votes were taken. SB 1310 is scheduled to be heard on January 21st in Commerce and Tourism. No action for SB 1414.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Bill	Description	Action Summary
		Week 2: No action for HB 777. SB 1310 was not considered by Commerce and Tourism. No action for SB 1414.

Habitat & Species Conservation

Bill	Description	Action Summary
SB 906 by Senator Farmer, Jr. **HB 1415** by Representative Daley	**Prohibited Reptiles** These identical bills prohibit a person, party, firm, association, or corporation from keeping, possessing, importing, selling, bartering, trading, or breeding for personal use or sale for personal use green iguanas or black and white tegus.	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. **Week 1:** SB 906 is scheduled to be heard in Environment and Natural Resources on January 21st. No action for HB 1415. **Week 2:** SB 906 was heard in Environment and Natural Resources on January 21st. It is now in Community Affairs. No action for HB 1415.
HB 1067 by Representative Hattersley **SB 1360** by Senator Rodriguez, J.	**Florida Endangered and Threatened Species Act** These similar bills direct FWC and DACS to protect certain declassified species. It prohibits FWC and DACS from considering certain costs when designating species as endangered or threatened.	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. **Week 1:** No action. **Week 2:** No action.

Marine Fisheries Management

Bill	Description	Action Summary
HB 401 by Representative Jacobs **SB 680** by Senator Hutson	**Shark Fins** These identical bills prohibit the import, export, and sale of shark fins.	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. Prior to Session convening, HB 401 was introduced and heard in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee on December 11th during Committee Week Six. It was voted favorable and was then sent to Business & Professions Subcommittee. **Week 1:** HB 401 was heard in Business & Professions Subcommittee on January 15th and voted favorable. It is now in State Affairs. No action for SB 680. **Week 2:** No action.

Information Technology

Bill	Description	Action Summary
SB 1870 by Senator Hutson **HB 1391** by Representative Grant, J.	**Technological Development** These identical bills establish Florida Digital Service (FDS) within DMS; transfer specified powers, duties, & functions of department to FDS; require FDS to develop enterprise architecture for all state departments & agencies; create Financial Technology Sandbox Program; provide waivers of statutory & rule requirements to persons who want to make innovative financial products or services available to consumers; provide application requirements; require posting of consumer protection bonds; provide operation of	It has three committees of reference in both the House and Senate. **Week 1:** No action. **Week 2:** No action.

Information Technology		
Bill	**Description**	**Action Summary**
	program; provide that certain persons are not immune from civil damages & are subject to criminal & consumer protection laws.	