

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Jessica Crawford, Legislative Affairs Director
Charlotte Jerrett, Chief Financial Officer
Date: February 20, 2020
Subject: State Legislative and Budget Update

Purpose:

Provide an overview on the 2020 Legislative Session including substantive legislation of interest and the FY 2020/21 Legislative Budget Request.

Why:

To ensure Commissioners are apprised of priority substantive law changes and new funding opportunities during the annual state legislative process.

Top Points:

- 1) The 2020 Legislative Session began on January 14 and is scheduled to end on March 13.
- 2) Staff has been meeting with legislative members and their staff to educate them on state fish and wildlife policy and resource priorities and monitoring all legislation and budget proposals with a potential impact to the agency.
- 3) FWC's legislative package is to obtain approval of an exemption from public records for specific site location information on state threatened, federally endangered, and federally threatened species.
- 4) One budget priority of note is obtaining \$3 million for development of the State Reef Fish Survey.

Affected Parties:

FWC, recreational and commercial fisherman, hunters, and other wildlife and conservation stakeholders.

Summary:

The 2020 Legislative Session began on January 14, 2020 and is scheduled to end on March 13, 2020. Staff are monitoring and advancing both substantive and budgetary legislation and will provide an update on those efforts.

The agency substantive priorities include the exemption from public record the specific site location information of state threatened species, federally endangered species, and federally threatened species. 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. The agency budget priorities include \$3 million for development of the State Reef Fish Survey. As of the date of this memo, all agency legislative and budget issues were moving forward through the legislative process.

Staff Recommendation:

This presentation is for informational purposes and any direction the Commission may want to provide staff for the remainder of Session.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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