

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Legislative Affairs Office 2020 Session Report – Week 3

Overview

Week 3 of the 2020 Session is officially in the books - 42 days remaining!

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
- **HB 549 is scheduled to be heard in the Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee on February 4th**

CS 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
- **CS SB 812 is scheduled to be heard in the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee on February 3rd**



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 CS 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
<p>CS HB 327 by Representative Smith SB 688 by Senator Wright</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>Week 1: CS 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.</p> <p>Week 2: CS 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.</p> <p>Week 3: CS HB 327 was placed on the special-order calendar for February 5th to be heard by the full House. SB 688 is on the agenda to be heard in Environment and Natural Resources on February 3rd.</p>
<p>HB 417 by Representative Duggan CS SB 606 by Senator Bean</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Week 2: No action.</p> <p>Week 3: No action.</p>



LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
<p>SB 520 by Senator Gruters HB 1433 by Representative Yarborough</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Week 2: HB 1433 is scheduled to be heard in Criminal Justice Subcommittee on January 28th. No action for SB 520.</p> <p>Week 3: No action for SB 520. HB 1433 was heard in the Criminal Justice Subcommittee on January 28th. It was voted favorable and is now in State Affairs.</p>
<p>CS HB 659 by Representative Fischer CS SB 822 by Senator Albritton</p>	<p>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 and suppressing and mitigating wildfire threats.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Week 2: HB 659 is scheduled to be heard in Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee on January 28th. SB 822 is scheduled to be heard in</p>



LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
		<p>Governmental Oversight and Accountability on January 27th.</p> <p>Week 3: HB 659 was heard in the Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee on January 28th. A CS was introduced and voted favorable. It is now in State Affairs. SB 822 was heard in the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee on January 27th. A CS was introduced and voted favorable. It is now in Rules.</p>
<p>HB 933 by Representative Watson, C. SB 1176 by Senator Perry</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Week 1: No action. Week 2: No action. Week 3: No action.</p>
<p>HB 1177 by Representative Thompson SB 1744 by Senator Torres, Jr.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Week 1: No action. Week 2: No action. Week 3: No action.</p>



LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
	provide watercraft. It provides conditions prohibiting operation of certain watercraft and requires persons operating watercraft to have specified documentation on board.	
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 issuance of a hurricane watch or warning for waters of the marina. It provides for civil penalties.	Week 1: No action. Week 2: No action. Week 3: No action for HB 1329. SB 826 is scheduled to be heard in the Environment and Natural Resources Committee on February 3 rd .
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.	Week 1: No action. Week 2: No action. Week 3: 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	Week 1: No action. Week 2: No action. Week 3: No action.



LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
	causing wake to law enforcement vessels under certain circumstances.	
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.	Week 1: No action. Week 2: No action. Week 3: No action.
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.	Week 1: SB 7032 was introduced and heard in Criminal Justice on January 14 th . It was submitted as a committee bill and voted favorable. Committee bill text was filed on January 15 th 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 21 st . Week 2: SB 7032 is scheduled to be heard in Governmental Oversight and Accountability on January 27 th . HB 7015 was heard in Criminal Justice Subcommittee on January 21 st . It was voted favorable and is now in State Affairs. Week 3: SB 7032 was heard in the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee on January 27 th and voted favorable. It is now in Rules. HB 7015 was heard in State Affairs on January 30 th . It was



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Bill	Description	Action Summary
		voted favorable and has been placed on the calendar, on second reading.
<p>HB 777 by Representative Gregory SB 1310 by Senator Mayfield SB 1414 by Senator Mayfield</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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. Week 2: No action for HB 777. SB 1310 was not considered by Commerce and Tourism. No action for SB 1414. Week 3: No action for HB 777. No action for SB 1310. SB 1414 is scheduled to be heard in the Environment and Natural Resources Committee on February 3rd.</p>

Habitat & Species Conservation

Bill	Description	Action Summary
<p>SB 906 by Senator Farmer, Jr. HB 1415 by Representative Daley</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Week 1: SB 906 is scheduled to be heard in Environment and Natural Resources on January 21st. No action for HB 1415.</p>



Habitat & Species Conservation

Bill	Description	Action Summary
		<p>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.</p> <p>Week 3: No action.</p>
<p>HB 1067 by Representative Hattersley SB 1360 by Senator Rodriguez, J.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Week 1: No action.</p> <p>Week 2: No action.</p> <p>Week 3: No action.</p>

Marine Fisheries Management

Bill	Description	Action Summary
		<p>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.</p> <p>Week 2: No action.</p> <p>Week 3: No action for HB 401. SB 680 is scheduled to be heard in the Environment and Natural Resources Committee on February 3rd.</p>
<p>HB 401 by Representative Jacobs SB 680 by Senator Hutson</p>	<p>Shark Fins These identical bills prohibit the import, export, and sale of shark fins.</p>	



Information Technology		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
<p>SB 1870 by Senator Hutson HB 1391 by Representative Grant, J.</p>	<p>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 program; provide that certain persons are not immune from civil damages & are subject to criminal & consumer protection laws.</p>	<p>Week 1: No action. Week 2: No action. Week 3: No action for SB 1870. HB 1391 is scheduled to be heard in the Insurance & Banking Subcommittee on February 4th.</p>

