

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners  
**From:** Jessica McCawley, Director, Marine Fisheries Management  
**Date:** February 20, 2020  
**Subject:** Staff Report – Federal Legislation Update

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**Purpose:**

To provide Commissioners with a review and discussion of relevant legislation impacting fish and wildlife that either chamber of the United States Congress has considered in the 116th Congress.

**Why:**

FWC opportunities and funding are directed by the United States Congress, so it is important for FWC to engage in the federal legislative process.

**Top Points:**

- 1) The 116<sup>th</sup> Congress has been active on legislation that would impact fish and wildlife managed by FWC and impact access for sportsmen.
- 2) FWC has been meeting with members of Congress to inform them on how federal legislation will impact management of species and improve or decrease access for Floridians.
- 3) FWC has offered suggestions to improve federal legislation.

**Affected Parties:**

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

**Summary:**

To date in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, FWC has been engaged on 54 different pieces of legislation and meeting with members of Congress and the executive branch to improve access for Florida's sportsmen while maintaining strong conservation management practices. Some of these bills have become federal laws, such as the John D. Dingell, Jr., Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, while others are still under consideration by Congress, such as H.R. 3742 Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Most important, the Office of Management and Budget delivered \$44.6 million for Hurricane Irma fishery disaster assistance in Florida and Congress approved \$150 million in total for Hurricane Michael fishery disaster assistance.

**Staff Recommendation:**

No direction requested at this time; however, input on items is always welcome.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Jessica McCawley, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries Management  
Brian McManus, Legislative Specialist