

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Legislative Affairs Office 2020 Session Report – Week 5

Overview

The fifth week of the 2020 Legislative Session has ended, leaving four weeks to go.

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.

CS HB 549

- filed on November 6th
- referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee, Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee, and State Affairs Committee on November 15th
- HB 549 was heard on February 4th in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee and passed unanimously as a committee substitute (CS)
- The second committee reference (Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee) was removed, and it is now in State Affairs Committee, its final committee of reference

CS CS SB 812

- filed on November 6th
- referred to Environment and Natural Resources, Governmental Oversight and Accountability, and Rules on November 21st
- on January 13th, it was heard in Environment and Natural Resources and passed unanimously as a CS
- CS SB 812 was heard on February 3rd in Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and passed unanimously as a CS
- CS CS SB 812 is now in Senate Rules Committee, its final committee of reference



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 CS SB 688 by Senator Wright</p>	<p>Illegal Taking, Possession, and Sale of Bears These similar bills increase the penalties for illegally 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 CS 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 CS 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. CS SB 688 is on the agenda to be heard in Environment and Natural Resources on February 3rd.</p> <p>Week 4: CS HB 327 was read a second and third time and passed the full House unanimously on February 5th. CS SB 688 was heard in Senate Environment and Natural Resources on February 3rd. A CS was introduced and passed favorably. It is scheduled to be heard in Criminal Justice on February 11th.</p> <p>Week 5: CS HB 327 was received in Senate Messages on February 12th and was referred to Senate Environment and Natural Resources</p>



LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
		Committee, Criminal Justice Committee, and Rules Committee. CS SB 688 was heard in Criminal Justice Committee on February 11 th . A CS was introduced and voted favorable. It is now in Rules Committee.
<p>CS SB 520 by Senator Gruters HB 1433 by Representative Yarborough</p>	<p>Drones These similar 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>Note, the language specific to drone usage for vegetation or wildlife management purposes on publicly owned land or water as well as the assessment of damage due to a flood, wildfire or natural disaster was removed from the Senate bill but remains in the House bill.</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>Week 4: SB 520 is scheduled to be heard in Infrastructure and Security on February 10th. No action for HB 1433.</p> <p>Week 5: SB 520 was heard in Infrastructure and Security on February 10th. A CS was introduced and voted favorable. It is now in the Rules Committee. HB 1433 was heard in the State Affairs Committee on February 13th and passed unanimously. It is scheduled to be</p>



LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
		heard in the Judiciary Committee on February 18 th .
CS HB 659 by Representative Fischer CS 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 and suppressing and mitigating wildfire threats.	<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 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>



LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
		<p>Week 4: No action.</p> <p>Week 5: CS HB 659 was heard in the State Affairs Committee on February 13th. It was voted favorable and was placed on the Calendar, on its second reading. No action for CS SB 822.</p>
<p>CS SB 826 by Senator Mayfield CS CS HB 395 by Representative Andrade</p>	<p>Marina Evacuations/ Transportation These bills prohibit, upon issuance of a hurricane watch that affects the waters of marinas located in a deepwater seaport, vessels under 500 gross tons from remaining in the waters of such marinas that have been deemed not suitable for refuge during a hurricane. It requires that vessel owners promptly remove their vessels from the waterways upon issuance of an evacuation order by the deepwater seaport. If the Coast Guard Captain of the Port sets the port condition to “Yankee” and a vessel owner fails to remove his or her vessel from the waterway, a marina owner, operator, employee, or agent, is required to remove the vessel, if reasonable, from its slip. The marina owner may charge the vessel owner a reasonable fee for the service of removing the vessel. The bills also provide that a marina owner, operator, employee, or agent may not be held liable for any damage incurred to the vessel from a hurricane and is held harmless from removing the vessel from the waterways. Lastly, the bills provide that after a watch has been issued, if an owner or operator has not removed the vessel pursuant to an order from the seaport, the owner or operator may be subject to existing civil penalties.</p>	<p>Week 1: No action.</p> <p>Week 2: No action for HB 1329 and SB 826. CS HB 395 is scheduled to be introduced and heard in Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on January 28th.</p> <p>Week 3: No action for HB 1329. SB 826 is scheduled to be heard in the Environment and Natural Resources Committee on February 3rd. CS HB 395 was introduced and heard in Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on January 28th. A CS was introduced and passed favorable. It is now in Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee.</p> <p>Week 4: No action for HB 1329. CS SB 826 was heard in Environment and Natural Resources on February 3rd. A CS was introduced and passed favorable. It is now in Infrastructure and Security Committee. CS HB 395 is scheduled to be heard in Transportation &</p>



LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
		<p>Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee on February 10th.</p> <p>Week 5: CS SB 826 is scheduled to be heard in the Infrastructure and Security Committee on February 17th. CS HB 395 was heard in the Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee on February 10th. A CS was introduced and voted favorable. It is now in the State Affairs Committee.</p>
<p>CS SB 1378 by Senator Rouson HB 1407 by Representative Webb</p>	<p>Vessels These compare 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.</p>	<p>Week 1: No action.</p> <p>Week 2: No action.</p> <p>Week 3: No action.</p> <p>Week 4: No action for HB 1407. SB 1378 is scheduled to be heard in Environment and Natural Resources on February 10th.</p> <p>Week 5: SB 1378 was heard in the Environment and Natural Resources Committee on February 10th. A CS was introduced and voted favorable. It is now in the Judiciary Committee. No action for HB 1407.</p>
<p>SB 7032 by Criminal Justice</p>	<p>OGSR/ Body Camera Recordings obtained by Law Enforcement Officers</p>	<p>Week 1: SB 7032 was introduced and heard in Criminal Justice on January 14th. It was submitted as a committee bill and voted</p>



LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
<p>HB 7015 by Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Week 3: SB 7032 was heard in the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee on January 27th and voted favorable. It is now in Rules. HB 7015 was heard in State Affairs on January 30th. It was voted favorable and has been placed on the calendar, on second reading.</p> <p>Week 4: No action.</p> <p>Week 5: No action.</p>
<p>HB 777 by Representative Gregory CS CS SB 1414 by Senator Mayfield</p>	<p>Fish and Wildlife Activities These similar 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).</p>	<p>Week 1: HB 777 was discussed during the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference. No votes were taken.</p>



LAW ENFORCEMENT		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
	<p>CS CS SB 1414 adds the green iguana and the tegu lizard to the list of species that cannot be kept or sold for personal use. It also makes the prohibition stricter by changing it from prohibiting these species for being “kept or sold for personal use” to prohibiting anyone from possessing them “except for educational, research, or eradication or control purposes.”</p> <p>HB 777 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>SB 1310 is scheduled to be heard on January 21st in Commerce and Tourism. No action for SB 1414.</p> <p>Week 2: No action for HB 777.</p> <p>SB 1310 was not considered by Commerce and Tourism. No action for SB 1414.</p> <p>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> <p>Week 4: No action for SB 1310. No action for HB 777. CS SB 1414 was heard in Environment and Natural Resources on February 3rd. A CS was introduced and passed favorable. It is scheduled to be heard in Agriculture on February 11th.</p> <p>Week 5: No action for HB 777. CS SB 1414 was heard in the Senate Agriculture Committee on February 11th. A CS was introduced and voted favorable. It is now in Rules Committee.</p>



Habitat & Species Conservation		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
<p>CS SB 906 by Senator Farmer, Jr. HB 1415 by Representative Daley</p>	<p>Prohibited Reptiles CS SB 906 adds the green iguana and the black and white tegu to the list of species that may not be kept, possessed, imported into the state, sold, bartered, traded, or bred in this state. The bill does provide an exception, which allows persons and entities to legally possess these species for the purpose of out-of-state sale of these species, upon first being issued a permit by FWC. The bill directs FWC to establish by rule methods and processes for the capture, purchase, inventory, and sale of all green iguanas and 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> <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>Week 4: No action for HB 1415. SB 906 is scheduled to be heard in Community Affairs on February 10th.</p> <p>Week 5: No action for HB 1415. SB 906 was heard in the Community Affairs Committee on February 10th. A CS was introduced and voted favorable.</p>
<p>HB 1067 by Representative Hattersley CS SB 1360 by Senator Rodriguez, J.</p>	<p>Florida Endangered and Threatened Species Act These identical 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> <p>Week 4: No action for HB 1067. SB 1360 is scheduled to be heard in Environment and Natural Resources on February 10th.</p> <p>Week 5: No action for HB 1067. SB 1360 was heard in Environment and Natural Resources</p>



Habitat & Species Conservation

Bill	Description	Action Summary
		<p>Committee on February 10th. A CS was introduced and voted favorable. CS SB 1360 is scheduled to be heard in Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government on February 18th.</p>

Marine Fisheries Management

Bill	Description	Action Summary
<p>CS HB 401 by Representative Jacobs CS SB 680 by Senator Hutson</p>	<p>Shark Fins CS HB 401 prohibits the import, export, and sale of shark fins except for commercial fishermen who hold a valid federal shark fishing permit on January 1, 2020 or to seafood dealers who harvest and possess sharks, shark fins, and associated shark products that are legally landed, handled, processed, and transported. This bill sets a sunset on this practice for January 1, 2025.</p> <p>CS SB 680 prohibits the importing and exporting of shark fins to and from Florida.</p>	<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>Week 4: No action for HB 401. CS SB 680 was introduced and heard in Environment and Natural Resources on February 3rd. A CS was introduced and voted favorable. It is now in Commerce and Tourism.</p> <p>Week 5: HB 401 was heard in State Affairs on February 13th. A CS was introduced and voted</p>



Marine Fisheries Management		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
		favorable. CS SB 680 is scheduled to be heard in Commerce and Tourism on February 18 th .
SB 1042 by Senator Albritton CS HB 1061 by Representative Massullo, Jr.	Aquatic Preserves These compare bills create the Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve and specifies that the preserve consists of the state-owned submerged lands continuous with the southern boundary of the Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve and the northern boundary of the Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve. The bills also describe the boundaries of the preserve, outlines the authority of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund in respect to the preserve, requires the board to adopt rules, and prohibits the establishment and management of the preserve from infringing upon the riparian rights of upland property owners adjacent to or within the preserve.	<p>Week 1: SB 1042 is scheduled to be introduced and heard in Environment and Natural Resources on January 21st. No action for HB 1061.</p> <p>Week 2: SB 1062 was heard in Environment and Natural Resources on January 21st. It was voted favorable and is now in Government Oversight and Accountability. No action for HB 1061.</p> <p>Week 3: SB 1042 is scheduled to be heard in Governmental Oversight and Accountability on February 3rd. HB 1061 is scheduled to be introduced and heard in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee on February 4th.</p> <p>Week 4: SB 1042 was heard in Governmental Oversight and Accountability on February 3rd. It was voted favorable and is now in Rules. HB 1061 was introduced and heard in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee on February 4th. It is scheduled to be heard in Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee on February 11th.</p>



Marine Fisheries Management		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
		<p>Week 5: No action for SB 1042. HB 1061 was heard in Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee on February 11th. A CS was introduced and voted favorable. It is now in State Affairs.</p>

Information Technology		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
<p>CS SB 1870 by Senator Hutson CS CS HB 1391 by Representative Grant, J.</p>	<p>Technological Development These compare 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. Week 4: SB 1870 is scheduled to be heard in Innovation, Industry, and Technology on February 10th. CS HB 1391 was heard in Insurance & Banking Subcommittee on February 4th. A CS was introduced and voted favorable. It is scheduled to be heard in Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee on February 11th.</p>



Information Technology		
Bill	Description	Action Summary
		<p>Week 5: SB 1870 was heard in Innovation, Industry, and Technology on February 10th. A CS was introduced and voted favorable. It is now in Banking and Insurance Committee. CS HB 1391 was heard in Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee on February 11th. A CS was introduced and voted favorable. It is now in State Affairs.</p>
<p>SB 800 by Senator Harrell HB 1171 by Representative Duran</p>	<p>Division of State Technology These identical bills establish Data Innovation Program through the division; require DMS to administer program; specify requirements for division regarding data governance across state agencies; require division to develop & conduct data interoperability pilot programs with AHCA, DOH, & DCF; specify requirements for pilot programs.</p>	<p>Week 1: No action for SB 800.</p> <p>Week 2: No action for SB 800.</p> <p>Week 3: No action for SB 800. HB 1171 is scheduled to be heard in Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee on February 4th.</p> <p>Week 4: No action for SB 800. HB 1171 was heard in Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee and voted favorable. It is now in Appropriations Committee.</p> <p>Week 5: SB 800 is scheduled to be heard in Governmental Oversight and Accountability on February 17th. No action for HB 1171.</p>

