

Procedure for enrolling private lands into all observed nests egg collection

Starting with the 2020 alligator egg collection season, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will allow the collection of all observed nests under Rule 68A-25.032. Applicants must provide the FWC Alligator Management Program (AMP) with a notice, either when submitting the completed annual property application or by email after the application has been received, of the applicant's desire for the property to be issued an all observed nests egg collection permit for the property to qualify, the following items must be in FWC possession:

- Three comparable alligator nest surveys in the last five years (including the current year) where the nest surveys were conducted by a Certified Wildlife Biologist or an FWC-approved observer. A comparable survey means the area surveyed, vehicle/aircraft type used, and amount of area surveyed stays essentially the same from year to year. For each of the three surveys, more than 10 nests must have been observed for the survey.
- The most recent three qualifying surveys in FWC possession will be used to establish the baseline for the property by which the sustainability of all observed nests collections will be monitored. The baseline would be the average number of total observed nests from the three qualifying surveys. The property's baseline will only be recalculated when significant changes to the property that would impact alligator nesting are documented and assessed.
- If a current year nest survey is more than 20% below the established nest baseline, then the following year the nest collection on that property will be limited to 50%.
- The property can be opted out of all observed nests collections at any time but can only return to all observed nest collections when a comparable nest survey documents a total number of nests above the 20% reduction threshold.

As a requirement of approving the property for all observed nests collection, the following items must be provided to FWC AMP by September 15:

- GPS points for each observed nest and identify which nests were collected.
- Number of total eggs per nest, total retained and total discarded.
- Number of banded eggs per nest.
- Number of unbanded eggs per nest.
- The nest survey route.

Important Note: To ensure minimal impacts to desired egg collection schedules, please ensure all of the needed requests and surveys are provided at least two weeks before the desired collection date to allow adequate time for review of the surveys and establishment of the baseline for the property.