

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners  
**From:** Kipp Frohlich, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation  
**Date:** July 22, 2020  
**Subject:** Draft Rule – Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List

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**Purpose:** Add the Gulf of Mexico Bryde’s whale as Federally Endangered to the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List in 68A-27.003, F.A.C.

**Why:** As species are added or removed from the federal Endangered and Threatened Species list, the state rule is updated to maintain consistency.

**Top Points:**

- 1) The Gulf of Mexico Bryde’s whale was federally listed as Endangered in 2019.
- 2) It is found off of the Florida panhandle in federal waters.
- 3) Rule 68A-27.003(1), F.A.C. identifies all Florida species found to be threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, without a separate state review.
- 4) Adding the Gulf of Mexico Bryde’s whale to Florida’s imperiled species list will maintain federal consistency.

**Affected Parties:** none anticipated.

**Summary:**

The Bryde’s whale (*Balaenoptera edeni*) Gulf of Mexico subspecies was federally listed as Endangered in 2019. This proposed rule change will update the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List in 68A-27.003 to reflect the federal change. The proposed rule change is for the purpose of maintaining consistency among state and federal lists of protected species.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Approval to publish revisions to Rule 68A-27.003(1), F.A.C., and file for adoption without further hearing, unless requested.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:** Brie Ochoa, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation