

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Eric Sutton, Director
Date: October 7, 2020
Subject: Sport Fishing and Boating Industry Roundtable Discussion

Purpose: Provide an opportunity for FWC Commissioners and industry partners to engage in topics related to the challenges and opportunities for collaboration in outdoor recreation and conservation.

Why: These industries are a critical partner base that is important to stay connected with, learn from, and work with for conservation.

Top Points:

- 1) 10 industry leaders will meet with FWC Commissioners to discuss current dynamics and issues affecting outdoor recreation in Florida.
- 2) Sport Fishing, boating and related industries support more than 210,000 jobs and bring more than \$20 billion in economic impact annually to Florida.
- 3) These industries also generate about \$100 million in conservation funding via excise taxes on outdoor equipment and motor fuel.
- 4) FWC enjoys excellent working relationships with these industries and is recognized as a premier fish and wildlife agency nationally.

Affected Parties: Current and future fishing and boating public, and fishing and boating industry partners.

Summary: Fishing and boating is Florida's business. Over 75 fishing manufacturers and 93 boating/boating related manufacturers of all sizes call Florida home. In 2019, the revenue received into the federal Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund was about \$370 million. From this total, Florida received about \$13 million and distributed these funds between FWC's boating, freshwater, and saltwater programs. These funds support management and research projects, boating access, stocking, and aquatic education programs statewide. Though partnering with industry is not a new concept, it is more important than ever, as we've seen a significant increase in new customers from license sales and boat sales. FWC and industry need to continue to find innovative ways to expand participation in fishing, to communicate with a broader "public", and ensure that we are meeting the needs of the angling and boating community. By strengthening the relationship that already exists between FWC and industry, we can make sure we are successful in tackling contemporary challenges.

Panel Members:

- Dave Chanda, Recr. Boating & Fishing Found.
- Patrick J. Healey, Viking Yacht Company
- Glenn Hughes, American Sportfishing Assoc.
- Paul Kabalin, Engel Coolers
- Johnny Morris, Bass Pro Shops
- Joe Neber, Contender Boats
- Val Osinski, Gambler Lures
- Connie Parker, Fish & Wildlife Found. of Florida
- Kevin Senecal, Holiday Diver, Inc.
- Carlos Vidueira, Rybovich Superyacht Marina

Staff Recommendation: Discussion may generate action items

Staff Contact and/or Presenter: Stasey Whichel, Acting Division Director of Freshwater Fisheries and Eric Sutton, Executive Director