

## **APRIL 2010—Black Bass Management Plan Update**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) latest efforts to reach out to the angling public and industry to work together to create a *Florida Black Bass Management Plan 2010-2030* is underway. Plenty of opportunity for public input exists. Your opinions now and during the next eight months will help ensure we meet our goal and "Establish Florida as the undisputed "Bass Fishing Capital of the World." (Go to [MyFWC.com/BassPlan\\_survey](http://MyFWC.com/BassPlan_survey) to provide input.)

The *Plan* will be based on good science and strong public input to pull together all the loosely connected pieces required to ensure quality bass fishing into one cohesive management plan.

The most recent developments in this process include:

- A draft outline for the plan was posted on the Internet that summarizes key points and direction (<http://www.MyFWC.com/fishing>). In this initial version, key areas of concern are: habitat enhancement and protection, aquatic plant management, angler effort and harvest, and stocking and genetic conservation.
- FWC biologists gave presentations and talked with anglers at Outdoor Expos at Bass Pro shops, State Fair, and the Tampa Tribune Outdoor Show, as well as planning participation at Florida Sportsman Fishing and Boating shows around the state to inform anglers about this initiative and to encourage their participation in the process by providing input
- FWC biologists are meeting with fishing clubs and attending bass tournaments as possible to explain BBMP and seek input via [www.MyFWC.com/BassPlan\\_survey](http://www.MyFWC.com/BassPlan_survey).
- Creation of an internal agency Black Bass Management Plan Team consisting of FWC staff from Freshwater Fisheries, Habitat and Species Management, Law Enforcement, and the Wildlife Research Institute.
- The Team held a preliminary meeting in February 2010 to begin refining the process to include public input and finalize a Plan by the end of the year.
- Sub-Teams were formed and began identifying Strategies and Actions in four areas (Fish management, Habitat Management, Research/Data Needs, Communications Planning and Special Opportunities).
- A plan was developed by BBMP Team members to ensure effective communications with stakeholders and FWC staff and a [one-page overview](#) was developed highlighting the importance of Florida's black bass fishery and why the new long-term plan is needed.

Please help the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) ensure that your input is included into the new Black Bass Management Plan (2010-2030). A draft outline for the plan has been posted on the Internet for your review that summarizes key points and direction

([www.MyFWC.com/fishing](http://www.MyFWC.com/fishing)). In this initial version, key areas of concern are: habitat enhancement and protection, aquatic plant management, angler effort and harvest, and stocking and genetic conservation.

In order to optimize the use of your fishing license dollars and federal excise taxes (which you pay on fishing tackle and motor boat fuels), we need to hear from everyone that fishes in Florida's fresh waters. Let us know what types of bass fishing opportunities you want and what trade offs you are willing to accept to create those options. Together we will ensure Florida black bass fishing is the best in the world. Go to [MyFWC.com/BassPlan\\_survey](http://MyFWC.com/BassPlan_survey) to provide input.

We will continue to post monthly updates on the progress and developments, so check back often to stay informed on the evolution of the *Florida Black Bass Management Plan 2010-2030*.