Long-Term Black Bass Management Plan

Results from Preliminary Public Surveys
Two preliminary surveys have been conducted by the FWC, since announcement of our intent to work with the public to create an action-based plan to establish Florida as the undisputed “Bass Fishing Capital of World”

- Group 1. 773 responses solicited via news releases, our website, posters, bass club presentations, BassPro Shops Classics, Florida Sportsmen fishing/boating shows, etc.
- Group 2. 4,085 responses solicited via e-mail from Florida licensed freshwater anglers and tournament sponsors.
Purpose of Surveys

- Opportunity to get widespread public input from a variety of interested individuals.
- This is NOT a scientific survey, with a random design and confidence intervals that represents any specific segment of the public.
- It is most similar to a town hall meeting where outspoken individuals show up to express their concerns, but often they do not represent the silent majority.
- This is the first phase of such public input. The Citizen’s TAG and FWC biologists will use this information to create a first draft of a long-term Black Bass Management Plan that will then be further reviewed by the public, through additional surveys.
Description of Respondents

The Point: These are not representative of the general public.
How Important are the following when you go Fishing?

- Relaxation
- Excitement
- Safety
- Catching a large number of fish
- Catching a "big" fish
- Enjoying the scenery and time on the water
- Being with family and friends
- Just having a good time overall

The Point: Fishing experiences other than size and number of fish dictate satisfaction.
With regard to your last fishing trip and keeping in mind your previous response, let us know how satisfied you are with each of the following.

Saltwater Fishing Elsewhere

Freshwater Fishing Elsewhere

Saltwater Fishing in Florida

Freshwater Fishing in Florida

The Point: Based on their definition of fishing satisfaction, we have room to improve.
With regard to your last fishing trip and keeping in mind your previous response, let us know how satisfied you are with each of the following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Extremely Satisfied</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
<th>Dissatisfied</th>
<th>Extremely Dissatisfied</th>
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<td>Saltwater Fishing Elsewhere</td>
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<td>91</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>Freshwater Fishing Elsewhere</td>
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<td>Freshwater Fishing in Florida</td>
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<td>1987</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Point: Based on their definition of fishing satisfaction, we have room to improve.
Critically important issues, based on combined data.

Public impacts from pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, water...
Point source pollution (41%; 47%)
Poor angler ethics (38%; 41%)
Water quality—nutrient loading etc. (38%; 33%)
Development/population growth (37%; 28%)
Lack of funding for conservation (36%; 28%)
Water quantity issues (28%; 29%)
Non-native fish (24%; 26%)
Lack of access (28%; 25%)
Muck deposits (28%; 24%)
Too much chemical control of aquatic plants (31%; 22%)
Aquatic plants out of control—too many plants (20%; 20%)
Boating conflicts (21%; 17%)
Bed fishing (16%; 14%)
Loss of interest in fishing by public (13%; 11%)
Too many tournaments (9%; 8%)
Climate change (7%; 6%)
Too many anglers (7%; 6%)

The Point: A variety of issues affect fishing, many are not directly under FWC control.
The Point: There are many ways FWC can address the issues to improve bass fishing.
The Point: FWC wants and needs public input to supplement science.
The Point: Respondents preferred a quality approach to trophy or harvest oriented fisheries—but all are important.
Conclusion

Surveys provide one tool for obtaining input from the public and allowing them to engage with the agency.

Public meetings provide additional insight.

The Technical Advisory Group plays a vital role in helping interpret the input and examine possible scientific solutions and trade offs.