

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Order No. EO 18-03

**Early opening for the January 2018 St.
Johns River System Blue Crab Trap
Closure**

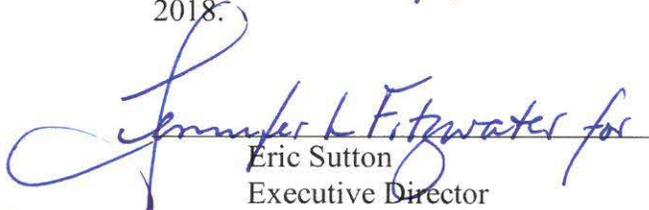
The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, and acting through its Executive Director under Paragraph 22 of the Delegations of Authority, and due to the early completion of efforts to identify and remove lost and abandoned blue crab traps through volunteer trap cleanups and the Commission's trap retrieval program in the St. Johns River system, the closure will open ahead of schedule as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in chapter 68B-45, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), all waters of the St. Johns River and its associated lakes and tributaries, from west of the St. Johns River's intersection with the Intracoastal Canal through and including Lake Hellen Blazes shall reopen for the use of traps for the recreational and commercial harvest of blue crabs beginning at 12:01 a.m. on January 20, 2018.
2. All other rules of the Commission relating to blue crab shall remain in effect.
3. This order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on January 20, 2018, and remain in effect through the end of the closure established in 68B-45.0045(1)(a)1., F.A.C., for 2018.

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution
Law Implemented: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution and subsection 120.81(5), Florida Statutes



Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 19 day of January, 2018.


Eric Sutton
Executive Director

Attest
Agency Clerk

