



2013 Automatic Fee Increases



Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
December 2012

Vessel Registration Fees

(s.328.72(1)(b),F.S.)

- “In 2013 and every 5 years thereafter, vessel registration fees shall be adjusted by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers since the fees were last adjusted, unless otherwise provided by general law.”
- “By February 1 of each year in which an adjustment is scheduled to occur, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives detailing how the increase in vessel registration fees will be used within the agency.”
- “The vessel registration fee increases shall take effect July 1 of each adjustment year.”



By law, vessel registration fees will automatically adjust in 2013 and every five years thereafter.

Recreational License Fees

(s.379.354(1)(b),F.S.)

- “In 2013 and every 5 years thereafter, license and permit fees established in subsections (4) and (5) shall be adjusted by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers since the fees were last adjusted, unless otherwise provided by general law.”
- “By February 1 of each year in which an adjustment is scheduled to occur, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives detailing how the increase in license and permit fees will be used within the agency.”
- “The license and permit fee increases shall take effect July 1 of each adjustment year.”



Recreational license fees will also automatically adjust in 2013 and every five years thereafter.

History

- These laws were created during the 2008 Session in CS/CS/SB 1286.
- The issue was initiated and developed by a Senate committee.
- 2013 is the first time the automatic provision is scheduled to take effect.



These laws were created in 2008 and are scheduled to take effect in 2013 for the first time.

Vessel Registration Price Changes

	<u>Current</u>	<u>New</u>
Class A-1 < 12 feet	\$5.50	\$5.59
Class A-2 12' to < 16'	\$16.25	\$16.53
Class 1 16' to < 26'	\$28.75	\$29.24
Class 2 26' to < 40'	\$78.25	\$79.58
Class 3 40' to < 65'	\$127.75	\$129.92
Class 4 65' to < 110'	\$152.75	\$155.35
Class 5 110' or more	\$189.75	\$192.98
Dealer certificate	\$25.50	\$25.93



These next three slides show what the 2013 price changes will be based on the current law.

Resident License Price Changes

	<u>Current</u>	<u>New</u>
Freshwater fishing	\$15.50	\$17.58
Saltwater fishing	\$15.50	\$17.58
Hunting	\$15.50	\$17.58
Hunt & freshwater fishing	\$31.00	\$35.18
Fresh and saltwater fishing	\$31.00	\$35.18
Hunt, fresh & salt fishing	\$46.50	\$52.76
Sportsman's license	\$79.00	\$89.65
Sportsman age 64 & older	\$12.00	\$17.11
Gold sportsman's license	\$98.50	\$111.77
Military sportsman's	\$18.50	\$22.40
Trapping fur-bearing animals	\$25.00	\$181.55



Non-Resident License Price Changes

	<u>Current</u>	<u>New</u>
3-day freshwater fishing	\$15.50	\$17.58
7-day freshwater fishing	\$28.50	\$32.34
3-day saltwater fishing	\$15.50	\$17.58
7-day saltwater fishing	\$28.50	\$32.34
Annual freshwater fishing	\$45.50	\$51.63
Annual saltwater fishing	\$45.50	\$51.63
10-day hunting	\$45.00	\$51.06
Annual hunting	\$150.00	\$290.06



Fiscal Impact

\$6.7 million new revenue:

- \$2.5 million from Vessel Registration
- \$2.6 million from Saltwater Fishing
- \$979,000 from Freshwater Fishing
- \$633,000 from Hunting



The total estimated revenue increase from these automatic fee adjustments is \$6.7 million.

The law requires us to submit a report by February 1, 2013 detailing how the increased revenues would be used. The following slides list possible content for the report.

\$2.5 million from Vessel Registration

- Provide additional state grant funding to local governments for boating access projects such as launching facilities, channel marking and derelict vessel removal.
- May be used as state match to make federal grant funding more accessible to counties.



Division of Law Enforcement - Florida Boating Improvement Program

\$2.6 million from Saltwater Fishing

- Improve scientific data collection and assessments to support and potentially increase sustainable saltwater fishing opportunities.
- Improve representation in federal fisheries rulemaking, increase stakeholder interactions and implement efficiencies in issuing permits.
- Conduct restoration projects to enhance fisheries and public fishing access opportunities.
- Purchase fuel to increase Law Enforcement patrol.



\$979,000 from Freshwater Fishing

- Support program costs shifted from a potential loss of federal funding
- Upgrade Blackwater Fish Hatchery
- Increase data collection to support fish management programs.
- Increase habitat enhancement projects.



\$633,000 from Hunting

- Improve and expand hunting and shooting opportunities
- Increase youth and family hunting opportunities
- Improve scientific data collection to support and potentially increase sustainable hunting opportunities.



Potential Outcomes

The Legislature could:

- take no action
- codify all the fee increases
- codify some increases and exempt others
- amend statutes to postpone implementation
- remove the automatic increase provisions from law



The Legislature has several choices it could make.

Action

- Staff is seeking Commission direction on the report content as presented and any guidance or sideboards for this issue as it develops.
- Staff recommends the Commission delegate authority to the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chairman, to act timely on this issue as it unfolds this Session.





Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission