

This is a review and discussion of the proposed 2014-2015 Work Plan for items staff will present to the Commission. This Work Plan is for the period beginning July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

This represents only that portion of the agency work that involves direct Commission approval or direction. There are many other actions that are conducted which are very important and a part of our strategic plan.

Report date: Oct 24, 2013

Prepared by David Arnold

Commissioners' Vision

- Policy Focal Areas
 - Habitat Protection
 - Management Tools
 - Future of Fish and Wildlife Conservation
 - Environmental Policy Scanning



Following the October 9th Special Meeting of the Commission to discuss planning for the future, staff categorized the comments and discussion into four major focal areas.

Agency Strategic Plan Themes

- Florida's Fish and Wildlife Populations and Their Habitats
- Interactions with Fish and Wildlife, including Fishing, Hunting, Boating and Wildlife-Viewing Opportunities
- Sharing Responsibility for Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management with an Emphasis on Developing Conservation Values in Our Youth
- Responsive Organization and Quality Operations



Since September, 2012, staff have continued to work on the Strategic Plan that is guiding our work for the next 5 years. Staff teams have developed detailed Objectives that will link to specific measurable tasks that implement the goals and strategies we have set forth. Using the high level guidance that the Commissioner's have been discussing, staff will continue to prioritize objectives that allow us to focus on a few issues of highest importance.

The Strategic Plan has been organized around FOUR major themes. Our conservation message is reflected in the Goals and Objectives of these themes. The first three of these overlap nicely with the Policy Focus Areas that have been identified through the focused discussions of this Commission.

Major Work Plan Items

- Reports on Issues
- Updates on Council Actions or Specific Initiatives
- Proposed Rules/Draft Rules/Final Rules
- Approvals of staff actions on land acquisition or management plans
- Approval of FWC's legislative proposals and Legislative Budget Request



Traditionally, staff bring items to the Commission in the major categories of staff reports, updates, various administrative approvals and items that are a part of the formal rule making process.

The rest of the presentation will link the Agency Goals and Strategies with specific action items.

Florida's Fish and Wildlife Populations and Their Habitats



This theme reflects FWC's commitment to conserving and managing diverse and healthy fish and wildlife populations and the habitats they depend on. Management includes a broad spectrum of activities that include conservation of specific populations so they do not become imperiled and managing certain populations to provide consumptive and non-consumptive benefits. Conservation of fish and wildlife also requires sufficient quantities and quality of habitats in public and private ownership. The development of these management actions are based on using the best available science, including the social sciences and the engagement and input of stakeholders.

Fish and Wildlife and Their Habitats

Goal: Ensure the sustainability of Florida's fish and wildlife populations

- Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines
- Indigo Snake Permitting Guidelines
- Pinellas County Manatee Protection Rule
- Statewide Manatee Management Plan
- Panther Management Update
- Marine Turtle Permitting Process



Strategies: Manage listed species so they no longer meet Florida's listing criteria; Manage species to keep them from meeting Florida's endangered and threatened listing criteria; Provide protection for fish and wildlife species through responsive enforcement efforts.

Gopher Tortoise (GT) Permitting Guidelines – Gopher tortoise permitting guidelines will be updated based, in part, on the revised Gopher Tortoise Management Plan. Changes will be discussed and vetted through the Gopher Tortoise Technical Assistance Group, stakeholders, and partners, and brought to the Commission for approval.

Indigo Snake Permitting Guidelines – staff are working collectively with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and stakeholders to develop guidelines and anticipate bringing them to the Commission in the Fall of 2014.

Pinellas County Manatee Protection Rule – Staff anticipate that current review of Pinellas County would lead to recommendations during the Fall of 2014

Manatee Management Plan Update – Staff plan to update Commissioners on progress as needed

Panther Management Update will be provided as needed.

68E-1 F.A.C. Marine Turtle Permit rule – Staff are considering revisions to this rule to incorporate online permitting application procedures and approvals and changes in procedures in response to stakeholder comments and concerns. A draft rule might come before the Commission in fall of 2014.

Fish and Wildlife and Their Habitats

Goal: Ensure sufficient habitats exist to support healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations.

- Land Acquisition/Exchange
- Updates on FWC Review of Growth Mgmt Plans, Regulated Lands and Water Use
- Critical Wildlife Areas (CWAs)
- Updates on habitat enhancement projects



Strategies: Protect lands and waters critical to sustaining healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations through diverse incentive programs; Manage habitats to sustain healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations;

Land Acquisition/Exchange – There is a possibility for FWC to acquire an addition or in-holding tract to be included in a WMA. The acquisition may be done via purchase, donation or exchange. At times, lands owned by FWC are taken out of conservation lands for other purposes, such as, roads, power lines, pipelines, water lines, waste water lines etc. The entity requiring the take of conservation lands will provide replacement lands. Such actions would normally be presented to the Commission for approval.

FWC Review of Growth Mgmt Plans – Staff may update the Commissioners periodically on significant comments that are prepared in response to interagency coordination requests submitted in these areas

- Commenting on permits >Growth management plans
- Regulated Lands >Water Use

CWAs – At the February 2013 Commission meeting, staff was directed to bring forward agenda items to re-establish, establish, or dis-establish CWAs as needed. Certain changes can be done using the delegations to the Executive Director.

Habitat enhancement is taking place at the Fellsmere Reservoir and Upper St. John's River Restoration Sites

Fish and Wildlife and Their Habitats

Multiple Goals

- Imperiled Species Management Planning
 - Species Action Plans (SAPs)
 - Integrated Conservation Strategies (ICSs)
 - New Species Evaluations
 - Rules
- Progress Reports and Updates on
 - Chipola River Shoal Bass Conservation Project



Goal: Ensure the sustainability of Florida's fish and wildlife populations

Strategy: Manage listed species so they no longer meet Florida's endangered and threatened listing criteria;

Goal: Ensure sufficient habitats exist to support healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations .

Strategy: Manage habitats to sustain healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations

Imperiled Species Management Planning – Staff plan to bring a comprehensive plan with integrated conservation strategies to the Commission in the Fall of 2014 and if necessary rules to implement protection would follow.

The evaluation of any new species follows a process set forth in Florida Administrative Code (FAC) Rule 8A-27.0012 and if any requests are received then Commission briefings would occur in the Fall of 2014. (No nominations were received in 2013)

Chipola River Shoal Bass – Staff continue to work to determine the status of shoal bass (a species of greatest conservation need) which, in Florida, only occurs in the Chipola River.

Interactions with Fish and Wildlife, including Fishing, Hunting, Boating and Wildlife-Viewing Opportunities



Fishing, Hunting, Boating and Wildlife-Viewing Opportunities are where we connect with a very significant percentage of Florida's citizens and visitors.

Floridians have a wide array of jobs directly related to wildlife recreation, commercial fishing, seafood processing, and the boating industry estimated at over 452,786 individuals

Jobs related to hunting, fishing and wildlife -viewing have an economic value estimated at \$19.7 billion to Floridians.

Interactions with Fish and Wildlife...

Goal: Provide citizens and visitors with quality fishing, hunting, boating and wildlife-viewing opportunities that meet their expectations while providing for the sustainability of those natural resources.

- Establish new areas for public hunting and other recreational access and adjust existing areas as needed
- Approve proposals for new and adjusted hunting opportunities



Strategy: Develop and maintain widely available, diverse and accessible fishing, hunting, boating and wildlife viewing opportunities that meet the needs and expectations of citizens and visitors while providing for the sustainability of those resources and emphasizing partnerships with both public and private landowners.

Proposed establishment orders for Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) or Wildlife and Environmental Areas (WEAs) or Miscellaneous Areas (MAs) Many parts of the agency come together to work on hunting opportunities. Staff may present proposed orders to establish new WMAs/WEAs/MAs or to disestablish existing WMAs/WEAs/MAs. Proposed establishment orders are generally included on the consent agenda, while substantive rule changes associated with establishment orders would be presented for consideration and action.

Goal: Use minimal regulations to manage sustainable fish and wildlife populations, manage access to fish and wildlife resources, and protect public safety.

Strategy: Continually evaluate proposed and existing regulations, based on resource management benefits, public safety concerns, and economic and social impacts, to improve or eliminate regulations as warranted.

Development and presentation of proposed rules associated with hunting and game management statewide and on public hunting areas -

Hunting and Game Management (HGM) staff will coordinate the development of proposed hunting and game management rules. HGM staff accept rule change proposals from the public, other FWC staff, stakeholders, and wildlife management area cooperators on a year-round basis. Staff will review these and bring forward for Commission review and approval at the appropriate times throughout the year. Since public hunting area regulations must be incorporated into area brochures, changes that would be implemented for the 2015-2016

Interactions with Fish and Wildlife...

Goal: Use minimal regulations to manage sustainable fish and wildlife populations, manage access to fish and wildlife resources, and protect public safety.

- Summer 2014 - reports on anticipated early migratory bird seasons (dove, snipe, rails, gallinules, and wood duck and teal)
- Fall 2014 - report on anticipated late migratory bird seasons (waterfowl and coots)



Strategy: Continually evaluate proposed and existing regulations, based on resource management benefits, public safety concerns, and economic and social impacts, to improve or eliminate regulations as warranted.

Proposed migratory bird seasons and federal frameworks -

Federal regulations are amended annually to establish the maximum number of days and dates within which individual species and groups of species of migratory birds may be hunted. These regulations also establish the maximum bag limits for taking migratory birds. States are required to select dates and bag limits for taking migratory birds within these “frameworks.”

The federal schedule for establishing migratory bird season frameworks precludes the Commission from taking timely action to conform Commission rules to changes in the frameworks. Established protocol, therefore, is to advise the Commission of anticipated changes to federal frameworks, make recommendations, and solicit Commission guidance. Subsequently, any necessary changes are made by filing a notice of proposed rule with the Florida Administrative Register (FAR) pursuant to 120.54 (6), F.S. for adoption of the federal standards, after federal frameworks are finalized. If necessary due to time constraints, changes will be made by executive order prior to notice being filed.

A report on anticipated early migratory bird seasons (dove, snipe, rails, gallinules, wood ducks, and teal) will be presented at Commission meetings in June 2014 (for the 2014-15 hunting season) and June 2015 (for the 2015-2016 hunting season). A report on anticipated late migratory bird seasons (for the 2014-2015 hunting season) will be presented at the September 2014 Commission meeting.

Interactions with Fish and Wildlife...

Goal: Provide citizens and visitors with quality fishing, hunting, boating and wildlife-viewing opportunities that meet their expectations while providing for the sustainability of those natural resources.

- Establish Chicora Fish Management Area (FMA)
- Establish the Fellsmere Reservoir FMA
- Amend Upper St. John's River FMA rules



Strategy: Develop and maintain widely available, diverse and accessible fishing, hunting, boating and wildlife-viewing opportunities that meet the needs and expectations of citizens and visitors while providing for the sustainability of those resources and emphasizing partnerships with both public and private landowners.

Staff is working with multiple counties to establish Fish Management Areas (FMAs). Chicora is in Polk County. Fellsmere Reservoir will be in Indian River County.

Staff continually review fishing opportunities and will recommend adjustments as needed. Upper St. John's River FMA's will need to be amended when that area is ready.

Interactions with Fish and Wildlife...

Goal: Use minimal regulations to manage sustainable fish and wildlife populations, manage access to fish and wildlife resources, and protect public safety.

- Statewide Largemouth Bass Harvest Regulations
 - Possible rule changes from Review Team
- Reports on saltwater stock assessments and meetings of federal Councils and Commissions
 - Possible Rule changes



Strategy: Continually evaluate proposed and existing regulations, based on resource management benefits, public safety concerns, and economic and social impacts, to improve or eliminate regulations as warranted.

A team has been created to review existing largemouth bass regulations to determine their current effectiveness, and recommend changes where appropriate.

Strategy: Coordinate with partners and stakeholders to ensure that appropriate authorities and regulations exist to maintain sustainable fish and wildlife populations.

The Division of Marine Fisheries Management (DMFM) conducts extensive planning and coordination with the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) and federal partners to ensure that fishery stock assessments are available to inform management recommendations.

Work plan development takes into account Commissioner input, stock assessment schedules, recommendations of DMFM and FWRI staff, public concerns, federal issues, and issues carried over from the previous year's work plan. The majority of these issues will be collaborative efforts between DMFM and FWRI. However, as with every work plan, there are a few items that will be handled solely by DMFM.

Checklist of 2013-14 MFM Items		
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lionfish Licensing ✓ Gulf Gray Triggerfish ✓ Tarpon and Bonefish ✓ Snook ✓ Rule Clean-up Phase I ✓ Boca Grande Pass Gear ✓ Gulf Grouper and Red Snapper Seasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Veterans License Exemption ✓ Collier County Spearfishing ✓ Atlantic Black Sea Bass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Blue Runner ✓ Bluefish ✓ Vermilion Snapper ✓ Free Fishing Days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Orange Cup Coral ○ Mutton Snapper ○ Gulf Gag Grouper ○ FKNMS Zoning ○ Permanent Trap Marking ○ Mackerel and Cobia ○ Yellowtail Snapper ○ Speckled Hind ○ Goliath Grouper ○ Species Removed from federal FMPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sea Cucumbers ○ Gulf Black Sea Bass ○ Venting/Decompression Tools ○ Hogfish ○ Blueline Tilefish ○ Conch ○ Marbled Grouper ○ Trap line Marking ○ Lobster Rule Issues ○ Consistency for South Florida Regulations ○ Stone Crab ○ Consistency of backlogged federal items ○ Coral Protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Horseshoe Crab ○ Gulf Flounder ○ ML recreational sale ○ Mullet ○ Blackfin Tuna
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Snapper • Biscayne National Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wingnets and TEDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Fishery Strategic Plans * Non-regulated marine species * FL Threatened Species Plans * Agency Strategic Planning ○ Dolphin
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Completed ○ Expected to be completed this year * Ongoing ○ Carryover ○ On hold </div>		

This is a checklist of the items that are on the current (2013-2014) workplan that extends through June 30, 2014. They are partitioned into high, medium, and low priorities. Within each category, the items are further divided into *completed*, *expected to be completed this year*, *ongoing*, *carryover*, and *on hold* categories. *Ongoing* items are multi-year projects, advisory boards/workgroups, or items expected to continue into the 2013-2014 workplan. *Carryover* items are those we expected to complete in 2014-2015 but were unable to finish. In other cases, some parts of *carryover* items have or will be completed, but additional issues related to these items surfaced and will be addressed in next year's workplan. Of the 49 items listed, 13 are *completed*, 3 are *expected to be completed* during this current workplan year and 26 will roll over into the 2014-2015 workplan. There are two items *on hold* for the 2013-2014 workplan year.

NOTE: Additional items may have been added to this list after Commission approval and are reflected in next years work plan.

Proposed 2014-2015 MFM Workplan Items		
HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Lionfish Coral ESA Listing Gulf Reef Fish Permit Lobster Dive Endorsement	Red Drum Tournament Permit Shrimp Eel Whelk and Conch Electronic Reporting Barracuda Marine Habitat Planning	Stingrays Mangrove Snapper Snowy Grouper Bycatch in Shrimp Trawls Slipper Lobster
Oyster Menhaden 68B Rule Cleanup Phase 2 Agency Strategic Planning Mackerel and Cobia Trap Fisheries Management Horseshoe Crab Biscayne National Park Speckled Hind/Warsaw Grouper Red Snapper FKNMS Planning Goliath Grouper	Wingnet Consistency of Back Logged Federal Items FL Threatened Species South FL Fisheries Management Gulf Gag Sheepshead Marbled Grouper Hogfish Blueline Tilefish Mutton Snapper	Marine Life Recreational Sale Non-regulated Marine Species Fishery Strategic Plans Flounder Blackfin Tuna Mullet Bay Scallops Orange Cup Coral
		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Blue = Federal Issue</p> <p> = New</p> <p> = Carryover</p> </div>		

On September 26, 2013 DMFM staff met with Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) staff to coordinate the 2014-2015 workplan. Work items were sorted into high, medium, and low priorities. By placing an issue on the workplan, staff proposes to address it in the coming fiscal year. However the time frame for resolution of issues may be longer than a single year. Workplan development takes into account Commissioner input, stock assessment schedules, recommendations of DMFM and FWRI staff, public concerns, federal issues, and issues carried over from the previous year’s workplan. The majority of these issues will be collaborative efforts between DMFM and FWRI. However, as with every workplan, there are a few items that will be handled solely by DMFM.

This a list of the proposed 2014-2015 workplan items. They are partitioned into high, medium, and low priorities. Within each category, the items are distinguished as *carryover* or *new* issues. Of the 46 items listed, 16 are listed as new items for the upcoming workplan. Items that are *bolded* and *blue* are federal issues and issues that are state are in *black*. Overall there are 16 federal items and 30 state items.

MFM Stock Assessments , Current and 2014-2015

State

Bay Scallops (March 2013-2015)
Blue Crab (March 2013)
Ballyhoo (October 2013)
Striped Mullet (November 2014)
Snook (2015)
Red Drum (2015)

Federal

Gulf

Gag Grouper (2013)
Menhaden (2013)
Mutton Snapper (2013)

Atlantic

Black Sea Bass (2013)
Blueline Tilefish (2013)
Snowy Grouper (2013)
Red Porgy (2014)
Menhaden (2014)
Tilefish (2015)

Gulf and Atlantic

King Mackerel (2013)
Hogfish (2014)
Vermilion Snapper (2015)
Greater Amberjack (2015)
Gray Triggerfish (2015)
Red Snapper (2014- 2015)
Red Grouper (2014-2015)
Scamp (2015)
Black Grouper (2014)



This is a list of the state and federal stock assessments that are expected to be completed during the current or the upcoming 2014-2015 workplan. Any rulemaking associated with these assessments would likely occur during the upcoming workplan year.

Interactions with Fish and Wildlife...

Goal: Enhance the safety and outdoor experience of those who hunt, fish, boat and view wildlife

- Review and adjust boating restricted area rules as needed
- Review rules guiding establishment of boating restricted areas, especially those submitted by local governments



Strategy: Enhance the boating safety and waterway experience of citizens and visitors through improved access, management, education and enforcement

Boating restricted area rules to be reviewed include:

Withlacochee River, Suwannee /Santa Fe Rivers; St. Johns River; Apalachicola River

Chapter 68D-21, 23 and 24 Rules – these rules implement Section 327.46, Florida Statutes. A review of these will be made to consider amendments and changes.

Interactions with Fish and Wildlife...

Goal: Minimize adverse environmental, social, economic and health and safety impacts from fish, wildlife and plants that are known to cause, or have a potential to cause, adverse impacts.

- Work with stakeholders and bring forth amendments to captive wildlife rules as necessary
- Report on exotic and problematic fish and wildlife activities
- Progress on bear issues including possible feeding rule



Strategy: Provide effective management of Florida's captive and non-native wildlife trade through proactive and responsive law enforcement efforts.

Staff will be working on sections of Florida Administrative Code Rule 68A-6 to identify improvements and return to the Commission as appropriate.

Exotic and problematic fish and wildlife issues will continue to be a focus and periodic reports will be made to the Commission.

Strategy: Effectively communicate to citizens, visitors and businesses how to be safe and act responsibly when interacting with or possessing fish, wildlife and plants.

Strategy: Manage species and their habitats as well as species and human interactions to eliminate or reduce the adverse environmental, social, economic and health and safety impacts from fish, wildlife, and plants.

Bear Progress Report – staff is implementing Black Bear management after approval of the Management Plan. After meeting with a bear assistance group, a progress report will be presented and if appropriate a discussion of additional rule on feeding issues will be presented.

Sharing Responsibility for Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management with an Emphasis on Developing Conservation Values in Our Youth



We have made a high level commitment to working with youth. We want to ensure that future generations care and are able to actively support and practice fish and wildlife conservation stewardship.

Sharing Responsibility for Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management...

Goal: Ensure citizens, visitors stakeholders and partners are engaged in the processes of developing and implementing conservation programs.

Provide Updates



Strategies:

Foster a common vision among partners and the FWC to maintain and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats through interagency coordination, mutually beneficial goals and initiatives.

Engage citizens, visitors, stakeholders and partners to understand their perspectives, develop and implement conservation programs, and implement fishing, hunting, boating and wildlife-viewing management activities .

Staff will provide updates on our cooperative efforts with other agencies and of our partnerships with non-governmental entities to advance fish and wildlife conservation.

...Developing Conservation Values in Our Youth

Goal: Ensure future generations care about fish and wildlife conservation

Periodic updates and reports on events and accomplishments
Partner Recognitions




Strategies:

Expand and promote a network of youth conservation centers, programs and initiatives through leveraging FWC programs and staff, and developing public and private partnerships and sponsorships.

Develop and deliver a standardized youth conservation curricula and traditional outdoor activity programs, and assist with adapting programs and curricula to meet the needs of diverse communities.

Goal: Increase opportunities for citizens and visitors, especially youth, to actively support and practice fish and wildlife conservation stewardship.

Strategy:

Provide and promote opportunities for citizens and visitors, especially youth, to participate in conservation stewardship activities, including FWC volunteer opportunities.

Responsive Organization and Quality Operation



This theme describes our activities that ensure we provide exceptional customer service, are accountable, operate efficiently and effectively and continually explore new ways to improve our services. We are also committed to helping Florida business and job growth. To do this requires that we understand the needs of our stakeholders, citizens and visitors and maintain and build a highly qualified workforce that is responsive, works transparently and uses available resources in an honest and fiscally responsible manner.

(Note: Photos illustrate an officer providing fishing regulations, a scientist sampling for red tide that impacts public health as well as fish and wildlife resources, and one of our offshore fishing reef projects.)

Responsive Organization and Quality Operations

Goal: Provide resources and support for the safety and protection of citizens and visitors, our natural and cultural resources, and for emergency responses to critical incidents and environmental disasters.

- Updates on Division of Law Enforcement efforts in response to emergencies.
- Highlights of our involvement in special events and programs promoting fish and wildlife.



Strategies:

Provide immediate and effective disaster response and recovery through mutual-aid efforts with local, state, and federal partners.

Provide search, rescue and recovery services in coordination with local, state and federal entities to ensure the safety of citizens and visitors.

Protect citizens and visitors and natural and cultural resources through proactive and responsive enforcement efforts.

Responsive Organization and Quality Operations

Goal: Ensure the FWC has highly effective and adaptive business practices.

- Reports on our budget and other business of the agency
- Reports on accomplishments of staff and recognitions from internal and external sources



Strategies:

Manage existing and secure additional resources necessary to achieve fish and wildlife conservation and meet citizens, visitor and stakeholder needs.

Foster a diverse, accountable, responsive and skilled workforce who effectively serves Florida's citizens and visitors.

Reports – we will bring budget matters to the Commission and convey information about staff accomplishments.

Discussion

Staff requests your approval and any additional direction on the 2014-2015 Work Plan



Staff submits these proposals to you for approval and requests additional direction on any items you would like to see come before you during the next fiscal year.

The following slides are considered back up material and are not anticipated to be part of the actual presentation to the Commission



Performance Measures

- A .075% annual increase in the number of active participants in hunting, freshwater fishing and saltwater fishing.
- An 35% annual increase in the number of youth involved in FWC's conservation programs.



These two performance measures are currently being tracked and submitted to the Governor's Office on a quarterly basis. The Department of Economic Opportunity has a 5 year Atrategic Plan for Economic Development in Florida and the same information is provided to them as well.

Following completion of the current strategic planning process and the continued discussions about Commissioner Policy Focal Areas, staff intends to propose additional performance measures that will measure progress on the most important areas of the FWC's work.

List of Terms

Priorities

- **High** – items that are most important to develop and complete in a timely manner
- **Medium** – items that are important but do not take precedence over high priorities
- **Low** – items that are important enough to include in the workplan but may only be done as time permits

Item Classifications

- **To Be Completed** – items that are not yet completed but are expected to be completed during the current workplan year
- **Ongoing** – multi-year projects that will continue into the next workplan cycle
- **Carryover** – items that will be continued into the next workplan cycle
- **New** – brand new issues that will be added to next year's workplan
- **Drop** – items that are no longer under active development



This slide contains a list of terms that are used in this document to prioritize and classify workplan items.

2014-2015 High Priority Items - **NEW**

Lionfish

- Determine next steps after lionfish summit
- Evaluate requests to facilitate removal



Coral ESA listing

- New Coral species may be federally listed soon
- Consideration for trapping area closures to protect Acropora and newly listed species



Lionfish

A Lionfish Summit was held in October to determine possible next steps for lionfish. Regulatory and management strategies for controlling lionfish populations in Florida waters will be added to the workplan once staff has time to evaluate the options.

Coral ESA Listing

We are anticipating seven species of corals to be federally listed under the ESA in the coming year. The Gulf council is also considering rules for Acropora, FWC may want to consider rulemaking. Also, designated areas for trap closures to protect corals have been made in federal waters and may need to be considered at a state level.

2014-2015 High Priority Items - **NEW**



Gulf Reef Fish Permit

- FWC is considering a reef fish permit
- Data collection requirements requested

Lobster Dive Endorsement

- Consider making lobster dive endorsement transferable



Gulf Reef Fish Permit:

FWC is considering a reef fish permit that will also include data collection requirements.

Lobster Dive Endorsement:

The moratorium on issuing lobster dive endorsements is scheduled to expire in 2015. Staff will consider whether to allow transfer of the endorsement and whether to continue the moratorium.

2014-2015 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover



Oyster

- DACS is no longer doing oyster monitoring
- FWRI may need to begin a new survey

Menhaden

- New ASMFC quota
- FL exceeded it's quota in Aug. 2013
- Quota was based on inaccurate landings
- Could be major impact for small time fisherman



Oyster:

DACS completes an annual assessment of the oyster population in Apalachicola Bay. DACs is going to stop their annual assessment. FWRI may need to begin one pending funding.

Menhaden:

The Atlantic fishery is subject to the newly implemented ASMFC quota and Florida exceeded it's quota in August of 2013. A series of EOs were issued in 2013 in response to this quota. This is a particularly complex problem because the quota was based on recent landings and: 1) Florida's recent landings are very low since the net limitation amendment was implemented and 2) Commercial bait fishermen were unaware of the need to report their catch so the landings are inaccurate. Fishery closures have the potential to have major impacts on small-time bait fishermen and reduce the availability of bait for other fisheries.

2014-2015 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover



68B Rule Clean-Up

- Staff to fix issues and inconsistencies in current rule language
- Phase II and III

Agency Strategic Planning

- DMFM will continue to aid in development of agency strategic plans



68B Rule Clean-Up Phase II and III

DMFM has begun conducting a systematic examination of marine rules in the Florida Administrative Code in coordination with Law Enforcement and the Legal Office to address several issues that have been identified as needing clarification. Phase I of rule cleanup was recently completed. But the next two phases of rulemaking will be continued into the next workplan cycle.

Agency strategic planning

DMFM staff will continue to work on teams developing operational plan for the agency.

2014-2015 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover

Mackerel and Cobia

- Both Councils are considering management changes
- Changes to FWC rules may be warranted



Trap Fisheries Management

- Several issues dealing with trap fisheries



Mackerel and Cobia

Management changes are being considered by both Councils for these species and DMFM may to consider similar changes for FWC rules.

Trap Fisheries Management

Our trap fisheries have multiple issues that need to be considered in the coming year, including trap marking and trap line marking, among others.

2014-2015 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover



Horseshoe crab

- Issues with tracking the eel fishery using horseshoe crabs as bait

Biscayne National Park

- The park is in the process of finalizing the FMP and GMP



Horseshoe crab

There is a horseshoe crab quota established by ASMFC for the eel fishery and we currently have no mechanism in rule to implement a closure if needed.

Biscayne National Park

BNP is in the process of finalizing the FMP, which will be brought to the Commission for final approval in November 2013. FWC and NPS have also been working together to develop a supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the GMP that includes alternatives to the previously proposed no-take marine reserve. Once these plans are approved, DMFM will work with BNP staff to bring proposed rule changes outlined in both documents to the Commission for consideration.

2014-2015 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover

Speckled Hind and Warsaw Grouper

- Inconsistent regulations with federal waters
- Additional protection requested in state waters



Gulf Red Snapper

- IFQ program is under review
- Gulf Council is considering regional management
- Set the 2015 season
- Changes in allocation may occur at a federal level
- Gulf is considering
 - Intersector trading
 - Regional Management



Speckled Hind and Warsaw Grouper

SAFMC is discussing management options for these species. Harvest of these species is still allowed from state waters while it is prohibited in the federal waters of the South Atlantic. Also, the status of the species is different in the Gulf. Stakeholders and the SAFMC have requested additional protections in state waters.

Gulf Red Snapper

The IFQ program is under review and rulemaking could be needed for state waters. The Gulf Council is also considering regional management of the recreational fishery. Rulemaking will likely be needed to address the 2015 recreational season. Changes in allocation at the federal level may also trigger a need to modify state rules.

2013-2014 High Priority Items - Ongoing/Carryover

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Planning

- FKNMS is going through a rezoning process
- FWC input will be needed



Goliath Grouper

- Council Committee discussing how to move beyond the moratorium
- Stakeholder survey



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary zoning

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is working on their rezoning process and FWC will have a role in commenting, input and potential rulemaking.

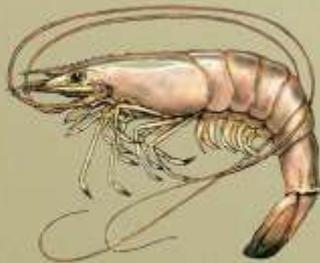
Goliath Grouper

A joint council committee on goliath grouper is discussing management issues, including how to move beyond the moratorium. The Councils are working on a stakeholder survey plan and a Commission update is anticipated for April 2014. The federal Councils are also considering management options for goliath grouper. Potential rulemaking actions would likely carryover into the 2014-2015 workplan year.

2014-2015 Medium Priority Items - **NEW**

Red Drum Tournament Permit

- Permit application needs updating
- Loopholes in rule language



Shrimp

- Several requests from shrimpers
- Controversy regarding trawl measurements



Red Drum Tournament Permit

During Joint Administrative Procedures Committee review of the rule cleanup proposal, it was determined that modification to the red drum tournament application are needed. The rule also contains some provisions that create loopholes due to overly specific language and the possession limits have not been updated since the bag limit was raised.

Shrimp

Northeast Florida shrimpers would like the ability to use a 12' try net in state waters. There is controversy regarding shrimp trawl measurements (500 sq ft) that are allowed in inland waters of Nassau/Duval and within one mile of East Coast. The NE Florida commercial shrimp fishery has requested the state waters spawning closure (April/May) be extended into federal waters. SAFMC has a shrimp management plan that allows for spawning closure in emergency situations, but it does not include an annual closure.

2014-2015 Medium Priority Items - **NEW**

American Eel

- Declines in U.S. stock
- ASFMC instituted size limits, bag limits and seasonal closures
- FWC rulemaking required



Welch and Conch

- Emerging interest in creating trap fisheries for whelk and conch
- Traditionally landed as by-catch
- Currently unregulated



Eels

In 2012, the American eel benchmark stock assessment was completed, which indicated that the population was depleted in U.S. waters. Declines in the stock have been occurring in recent decades, with significant downward trends indicated in multiple coast wide surveys. In response, ASMFC initiated Draft Addendum III to the FMP, which instituted size limits, bag limits, and seasonal closures for certain life stages. States are required to implement the measures outlined in Addendum III by January 1, 2014. Florida will need to implement a new size limit as well as a 25-eel bag limit and other potential management changes.

Welch and Conch

There is an emerging interest in creating a trap fishery targeting the common whelk and crown conch. Both have traditionally been landed as an incidental by-catch of the other trap fisheries. There are a handful of harvesters wanting to utilize specially designed whelk traps in a directed effort. Management for these fisheries will be considered.

2014-2015 Medium Priority Items – NEW

Electronic reporting

- Federal wholesale dealers will be required to report electronically in the next year or so
- FWC may want to consider similar rulemaking



Barracuda

- Stakeholder concern for population

Marine Habitat Planning

- Coordination with other Divisions on FWC's goals for Marine Habitat Planning



Electronic Reporting

Federal wholesale dealers will be required to report electronically in the next year or so. FWC may want to consider similar rulemaking for state dealers or state boats in the commercial and for-hire sectors.

Barracuda

Concern has been raised by stakeholders in south Florida (particularly the Florida Keys) regarding reported declines in barracuda populations. Fishing guides and divers are reporting less numbers of barracuda on the flats in the winter and overall on natural and artificial reefs and wrecks. Barracuda are allegedly being commercially speared and caught on hook and line and sold for \$1.00-1.40 per pound to supply a developing food market in Miami-Dade County, the Caribbean, and Canada. The species is also reportedly being used as chum for the practice of “power chumming,” a method used to target yellowtail snapper for commercial purposes.

Marine Habitat Planning

Staff from several divisions will work together to discuss FWC's goals for marine habitat planning.

2014-2015 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carryover

Wingnets

- Federal rulemaking underway
- Rulemaking may be necessary



Consistency of Back Logged Federal Items

- Several federal regulations that have been approved that are inconsistent with state regulations



Wingnets

There is currently federal rulemaking underway that could require all wingnets and skimmer trawls to have turtle excluder devices (TEDs). FWC has been working with NMFS to get Florida wing netters an exemption from this requirement, but rulemaking may be necessary.

Consistency of Back Logged Federal Items

There are several federal regulations that have been approved over the past few years that are inconsistent with current state regulations. FWC may wish to consider consistency with some of these federal changes, such as Atlantic red snapper and Atlantic snowy grouper regulations.

2014-2015 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carryover



Florida Threatened Species Plans

- Work with HSC to develop management plans for listed marine species

South FL Fisheries Management

- Joint-council ad hoc panel formed
- FWC will have a leading role in identifying some of these issues



Florida Threatened Species Plans

Staff will work with the Division of Habitat and Species Conservation (HSC) to develop management plans for marine species listed by the FWC as Threatened, such as pillar coral.

South FL Fisheries Management

Joint-Council ad hoc panel has been formed and FWC will likely have a leading role in identifying and addressing some of these issues that cross state and federal jurisdictions.

2014-2015 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carryover



Gulf Gag Grouper

- 2014 recreational season
- Gulf Council is considering regional management

Sheepshead

- Removed from federal FMP in south Atlantic
- May need to extend state regulations into federal waters



Gulf Gag Grouper

The Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council (GMFMC) is considering regional management of gag grouper recreational harvest at Florida's request. Also, rulemaking may be needed to address the 2014 recreational season in state waters.

Sheepshead

Sheepshead are currently being removed from the Federal FMP in south Atlantic. FWC needs to determine if we would like to extend our rules into federal waters. Effort may shift now that it is removed from the federal FMP.

2014-2015 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carryover



Marbled Grouper

- Possible candidate to be listed as a federally endangered species

Hogfish

- SEDAR in 2014
- Stakeholder concern



Marbled grouper

It appears this species may meet criteria for listing as a federally endangered species. FWC may need to take action in the listing process.

Hogfish

Many stakeholders have expressed concern for the health of the hogfish stock and feel the regulations need to be stricter. The SAFMC is also considering changes to the size limit. A SEDAR assessment for hogfish is due in 2014. Management changes may be warranted.

2014-2015 Medium Priority – Ongoing/Carryover



Blueline tilefish

- Assessment in 2013
- Not regulated in state waters
- Inconsistent federal and state regulations

Mutton Snapper

- SAFMC is considering regulations to protect spawning aggregations



Blueline Tilefish

Blueline tilefish are non-regulated in state waters, but are limited in federal waters. When the fishery closes in federal waters, and remains unregulated in state waters it can cause a quota overrun. An assessment is due in 2013.

Mutton Snapper

There has been increased concern from the SAFMC, stakeholders and Law Enforcement about areas in federal and state waters that need protection during spawning aggregations. The SAFMC is considering spawning season area closures, bag limit decreases, and other measures to protect spawning aggregations. A SEDAR update will be available in April.

2014-2015 Low Priority Items – NEW

Stingrays

- Non-regulated species
- Harvested for bait and food



Mangrove Snapper

- Stakeholder concerns about state and federal size and bag limit discrepancies



Stingrays

Stingrays are harvested as bait and food. Bowfishing for stingrays has become popular over the past several years. With no regulations in place there is potential for harvesting large quantities, FWC could consider regulations for these species.

Mangrove Snapper

Some stakeholders at the south Florida workshops raised concerns about the state and federal size/bag limit discrepancies (currently 5 fish at 10" in state waters, and 10 fish at 12" in federal waters). However, smaller fish are found in state waters, so the discrepancies may be appropriate. However management changes may need to be considered.

2014-2015 Low Priority Items – NEW



Snowy Grouper

- Stakeholder concern for population

Bycatch in shrimp trawls

- Request for higher flounder bycatch limit in shrimp trawls



Slipper Lobster

- Concern over population decline



Snowy Grouper

Stakeholders expressed concerns for snowy grouper at the south Florida Workshops. Management changes may be considered by the South Atlantic Council.

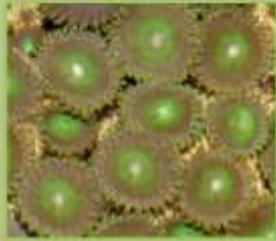
Bycatch in shrimp trawls

The shrimp fishery in NE Florida is requesting more liberal bycatch allowances for flounder, tripletail and sheepshead. Specifically they would like either a higher bycatch-related trip limit or the ability to retain the current limit daily with an allowance for multi-day limits for trips that are more than 1 day in length.

Slipper Lobster

FWC staff has been hearing concern over numbers of slipper lobster declining.

2014-2015 Low Priority - Ongoing/Carryover



Marine Life Recreational Sale

- Recreational harvesters are selling/exchanging marine life species
- No mechanism in the marine life rule for this activity

Non-Regulated Marine Species

- Potential management of non-regulated species



Marine Life Recreational Sale

Recreational harvesters are selling/exchanging marine life species (and corals) that they are propagating, breeding, collecting and holding. Some of these organisms are native and some are not, however there is no mechanism in the marine life rule for this activity.

Non-Regulated Marine Species

Through the Marine Life Workgroup process, several marine species outside of the marine life rule were identified as potential candidates for possible size or bag limits. It has been recognized that there are possibly other species not related to the marine life fishery that may benefit from certain restrictions. Staff from various divisions have been discussing potential management of many non-regulated marine species.

2014-2015 Low Priority - Ongoing/Carryover



Fishery Strategic Plans

- Staff will continue to work on FSPs for major regulated species

Flounder

- No regulations in federal waters
- Restricted species in state waters



Fishery Strategic Plans

Staff will continue working on Fishery Strategic Plans (FSP) for major regulated species. Several plans are currently in development and draft stages, including red drum, stone crab, snook, and flounder.

Flounder

There is no flounder FMP for federal waters, FWC considers flounder a restricted species and may want to extend our regulations into federal waters.

2014-2015 Low Priority - Ongoing/Carryover

Blackfin tuna

- Stakeholders concerned about lack of regulation and monitoring



Mullet

- Request to remove a local law
- Roe discard Issues



Blackfin tuna

Blackfin tuna are not regulated federally as a highly migratory species and they are caught in state waters. South Florida stakeholders have expressed concern about their lack of regulation and monitoring. DMFM will work with stakeholders on this issue.

Mullet

Staff has received requests to removal a local law that is causing safety issues. Additionally, there has been an increase in effort during the roe run and continued complaints about discard issues. DMFM needs to evaluate and determine if management changes are needed.

2014-2015 Low Priority - Ongoing/Carryover

Bay Scallops

- Stakeholder request for a commercial fishery
- Need for full stock assessment



Orange Cup Coral

- Invasive Species
- SAFMC wants to remove from the FMP



Bay Scallops

Due to the latest bay scallop season extension we need to assess if there is a need to re-incorporate fall surveys. At the June 2012 Commission meeting, the Commission directed staff to look into an end of the season commercial scallop harvest. The Commission also requested a report on whether the bay scallop population can support a limited commercial harvest. FWRI is looking into developing more formal index based reference points to give a more long-term target for sustainability.

Orange Cup Coral

This is an invasive species that people have been requesting permission to harvest. The SAFMC is considering removing them from the FMP, which would open the fishery to harvest. Staff needs to consider rulemaking or other ways to allow for removal.