

2014 Session

Additional Legislative Proposals



November 20, 2013

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Legislative Affairs

As mentioned at the September Commission meeting during the presentation pertaining to FWC staff's proposals for the 2014 Session, staff is recommending some additional license and fee repeals. If approved, these would be added to the issues you approved in September for the Commission's 2014 Session legislative package.

2014 Session Additional Legislative Proposals

- Repeal Commission fees on U.S. Forest Service lands
 - \$5 and \$2 fees have not been assessed since 1978
- Repeal fee and license for noncommercial shrimp trawling for personal food use in the St. Johns River
 - \$50 license has not been issued since 1996



The first issue would repeal the fees the Commission may assess for hunting on U.S. Forest Service lands, when the lands are part of a cooperative agreement between FWC and the U.S. Forest Service. The fees are in addition to a hunting license (\$17 for residents; \$45 for nonresidents, annual) and a wildlife management area permit (\$25). The fees proposed for repeal follow:

- \$5 for persons 18 years of age or older
- \$2 for persons under 18 years of age

These fees have not been assessed since at least 1978.

The second issue would repeal the license and fee for noncommercial shrimp trawling on the St. Johns River, when using the shrimp for personal food. This license was created in 1977 with a \$50 fee. In 1996, the Marine Fisheries Commission (predecessor agency to the Commission) prohibited the use of trawls for the recreational shrimp fishery; the Commission has continued this prohibition. Because of this prohibition, no license has been issued since 1996.

2014 Session Additional Legislative Proposals

- Repeal fees for statewide freshwater trawl seine seine and haul seine gear licenses
 - Statewide freshwater trawl seine license - \$50
 - None issued
 - Statewide freshwater haul seine license - \$100
 - 5 issued annually



The next two slides pertain to repealing the fees for certain commercial freshwater gear licenses.

The proposal on this slide would repeal the fees for both the statewide freshwater trawl seine and haul seine licenses. Both were created in 1978:

- the statewide freshwater trawl seine license was created with a fee of \$50; none have been issued in over 25 years
- the statewide freshwater haul seine license was created with a fee of \$100; they are limited to use in Hillsborough and Polk counties; five (5) are issued annually, generating a revenue of \$500; FWC can absorb this cost

If approved, the Commission would still issue the licenses – to be able to track harvest and effort, but there would be no fee for the license.

2014 Session Additional Legislative Proposals

- **Repeal Lake Okeechobee trawl seine and haul seine gear permit fees**
 - Resident trawl seine permit fee - \$50
 - None issued in over 30 years
 - Resident haul seine permit fee - \$100
 - 6 issued annually
 - Non-resident haul or trawl seine permit fee - \$500
 - Never issued



The proposal on this slide would repeal the fees for the three Lake Okeechobee freshwater trawl seine and haul seine permits. They were created in 1976:

- The resident trawl seine permit was created with a fee of \$50; none have been issued in over 30 years
- The resident haul seine permit was created with a fee of \$100; six (6) are issued annually generating a revenue of \$600; FWC can absorb this cost
- the non-resident haul or trawl seine license was created with a fee of \$500; none have ever been issued

2014 Session Additional Legislative Proposals

Staff Recommendation

- **Approve these additional proposals to be submitted to the Legislature for the 2014 Legislative Session**
- **Authorize Executive Director in consultation with the Chairman to make adjustments on these proposals and advise on other legislation, as needed, through the 2014 Legislative Session**



Staff recommends that these additional proposals be approved for submission to the Legislature for the 2014 Session.

In addition, staff requests that the Executive Director, in consultation with the Chairman, be allowed to make adjustments on these proposals and advise staff on other legislation, as needed, through the 2014 Session.