



# Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Legislative Affairs Office

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## Summary of FWC Proposals for the 2014 Session

Agenda Item 9B (2)

September 6, 2013

Attachment 1

*Version 2 – the word “commercial” is struck from the title in Item #1*

### 1. Repeal the Special Recreational Spiny Lobster License

This proposal would repeal the Special Recreational Spiny Lobster license, established in 1994 at \$100/year. It was created to allow commercial lobstermen, who were licensed in the 1993-94 season, to exceed the recreational bag limit for personal use. The license was last issued by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Commission) for the 2011-12 license year.

### 2. Allow Counties Additional Uses of their Vessel Registration Revenues

This proposal would allow counties to use their portion of vessel registration revenues for additional boating-related activities. The additional uses include:

- removal of debris that specifically impedes boating access (not including dredging channels);
- along with the provision of, allowing the “maintenance, and/or operation” of recreational channel marking and other uniform waterway markers, public boat ramps, lifts, and hoists, and marine railways; and
- adding “boat piers, docks and mooring buoys, and other public launching facilities” to the list above

These changes reinforce the intent of the original statute that the revenues be used to provide direct benefits to boaters.

### 3. Authorize Online Courses to Satisfy Mandatory Education Requirements for Boating Law Violators

This proposal would allow boating law violators to take an online boating safety education course, instead of attending a course in person, to satisfy mandatory boating safety education requirements. Current law requires a mandatory course be taken for the following violations:

- Criminal violations including, but not limited to, leaving the scene of a boating accident, boating under the influence, reckless operation of a boat or personal watercraft, and vessel title or registration fraud;
- When the operator of a vessel is in any manner involved in a reportable boating accident resulting in death, personal injury requiring medical treatment beyond first aid,

disappearance of a person indicating death or personal injury, or damage to a vessel or other property which totals \$2000 or more;

- When there are two or more non-criminal infractions, including but not limited to careless operation, interference with navigation, violations of boating restricted areas or speed limits, safety equipment, and seagrass scarring; and
- Convictions for the operation of vessels by persons under 21 years of age who have a breath-alcohol level of 0.02 or higher

The proposal also would eliminate the Commission's authorization to provide for waivers of in-person attendance requirements for violators, since it would no longer be needed.

**4. Authorize the Commission to Require a Hunting License to Take Wildlife on Public Lands**

This proposal would give the Commission the authority to require a person to obtain a hunting license (and pass the hunter safety course) to take wildlife, not just game species, on Florida's public lands. This was initiated for people hunting hogs on wildlife management areas, but the requirement could extend to other species. No species would be added to the hunting license and hunter safety education requirements without the Commission going through the rulemaking process or by executive order.

**5. Correct an Antiquated Recreational Fishing License Exemption Reference**

This proposal would correct an antiquated and incorrect reference in the recreational hunting and fishing licensing exemption statute. It would replace the reference to the Department of Children and Families with a reference to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities as the agency whose clients receiving developmental disabilities services are exempted from having to possess a recreational fishing license.