

**Background Report
Summary of Draft Rules
Imperiled Species Management Plan
Agenda Item 4 B
June 23, 2015**

Rule Title	Proposed Changes
68A-9.002 Permits to Take Wildlife or Freshwater Fish for Justifiable Purposes	Change clarifies that federal authorizations other than permits also are acceptable as indication of federal authorization to take and/or possess migratory birds or their nests.
68A-12.004 Possession or Sale of Birds or Mammals; Taxidermy Operations and Mounting Requirements	Changes correct references the rule makes to other rules that have changed or been eliminated. Changes also delete fox squirrel and mink from species whose carcasses may be mounted without a permit if killed on roads or highways to protect Everglades mink, Big Cypress fox squirrel, and Sherman’s fox squirrel from potential overexploitation.
68A-16.003 Non-Listed Inactive Migratory Bird Nests	New rule stating that no State permit is needed to take inactive nests, or parts thereof, of birds not listed in Chapter 68A-27.
68A-25.002 General Provisions for Taking Possession and Sale of Reptiles	Changes add language to prohibit the take and possession of Peninsula ribbon snakes in the lower Keys, red rat snakes in the lower Keys, and striped mud turtles in the lower Keys. While these species did not meet the criteria for listing as a State-designated Threatened species, protection from intentional take and possession are necessary to prevent possible exploitation and meeting listing criteria in the future.
68A-26.002 Regulations Relating to the Taking of Amphibian	Changes add language to prohibit the take and possession of gopher frogs and Pine Barrens treefrogs. While these species did not meet the criteria for listing as State-designated Threatened species, protection from intentional take and possession are necessary to prevent possible overexploitation and meeting listing criteria in the future.
68A-27.0012 Procedures for Listing and Removing Species from Florida’s Endangered and Threatened Species List	Change is to remove language referring to the listing moratorium which has expired.
68A-27.003 Designation of Endangered and Threatened Species; Prohibitions	Changes retitle the rule to better identify it, add exemption language for take, possession, and sale activities that are specifically authorized in management plans approved by the Commission, add species that the Commission found warranted for listing to the State-designated Threatened species portion of the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List, and remove species from the list the Commission found did not meet the criteria for listing.

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<p>68A-27.005 Designation of Species of Special Concern; Prohibitions; Permits</p>	<p>Changes remove language referring to a listing moratorium that has expired, remove species that have been listed as State-designated Threatened and are being moved to that portion of the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List, and remove species that no longer meet the listing criteria. Five species are remaining Species of Special Concern until additional data needed to determine listing is generated.</p>
<p>68A-27.007 Permits and Authorizations for the Take of Florida Endangered and Threatened Species.</p>	<p>Changes remove the language that specifies a different permit standard for the blackmouth shiner, striped mud turtle, Florida mastiff bat, and pillar coral. These species were listed by the State as Endangered prior to the imperiled species rule revisions of 2010. The permit standard used for species listed by the State as endangered were maintained for these species in the revised rules to prevent any unintended loss of protection while the management plan was developed. The management plan has been developed. The Florida bonneted bat (formerly the Florida mastiff bat) and the pillar coral are now federally listed and are being moved to the Federally-designated Endangered and Threatened portion of the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List. The striped mud turtle did not meet the criteria for listing as a State-designated Threatened species and is being removed from the list. The blackmouth shiner remains as a State-designated Threatened species with the protections provided for such species. Changes also add human safety as a factor to consider in determining if an intentional take permit may be issued, and clarify that the intentional take requirements for listed marine species are included in Chapter 68B-8, not in Chapter 68A-27.</p>