

# Resolution

## Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

hereby declares:

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Commission) is a duly constituted governmental agency, created to serve the great State of Florida, and

**WHEREAS**, forage fish are generally small, schooling, nutrient-rich species that feed on microscopic plants and animals and transfer energy and biomass through critical links within marine food webs, and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission recognizes the significance of forage fish species as key prey resources for commercially and recreationally important predator species and other marine wildlife, and

**WHEREAS**, forage species fuel fishing and recreation that contribute more than \$12.3 billion to the State's economy, tens of millions of pounds of fresh seafood, and over 100,000 jobs annually to Florida, and

**WHEREAS**, global demand is surging for forage fish, which are used to make pet food, cosmetics, nutritional supplements, fertilizer, and feed for animals and aquaculture operations, and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission has been a global leader in forage fish management, enacting proactive regulations and conducting robust and rigorous forage fish monitoring programs for over 20 years to ensure sufficient abundance and diversity of forage fish,

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in a duly constituted and assembled meeting:

1. That the Commission will encourage and support science and management to effectively ensure a sufficient abundance of forage fish populations so the integrity and resilience of Florida's marine ecosystems are maintained for future generations of Floridians;
2. That the Commission will continue to manage forage fishes in ways that ensure sufficient abundance and diversity of forage fish populations to support a robust marine ecosystem including sustaining abundant fisheries stocks and avian species that depend on forage fish, and to maintain Florida's reputation as the "Fishing Capital of the World";
3. That the Commission will continue to work with our conservation partners and stakeholders to elevate the awareness and stress the importance of maintaining abundance and diversity of forage fish species;
4. That the Commission and staff will remain vigilant regarding the status of forage fish stocks and prepared to respond appropriately should monitoring results indicate that forage fish populations are experiencing significant declining trends in abundance or diversity;
5. That the Commission will continue to generate annual status and trends reports that will include key forage fish species to provide insight into abundance over time and will be available for interested stakeholders;
6. That this resolution is an official recognition and public expression;
7. That the sentiments of this resolution are recorded forevermore in the minutes and records of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

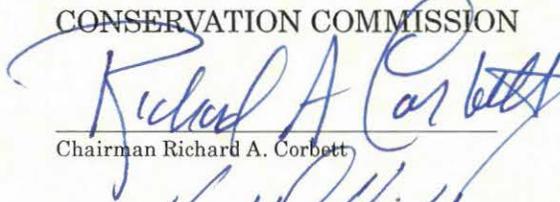


Florida Fish  
and Wildlife  
Conservation  
Commission

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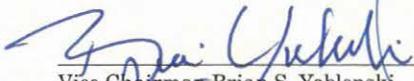
**DONE AND RESOLVED** in this duly constituted and assembled meeting  
in Sarasota, Florida, this 25th day of June 2015.

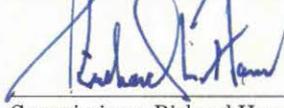
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

  
Chairman Richard A. Corbett

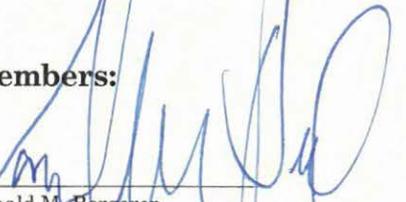
Attest: 

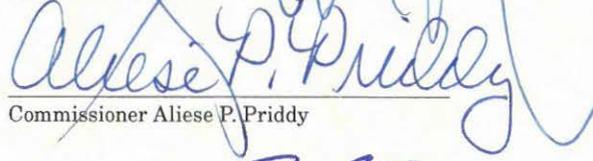
**With the support of the following Commission members:**

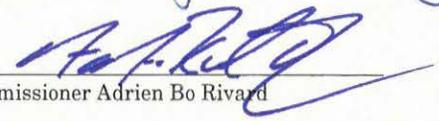
  
Vice Chairman Brian S. Yablonski

  
Commissioner Richard Hanas

  
Commissioner Charles W. Roberts III

  
Commissioner Ronald M. Bergeron

  
Commissioner Aliese P. Priddy

  
Commissioner Adrien Bo Rivard



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