

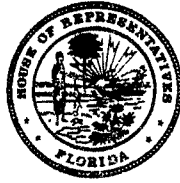


Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee MEETING PACKET

**Tuesday, December 04, 2012
Reed Hall
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Will Weatherford
Speaker**

**Matt Caldwell
Chair**



The Florida House of Representatives

State Affairs Committee

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee

Will Weatherford
Speaker

Matthew H. "Matt" Caldwell
Chair

AGENDA

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee

December 4, 2012

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

102 House Office Building (Reed Hall)

Organizational Meeting

- I. Chair Opening Remarks

- II. Agency Overviews and Discussion of Potential Legislative Issues
 - a. Presentation by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 - b. Presentation by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

- III. Closing Remarks by Chair

- IV. Adjournment



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

ADAM H. PUTNAM, COMMISSIONER

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee

Department Overview
December 4, 2012

Grace Lovett, Director
Office of Legislative Affairs





Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Mission

Safeguard the Public and Support Agriculture

Goals

- Increase production and sale of Florida's agricultural products
- Ensure the safety and wholesomeness of food and other consumer products
- Conserve and steward the state's agricultural and natural resources
- Protect consumers from potential health and financial risks and unfair and deceptive trade practices



Divisions and Offices

- The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) has 15 divisions and offices dedicated to providing services to the citizens of the state and administering the statutes enacted by the Florida Legislature. Those divisions and offices under the purview of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee are:

- Agricultural Environmental Services
- Animal Industry
- Aquaculture
- Florida Forest Service
- Food, Nutrition and Wellness
- Food Safety
- Fruit and Vegetable
- Agricultural Law Enforcement
- Marketing and Development
- Plant Industry
- Agricultural Water Policy

Other Divisions and Offices

not under the purview of this committee

Consumer Services

Licensing

Energy

Administration

Agriculture Technology Services

General Counsel

Policy and Budget



Animal Industry

Mission: To serve as the guardian of the health of Florida's livestock and poultry industries and other animal populations.

- Surveillance
- Control & Eradicate Diseases
- Coordinate with Wildlife and Public Health Officials
- Rapid & Accurate Diagnostic Services
- Emergency Response



Aquaculture

Mission:
Supporting
aquaculture
production and
growth for
economic
development while
protecting the
environment.

- Provide Technical Assistance
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Oyster Reef Restoration
- Assess Resources



Florida Forest Service

Mission: To protect and manage the forest resources of the state, ensuring they are available for future generations.

- Forest Protection
 - Wildland fire prevention, detection, suppression and mitigation
- State Forest Management
- Forestry Management Assistance
- Technical Assistance
- Forest Health



Food, Nutrition and Wellness

Mission: To ensure that every child in Florida has access to a nutritious meal that is full of fresh fruits and vegetables and is educated on the importance of making healthy choices through outreach, partnerships, education, and oversight to ensure quality and compliance, training and technical assistance.

- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- After School Snack
- Summer Food Services Program
- Farm to School



Food Safety

Mission: To assure the public of a safe, wholesome and properly represented food supply.

Division staff proactively monitors food from farm gate through processing and distribution to the retail point of purchase.

- Food Establishment Inspections
 - Manufacturers, Processors, distributors, Retailers
- Laboratories
 - Only state lab fully devoted to food safety analysis
 - Focus is on microbiological and pesticide contamination



Fruit and Vegetables

Mission: To meet the needs of Florida's fruit and vegetables industries through fiscally responsible quality assurance and technical assistance services.

- Inspects
 - Citrus
 - Peanuts
 - Tomatoes
 - Avocados
 - Potatoes
- Implements the Tomato Good Agricultural Practices program on farms and in packing houses
- Verifies “grade” and condition of produce received by buyers (brokers)



Agricultural Law Enforcement

Mission: To enforce laws which threaten the overall security and safety of the state's agriculture industry.

- AgLaw manages 23 agricultural interdiction stations
- Enforce civil and criminal laws on property owned, managed by the department (state forests, FDACS facilities, etc.) and any criminal violation involving farms or farm equipment, animals/livestock, poultry, horticulture, aquaculture or citrus products.
- Agricultural Emergency Preparedness
- Florida's Domestic Marijuana Eradication Program.



Marketing and Development

Mission: To drive awareness and sales of Florida's commodities by developing and expanding marketing opportunities for Fresh from Florida products and to ensure fair trade practices to reduce financial risk to the state's agribusiness community.

- **Fresh From Florida**
- **Marketing, Trade and Promotion**
- **Awareness**
 - Chef and Culinary Ambassador
 - Children, Parents and Minority Groups
- **Preserving Agriculture's Legacy & Advocating its Future**



Plant Industry

Mission: To protect Florida's native and commercially grown plants and the state's apiary industry from harmful pests and diseases

- First Line of Defense
- Exotic Invasives
- Fruit Fly Eradication
- Citrus Health Response Program
- Honeybee hive location, managed beekeeping
- Outreach
- Natural Solutions



Agricultural Water Policy

Mission: To help ensure the future of Florida Agriculture while preserving the state's natural resources

- Water Supply
- Mobile Irrigation Labs
- Water Quality Criteria
- Best Management Practices
- Regulatory Streamlining



Agricultural Environmental Services

Mission: To protect agriculture, the public, and the environment from unsafe and unethical products and services used for agricultural production or for managing pests.

- Feed
- Seed
- Fertilizer
- Pesticides
- Mosquito Control
- Pest Control
- Emergency Response



2013 Legislative Priorities

- Proposing changes to fertilizer statute that reflect current fertilizer manufacturing capabilities and improvements in fertilizer laboratory technology
- Expanding Operation Outdoor Freedom program
- Re-vamping the distribution of state aid to the local mosquito control districts
- Eliminating archaic regulation, duplicative reporting, and inactive councils and Direct Support Organizations
 - Also asking for the ability to create DSOs





QUESTIONS?

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES
ADAM H. PUTNAM, COMMISSIONER**

Department Overview
December 4, 2012

Grace Lovett, Director
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**Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission**

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Presentation to:

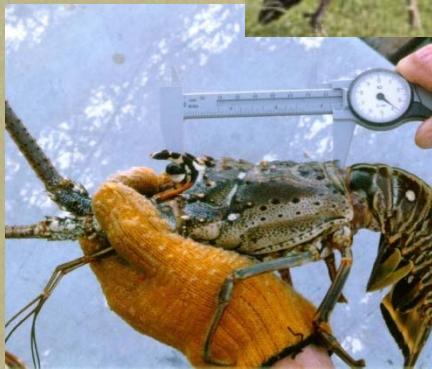
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee



Nick Wiley, Executive Director
December 4, 2012

FWC Mission

Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of the people.



2011 Economic Impact

Category	Economic Impact	Jobs
Boating Industry	\$16,800,000,000	202,700
Saltwater Fishing	\$5,692,000,000	54,500
Freshwater Fishing	\$2,631,000,000	24,800
Wildlife Viewing	\$5,784,000,000	51,400
Hunting	\$780,000,000	10,700
TOTAL	\$31,687,000,000	344,100



2008 Sales Impacts of the Florida Seafood Industry

	Sales	Jobs
Commercial Harvesters	\$ 171,385,000	3,000
Seafood Processors & Dealers	\$ 423,923,000	4,000
Seafood Wholesalers & Distributors	\$ 1,272,539,000	11,700
Retail Sector	\$ 3,789,399,000	90,000
Total	\$ 5,657,246,000	108,700



FWC Commission

7 Commissioners - appointed by the Governor for 5-year staggered terms, confirmed by Senate

- Ken Wright, Chairman
- Kathy Barco, Vice Chairman
- Ron Bergeron
- Richard Corbett
- Aliese “Liesa” Priddy
- Charles W. Roberts, III
- Brian Yablonski



Conserving Fish and Wildlife in Florida

FWC Vision – Powered by science-based leadership, create a sustainable and healthy future for Florida's fish, wildlife, water and habitat resources

FWC Goal – Provide healthy resources for safe, satisfied customers

Key Guideline – Collaborate with customers, stakeholders, landowners and public interests to find well balanced conservation solutions while minimizing regulatory approach



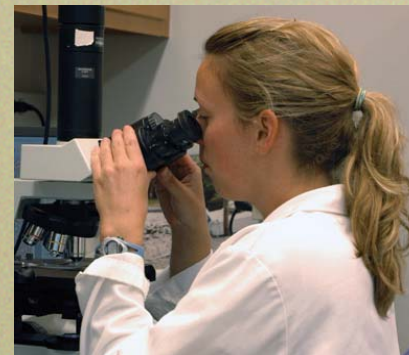
Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

- Collects harvest and biological information
- Conducts assessments of saltwater, freshwater, terrestrial, and imperiled species
- Research provided to resource managers and Commissioners who determine management strategies



Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

- Provides technical support for natural resource catastrophes including oil spills and natural disasters
- Monitors red tides and other harmful algal blooms
- Collaborates with federal, state, local governments, universities, non-governmental organizations



Habitat and Species Conservation

- Manages conservation, species diversity, and abundance of native wildlife
- Develops and implements imperiled species management plans
- Manages fish and wildlife habitat and provides recreational access to public lands and waters



Habitat and Species Conservation

- Minimizes the impacts of nonnative species on native fish, wildlife and marine life
- Manages invasive plants in public water bodies and conservation lands
- Partners with numerous public and private entities to conserve and enhance habitat resources



Hunting and Game Management

Responsibilities

- Science-based management
 - Deer
 - Wild turkeys
 - Small game (e.g., quail, doves, squirrels)
 - Waterfowl
 - Alligators
- Hunting opportunities and access on public lands
- Hunter safety training and certification
- Public shooting ranges



Marine Fisheries Management

- Coordinates management of over 500 saltwater fish species
- Provides fisheries management recommendations to Commissioners
- Coordinates Federal fisheries issues



Marine Fisheries Management

- Works with recreational and commercial fishing interests
- Coordinates Florida's artificial reef program
- Coordinates Florida's abandoned trap retrieval program



Freshwater Fisheries Management

- Develop fish management plans with public input
- Implement fish management projects, including stocking fish produced at hatcheries
- Evaluate success of each project and adapt approach to maximize benefits and reduce management costs



Freshwater Fisheries Management

- Partner with local government to enhance public access to lakes, rivers, and man-made waters
- Partnerships to protect water quality and habitat
- Assist private landowners managing their ponds
- Partner with industry to provide access to high-quality fishing; e.g. Mosaic Fish Management Area
- Partner with industry to promote and conserve Florida's trophy bass fishing



TrophyCatch
My trophy swims in Florida



Law Enforcement

Natural resources conservation & protection

- Ensure safe and sustainable use
- State lands protection, including wildlife management areas, state parks, state forests, and aquaculture
- Marine fisheries, freshwater fisheries, and wildlife law enforcement
- Environmental crimes enforcement, such as illegal storage/transport of hazardous materials, illegal dumping of chemicals
- Captive wildlife, wildlife pet industry



Law Enforcement

Management of boating and waterways

- Ensure safe boating for people and resources
- Provide public access for boating



Public safety

- Search and rescue missions
- Emergency/disaster response



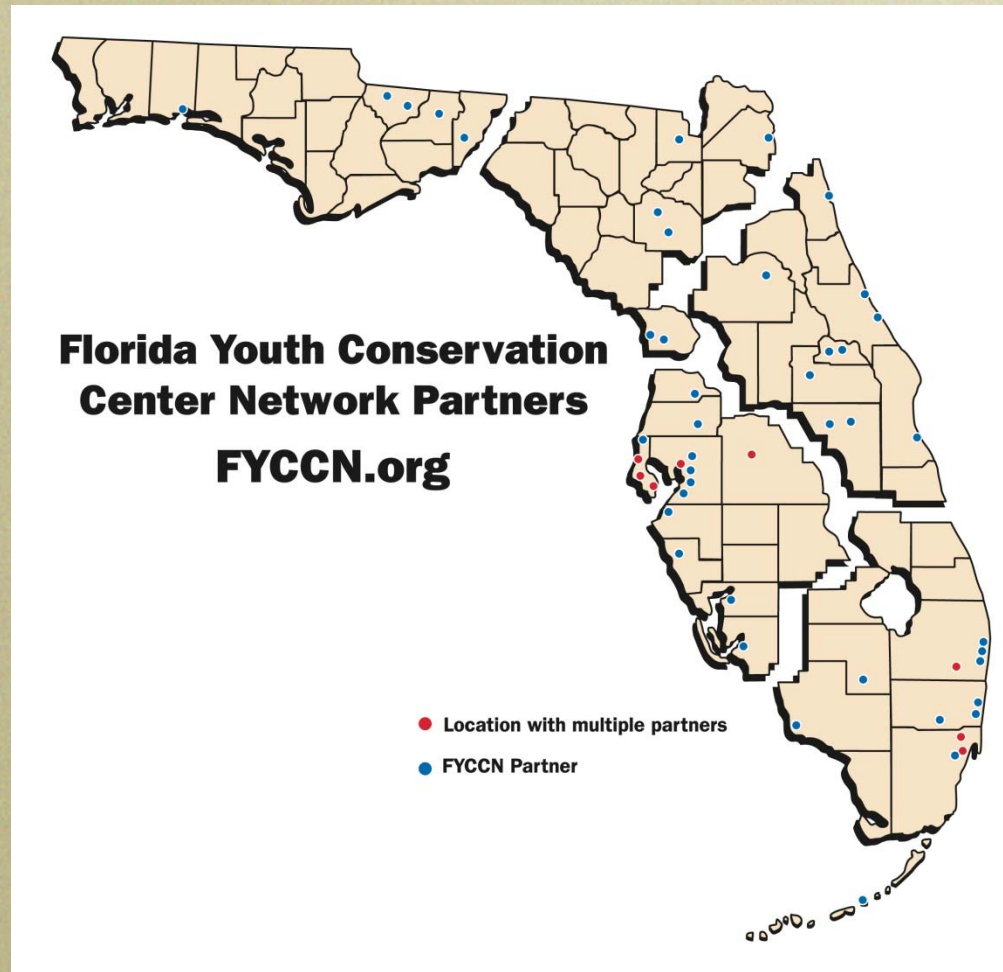
Creating the Next Generation that Cares...



... about fish and wildlife conservation!



FYCCN Partner Locations



Over 100 partner sites across Florida
and growing....





Number of youth served:

2009	-----	18,000
2010	-----	20,250
2011	-----	49,390
2012	-----	65,000 so far...



2013 Session Issues

- Veterans/Military
 - Exempt hunting/fishing license requirement for special events
 - 1-year waiver of commercial saltwater fishing license requirement

- Increase free fishing days to 4 for saltwater and 4 for freshwater

- Modify residency requirements for recreational and commercial fishing/hunting licenses

- Correct antiquated reference to federal boating laws



Current Issues

- Marine fisheries seasons in the Gulf and Atlantic - red snapper and gag grouper
- Regional management of red snapper and gag grouper in Gulf Council
- Major loss of seasonal oyster production, particularly acute in Apalachicola Bay
- Management of threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species
- Assess and manage impacts of invasive species, such as lionfish and pythons
- Deer management - flexibility for private landowners/deer seasons, importation of deer, Deer Management Units
- Alligator management – Program review and improvement working with stakeholders
- Development of a public shooting range on Triple N Wildlife Management Area in Osceola County

