



FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION OVERVIEW

April 2007

Report No. S07-04

Agency Responsibilities

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's mission is to manage the state's fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of citizens. The commission was created in 1998 by a constitutional amendment that merged portions of the Divisions of Marine Resources and Law Enforcement of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and the Marine Fisheries Commission.

The Florida Constitution grants the commission the state's executive and regulatory powers over wild animal life, freshwater aquatic life and marine fish. However, the Legislature sets fees for hunting and fishing licenses and penalties for violating regulations. The Legislature may also assign other duties and responsibilities to the commission in statute as long as they do not conflict with the commission's constitutional powers.

Agency Organization

The Governor appoints seven members to the Commission. Members are confirmed by the Senate and serve five-year terms. The commission appoints an executive director to manage the agency and its programs.

The commission conducts its activities through seven programs:

- **Executive Direction and Administrative Services** provides executive leadership and administrative services to other commission programs. Offices within this program include the Office of Recreation Services, the Community Relations Office, the Office of Data Portal, the Finance and Budget Office, the Office of Information Technology, the

Office of Licensing and Permitting, the Office of Policy and Stakeholder Coordination, the Legislative Affairs Office, the Legal Office, the Office of Inspector General, the Office of Human Resources, and the Office of the Executive Director.

- **Hunting and Game Management** facilitates the responsible and sustained use of Florida's game wildlife. Program sections include Game Species Management, Hunter Safety and Public Shooting Ranges, and Public Hunting Areas.
- **Marine Fisheries Management** facilitates the responsible and sustained use of Florida's marine life resources. Program sections include Fisheries Management and Fisheries Services.
- **Freshwater Fisheries Management** facilitates the responsible and sustained use of Florida's fresh water aquatic life. Program sections include Fisheries Management and Hatchery Operations and Pond Stocking.
- **Law Enforcement** provides response and protection services to Florida's fish and wildlife resources and to the public on the lands and waters of the state. Program sections include Field Operations, Boating and Waterways, and Support.
- **Fish and Wildlife Research Institute** serves as the primary source of research and technical information on the status of Florida's fish and wildlife resources. Program sections include Ecosystem Assessment and Restoration, Freshwater Fisheries Research, Information Science and Management, Marine Fisheries Research, and Wildlife Research.
- **Habitat and Species Conservation** protects and conserves the state's diverse and unique fish and wildlife populations and their

habitats. Program sections include Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration, Exotic Species Coordination, Habitat Conservation Scientific Services, Imperiled Species Management, Program Coordination, Species Conservation Planning, and Terrestrial Habitat Conservation and Restoration.

For a chart of the department's organizational structure, see Exhibit 1.

Agency Resources

The Legislature appropriated \$261.5 million and 1,875.5 full-time positions for the commission for Fiscal Year 2006-07 (see Exhibit 2). This represented a 9.5% increase in funding and a 0.2% increase in full-time positions compared to the previous year.

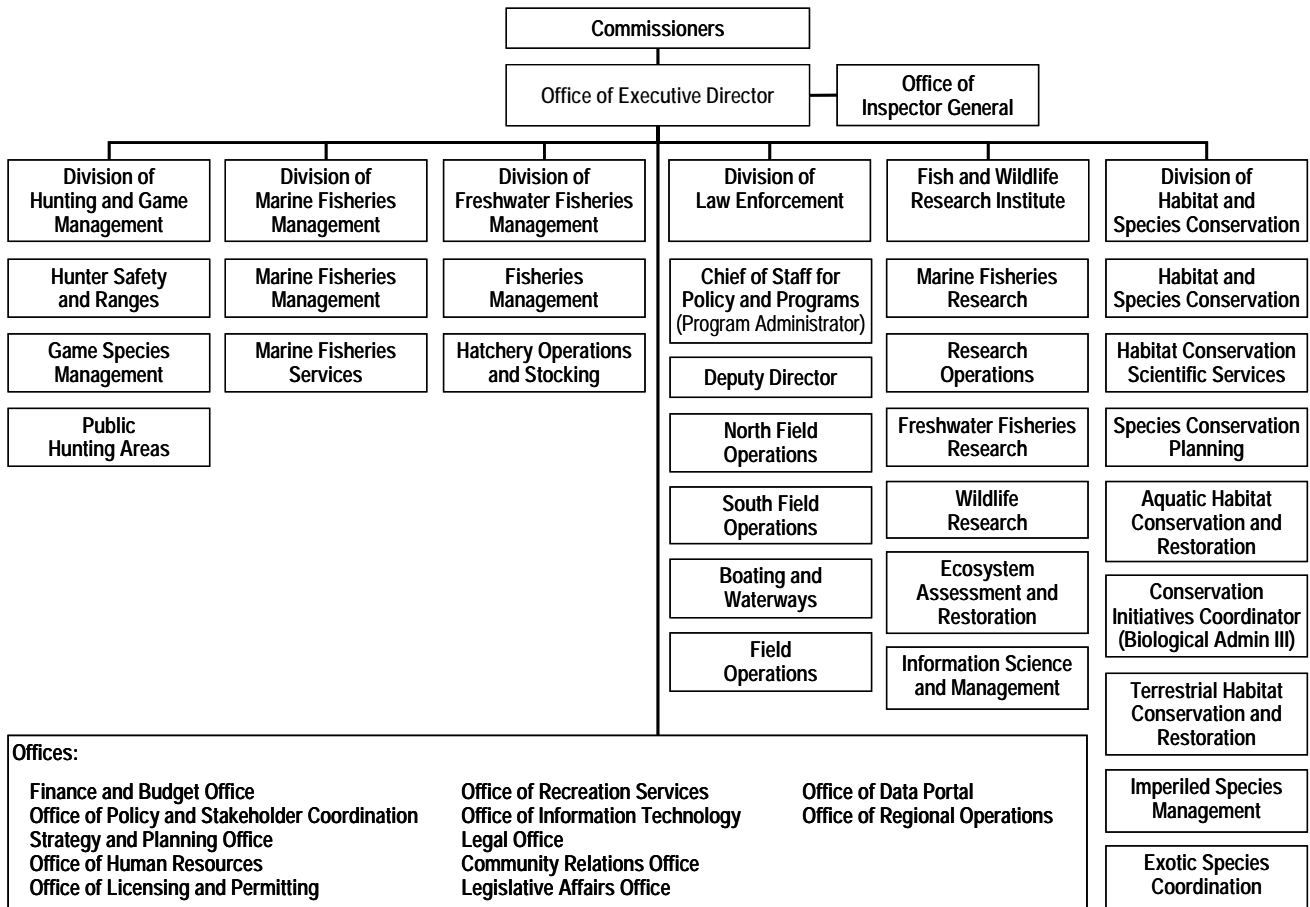
Exhibit 2 Legislative Appropriations and Staffing for the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

	FY 2004-05	FY 2005-06	FY 2006-07
General Revenue	\$ 51,299,486	\$ 58,082,782	\$ 61,307,476
Trust Funds	174,517,502	180,783,278	200,198,169
Total Funds	\$225,816,988	\$238,866,060	\$261,505,645
FTE	1,871.5	1,872.5	1,875.5
OPS	370.25	440.5	441.5
Total Staff	2,241.75	2,313	2,317

Source: Legislative Appropriations System/Planning and Budgeting Subsystem (LAS/PBS), August 2006, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Sunset Review Report, January 2007.

For more details on the department's resources for Fiscal Year 2006-07, see Exhibit 3.

Exhibit 1 The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Organizational Structure



Source: Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Exhibit 3**Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Resources by Program Division for Fiscal Year 2006-07**

Division	Federal Funds	State Trust Funds	General Revenue	Total	FTE Positions	OPS Positions
Executive Direction and Administration Services	\$ 4,038,355	\$ 15,321,107	\$ 2,679,602	\$ 22,039,064	215.5	30
Hunting and Game Management	1,199,856	4,381,359	0	5,581,215	45	10
Marine Fisheries Management	1,790,555	2,831,818	1,302,978	5,925,351	26	3.5
Freshwater Fisheries Management	3,382,450	3,455,255	32,186	6,869,891	69.5	5
Law Enforcement	10,134,863	34,489,841	42,071,434	86,696,138	901.5	41
Habitat and Species Conservation	11,045,643	68,723,589	39,290	79,808,522	301	118.5
Fish and Wildlife Research Institute	11,537,493	27,865,985	15,181,986	54,585,464	317	233.5
Total	\$43,129,215	\$157,068,954	\$61,307,476	\$261,505,645	1,875.5	441.5

Source: Legislative Appropriations System/Planning and Budgeting Subsystem (LAS/PBS), August 2006, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Sunset Review Report, January 2007.

The Florida Legislature

Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability



The Florida Government Accountability Act Sunset Reviews

The 2006 Legislature passed the Florida Government Accountability Act (Ch. 2006-146, *Laws of Florida*) to create a Sunset review process. The act

- establishes the process, criteria, and schedule for the Legislature to assess whether state agencies and advisory committees need to continue to exist;
- provides for the creation of a Legislative Sunset Advisory Committee and describes the membership and organization of the committee and committee duties;
- requires reports and assistance from state agencies and the Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA).

Using these reports and other information, the Sunset Advisory Committee is to produce a report that includes recommendations to abolish, continue, or reorganize an agency or advisory committee under review.

First Year Schedule for Agency Reviews

Agencies to be reviewed by July 1, 2008:

- (a) Statutorily created responsibilities of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- (b) Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- (c) Department of Citrus, including the Citrus Commission.
- (d) Department of Environmental Protection.
- (e) Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.
- (f) Water management districts.

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