
 COL All
 CH VIIIB-2
 REDUCTIONS
 POS AMOUNT PRIORITY CODES

FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM 77000000

PRIORITY SUMMARY NARRATIVE:

To prepare this list, agency division directors carefully reviewed all recurring programs and activities within the agency. Directors looked for activities which could be deferred during tight financial times and picked back up again as times get better without significant loss or set back. They tried to avoid interrupting efforts already underway or commitments already made and they took into consideration local versus statewide impact. They also avoided dismantling current efficient programs which would require significant start-up costs to re-establish at a later date. In the case of General Revenue (GR), there was not much flexibility because it is focused in very specific areas within the agency. The Division of Law Enforcement uses 79% (\$35.8 million) of the agency's total recurring GR and accordingly was significantly represented. In addition, the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute is appropriated \$9.2 million GR, over half of which is directed to support red tide research and much of which is used as match for federal research grants. It was therefore necessary to include a share of the red tide research in the list. All of these issues are important and valuable to the agency, and none are placed on this list lightly. However, we recognize that in hard times, hard choices must be made to help keep the State solvent.

SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -
 OPERATING
 ELIMINATE MANATEE AVOIDANCE
 TECHNOLOGY SONAR GRANTS

33B0000
 1 33B3000

TRUST FUNDS..... 80,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This reduction would eliminate a competitive grant awards program directed at funding potential technological solutions to protecting manatees from collisions with watercraft. A broad range of people, institutions, and agencies are eligible to receive these grants. Groups eligible to receive grants include government agencies (local, county, state, and federal research entities), schools (public universities or independent non-profit colleges, especially those located within Florida and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges), and non-profit organizations with scientific, environmental, or natural resource missions. This program was reduced from \$200,000 annually in the FY 2008-09 budget and this additional cut would eliminate this program.

ELIMINATE FLORIDA KEYS MOORING BUOY
 CONTRACT

2 33B6000

TRUST FUNDS..... 25,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This reduction will eliminate Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission support for the installation and maintenance of mooring buoys in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Properly maintained mooring buoys are a necessity for

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 OPERATING 33B0000
 ELIMINATE FLORIDA KEYS MOORING BUOY
 CONTRACT 2 33B6000

ensuring the safety of boaters, divers, and snorkelers and protecting coral reefs from damage due to boat anchors.

ELIMINATE RED TIDE CONTROL AND
 MITIGATION GRANTS 3 33B1000

GENERAL REVENUE FUND..... 850,000- 1000
 =====

SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This reduction would eliminate a competitive grant program designed to fund environmentally acceptable techniques or technologies for potential control or mitigation of red tide blooms and their effects in Florida. Economic impacts of red tides in Florida have been estimated to exceed \$20 million annually. This program, which fosters collaborations between Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and numerous partners (universities, local governments, non-profit research labs, and citizens groups), funds projects designed to minimize the size, intensity, or duration of red tide blooms or reduce the environmental, economic, social, or public health impacts of future red tides in Florida. Exploring environmentally sound methods to reduce or eliminate the effects of red tide is important economically and socially to Floridians and visitors, but this is a new initiative and therefore is considered a lesser priority than our focused red tide monitoring and research efforts.

REDUCE LAKE RESTORATION PROJECTS 4 33B1300

TRUST FUNDS..... 1,000,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This issue reduces special category lake restoration documentary stamp funding from \$7.8 million to \$6.8 million. A \$1,000,000 permanent reduction in spending authority will reduce funding for restoration projects by 13% and result in fewer aquatic habitat enhancement projects in public waterways. Engineering services for some lake and wetland projects will be delayed, as will start up and planning for future restoration projects. Monetary contributions to partners for various enhancement and restoration projects will be reduced or withdrawn. Monitoring of aquatic plant and animal communities needed to evaluate present and future restoration activities would be reduced. A significant portion of the aquatic habitat enhancement projects are conducted by private sector contractors and reduced funding would directly impact the economic situation of these private contractors.

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 SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -
 OPERATING 33B0000
 REDUCE NON-CARL LAND MANAGEMENT 5 33B1200
 TRUST FUNDS..... 2,219,231- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This reduction would affect 38% of current funding directed to land management operations pursuant to Ch. 201.15(5), Florida Statutes. This cut would seriously diminish wildlife protection, public recreational opportunities, and land management programs on private, state or federally owned lands within the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system where the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is either a designated lead manager or a secondary cooperator. Staffing on certain land units within the WMA system would have to be eliminated resulting in the closure of some WMAs for public use and other forms of wildlife-based recreation. Reduced funding would affect long-term resource protection programs such as community restoration and imperiled species recovery. In some cases such as exotic plant control, recent accomplishments may be compromised or negated if funding is inadequate to support necessary maintenance treatments.

ELIMIMATE SMITHSONIAN MARINE ECOSYSTEM CONTRACT 6 33B2000
 GENERAL REVENUE FUND..... 80,000- 1000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This reduction would reduce or eliminate marine education programs targeting local K-12 schools in the Ft. Pierce area. On-site educational programs and public outreach events would be severely curtailed. Support for the living marine resource exhibit, including husbandry and infrastructure costs, may result in reduced operating hours and threaten closure of the facility. These programs are extremely popular in region, but were determined to be of lower priority due to limited geographic scope.

ELIMINATE ALLIGATOR MARKETING AND EDUCATION 7 33B9100
 TRUST FUNDS..... 150,000- 2000
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FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM			77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
ELIMINATE ALLIGATOR MARKETING AND			
EDUCATION		7	33B9100

SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This reduction would eliminate the appropriation to transfer funding to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services per s. 379.3751 and s. 379.3752, Florida Statutes, to conduct alligator marketing and education activities. These activities are viewed by the alligator products industry as essential to their continued success. The appropriation was not provided during FY 2002-03 through FY 2006-07. A non-recurring appropriation was provided during FY 2007-08 and the recurring appropriation was reinstated for FY 2008-09. Most of the fees that formed the original basis for the issue have been abolished. Eliminating this transfer would not affect agency revenues or existing alligator management program elements. Amendments to statutes are necessary in order to effectively implement this reduction.

ELIMINATE SMITHSONIAN BIOLOGICAL			
MONITORING CONTRACT		8	33B4000
TRUST FUNDS.....	124,800-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This reduction would eliminate the Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce's long term biological monitoring initiatives in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie estuary. This would eliminate a critical source of water quality and biological monitoring information used by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and both the South Florida and St. Johns River Water Management Districts. Monitoring and analysis of ongoing environmental impacts associated with the management of Lake Okeechobee water levels would be severely curtailed or eliminated

REDUCE INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT		9	33B3500
TRUST FUNDS.....	3,373,709-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

Reduced funding would result in fewer invasive plant control projects in public waterways and upland public conservation lands. Delays or cancellations of plant control projects usually result in geometric increases in growth of invasive plants. Expanding invasive plant populations have adverse impacts on recreation such as fishing, hunting, boating, swimming, ecotourism as well as adversely impacting beneficial native habitat critical for the management and well being

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 OPERATING 33B0000
 REDUCE INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT 9 33B3500

of fish and wildlife populations. In addition, excessive invasive plant populations in public waterways restrict water flow and can cause flooding during critical periods, resulting in danger to human health and safety. A significant portion of the invasive plant control projects are conducted by contractors in the private sector. Reduced funding would directly impact the economic situation of these private contractors.

REDUCE OCEANARIA REIMBURSEMENT
 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM\UNIVERSARY OF
 FLORIDA MARINE MAMMAL PROGRAM\
 COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE 10 33B7000

TRUST FUNDS..... 1,100,000- 2000

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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has managed the Oceanaria Reimbursement Assistance Program for rescued, rehabilitated, and released Florida manatees since 1991. Since July, 2000, \$1.15 million annually has been available to reimburse the three contracted and federally permitted manatee rehabilitation facilities in Florida: Lowry Park Zoo, Miami Seaquarium, and Sea World Florida. These facilities are involved in the rescue and full-time acute-care, veterinarian-based rehabilitation of manatees. This reduction would reduce the annual amount available for reimbursement to permitted facilities from \$1.15 million to \$500,000 which would dramatically reduce or eliminate FWC's options to rescue and rehabilitate injured manatees. Presently, the oceanaria are reimbursed for only about 65% of qualified expenses. A reduction in the reimbursement amount to \$500,000 would result in a reimbursement rate of less than 25% which would likely result in some oceanaria discontinuing their participation in the program.

The University of Florida Marine Mammal Program is a joint endeavor of the College of Veterinary Medicine and FWC. This program was developed to promote the health and understanding of marine mammals in Florida and is one of the few initiatives in the country training veterinarians, veterinary medical students, and related professionals in the care of marine mammals. This program has also provided much needed expertise to FWC Marine Mammal Pathobiology Lab through externships. This reduction from \$850,000 to \$400,000 annually would dramatically reduce the services this program provides to FWC and reduce the number of qualified veterinarians available for marine mammal work.

REDUCE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
 POSITIONS 11 33B1400

GENERAL REVENUE FUND..... 68.00- 3,505,798- 1000

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SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
REDUCE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER			
POSITIONS	11		33B1400

SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This reduction would eliminate 68 law enforcement officer positions (class 8515), reducing the total number of sworn positions from 721 to 653. The per officer savings is \$51,559 including salaries & benefits, salary incentive payments, and Human Resources contract costs.

Out of the agency's \$45.1 million recurring General Revenue (GR) budget, \$35.8 million (79.5%) supports the Division of Law Enforcement. It is unavoidable to include some portion of law enforcement in any need to significantly reduce agency appropriations. Due to the Division of Law Enforcement's primary role of fish, wildlife and boating safety law enforcement patrol, the vast majority of its appropriations are used for salaries of employees that provide or support the patrol function. Reducing the number of employees is the only viable solution to reducing large amounts of GR funding.

A reduction of 68 sworn law enforcement officer positions would significantly impede the ability of the Division of Law Enforcement to provide law enforcement services to the resources and citizens of Florida, meet our constitutional mandate of protecting fish and wildlife resources, and provide homeland security or disaster relief services when needed. The reduction would result in reduced high visibility patrols in manatee areas, panther areas, wildlife management areas, and popular boating and fishing areas, currently serving as a deterrent to illegal activities. Our ability to respond rapidly to calls for service from the public would be reduced and available officers will have to cover larger patrol zones. The health and safety of the public would be jeopardized if these positions were eliminated; reducing our ability to adequately provide boating safety patrol, investigate boating accidents and respond to critical incidents that have a direct impact on the safety of Florida's citizens and visitors. Our ability to respond to man-made and natural disasters would also be adversely impacted. Responding safely to major catastrophic events requires extensive training, preparations, logistics and scheduling. Having less people to respond to such events presents additional workload and dangers to those that do respond.

ELIMINATE NONGAME WILDLIFE GRANT PROGRAM	13		33B6100
TRUST FUNDS.....		100,000-	2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

The Commission's Nongame Wildlife Grants Program (NWGP) provides funds to a colleges, universities, school systems, and other education facilities; industry, research, and other profit or nonprofit organizations to undertake projects in support of nongame wildlife management and conservation. The Commission's goals for these programs are to (1) maintain or restore the richness and natural diversity of Florida's native nongame wildlife and (2) establish an integrated and

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 PROGRAM 13 33B6100

coordinated approach to the management, conservation, and appreciation of nongame wildlife. Priority funding is given to projects that address these areas of interest, will contribute to the conservation and management of "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" identified in Florida's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation and will otherwise enhance the conservation and management of Florida's nongame wildlife. Since 2001, this program has funded hundreds of projects focused on dozens of bird, reptile, amphibian, mammal and insect species vital to Florida's natural communities. This program was reduced by \$40,246 in FY 2008-09. The proposed reduction would eliminate this program and end the only state grant funding source available for most nongame species in Florida which constitute over 95% of the 1,200 animal species occurring in the state.

REDUCE MARINE FISHERIES AND MARINE
 TURTLE RESEARCH AND MONITORING 14 33B7100
 TRUST FUNDS..... 312,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This reduction would reduce or eliminate data collection activities for recreational and commercial fisheries and five protected species of sea turtles in Florida. Reductions in temporary staffing and program expense will limit the geographic coverage of these now statewide programs. This reduction would create substantial data gaps for statewide fisheries assessments on economically valuable species such as spotted seatrout, red drum, red snapper, red grouper, and gag grouper. Uncertainty in the assessments due to inadequate data will result in ill-informed regulations and more conflict between state and federal fisheries managers. In addition, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's response to injured or dead sea turtles would be curtailed, resulting in fewer determinations of cause of death and limited information to guide management actions to reduce mortalities. Sea turtle nesting beach monitoring activities, conducted for over 20 straight years statewide, will likely have to be curtailed resulting in a gap in this important long term record.

ELIMINATE NUISANCE ALLIGATOR CALL
 CENTER CONTRACT 15 33B9200
 TRUST FUNDS..... 50,000- 2000
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FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM			77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
ELIMINATE NUISANCE ALLIGATOR CALL			
CENTER CONTRACT	15		33B9200

SCH VIIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

Convert contract employees to full-time OPS employees. This 5-person call center, which operates during normal business hours 7-days per week, year round, is responsible for receiving more than 13,000 nuisance alligator complaints, annually, from constituents throughout the state. These call center employees are located in a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) office and supervised directly by FWC staff. Nearly all of the 13,000 complaints annually are resolved immediately during the initial call handled by the call center staff. If the complaint is complex or needs additional review or action, then the call is forwarded to FWC alligator program staff. Call center staffing levels are commensurate with the call volume and have resulted in superior customer satisfaction ratings from constituents. This reduction would be achieved by eliminating payments to a temporary employment agency, which imposes significant overhead costs to manage employees. Four of the call center employees worked greater than 1,040 hours, which, if this reduction took place, would necessitate annual approval by the Governor's office under state OPS rules. Because the staffing level would be retained, this reduction is expected to have no negative impacts on program operations, public safety, or customer satisfaction.

ELIMINATE MARINE FISHERIES			
MANAGEMENT SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING	16		33B1600
TRUST FUNDS.....		35,000-	2000
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SCH VIIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This would reduce the Division's recurring budget available to fund special projects such as angler surveys or short-term studies addressing management questions. Loss of these funds will severely limit the Division's ability to address emerging regulatory or management issues through such mechanisms as public opinion surveys or directed studies. As an example in FY 2007-08 funds were used to fund a stakeholder mail survey to gather information about the goliath grouper fishery in Florida and to support a license renewal campaign in cooperation with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation.

SHIFT BLACKWATER FISH PRODUCTION			
FACILITY TO GRANT FUNDING	17		33B1700
TRUST FUNDS.....		1-	2000
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SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
SHIFT BLACKWATER FISH PRODUCTION			
FACILITY TO GRANT FUNDING	17		33B1700

SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

Currently, four positions and \$329,399 in State Game Trust Fund funding support freshwater fish production facilities at Blackwater Fish Hatchery in Santa Rosa County. This facility provides annual fish production (750,000-1 million striped bass, hybrid striped bass, largemouth bass, panfish, and channel catfish) for stocking in fresh water at 25-30 Florida panhandle lakes, rivers and streams. A shift of \$249,914 from state funding to Sport Fish Restoration federal grant funding would allow fish stocking activities to continue. The remaining state funding would be sufficient to provide the required state match.

REDUCE PUBLIC COMMENTING			
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	18		33B1800
TRUST FUNDS.....		6,284-	2000

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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

The public commenting position coordinates the Division of Marine Fisheries Management's role in agency commenting processes that are administered through the Office of Policy and Stakeholder Coordination. Reduction of expenses will eliminate attendance at meetings and other expenses associated with coordinating marine fisheries concerns with other local, state and federal agencies. The travel expenses associated with this position currently allow the agency to be represented at meetings where advance work ensures that agency concerns or recommendations are be incorporated into development projects, habitat restoration or mitigation and projects reviewed under the Coastal Zone Management Act.

REDUCE HUNTING AND GAME MANAGEMENT			
PUBLIC INFORMATION MATERIALS	19		33B8200
TRUST FUNDS.....		60,000-	2000

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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This reduction would eliminate mallard/mottled duck hybridization and alligator safety Public Service Announcements. These televised announcements are designed to (1) increase public awareness and cooperation so that Florida's unique duck (Florida's mottled duck) is conserved and (2) promote public safety and increase awareness concerning Florida's alligator

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OPERATING			33B0000
REDUCE HUNTING AND GAME MANAGEMENT			
PUBLIC INFORMATION MATERIALS	19		33B8200

population. The reduction would also eliminate direct-mail marketing materials that help promote specific public hunting opportunities, namely, special-opportunity and spring turkey hunts. The proposed reduction in outreach decreases our efforts to inform the public, potentially reduces public safety related to alligators, compromises conservation efforts for Florida's mottled duck, and may result in lowered public satisfaction.

REDUCE MARINE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT			
HEARING, WORKSHOP, AND ADVISORY			
GROUP ACTIVITIES	20		33B5500

TRUST FUNDS.....		15,000-	2000
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SCH VIIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

The division would reduce the expected number of administrative hearings, public workshops and meetings of the stone crab advisory board. This would require affected commercial fishermen to travel farther to attend informal administrative hearings and will have a fiscal impact on petitioners. It would reduce the number of locations at which public workshops would be held around the state. It would eliminate one statewide meeting of the stone crab advisory board. All of these reductions hinder the ability of the Division to provide a high level of customer service and to receive public input on potential actions of the agency. This reduction would limit the ability of the agency to garner public support from stakeholders for regulatory programs that are needed to successfully protect and maintain Florida's marine fisheries resources and fishing industries.

REDUCE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA			
BROCHURE PRINTING	21		33B8100

TRUST FUNDS.....		32,458-	2000
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SCH VIIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

Reduce the number of Wildlife Management Area brochures printed from more than 1,200,000 to about 750,000. Each year, the Commission produces brochures for each of its Wildlife Management Areas to explain area-specific rules and aid recreational users, including hunting and fishing enthusiasts. Currently brochures are printed and distributed to local offices and partners for distribution to the public. The proposed reduction in printing will reduce waste, increase efficiency, but frustrate some constituents who are left without printed brochures. When supplies are exhausted,

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<u>FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM</u>			77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
REDUCE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA			
BROCHURE PRINTING	21		33B8100

downloadable brochures will remain available on the web for recreationalists to access and print on their own.

REDUCE RECREATIONAL OUTREACH			
PROGRAM FUNDING	22		33B8400
TRUST FUNDS.....		119,064-	2000

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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 09-10 NOTES:

This would eliminate most non-grant funding available for public information. It would eliminate funds for publication and shipping costs associated with the recreational saltwater fishing regulations (including a Spanish language version). For limited publication of the regulations to continue, the current publication contract would have to cover all contractor printing and distribution costs through advertising. This would likely result in significantly fewer copies shipped to fewer locations. The number of pages of printed regulations would be severely reduced, the Spanish-language version of the regulations would not be published and the English-language version would, at a minimum, be reduced to a once-a-year printing.

TOTAL: FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM			77000000
BY FUND TYPE			
GENERAL REVENUE FUND		4,435,798-	1000
TRUST FUNDS		8,802,547-	2000

TOTAL POSITIONS.....		68.00-	
TOTAL DEPARTMENT.....		13,238,345-	
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