STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

FWC EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-08 **COVID-19**

WHEREAS, The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, and acting through its Executive Director under 68-1.009, F.A.C., Delegations of Authority, February 14, 2013, Paragraphs 17 and 22;

WHEREAS, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis on March 1, 2020 by Executive Order No.: 20-51, directed the State Health Officer and Surgeon General, Dr. Scott Rivkees to declare a public emergency in the State of Florida pursuant to F.S. 381.00315; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order No.: 20-52 on March 9, 2020, pursuant to the authority vested in him by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution, the State Emergency Management Act, s. 252.31, Florida Statutes, *et al.*, as amended, and all other applicable laws declared a State of Emergency for the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable, that further extensions or additional Executive Orders will result due to continued outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends community preparedness and various prevention and mitigation measures be taken. These measures include among other things, keeping people away from persons who are sick or have been exposed to persons ill with COVID-19, limiting face-to face contact with individuals who are sick or have been exposed to persons ill with COVID-19, exercising social distancing which includes remaining out of congregate settings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others and remaining at home;

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020 Governor DeSantis directed agencies to suspend professional licensing renewal requirements for a period of 30 days;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Orders 20-51 and 20-52 of the Executive Office of the Governor; and the aforementioned delegations of authority of the Commission, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Florida Statutes or Florida Administrative Code:

1. I hereby suspend, to the extent necessary to ensure any emergency response functions, the effect of any statute, rule or order, to the extent needed to procure any and all necessary commodities or contractual services, temporary premises, and other resources to include, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any and all statutes, rules or orders which affect budgeting, leasing, printing, purchasing, travel, the condition of employment and the compensation of employees.

2. I hereby delegate to Acting Chief Operating Officer (COO) the authority to close Tallahassee area buildings and facilities to the extent necessary to meet this emergency. This closure authority allows for closure only to the public, to remain open for FWC staff and operations, but it is broad enough to allow full closure to everyone including staff in the event that is necessary.

3. I hereby delegate the Commission Regional Directors and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute the authority to limit capacity, impose social distancing, or close such buildings and facilities and Commission managed lands/waters/areas, camp grounds, boat landings, shooting ranges or specific portions thereof, in their respective regions of the state, to the extent necessary to meet this emergency.

4. I direct the COO, the Regional Directors, and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute to report all closure(s) pursuant to this order, and specifically to the Directors or designees of the Office of Human Resources, the Chief Operating Officer, the Office of Finance and Budget and the Office of Community Relations.

5. I further direct the COO to coordinate and maintain an up-to-date list of all building closures and to communicate the same to the Department of Management Services.

6. All closures and re-openings made pursuant to this order will be noticed to the public through the Office of Community Relations by posting on MyFWC.com and through social media.

7. I hereby direct all Divisions and Offices to advise the Office of Finance and Budget of any expenditures related to this emergency within the appropriate timeframes established by the Office of Finance and Budget.

8. For the purposes of this Executive Order, "to the extent necessary" includes but is not limited to any emergency mitigation response or recovery action: (1) prescribed in the FWC Disaster Plan or Continuity of Operations Plan; or, (2) directed by the Emergency Coordinating Officer.

9. Any holder of the following specified licenses issued by the Commission with an existing renewal deadline that occurs in the month of March or April 2020, said deadline is suspended and tolled for a period of 30 days from the existing renewal deadline, unless extended by subsequent order. This tolling relates to business operations pursuant to both the Commission's constitutional and statutory authority and includes:

    a. Commercial Freshwater licenses pursuant to 379.363, F.S.;
    b. Charter Fishing Licenses pursuant to 379.354(7)(a)-(c), F.S.;
    c. Captive Wildlife Exhibition and Sale Licenses pursuant to 379.3761(2), F.S.;
    d. Venomous/Conditional/Prohibited Reptiles 379.372, F.S. and 68-5.005 and 68-5.007, F.A.C.;
    e. Private Game Preserves and Farms, 379.3711 and 379.3712, F.S.; and
    f. Marine Special Activity Licenses, Chapter 68B, F.A.C. and 379.361(4), F.S

This Order shall be retroactive to March 9, 2020, the date of Office of the Governor Executive Order No. 20-52. This order shall expire when Governor's executive order 20-52 or any extension thereof expires.

Specific Authority: Executive Order No. 20-52 of the Executive Office of the Governor, Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution, Section 20.331, F.S. and Rule 68-1.009, F.A.C.

Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 26th day of March, 2020

Eric Sutton
Executive Director

Attest: _____
Agency Clerk

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION STATE OF FLORIDA