

Florida: On the Frontlines of Climate Change



**Nick Wiley, Executive Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida Climate Institute Kickoff November 16th, 2010**

Threats to fish, wildlife and habitat

- Habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation
- Disturbance
- Population growth
- Coastal hazards
- Sea level rise and climate change



FWC

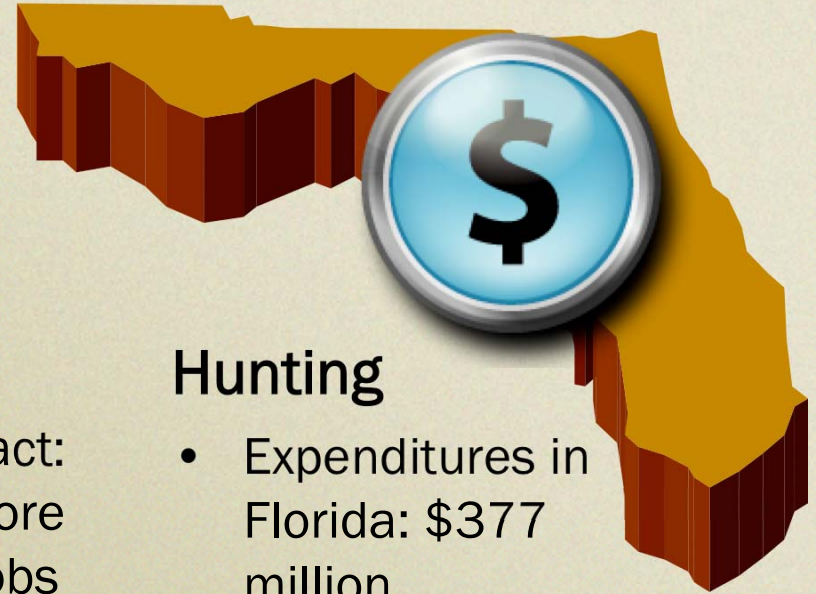


Key Issues with Climate Change

- Warming climate and waters
- Changing precipitation patterns
- Sea level rise
- Alterations in life history
- Invasive exotics
- Increased rate of change



Economics



Recreational Saltwater Fishing

- Economic impact: \$5.4 billion, more than 54,000 jobs
- License holders: more than 1 million
- License/permit revenue: nearly \$25 million

Recreational Freshwater Fishing

- Economic impact: \$2.4 billion, more than 23,000 jobs
- License holders: more than 540,000
- License/permit revenue: nearly \$10 million

Hunting

- Expenditures in Florida: \$377 million
- License holders: 162,000
- License/permit revenue: more than \$6 million

Wildlife Viewing

- Expenditures: \$3 billion
- Participants: Over 4 million people



FWC Climate Change Summit

October 1-3, 2008



Breakout Session Topics

- Marine/Coastal Ecosystems
- Inland Aquatic Ecosystems
- Hunting and Fishing
- Native Terrestrial Species
- Invasive Species
- Natural Resource Management and Land-use Planning

Summit Report:

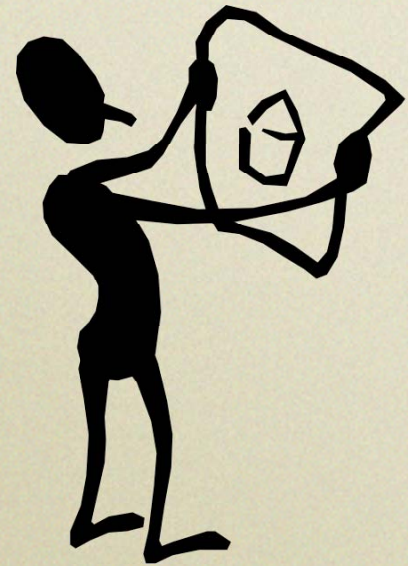
- Highlights speakers and next steps
- Synthesizes breakout sessions.
- Discusses future planning for FWC



FWC's Climate Change Planning

Desired Future:

- Connected, resilient natural systems, diverse fish and wildlife communities
- Forward-looking management system
- Collaboration with partners
- Full understanding of climate change
- Support for efforts to address impacts
- Reduced carbon emissions within FWC operations



FWC Internal Capacity

1. Steering Committee

2. Five Workgroups:

- Adaptation
- Research and monitoring
- Policy and new opportunity
- Communication and outreach
- Operations



3. Other FWC, State and Federal Initiatives

- Florida Wildlife Legacy Initiative – climate change and coastal systems in next year's revision
- National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- USGS Southeast Climate Science Center
- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
- Florida Climate Institute





Partnerships

- Joint FWC/UF-Sea Grant Sea Level Rise Coordinator
- State Wildlife Grants
- FWC State Wildlife Action Plan Revision
- Ongoing collaboration with FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI)



Much at Stake, Much Opportunity



The Next Generation that Cares!

