



FLORIDA PROPOSES BAN ON CERTAIN SNAKES AND OTHER REPTILES

**** HEARING SET FOR MARCH 10TH ON HB 709 ****

The Issue:

Legislation banning five snake species and certain other reptiles has been introduced in both houses of the Florida Legislature. Senate Bill 318 and House Bill 709 ban the listed animals for “personal use”, essentially banning them as pets. **A hearing for HB 709 has been announced with one day’s notice for tomorrow, Wednesday, March 10th.**

The Impact:

Companion bills, Senate Bill 318 and House Bill 709, provide that “no person, firm, or corporation may keep, possess, import into the state, sell, barter, trade, or breed the following species for personal use or for sale for personal use:

- Burmese or Indian python (*Python molurus*);
- Reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*);
- African rock python (*Python sebae*);
- Amethystine or scrub python (*Morelia amethystinus*);
- Anaconda (*Eunectes*);
- Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*); and
- Any other reptile designated as a reptile of concern by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.”

The bills state that if a person holds a permit issued before July 1, 2010 to capture, keep, possess, or exhibit any poisonous or venomous reptile or reptile of concern, that person may possess the individual reptile for the remainder of that reptile's life.

Also, any person who possesses an anaconda, other than a green anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*), and who meets the required criteria, must obtain a permit from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission by October 1, 2010, in order to keep that anaconda for the remainder of its life.

PIJAC Position:

Generally, PIJAC supports licensing legislation for species that could become invasive; however, an outright ban of the listed species in HB 709 will drive trade underground, except for the few who would be able to qualify for a permit.



As drafted, HB 709 would prohibit existing owners from selling their breeding stock and/or progeny to other states or countries where one may possess these species. The alternative for owners of the listed species is to incur substantial expenses to maintain the animals for their lifetime, turn them loose or euthanize otherwise healthy animals. The state needs to adopt a more sustainable and flexible regulatory mechanism to handle these species.

Recommended Action:

As stated above, a hearing has been set for TOMORROW, Wednesday, March 10th in the House Natural Resources Appropriations Committee at 3:00 p.m., Room 306 HOB, in Tallahassee.

Anyone affected by this legislation should contact the Committee members listed below IMMEDIATELY to express concerns and attend the hearing if possible.

State of Florida
 House Committee on Natural Resources - Appropriations
 State Capitol, #221
 402 S. Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
 850/488-0696

<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>	<u>DISTRICT(S)</u>	<u>TEL. #</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
L. Ralph Poppell (Ch)(R-29)	Brevard	850/488-3006	ralph.poppell@myfloridahouse.gov
Steve Crisafulli (V-Ch)(R-32)	Brevard, Orange	850/488-4699	steve.crisafulli@myfloridahouse.gov
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Stephen L. Precourt (R-41)	Orange, Osceola	850/488-0256	stephen.precourt@myfloridahouse.gov
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Charles E. Van Zant (R-21)	Putnam, Clay, Lake, Marion	850/488-0665	charles.vanzant@myfloridahouse.gov
Trudi K. Williams (R-75)	Lee, Collier	850/488-2047	trudi.williams@myfloridahouse.gov

Also, to easily contact members of the Committee, as well as your own Representative, visit PIJAC’s [Legislative Action Center](http://www.pijac.org/governmentaffairs) on PIJAC’s website (<http://www.pijac.org/governmentaffairs>) to learn how.

The text to this legislation is attached to the online version of this PetAlert, found on the ‘Breaking News’ page of the PIJAC website (<http://www.pijac.org/petinformatoin/breakingnews.asp>).

If you have further questions please feel free to contact PIJAC’s Bambi Nicole Osborne by phone at 202-452-1525 or via email at bambi@pijac.org.

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STATE OF FLORIDA

**Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 318
&
Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 572**

An act relating to wildlife regulation; amending s. 379.231, F.S.; prohibiting the import or release of nonnative animals in this state unless authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Commission; conforming a cross reference to changes made by the act; amending s. 379.372, F.S.; prohibiting persons or entities from keeping, possessing, importing, selling, bartering, trading, or breeding certain reptiles in this state; providing exceptions; providing that such prohibitions do not apply to specified zoological facilities; amending s. 379.374, F.S.; providing bonding requirements for the possession of certain wildlife; amending s. 379.3761, F.S.; requiring that any person or entity wishing to keep wildlife in captivity or sell specified species of wildlife obtain a permit from the commission; amending s. 379.401, F.S.; removing a provision classifying the importation of nonindigenous species a Level Three violation; amending s. 479.4015, F.S.; classifying violations relating to the importation, sale, introduction, and release of certain types of nonnative wildlife into this state; requiring the imposition of minimum fines for certain violations; authorizing the commission to impose specified civil penalties for certain violations of state law; limiting the amount of such penalties; authorizing the commission to consider certain factors when determining the amount of such penalty; requiring that the proceeds from the payment of such penalties be deposited into the State Game Trust Fund and used for specified purposes; requiring that the commission submit a report containing certain information to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before a specified deadline; requiring that the commission annually evaluate the placement of additional species on the list of reptiles of concern beginning by a specified date; amending ss. 379.101, 379.244, 379.26, 379.304, 379.361, 379.363, and 379.3762, F.S.; revising terminology to conform to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 379.231, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.231 Regulation of nonnative ~~foreign~~ animals. --

(1) It is unlawful to import for sale or use, or to release within this state, any species of the animal kingdom not native indigenous to Florida unless authorized by ~~without having obtained a permit to do so from~~ the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

~~(2) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is authorized to issue or deny such a permit upon the completion of studies of the species made by it to determine any detrimental effect the species might have on the ecology of the state.~~

~~(2)(3)~~ A person in violation of this section commits a Level Three violation under s. 379.4015 ~~s. 379.401~~.

Section 2. Section 379.372, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.372 Capturing, keeping, possessing, transporting, or exhibiting venomous reptiles, ~~or~~ reptiles of concern, conditional reptiles, or prohibited reptiles; license required. --

(1)(a) No person, party, firm, association, or corporation shall capture, keep, possess, or exhibit any poisonous or venomous reptile or reptile of concern without first having obtained a special permit or license therefor from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as provided in this section.

~~(b)(2)~~ By December 31, 2007, the commission shall establish a list of reptiles of concern, including venomous, nonvenomous, native, nonnative, or other reptiles, which require additional regulation for capture, possession, transportation, or exhibition due to their nature, habits, status, or potential to negatively impact humans, the environment, or ecology, or humans.

~~(c)(3)~~ It shall be unlawful for any person, party, firm, association, or corporation, whether licensed hereunder or not, to capture, keep, possess, or exhibit any venomous reptile or reptile of concern in any manner not approved as safe, secure, and proper by the commission. Venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern held in captivity are subject to inspection by the commission. The commission shall determine whether the reptiles are securely, safely, and properly penned. In the event that the reptiles are not safely penned, the commission shall report the situation in writing to the person, party, firm, association, or corporation owning the reptiles. Failure of the person, party, firm, association, or corporation to correct the situation within 30 days after such written notice shall be grounds for revocation of the license or permit of the person, party, firm, association, or corporation.

~~(d)(4)~~ Venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern shall be transported in a safe, secure, and proper manner. The commission shall establish by rule the requirements for the transportation of venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern.

(2)(a) No person, party, firm, association, or corporation shall keep, possess, import into the state, sell, barter, trade, or breed the following species for personal use or for sale for personal use:

1. Burmese or Indian python (Python molurus).

2. Reticulated python (Python reticulatus).

3. Northern African python (Python sebae).

4. Southern African python (Python natalensis).

5. Amethystine or scrub python (Morelia amethystinus).

6. Green Anaconda (Eunectes murinus).

7. Nile monitor (Varanus niloticus).

8. Any other reptile designated as a conditional or prohibited species by the commission.

(b) If a person, party, firm, association, or corporation holds a permit issued before July 1, 2010, under subsection (1) to legally possess a species listed in paragraph (a), that person, party, firm, association, or corporation may possess such reptile for the remainder of the life of the reptile.

(c) If a person, party, firm, association, or corporation holds a permit issued before July 1, 2010, under subsection (1) to legally possess a reptile listed in paragraph (a), and the reptile remains alive following the death or dissolution of the licensee, the reptile may be legally transferred to another entity holding a permit authorizing possession of the reptile for the remainder of the life of the reptile.

(d) If the commission designates a species of reptile as a conditional or prohibited species after July 1, 2010, the commission may authorize the personal possession of that newly designated species by those licensed to possess that species of reptile before the effective date of the species' designation by the commission as a conditional or prohibited

species. The personal possession of such reptile is not a violation of paragraph (a) if the personal possession was authorized by the commission.

(e) This subsection does not apply to traveling wildlife exhibitors that are licensed or registered under the United States Animal Welfare Act or to zoological facilities that are licensed or exempted by the commission from the licensure requirement.

Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 379.374, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.374 Bond required, amount. --

(2) No person, party, firm, association, or corporation shall possess or exhibit to the public either with or without charge or admission fee, any Class I wildlife, as defined in s. 379.303 and commission rule, without having first guaranteed financial responsibility, in the sum of \$10,000, for any liability which may be incurred in the possession or exhibition to the public of Class I wildlife. The commission shall adopt, by rule, the methods of payment that satisfy the financial responsibility, which may include cash, the establishment of a trust fund, an irrevocable letter of credit, casualty insurance, a corporate guarantee, or any combination thereof, in the sum of \$10,000 which shall be posted with the commission. In lieu of the \$10,000 financial responsibility guarantee required in this subsection, the person, party, firm, association, or corporation exhibitor has the option to maintain comprehensive general liability insurance, with minimum limits of \$2 million per occurrence and \$2 million annual aggregate, as shall protect the person, party, firm, association, or corporation exhibitor from claims for damage for personal injury, including accidental death, as well as claims for property damage which may arise. Proof of such insurance shall be submitted to the commission.

Section 4. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 379.3761, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

379.3761 Exhibition or sale of wildlife; fees; classifications. --

(1) In order to provide humane treatment and sanitary surroundings for wild animals kept in captivity, no person, party, firm, corporation, or association, or corporation shall have, or be in possession of, in captivity for the purpose of public display with or without charge or for public sale any wildlife, specifically birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles, whether native indigenous to Florida or not, without having first secured a permit from the commission authorizing such person, party, firm, association, or corporation to have in its possession in captivity the species and number of wildlife specified within such permit; however, this section does not apply to any wildlife not protected by law and the rules of the commission. No person, party, firm, association, or corporation may sell any wild animal life designated by commission rule as a conditional or prohibited species, Class I or Class II wildlife, reptile of concern, or venomous reptile in this state, including a sale with delivery made in this state, regardless of the origin of the sale or the location of the initial transaction, unless authorized by the commission.

(4) The provisions of this section relative to licensing for exhibition do not apply to any municipal, county, state, or other publicly owned wildlife exhibit or any traveling zoo, circus, or exhibit licensed under chapter 205. ~~The provisions of this section do not apply to any traveling zoo, circus, or exhibit licensed as provided by chapter 205.~~

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 379.401, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.401 Penalties and violations; civil penalties for noncriminal infractions; criminal penalties; suspension and forfeiture of licenses and permits. --

(3)(a) LEVEL THREE VIOLATIONS. --A person commits a Level Three violation if he or she violates any of the following provisions:

1. Rules or orders of the commission prohibiting the sale of saltwater fish.
2. Rules or orders of the commission prohibiting the illegal importation or possession of exotic marine plants or animals.

3. Section 379.407(2), establishing major violations.
4. Section 379.407(4), prohibiting the possession of certain finfish in excess of recreational daily bag limits.
5. Section 379.28, prohibiting the importation of freshwater fish.
- ~~6. Section 379.231, prohibiting the importation of nonindigenous species of the animal kingdom without a permit issued by the commission.~~
- ~~6.7.~~ Section 379.354(17), prohibiting the taking of game, freshwater fish, or saltwater fish while a required license is suspended or revoked.
- ~~7.8.~~ Section 379.3014, prohibiting the illegal sale or possession of alligators.
- ~~8.9.~~ Section 379.404(1), (3), and (6), prohibiting the illegal taking and possession of deer and wild turkey.
- ~~9.10.~~ Section 379.406, prohibiting the possession and transportation of commercial quantities of freshwater game fish.

Section 6. Section 379.4015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.4015 Nonnative and captive wildlife penalties. --

(1) LEVEL ONE. --Unless otherwise provided by law, the following classifications and penalties apply:

(a) A person commits a Level One violation if he or she violates any of the following provisions:

1. Rules or orders of the commission requiring free permits or other authorizations to possess captive wildlife.
2. Rules or orders of the commission relating to the filing of reports or other documents required of persons who are licensed to possess captive wildlife.
3. Rules or orders of the commission requiring permits to possess captive wildlife for which a fee is charged, when the person being charged was issued the permit and the permit has expired less than 1 year prior to the violation.

(b) Any person cited for committing any offense classified as a Level One violation commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable as provided in this section.

(c) Any person cited for committing a noncriminal infraction specified in paragraph (a) shall be cited to appear before the county court. The civil penalty for any noncriminal infraction is \$50 if the person cited has not previously been found guilty of a Level One violation and \$250 if the person cited has previously been found guilty of a Level One violation, except as otherwise provided in this subsection. Any person cited for failing to have a required permit or license shall pay an additional civil penalty in the amount of the license fee required.

(d) Any person cited for an infraction under this subsection may:

1. Post a bond, which shall be equal in amount to the applicable civil penalty; or
2. Sign and accept a citation indicating a promise to appear before the county court. The officer may indicate on the citation the time and location of the scheduled hearing and shall indicate the applicable civil penalty.

(e) Any person charged with a noncriminal infraction under this subsection may:

1. Pay the civil penalty, either by mail or in person, within 30 days after the date of receiving the citation; or

2. If the person has posted bond, forfeit bond by not appearing at the designated time and location.

(f) If the person cited follows either of the procedures in subparagraph (e)1. or subparagraph (e)2., he or she shall be deemed to have admitted the infraction and to have waived his or her right to a hearing on the issue of commission of the infraction. Such admission shall not be used as evidence in any other proceedings except to determine the appropriate fine for any subsequent violations.

(g) Any person who willfully refuses to post bond or accept and sign a summons commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Any person who fails to pay the civil penalty specified in this subsection within 30 days after being cited for a noncriminal infraction or to appear before the court pursuant to this subsection commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(h) Any person electing to appear before the county court or who is required to appear shall be deemed to have waived the limitations on the civil penalty specified in paragraph (c). The court, after a hearing, shall make a determination as to whether an infraction has been committed. If the commission of an infraction has been proven, the court may impose a civil penalty not less than those amounts in paragraph (c) and not to exceed \$500.

(i) At a hearing under this chapter, the commission of a charged infraction must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

(j) If a person is found by the hearing official to have committed an infraction, she or he may appeal that finding to the circuit court.

(2) LEVEL TWO. --Unless otherwise provided by law, the following classifications and penalties apply:

(a) A person commits a Level Two violation if he or she violates any of the following provisions:

1. Unless otherwise stated in subsection (1), rules or orders of the commission that require a person to pay a fee to obtain a permit to possess captive wildlife or that require the maintenance of records relating to captive wildlife.

2. Rules or orders of the commission relating to captive wildlife not specified in subsection (1) or subsection (3).

3. Rules or orders of the commission that require housing of wildlife in a safe manner when a violation results in an escape of wildlife other than Class I wildlife.

4. Rules or orders of the commission relating to wild animal life identified by commission rule as either conditional species or prohibited species.

~~5.4.~~ Section 379.372, relating to capturing, keeping, possessing, transporting, or exhibiting venomous reptiles, ~~or~~ reptiles of concern, conditional reptiles, or prohibited reptiles.

~~6.5.~~ Section 379.373, relating to requiring a license or permit for the capturing, keeping, possessing, or exhibiting of venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern.

~~7.6.~~ Section 379.374, relating to bonding requirements for public exhibits of venomous reptiles.

~~8.7.~~ Section 379.305, relating to commission rules and regulations to prevent the escape of venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern.

~~9.8.~~ Section 379.304, relating to exhibition or sale of wildlife.

~~10.9.~~ Section 379.3761, relating to exhibition or sale of wildlife.

~~11.40.~~ Section 379.3762, relating to personal possession of wildlife.

(b) A person who commits any offense classified as a Level Two violation and who has not been convicted of a Level Two or higher violation within the past 3 years commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(c) Unless otherwise stated in this subsection, a person who commits any offense classified as a Level Two violation within a 3-year period of any previous conviction of a Level Two or higher violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 with a minimum mandatory fine of \$250.

(d) Unless otherwise stated in this subsection, a person who commits any offense classified as a Level Two violation within a 5-year period of any two previous convictions of Level Two or higher violations commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, with a minimum mandatory fine of \$500 and a suspension of all licenses issued under this chapter related to captive wildlife for 1 year.

(e) A person who commits any offense classified as a Level Two violation within a 10-year period of any three previous convictions of Level Two or higher violations commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, with a minimum mandatory fine of \$750 and a suspension of all licenses issued under this chapter related to captive wildlife for 3 years.

(f) In addition to being subject to the penalties under paragraphs (b)-(e), a person who commits a Level Two violation that is a violation of s. 379.372 or rules or orders relating to wild animal life identified as conditional or prohibited shall receive a minimum mandatory fine of \$100 and immediately surrender the wildlife for which the violation was issued unless such person lawfully obtains a permit for possession.

(3) LEVEL THREE. --Unless otherwise provided by law, the following classifications and penalties apply:

(a) A person commits a Level Three violation if he or she violates any of the following provisions:

1. Rules or orders of the commission that require housing of wildlife in a safe manner when a violation results in an escape of Class I wildlife.
2. Rules or orders of the commission related to captive wildlife when the violation results in serious bodily injury to another person by captive wildlife that consists of a physical condition that creates a substantial risk of death, serious personal disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.
3. Rules or orders of the commission relating to the use of gasoline or other chemical or gaseous substances on wildlife.
4. Rules or orders of the commission prohibiting the release of wildlife for which only conditional possession is allowed.
5. Rules or orders of the commission prohibiting knowingly entering false information on an application for a license or permit when the license or permit is to possess wildlife in captivity.
6. Rules or orders of the commission relating to the illegal importation and possession of nonnative ~~nonindigenous~~ marine plants and animals.
7. Rules or orders of the commission relating to the importation, possession, or release of fish and wildlife for which possession is prohibited.
8. Section 379.231, relating to illegal importation or release ~~introduction~~ of nonnative ~~foreign~~ wildlife.

9. Section 379.305, relating to release or escape of nonnative venomous reptiles or reptiles of concern.

(b)1. A person who commits any offense classified as a Level Three violation and who has not been convicted of a Level Three or higher violation within the past 10 years commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

2. A person who commits any offense classified as a Level Three violation within a 10-year period of any previous conviction of a Level Three or higher violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, with a minimum mandatory fine of \$750 and permanent revocation of all licenses or permits to possess captive wildlife issued under this chapter.

(4) LEVEL FOUR. --Unless otherwise provided by law, the following classifications and penalties apply:

(a) A person commits a Level Four violation if he or she violates any Level Three provision after the permanent revocation of a license or permit.

(b) A person who commits any offense classified as a Level Four violation commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(5) SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE. --The court may order the suspension or revocation of any license or permit issued to a person to possess captive wildlife pursuant to this chapter if that person commits a criminal offense or a noncriminal infraction as specified under this section.

(6) CIVIL PENALTY. --

(a) In addition to other applicable penalties, the commission may impose against any person, party, firm, association, or corporation convicted of a criminal violation of any provision of s. 379.231, s. 379.372, s. 379.3761, or s.379.3762 a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each animal, unless otherwise authorized pursuant to subparagraphs 1.-5. For all related violations attributable to a specific violator, the total civil penalty may not exceed \$10,000 for each assessment for each animal.

1. The history of noncompliance of the violator for any previous violation of this chapter or rules or orders of the commission shall be considered in determining the amount of the civil penalty.

2. The direct economic benefit gained by the violator from the violation may be added to the scheduled civil penalty.

3. The costs incurred by the commission related to the escape, recovery, and care of the wildlife for which the violation was issued shall be added to the civil penalty.

4. The civil penalty assessed for a violation may not exceed \$5,000 for each animal unless:

a. The violator has a history of noncompliance;

b. The economic benefit of the violation exceeds \$5,000; or

c. The costs incurred by the commission related to the escape, recovery, and care of the wildlife for which the violation was issued exceeds \$5,000.

5. The civil penalty assessed pursuant to this subsection may be reduced by the commission for mitigating circumstances, including good faith efforts to comply before or after discovery of the violations by the commission.

(b) The proceeds of all civil penalties collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into the State Game Trust Fund and shall be used for management, administration, auditing, and research purposes.

~~(7)(6)~~ CONVICTION DEFINED. --For purposes of this section, the term "conviction" means any judicial disposition other than acquittal or dismissal.

~~(8)(7)~~ COMMISSION LIMITATIONS. --Nothing in this section shall limit the commission from suspending or revoking any license to possess wildlife in captivity by administrative action in accordance with chapter 120. For purposes of administrative action, a conviction of a criminal offense shall mean any judicial disposition other than acquittal or dismissal.

(9) ANNUAL REPORT. --By January 1 of each year, the commission shall submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report listing each species identified by the commission as a conditional or prohibited species or a reptile of concern.

Section 7. By December 31, 2010, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall evaluate the placement of additional species, such as iguanas, on the list of reptiles of concern.

Section 8. Subsections (18), (25), and (34) of section 379.101, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

379.101 Definitions. --In construing these statutes, where the context does not clearly indicate otherwise, the word, phrase, or term:

(18) "Freshwater fish" means all classes of pisces that are native indigenous to fresh water.

(25) "Nongame" means all species and populations of native indigenous wild vertebrates and invertebrates in the state that are not defined as game.

(34) "Saltwater fish" means:

(a) Any saltwater species of finfish of the classes Agnatha, Chondrichthyes, or Osteichthyes and marine invertebrates of the classes Gastropoda, Bivalvia, or Crustacea, or of the phylum Echinodermata, but does not include nonliving shells or echinoderms; and

(b) All classes of pisces, shellfish, sponges, and crustacea native indigenous to salt water.

Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 379.244, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.244 Crustacea, marine animals, fish; regulations; general provisions. --

(2) TAKING SALTWATER SPECIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL, AQUACULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATION, AND EXHIBITION PURPOSES. Notwithstanding any other provisions of general or special law to the contrary, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may authorize, upon such terms, conditions, and restrictions as it may prescribe by rule, any properly accredited person to harvest or possess native indigenous or nonnative nonindigenous saltwater species for experimental, scientific, education, and exhibition purposes or to harvest or possess reasonable quantities of aquacultural species for brood stock. Such authorizations may allow collection of specimens without regard to, and not limited to, size, seasonal closure, collection method, reproductive state, or bag limit. Authorizations issued under the provisions of this section may be suspended or revoked by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission if it finds that the person has violated this section, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission rules or orders, or terms or conditions of the authorization or has submitted false or inaccurate information in his or her application.

Section 10. Subsections (1) and (5) of section 379.26, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

379.26 Illegal importation or possession of nonindigenous marine plants and animals; rules and regulations. --

(1) It is unlawful to import or possess any marine plant or marine animal, not ~~native indigenous~~ to the state, which, due to the stimulating effect of the waters of the state on procreation, may endanger or infect the marine resources of the state or pose a human health hazard, except as provided in this section.

(5) It is unlawful to release into the waters of the state any ~~nonnative nonindigenous~~ saltwater species whether or not included in subsection (2) or prohibited by rules and regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (3) or authorized by subsection (4).

Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 379.304, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.304 Exhibition or sale of wildlife. --

(1) Permits issued pursuant to s. 379.3761 and places where wildlife is kept or held in captivity shall be subject to inspection by officers of the commission at all times. The commission shall have the power to release or confiscate any specimens of any wildlife, specifically birds, mammals, amphibians, or reptiles, whether ~~native indigenous~~ to the state or not, when it is found that conditions under which they are being confined are unsanitary, or unsafe to the public in any manner, or that the species of wildlife are being maltreated, mistreated, or neglected or kept in any manner contrary to the provisions of chapter 828, any such permit to the contrary notwithstanding. Before any such wildlife is confiscated or released under the authority of this section, the owner thereof shall have been advised in writing of the existence of such unsatisfactory conditions; the owner shall have been given 30 days in which to correct such conditions; the owner shall have failed to correct such conditions; the owner shall have had an opportunity for a proceeding pursuant to chapter 120; and the commission shall have ordered such confiscation or release after careful consideration of all evidence in the particular case in question. The final order of the commission shall constitute final agency action.

Section 12. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 379.361, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.361 Licenses. --

(4) SPECIAL ACTIVITY LICENSES. --

(b) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is authorized to issue special activity licenses in accordance with this section and s. 379.2524, to permit the importation and possession of wild anadromous sturgeon. The commission is also authorized to issue special activity licenses, in accordance with this section and s. 379.2524, to permit the importation, possession, and aquaculture of native and nonnative anadromous sturgeon until best management practices are implemented for the cultivation of anadromous sturgeon pursuant to s. 597.004. The special activity license shall provide for specific management practices to protect ~~native indigenous~~ populations of saltwater species.

Section 13. Subsection (1) of section 379.363, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.363 Freshwater fish dealer's license. --

(1) No person shall engage in the business of taking for sale or selling any frogs or freshwater fish, including live bait, of any species or size, or importing any exotic or ~~nonnative nonindigenous~~ fish, until such person has obtained a license and paid the fee therefor as set forth herein. The license issued shall be in the possession of the person to whom issued while such person is engaging in the business of taking for sale or selling freshwater fish or frogs, is not transferable, shall bear on its face in indelible ink the name of the person to whom it is issued, and shall be affixed to a license identification card issued by the commission. Such license is not valid unless it bears the name of the person to whom it is issued and is so affixed. The failure of such person to exhibit such license to the commission or any of its wildlife officers when such person is found engaging in such business is a violation of law. The license fees and activities permitted under particular licenses are as follows:

- (a) The fee for a resident commercial fishing license, which permits a resident to take freshwater fish or frogs by any lawful method prescribed by the commission and to sell such fish or frogs, shall be \$25. The license provided for in this paragraph shall also allow noncommercial fishing as provided by law and commission rules, and the license in s. 379.354(4)(a) shall not be required.
- (b) The fee for a resident freshwater fish dealer's license, which permits a resident to import, export, or sell freshwater fish or frogs, including live bait, shall be \$40.
- (c) The fee for a nonresident commercial fishing license, which permits a nonresident to take freshwater fish or frogs as provided in paragraph (a), shall be \$100.
- (d) The fee for a nonresident retail fish dealer's license, which permits a nonresident to sell freshwater fish or frogs to a consumer, shall be \$100.
- (e) The fee for a nonresident wholesale fish dealer's license, which permits a nonresident to sell freshwater fish or frogs within the state, and to buy freshwater fish or frogs for resale, shall be \$500.
- (f) The fee for a nonresident wholesale fish buyer's license, which permits a nonresident who does not sell freshwater fish or frogs in Florida to buy freshwater fish or frogs from resident fish dealers for resale outside the state, shall be \$50.
- (g) Any individual or business issued an aquaculture certificate, pursuant to s. 597.004, shall be exempt from the requirements of this part with respect to aquaculture products authorized under such certificate.
- (h) There is levied, in addition to any other license fee thereon, an annual gear license fee of \$50 upon each person fishing with trawl seines used in the fresh waters of the state.
- (i) There is levied, in addition to any other license fee thereon, an annual gear license fee of \$100 upon each person fishing with haul seines used in the fresh waters of the state.

Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 379.3762, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.3762 Personal possession of wildlife. --

(1) It is unlawful for any person or persons to possess any wildlife as defined in this act, whether ~~native indigenous~~ to Florida or not, until she or he has obtained a permit as provided by this section from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Section 15. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.