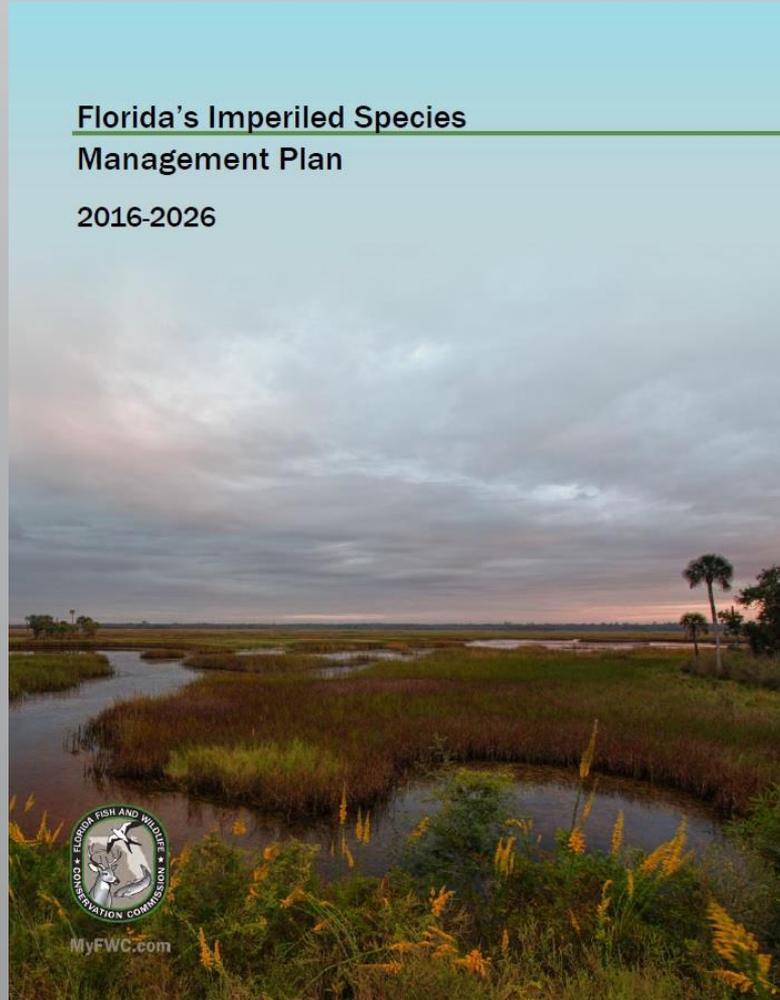


# Newly Approved FWC Imperiled Species Management Plan and Associated Rules and Policies

## Florida's Imperiled Species Management Plan

2016-2026



# FWC's Imperiled Species Management Plan

- Approved at November, 2016 commission meeting
- All associated rule changes went into effect by January 18, 2017
- This includes rule change updating species' state listing status

## Florida's Imperiled Species Management Plan

*A comprehensive, integrated approach  
for the conservation of state-listed species*

October 15, 2016



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Financial support for this plan's development was provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program



# Species' State Listing Status Changes

- 15 species no longer listed as imperiled because conservation successes improved their status, including:

- **Brown Pelican**
- Limpkin
- Snowy Egret
- White Ibis



# Species' State Listing Status Changes

- 23 species newly listed as state Threatened species, a change from their former status as Species of Special Concern, including:
- **American Oystercatcher**
- **Black Skimmer**
- Little Blue Heron
- Tricolor Heron
- Reddish Egret
- Roseate Spoonbill



# Species' State Listing Status

- Fourteen species keep their state Threatened status, including:
  - **Snowy Plover**
  - **Least Tern**
- Five species remain Species of Special Concern
- (does not include any shorebirds or wading birds)



Photo by Jack Rodgers



# Increased Protections for AMOY and BLSK

- State Threatened Species Rule has a different definition of “take” than Species of Special Concern Rule
- Now all 4 state protected shorebird species are protected under the State Threatened Species Rule



## 68A-27.005 – Species of Special Concern

- No person shall **take**, possess, transport, or sell any species of special concern...
- 68A-1.004 – **Take** includes pursuing, hunting, molesting, capturing, or killing wildlife or their nests or eggs by any means...



## 68A-27.003(2) – State Threatened Species

- No person shall **take**, possess, or sell any threatened species or parts thereof or their nests or eggs...



Photo by Alex Kropp



# State Threatened Species Take Definition

- 68A-27.001 – **Take**: to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect.
  - **Harm**: kills or injures wildlife directly or through impairing essential behaviors including breeding, feeding and sheltering.
  - **Harass**: Creates the likelihood of injury through activities that annoy wildlife to such an extent to disrupt normal behavioral patterns like breeding, feeding, or sheltering.



Photo by Jack Rogers



# ISMP Policies

- 2 new policies in the ISMP Document that apply to state-listed shorebirds and seabirds:
  - Nest removal for inactive single-use nests of state-Threatened birds
  - State-listed species and man-made structures
- Both went into effect when the ISMP was approved in November 2017



# Nest removal for inactive single-use nests of state- Threatened birds

- *Single-use nest* — A nest that is used by a species once for nesting activities and is rarely, if ever, reused in subsequent nesting attempts by the same species.
- No permit is required to destroy an inactive single-use nest as long as the proposed level of habitat modification or degradation (including impacts to vegetation used for nesting or to nesting substrates such as beaches) prompting the removal is not deemed significant enough to result in take of the species as defined in Rule 68A-27.003, F.A.C



# Nest removal for inactive single-use nests of state-Threatened birds

- *Active nest* — A nest is considered active when supporting essential behavioral patterns, which occur from the point of nest building until young of the season become capable of sustained flight or permanently leave the nest.
- *Inactive nest* — A nest is considered inactive when it does not contain viable eggs and does not contain young that are incapable of permanently leaving the nest.
- This policy only applies to **single-use state-Threatened** bird species. Includes: AMOY, SNPL, BLSK, LETE, and our 4 state-Threatened wading bird species



# State-listed species and man-made structures

- Removal or modification of man-made structures that are clearly not occupied by state-listed species do not require FWC permits; however, the removal or modification of structures recently or previously occupied must be conducted in a manner consistent with this policy.
- Does not authorize removal or modification of man-made structures when listed species are actively engaged in nesting or breeding.
- Man-made structures include structures created by people, which may or may not be intended for use by wildlife. Include (but are not limited to) **buildings**, bridges, utility poles, signs, equipment, heavy machinery, pipes, loading docks, and bat and bird houses.



# State-listed species and man-made structures

- For actions proposed where state-listed species have recently been using a man-made structure for essential behaviors, removal or modification of the structure is authorized without a permit, provided that
  - an approved Wildlife/Habitat Management Plan is in place for the area in which the activity will occur, or
  - at least 14 days prior notification is provided to the FWC's Species Conservation Planning Biologist in the region where the activity will occur; no eggs or dependent young are present, or the nesting cycle (or rearing of young) has been completed; and the activity is conducted in such a way so as to avoid direct physical injury of individual animals.
- Persons complying with these conditions are legally covered should incidental take of state-listed species using the structure occur as a result of its removal or modification.



# Any questions?



Photo by Jack Rogers

