

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

What we do? ~~LAW ENFORCEMENT~~ Jack of all conservation issues, Master of nothing! So diverse as state law enforcement officers its hard to know all aspects of our job!



MyFWC.com

Jurisdiction

- Powers of officers include
- State wide Jurisdiction
- Deputized Federal Powers include:
NOAA Fisheries, USFW, US Customs
- With power comes responsibility. We are responsible for:



Boating Safety Enforcement Which Includes:





Saltwater Conservation

- State and Federal Fisheries protection
- Coral Reef protection
- Manatees protection and Manatee zones
- Marine Sea Turtles and nesting





Freshwater fisheries

- Size and bag limits
- Fisheries conservation
- Water conservation





Hunting

- Bag limits Deer, Small game, Ducks
- Hunting Seasons
- Managed Lands WMA, Conservation areas
- Habitat Protection





State Parks Law Enforcement

- Speeding
- Burglaries and theft
- Domestic Violence
- Alcohol
- Civil Disturbances



All other areas

- Traffic Enforcement
- Domestic Security
- Emergency Disaster response
- Trespassing state lands
- ATV operation





SEFCRI REGION FWC ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

- DADE COUNTY-20 officers
- 18 of which have less than 5 years exp
- 4 inland officers, 16 marine officers
- Broward County-17 officers.
- 11 of which have less than 3 years exp.
- 10 marine, 3 inland, 2 park, 2 investigators.



- Palm Beach County-14 officers
- Martin County – 8 officers
- Don't have break down for marine vs inland.
- **For Economic reasons, officers that reach 5 years look for other financial opportunities which include other departments, promotional advancement.**





ENFORCEMENT

- GENERALLY SPEAKING
- Officers make 1 resource cases a month on average and of course better officers make more.
- Typical lobster mini season an aggressive officer will make about 4 cases.



Coral Reef Protection Enforcement

- The only Criminal FAC rule dealing with coral:
- 68B-42.009 Prohibition on the Taking, Destruction, or Sale of Marine Corals Sea Fans, and Non-erect, Encrusting Octocorals; Exception.
- (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), no person shall take, attempt to take, or **otherwise destroy**, or sell, or attempt to sell, any sea fan of the species *Gorgonia flabellum* or of the species *Gorgonia ventalina*, or any hard or stony coral
- **What does otherwise destroy actually mean??????**
- Touching, hitting with your anchor, laying your catch bag on a coral head, turning a coral head over??????



Why officers have a difficult time enforcing the coral statute

- Lack of knowledge with regard to the Coral Reef Protection Act and how they can enforce the law.
- Officers don't have the ability or support to snorkel on damaged spots or to watch divers.



No Take Zones

- People ask the question all the time about enforcing NO TAKE ZONES and think it would be difficult to enforce.
- When asked, officers felt it would be extremely easy to enforce a no anchor no take area.
- No brainer: as long as the area is marked. The rule would be black or white.



Questions

