

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The State of Florida, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

and

The State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection

WHEREAS, Section 9 of the Florida Constitution Article IV establishes the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, hereinafter called FWC, to manage wild animal life, fresh water aquatic life, and marine life to provide for the effective conservation of those natural resources;

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, hereinafter called DEP, as staff of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, manages the sovereignty submerged lands of Florida, which comprise all the components of marine habitat;

WHEREAS, DEP managed sites contain some of the most productive and popular saltwater recreation venues in the world including: 41 Aquatic Preserves that encompass more than 1.8 million acres of sovereignty submerged lands of the state; 160 state parks that include 100 miles of sandy white beaches; 3 National Estuarine Research Reserves that include over 350,000 acres of the most pristine and productive estuarine ecosystems in the nation; and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary that covers over 2900 square nautical miles of diverse and unique saltwater fisheries habitats and species;

WHEREAS, these sites attract millions of people every year, many of whom come from all parts of the world to participate in Florida's marine recreational activities;

WHEREAS, the agencies' complementary responsibilities and authorities address the two major factors in marine resource conservation, which are the effective management of the habitat and the harvest of marine organisms;

WHEREAS, the accomplishment of each of these agencies' responsibilities is related to the effectiveness of their collective efforts;

WHEREAS, the coordination of efforts by these agencies shall facilitate achievement of their mutual marine resource conservation goal;

WHEREAS, both agencies have existing environmental outreach programs throughout the state aimed at informing the public about marine resource conservation issues and marine recreational opportunities; and,

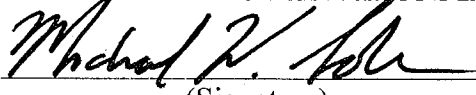
WHEREAS, there are rapidly increasing demands on the marine resources and for information about those resources.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that FWC and DEP shall hereby establish the Marine Resource Conservation Partnership (MRCP) to effectively manage the marine resources of the State of Florida for the benefit of the public and future generations by designing and implementing non-regulatory saltwater recreational outreach and education programs through inter-agency coordination and cooperation in accordance with state-approved management plans, and contingent on available funding.

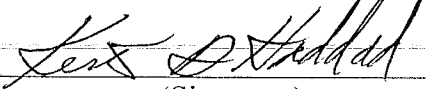
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that FWC and DEP shall solicit and welcome any other interested entities or individuals into the Marine Resource Conservation Partnership including local, state and federal government agencies, industry, non-government organizations, and conservation organizations that wish to protect the marine resources under the guidelines established by FWC and DEP policies and programs. The inclusion of those partners shall be acknowledged by execution of a Memorandum of Understanding by the authoritative party of the joining entity and the FWC and DEP project administrators, which will be included as an addendum to this document.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement on the dates set forth below.

FOR FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

Michael W. Sole  Date: February 21, 2007
Secretary (Signature)
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

FOR THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Kenneth D. Haddad  Date: 3/13/07
Executive Director (Signature)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission