

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Division of Law Enforcement

LETC/LEC State Report – March 2021

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Division of Law Enforcement's 853 sworn personnel operate in six regions throughout the state. FWC officers are responsible for uniformed patrol and investigative law enforcement services on more than 8,400 miles of coastline, 13,200 square miles of offshore waters, and over 34 million acres of land encompassing a variety of habitats including wildlife management areas, state parks and forests. FWC officers stand as sentinels for the protection of Florida's precious resources and the public who utilize these resources. FWC officers are highly trained, versatile law enforcement officers with full police powers and statewide jurisdiction. Cooperative agreements with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cross-deputize FWC officers to enforce federal marine fisheries and wildlife laws, thus ensuring state and federal consistency in resource protection. FWC officers are an effective model of modern law enforcement multi-tasking – providing law enforcement services for: the protection and enforcement of laws relating to all wild animal and aquatic resources; public safety in Florida's state parks; boating safety enforcement; the protection of the public in rural, semi-wilderness, wilderness and offshore areas where no other law enforcement agencies routinely patrol; regulating commercial wildlife activities and inspecting personal and commercial native/exotic wildlife facilities; natural disaster and civil disturbance response; search and rescue missions; the prevention of illegal shipping of protected and regulated wildlife into Florida's ports; environmental crimes/protection; dignitary protection; mutual aid requests; and domestic security initiatives.

State Enforcement March 1,2020 – March 1, 2021

Water Patrol Hours – 396,987

Air Patrol Hours - 726

Marine Enforcement Hours – 263,471

Boating Safety Hours – 228,717

Water Related Investigation Hours – 27,066

Search and Rescue Hours – 9,249

Shellfish Areas Total Patrols by Count – 8,613

Total Vessel Inspections by Count – 131,248

Total Users Checked by Count – 664,781

Water Related Education/ Outreach – 1365

Federal Enforcement March 1, 2020 – March 1, 2021

Total Patrol Hours – 5,035

Reef Fish Enforcement – 1,466 Patrols

TED/BRD Enforcement – 69 Patrols

Closed Area/MPA Patrols Hours – 97

Education/Outreach Hours – 70

Dockside Enforcement Hours – 958

Warnings and Citations – 1,345