

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Commissioners Rodney Barreto Chairman Coral Gables

Steven Hudson Vice Chairman Fort Lauderdale

Preston Farrior Tampa

Joshua Kellam Palm Beach Gardens

Gary Lester Oxford

Albert Maury Coral Gables

Sonya Rood St. Augustine

Office of the Executive Director Roger A. Young Executive Director

Charles "Rett" Boyd Assistant Executive Director

George Warthen
Chief Conservation Officer

Jessica Crawford Chief of Staff

South Region Thomas Reinert, Ph.D. Regional Director

561-625-5122 561-625-5129 FAX

Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

South Region 8535 Northlake Boulevard West Palm Beach, FL 33412-3303

Hearing/speech-impaired: 800-955-8771 (T) 800-955-8770 (V)

October 3, 2025

Martin County Board of County Commissioners c/o Sebastian Fox 2401 SE Monterey Rd Stuart, FL 34996

Dear Madam Chair and Commissioners of Martin County,

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has reviewed the draft resolution of Martin County's efforts to streamline and modernize county codes and outdated special acts in statute. We support the county's efforts aimed at repealing the fish and wildlife ordinances codified in Martin County Code, Section 83.31, and in turn, recognizing the FWC's constitutional rulemaking authority and the state's preemption of the power to regulate the taking or possession of fish and wildlife, as established in Article IV, Section 9 of the Florida Constitution.

The County Commissioners and citizens of Martin County can rest assured that the repealed ordinances will not jeopardize the county's fish and wildlife resources. Federal and state law, and FWC rules, cover most, if not all, of the issues addressed in the county ordinances. Using a science-based approach, the FWC is committed to managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

Sincerely,

Thomas Reinert, Ph.D. Regional Director