



Everglades Coalition

Sent Via Email.

Everglades Coalition Resolution to urge the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to Protect Imperiled Diamondback Terrapins from Drowning in Blue Crab Pots

Whereas, the diamondback terrapin is the only entirely estuarine turtle in the world and considered a keystone species in estuaries across the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States;

Whereas, three of the diamondback terrapin's seven subspecies live exclusively in Florida and are found in the Greater Everglades Ecosystem;

Whereas, the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species lists the diamondback terrapin as vulnerable to extinction because of population declines caused by habitat loss, commercial exploitation, road mortality, sea level rise, and other threats;

Whereas, scientific experts in the Diamondback Terrapin Working Group agree that accidental drowning in crab pots is the greatest threat to the diamondback terrapin's future existence;

Whereas, diamondback terrapin populations are accidentally drowning in blue crab pots across the species' range, including in Florida;

Whereas, scientists have developed and extensively studied bycatch reduction devices (also known as BRDs) that prevent most terrapins from entering and drowning in crab pots while having minimal or no effect on crab haul;

Whereas, bycatch reduction devices have been studied in Florida waters and proven effective at protecting the majority of adult terrapins from drowning in crab pots;

Whereas, requiring bycatch reduction devices in recreational and commercial crab pots would significantly reduce the risk of diamondback terrapin mortality in crab pots and meaningfully contribute to the species' overall conservation; and

Whereas, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is undertaking a diamondback terrapin biological assessment in three locations with known terrapin populations to estimate population sizes, sex ratios, and age distributions; genetic analysis; and literature review;

1000 Friends of Florida
Angler Action Foundation
Audubon Florida
Audubon of Southwest Florida
Audubon of the Western Everglades
Audubon Society of the Everglades
Backcountry Fly Fishers of Naples
Calusa Waterkeeper
Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife
Center for Biological Diversity
Conservancy of Southwest Florida
Defenders of Wildlife
"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society
Earthjustice
Environment Florida
Everglades Foundation
Everglades Law Center
Everglades Trust
Florida Bay Forever
Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund
Florida Defenders of the Environment
Florida Keys Environmental Fund
Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Oceanographic Society
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Everglades
Hendry-Glades Audubon Society
International Dark-Sky Association,
FL Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
Izaak Walton League Florida Division
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter
Lake Worth Waterkeeper
Last Stand
League of Women Voters of Florida
Martin County Conservation Alliance
Miami Pine Rocklands Coalition
Miami Waterkeeper
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
North Carolina Outward Bound School
Ocean Research & Conservation Association
Peace River Audubon Society
Reef Relief
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Florida Chapter
Sierra Club Broward Group
Sierra Club Calusa Group
Sierra Club Central Florida Group
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group
Sierra Club Miami Group
South Florida Audubon Society
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
The Florida Wildlife Federation
The Institute for Regional Conservation
The National Wildlife Federation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
Partnership
Tropical Audubon Society

Committed to full protection and restoration of America's Everglades

Now, therefore, be it resolved that:

The Everglades Coalition strongly urges the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation to continue analyzing the diamondback terrapin's status and threats and consider adopting regulations requiring bycatch reduction devices on all recreational and commercial crab pots in state waters.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of July, 2020.



Mark Perry
Co-Chair



Marisa Carrozzo
Co-Chair

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