



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Special Activity License Program

Program Overview

The FWC recognizes there are justifiable reasons to allow the harvest, possession or release of marine organisms that would be in violation of one or more of the state's marine fisheries rules.

Under the SAL Program, the FWC evaluates proposed activities that require a waiver of state marine fisheries rules.

The FWC issues SALs with necessary terms, conditions and restrictions to ensure that the activity is consistent with fisheries rules, management plans, and the best available scientific information.



Activities

- Scientific Research
- Education (FMSEA Certificate)
- Exhibition
- Stock Collection and Release
- Aquaculture (commerce)
- Gear Innovation (commercial)



Eligibility

- Eligibility requirements specific to each license type
- Eligibility requirements based on affiliation, certifications, and/or experience
- SALs cannot be issued directly to Third Party Contractors



Issuance

- If it is a qualified activity and the applicant is eligible, then the license is issued with conditions necessary to ensure the activity is conducted with the least amount of impacts.
- FKNMS-specific conditions added in to ensure that Sanctuary permits are obtained (if needed) and Sanctuary regulations are followed.



FWC and FKNMS

- MOA between FWC and FKNMS to streamline permitting
- FWC defers to FKNMS for permitting activities involving live rock, live sand, coral and sea fans in all of Sanctuary except state parks
- MOA does not defer permitting to the FKNMS for release activities



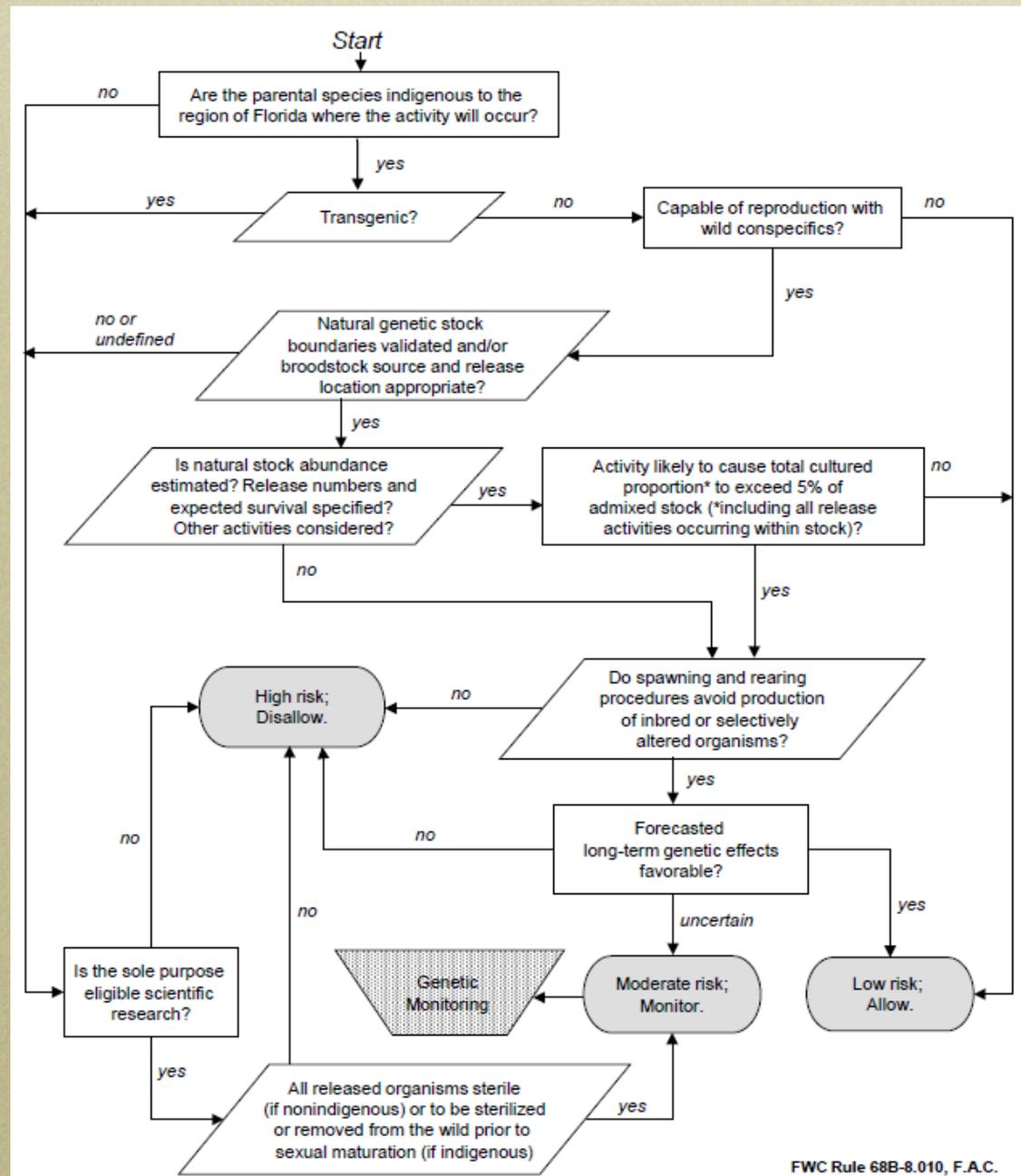
Stock Collection and Release SAL

- Purpose – ensure that release activities are conducted in a manner that preserves the health and genetic diversity of the wild stock native to Florida waters and the adjacent EEZ.
- Activities include:
 - Release of captive-bred or captive-reared organisms (e.g., stock enhancement/restoration)
 - Relocation of organisms (e.g., restoration, mitigation)
 - Introduction of organisms (e.g., caged aquaculture)



Decision Process for the Genetic Risk Assessment of Releases Involving Marine Organisms

Parallelograms identify applicant-supplied information; rectangles represent assessment decisions; grey trapezoid identifies a requisite plan; ovals depict assessment recommendations



Health

- Health assessment protocols are developed on a case-by-case basis as needed for specific species, activities and areas.
- This provides flexibility for multiple types of activities and species to occur across Florida.

