



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

July 28, 2017

Chairman Brian Yablonski
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Farris Bryant Building
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Chairman Yablonski:

Florida is home to some of the best and most diverse fisheries in the world and we take great pride in the fact that our residents and visitors can access a world class fishing experience from anywhere in the state. Each year, millions of Floridians and visitors enjoy Florida's pristine fisheries thanks in large part to the lawful and responsible practices of recreational and commercial fishermen, and the hard work of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and your partners.

While so many who enjoy Florida's incredible natural resources do so respectfully, some regrettably seek to irresponsibly and recklessly abuse them. This week, an incredibly disturbing video was reported by the media showing individuals senselessly dragging a shark behind their boat at high speed. The brutality and disrespect shown to this animal is sickening and I am sure that you share in my outrage over these individuals' heinous actions.

The brave men and women serving our state as FWC law enforcement officers have a longstanding history of protecting Florida's natural resources and I applaud their hard work in swiftly investigating this hateful act. Looking forward, I encourage FWC to review Florida's fishing regulations and state statutes to ensure such inhumane acts are strictly prohibited. I know that FWC law enforcement works to protect all of Florida's wildlife and we need to make certain they have the tools to ensure Florida has the best fisheries in the world. I look forward to working with you and the other commissioners to address ways to further protect our wildlife and prevent the unethical and inhumane treatment of Florida's natural treasures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott".

Rick Scott
Governor

cc: Commissioner Aliese P. "Liesa" Priddy
Commissioner Ronald M. Bergeron
Commissioner Richard Hanas
Commissioner Bo Rivard
Commissioner Robert A. Spottswood
Commissioner Michael W. Sole
Executive Director Nick Wiley
Coastal Conservation Association Florida
American Sportfishing Association