

**Biography for Lt. Colonel Bruce Buckson, Deputy Director
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Division of Law Enforcement
Boating and Waterways Section; Field Services Section; and Training Section**

Lt. Colonel Bruce Buckson has been with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for 29 years. He began his career as an FWC officer in the Florida Keys. His career assignments have included assignments in the Florida Keys, on Florida's West Coast from Sarasota to Taylor County, and at Commission headquarters in Tallahassee.

From late 1994 to July of 1999, Lt. Col. Buckson served as the Law Enforcement Liaison to the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission. In this role he provided input to the commission on the enforceability of current and proposed regulations and general education efforts with regard to fisheries regulations internally and with the public.



Lt. Col. Bruce Buckson

He has served as the state fisheries enforcement coordinator and as the primary reviewer for marine fishery rules for the Division of Law Enforcement. Lt. Colonel Buckson was active in providing enforcement direction during the implementation of the historic Florida Marine Net Limitation constitutional amendment. He also served as the law enforcement lead for the Florida law that clarified net measurement methods.

From late 1994 to mid 2008, Lt. Col. Buckson served as Florida's representative to the law enforcement committees for the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. In 2004 he received the Award of Excellence in Law Enforcement from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for his contributions to fishery conservation. He has also served as Florida's law enforcement member of the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. He continues to serve as Florida's representative on the Patrol Committee of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference.

Lt. Col. Buckson also acts as the state liaison to NOAA Office for Law Enforcement for federal fishery enforcement issues. He has managed Florida's Cooperative Enforcement Program with NOAA Enforcement and the Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) since it began. The JEA provides federal funding to states for enforcement of federal fishery regulations. In May 2008, Lt. Colonel Buckson received the Outstanding Leadership Achievement Award from NOAA Enforcement for his leadership in achieving the goals of the Cooperative Enforcement Program.

He is also the contact person for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Law Enforcement for manatee protection issues. In 2006, Lt. Col. Buckson received the prestigious Guy Bradley Award for his efforts in coordinating law enforcement efforts to protect manatees.

Buckson Bio/Cont'd

In addition to his resource enforcement responsibilities, Lt Col. Buckson oversees the division's Field Services Section. This section is focused on implementing statewide Computer Aided Dispatch and the Officer Automation Project, which provides laptops in vehicles and vessels. The section also researches new technology to improve efficiency at all levels in the Division of Law Enforcement.

Lt. Col. Buckson is also responsible for oversight of the Boating & Waterway Section and the Training Section. The Boating and Waterway Section is composed of three units, the Waterway Management Unit, the Boating Access Unit, and the Boating Safety and Education Unit. The Waterway Management Unit is responsible for the approval of boating safety restricted area ordinances; issuance of waterway marker permits; the maintenance of state markers; and coordinating removal of derelict vessel.

The Boating Access Unit coordinates federal, state and local boating access projects through grant money received from state and federal resources. The Boating Safety and Education Unit provides oversight and coordination of the Division's boating safety enforcement efforts; administers the Federal Boating Safety Grant; issues boater safety education cards; provides training and educational materials to vessel liveries; conducts boater safety media campaigns; and analyzes boating accident data to monitor trends and make enforcement recommendations to reduce accidents.

The Training Section is responsible for the recruitment and hiring of the Commission's law enforcement officers as well as the continued training and maintenance of certification for the officers in the field. This section is also responsible for coordinating the FWC Reserve Program and the division's leadership and mentoring initiatives.

For more information:

- [Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Division of Law Enforcement](#)
- [National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's 2006 Guy Bradley Award](#)
- [Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 2004 Annual Report](#)

