A bill to be entitled

An act relating to trust funds; terminating the Florida Preservation 2000 Trust Fund and the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; providing for the disposition of balances in and revenues of the trust funds; prescribing procedures for the termination of the trust funds; amending ss. 370.021, 370.061, 372.73, 372.9901, 372.9904, and 932.7055, F.S.; correcting cross references; repealing s. 372.107, F.S., relating to the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

- Section 1. (1) The Florida Preservation 2000 Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FLAIR number 77-2-332, is terminated.
- (2) All current balances remaining in, and all revenues of, the trust fund shall be transferred to the Florida Forever Program Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FLAIR number 77-2-349.
- (3) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall pay any outstanding debts and obligations of the terminated fund as soon as practicable, and the Chief Financial Officer shall close out and remove the terminated fund from the various state accounting systems using generally accepted accounting principles concerning warrants outstanding, assets, and

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liabilities.

Section 2. (1) The Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FLAIR number 77-2-719, is terminated.

- (2) All current balances remaining in, and all revenues
 of, the trust fund shall be transferred to the Federal Grants
 Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- (3) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall pay any outstanding debts and obligations of the terminated fund as soon as practicable, and the Chief Financial Officer shall close out and remove the terminated fund from the various state accounting systems using generally accepted accounting principles concerning warrants outstanding, assets, and liabilities.
- Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 370.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 370.021 Administration; rules, publications, records; penalties; injunctions.--
- (2) MAJOR VIOLATIONS. -- In addition to the penalties provided in paragraphs (1)(a) and (b), the court shall assess additional penalties against any person, firm, or corporation convicted of major violations as follows:
- (a) For a violation involving more than 100 illegal blue crabs, crawfish, or stone crabs, an additional penalty of \$10 for each illegal blue crab, crawfish, stone crab, or part thereof.
- (b) For a violation involving the taking or harvesting of shrimp from a nursery or other prohibited area, or any two

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violations within a 12-month period involving shrimping gear, minimum size (count), or season, an additional penalty of \$10 for each pound of illegal shrimp or part thereof.

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- (c) For a violation involving the taking or harvesting of oysters from nonapproved areas or the taking or possession of unculled oysters, an additional penalty of \$10 for each bushel of illegal oysters.
- (d) For a violation involving the taking or harvesting of clams from nonapproved areas, an additional penalty of \$100 for each 500 count bag of illegal clams.
- (e) For a violation involving the taking, harvesting, or possession of any of the following species, which are endangered, threatened, or of special concern:
 - 1. Shortnose sturgeon (Acipenser brevirostrum);
 - 2. Atlantic sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrhynchus);
 - Common snook (Centropomus undecimalis);
 - 4. Atlantic loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta caretta);
 - 5. Atlantic green turtle (Chelonia mydas mydas);
 - 6. Leatherback turtle (Dermochelys coriacea);
- 7. Atlantic hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata imbracata);
 - 8. Atlantic ridley turtle (Lepidochelys kempi); or
 - 9. West Indian manatee (Trichechus manatus latirostris),

an additional penalty of \$100 for each unit of marine life or part thereof.

(f) For a second or subsequent conviction within 24 months for any violation of the same law or rule involving the taking

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or harvesting of more than 100 pounds of any finfish, an additional penalty of \$5 for each pound of illegal finfish.

- (g) For any violation involving the taking, harvesting, or possession of more than 1,000 pounds of any illegal finfish, an additional penalty equivalent to the wholesale value of the illegal finfish.
- (h) Permits issued to any person, firm, or corporation by the commission to take or harvest saltwater products, or any license issued pursuant to s. 370.06 or s. 370.07 may be suspended or revoked by the commission, pursuant to the provisions and procedures of s. 120.60, for any major violation prescribed in this subsection:
 - 1. Upon a first conviction, for up to 30 calendar days.
- 2. Upon a second conviction which occurs within 12 months after a prior violation, for up to 90 calendar days.
- 3. Upon a third conviction which occurs within 24 months after a prior conviction, for up to 180 calendar days.
- 4. Upon a fourth conviction which occurs within 36 months after a prior conviction, for a period of 6 months to 3 years.
- (i) Upon the arrest and conviction for a major violation involving stone crabs, the licenseholder must show just cause why his or her license should not be suspended or revoked. For the purposes of this paragraph, a "major violation" means a major violation as prescribed for illegal stone crabs; any single violation involving possession of more than 25 stone crabs during the closed season or possession of 25 or more whole-bodied or egg-bearing stone crabs; any violation for trap molestation, trap robbing, or pulling traps at night; or any

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combination of violations in any 3-consecutive-year period wherein more than 75 illegal stone crabs in the aggregate are involved.

- (j) Upon the arrest and conviction for a major violation involving crawfish, the licenseholder must show just cause why his or her license should not be suspended or revoked. For the purposes of this paragraph, a "major violation" means a major violation as prescribed for illegal crawfish; any single violation involving possession of more than 25 crawfish during the closed season or possession of more than 25 wrung crawfish tails or more than 25 egg-bearing or stripped crawfish; any violation for trap molestation, trap robbing, or pulling traps at night; or any combination of violations in any 3-consecutive-year period wherein more than 75 illegal crawfish in the aggregate are involved.
- (k) Upon the arrest and conviction for a major violation involving blue crabs, the licenseholder shall show just cause why his or her saltwater products license should not be suspended or revoked. This paragraph shall not apply to an individual fishing with no more than five traps. For the purposes of this paragraph, a "major violation" means a major violation as prescribed for illegal blue crabs, any single violation wherein 50 or more illegal blue crabs are involved; any violation for trap molestation, trap robbing, or pulling traps at night; or any combination of violations in any 3-consecutive-year period wherein more than 100 illegal blue crabs in the aggregate are involved.
 - (1) Upon the conviction for a major violation involving Page $5\,\mathrm{of}\,10$

finfish, the licenseholder must show just cause why his or her saltwater products license should not be suspended or revoked. For the purposes of this paragraph, a major violation is prescribed for the taking and harvesting of illegal finfish, any single violation involving the possession of more than 100 pounds of illegal finfish, or any combination of violations in any 3-consecutive-year period wherein more than 200 pounds of illegal finfish in the aggregate are involved.

(m) For a violation involving the taking or harvesting of any marine life species, as those species are defined by rule of the commission, the harvest of which is prohibited, or the taking or harvesting of such a species out of season, or with an illegal gear or chemical, or any violation involving the possession of 25 or more individual specimens of marine life species, or any combination of violations in any 3-year period involving more than 70 such specimens in the aggregate, the suspension or revocation of the licenseholder's marine life endorsement as provided in paragraph (h).

Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 948.01, no court may suspend, defer, or withhold adjudication of guilt or imposition of sentence for any major violation prescribed in this subsection. The proceeds from the penalties assessed pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund to be used for marine fisheries research or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable.

Section 4. Subsection (4) and paragraph (c) of subsection Page 6 of 10

(5) of section 370.061, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

370.061 Confiscation, seizure, and forfeiture of property
and products.--

- (4) DESTRUCTION OR DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY.--All property forfeited under this section may be destroyed, used by the commission, disposed of by gift to charitable or state institutions, or sold, with the proceeds derived from the sale deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund to be used for law enforcement purposes, or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable.
- (5) CONFISCATION AND SALE OF PERISHABLE SALTWATER PRODUCTS; PROCEDURE. --
- (c) In the event of acquittal, the proceeds of a sale or the bond or cash deposit required by this subsection shall be returned to the defendant. In the event of a conviction, the proceeds of a sale or the bond or cash deposit required by this subsection shall be deposited into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund to be used for law enforcement purposes or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable. Such deposit into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund or the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund shall constitute confiscation.
- Section 5. Section 372.73, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 372.73 Confiscation and disposition of illegally taken game. -- All game and freshwater fish seized under the authority of this chapter shall, upon conviction of the offender or sooner

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if the court so orders, be forfeited and given to some hospital or charitable institution and receipt therefor sent to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. All furs or hides or furbearing animals seized under the authority of this chapter shall, upon conviction of the offender, be forfeited and sent to the commission, which shall sell the same and deposit the proceeds of such sale to the credit of the State Game Trust Fund or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable. If any such hides or furs are seized and the offender is unknown, the court shall order such hides or furs sent to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, which shall sell such hides and furs and deposit the proceeds of such sale to the credit of the State Game Trust Fund or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable.

Section 6. Subsection (5) of section 372.9901, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

372.9901 Seizure of illegal hunting devices; disposition; notice; forfeiture.--In order to protect the state's wildlife resources, any vehicle, vessel, animal, gun, light, or other hunting device used or attempted to be used in connection with, as an instrumentality of, or in aiding and abetting in the commission of an offense prohibited by s. 372.99 is subject to seizure and forfeiture. The provisions of chapter 932 do not apply to any seizure or forfeiture under this section. For purposes of this section, a conviction is any disposition other than acquittal or dismissal.

(5) All amounts received from the sale or other Page 8 of 10

disposition of the property shall be paid into the State Game

Trust Fund or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement

Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable. If the property is not sold or converted, it shall be delivered to the executive director of the commission.

- Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 372.9904, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 372.9904 Seizure of illegal transportation devices; disposition; appraisal; forfeiture.--
- (3) Upon conviction of the violator, the property, if owned by the person convicted, shall be forfeited to the state under the procedure set forth in ss. 370.061 and 370.07, when not inconsistent with this section. All amounts received from the sale or other disposition of the property shall be paid into the State Game Trust Fund or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable. If the property is not sold or converted, it shall be delivered to the director of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- Section 8. Paragraph (e) of subsection (6) of section 932.7055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 932.7055 Disposition of liens and forfeited property .--
- (6) If the seizing agency is a state agency, all remaining proceeds shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. However, if the seizing agency is:
- (e) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the proceeds accrued pursuant to the provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act shall be deposited into the State Game

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Trust Fund as provided in ss. 372.73, 372.9901, and 372.9904 or, into the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund as provided in s. 370.061, or into the commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund as provided in s. 372.107, as applicable.

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Section 9. <u>Section 372.107</u>, Florida Statutes, is repealed. Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.