

January 2023 Conservation Report

Peace River Updates
 Dandelion
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Waterbody	River Miles	Impairment Sites
Peace River	103.7	278
Charlie Creek	21.8	117
Horse Creek	14.8	63
Prairie Creek	9.2	27
Shell Creek	8.7	6
Payne Creek	3.5	7
Joshua Creek	2.4	9
Saddle Creek	2.3	2
Myrtle Slough	1.3	1
Whidden Creek	0.1	1
Limestone Creek	0.1	1
Total:	167.7	512

At our Dec 15 meeting, Brandon Moody discussed water quality in the estuary and brought us up to date on 2 conservaton projects along the Peace River.

It appears that the 2020 FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Foundation's Impairment Site Assessment of the Peace River Watershed for Stream Bank and River Flow has been put on a very back burner. See chart on the left. Greg Knothe did the FWC presentation for CHNEP.

[FWC Link](#) 30 minute video

Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) was designated in 1992 to study water quality and to address declines in aquifer levels due primarily to groundwater withdrawals in the bone valley area. DEP and SWFWMD updated assessment is expected soon.

Restoring the Peace River 6 minute video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3ivxE_nWE4

Dandelion tea is an excellent source of potassium, a mineral and electrolyte that stimulates the heartbeat. Potassium may help the kidney filter toxins more effectively and improve blood flow. The polysaccharides in dandelion are known to reduce stress on the liver and support its ability to produce bile. Roast the roots, dry the flowers & leaves and steep for tea. Roots have bold flavor but leaves taste sweet.

Dandelion Photos represent sun, stars & moon



Japanese pruning method creates lumber without cutting down trees



There is an ancient Japanese pruning method from the 14th century that allows lumber production without cutting down trees called "Daisugi"



"The lumber produced in this method is 140% as flexible as standard cedar and 200% as dense/strong"

SEARCH for STUMPY - A WINTERING PIPING PLOVER ADVENTURE

December 21st, 2022

Stumpy”, one of New Jersey’s breeding piping plovers in winter plumage at Outback Key.

Courtesy of Lorraine Margeson.

By Todd Pover, Senior Wildlife Biologist

Earlier this summer, it was announced that the annual range-wide American oystercatcher meeting would be held in December on the Gulf Coast of Florida near Naples. Thrilled to finally be attending in-person after several pandemic years of virtual meetings, my mind immediately pivoted to what other nearby nature sites I could also visit. Or more specifically and not too surprising for those that know me...where could I go to view wintering piping plovers.

In late September, Hurricane Ian made a direct landing in this region of Florida. The meeting had to be scuttled, relocated to the Georgia coast. And just like that, my “add-on” plans – I had arranged a short trip to Outback Key about two hours north of the meeting – fell off the itinerary.

Or maybe not. Georgia borders Florida, right? Six hours of driving for a chance to see 50-60 piping plovers in one spot is reasonable, right? Did I mention at least one New Jersey breeder winters at the site?

So as soon as the oystercatcher meeting wrapped at mid-day, I found myself in a car, along with fellow CWF Biologist Emmy Casper, hurtling toward St. Petersburg, Florida. We arrived at nightfall, woke in what felt like a flash, so we could wait in a line of cars, still in the dark, for Fort DeSoto County Park to open at 7 am. We had a very narrow window for our visit with the morning low tide being optimal shorebird viewing at Outback Key and because we had mid-day flights home.

As anxious as we were to see some plovers as soon as the gates opened, we had some important business to attend to first. The trip was also our chance to meet Lorraine Margeson in-person. Lorraine and I had become virtual friends on social media about a year earlier when she spotted Stumpy, who is one of New Jersey’s breeding piping plovers and is marked with bands, on Outback Key. Stumpy returned to Outback again this winter. Lorraine would be our tour guide in our search for Stumpy.

Emmy and I have personal connections to Stumpy. In 2021, she hatched at and fledged from the Barnegat Light habitat restoration site, a project I helped create and lead. This year she returned to New Jersey to nest at the nearby Holgate Unit of the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, where Emmy oversaw the monitoring program for CWF on behalf of the Refuge. Emmy found Stumpy’s nest, her first as a breeding adult, and helped monitor the four chicks Stumpy successfully raised to fledgling (flying) stage. Needless to say, Emmy and I felt like proud “parents” visiting her on winter break.

Now back to Lorraine. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to call her the “mayor” of shorebirds at Outback Key. She is there near daily, all the more impressive considering that she volunteers her time. Depending on the time of year, she helps keep watch on both wintering and breeding populations of plovers (piping, snowy, and Wilson’s) and other shorebirds. She advocates for their protection. She posts frequent status updates on social media. She reports bands, which provides valuable information to researchers. In short, she is a force for shorebirds at the site.

With our meet-up behind us in the parking lot, we were off to the low tide flats of Outback Key. Within minutes we had plovers in our sights, a mix of piping and snowy, many of them banded, but alas, no Stumpy. To be honest, Stumpy had not been seen for some time. Even though piping plovers have strong attachment to specific wintering “sites”, they can move around to different sites within a small region, depending on tides, food availability, human disturbance, predator presence, and other factors. Outback Key is an impressive site by any birding standard, seeing so many piping plovers, from both the Atlantic Coast and Great Lakes populations, was worth the trip whether or not we saw Stumpy. But we really had our hearts set on seeing her.

As (bad) luck would have it, a merlin was disrupting all the shorebirds at the site, as soon as a flock of plovers settled down to forage, they’d be on the move again. Spotting tiny bands on a skittish piping plover isn’t the easiest task. Lorraine preached patience; Emmy and I mostly felt our Stumpy clock ticking down as our departing flight times inched closer. And just like that, nearly at the exact same time, Emmy and I both spied a familiar black and blue band combination through our binoculars and in minutes we knew it was Stumpy.

Mission accomplished. Hearts full. I am always up for a crazy wildlife adventure, this had certainly been one for the books, but I had another objective in mind, as well. I saw the trip as a platform to speak to an important conservation issue.

Tremendous resources and time have been dedicated to piping plover conservation on the breeding grounds in the U.S. and Canada. Maximizing productivity – the number of fledglings produced – is certainly a proven formula for recovering and maintaining this highly at-risk species. But they also need safe and suitable sites for migration and wintering, their long-term survival and health depends on it. Stumpy arrived on Outback Key in early August this year. She will not return to New Jersey to breed again until next March or April. That means she spends 7-8 months of the year at Outback Key. Those of us on the breeding grounds like to claim “ownership” of our birds, but it isn’t a stretch to say Stumpy is a resident of Florida that summers in New Jersey...the reverse of being a “snowbird”. No matter how you look at it, having strong protection and protectors on the wintering grounds is critical for piping plover recovery. Full life cycle conservation is the only path to success.



5 Earthshot Winners. 1/2 of 30 projects became Finalists (10 Countries)

KYLA MANDEL, Time excerpts

There is no shortage of environmental problems that need to be solved. And today in Boston, Mass.—at a ceremony marked by celebrity appearances and calls to action from around the world—Prince William through his Earthshot Prize handed out over \$6 million dollars to help accelerate five solutions to tackling issues on conservation, air quality, oceans, waste, and climate change.

The annual Earthshot Prize, an independent charity founded by Prince William and the Royal Foundation in 2020, awards \$1.2 million each to winners in the five categories. The initiative aims to bring the same level of urgency and ambition to today's environmental challenges as John F. Kennedy's "moonshot" space-race challenge.

Among the panel of judges selecting this year's high-profile awards are naturalist Sir David Attenborough, actress Cate Blanchett, musician Shakira, and Christiana Figueres, former head of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. The winners were selected from a group of 15 finalists from 10 different countries, and included, among others, grassroots organizations dedicated to forest protection and biodiversity conservation, along with start-ups exploring clean battery technology and alternative leather derived from waste.

PROTECT AND RESTORE NATURE

CLEAN OUR AIR

REVIVE OUR OCEANS

BUILD A WASTE-FREE WORLD

FIX OUR CLIMATE

44.01 Project in Oman is turning CO2 into rock (Goal Store 1b tons CO2 by 2040)

This Oman-based start-up takes its name from the molecular weight of carbon dioxide: 44.01 grams per mole. In an effort to reduce the amount of planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere, 44.01 sucks **CO2 from the atmosphere using direct-air-capture technology, dissolves it into water, and then pumps the resulting carbonated water into underground seams of peridotite—an igneous rock formed from Earth's mantle—where it's stored in a process known as mineralization.** Their system is powered by energy derived from heat, solar, and biofuels. Founded by Talal Hasan, 44.01's first project in **Oman—home to the world's largest concentration of peridotite**—will mineralize 1,000 metric tons of CO2 each year until 2024, emissions equal to driving 215 gas-powered cars for a year. It also hopes to expand internationally, and store 1 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2040.

The Queensland Indigenous Women Rangers Network is helping revive Australia's oceans

Indigenous rangers in Australia work to protect the Great Barrier Reef from storms and ocean acidification as well as land-based environments from forest fires and degradation. Yet, in Queensland, Australia, only 20% of these rangers are women. Over the past four years, the Queensland Indigenous Women Rangers Network has helped train over 60 women in combining modern conservation techniques, such as using drones, with traditional knowledge sharing. The data collected by this network provide vital information on ecosystems in order to better protect them. The organization's hope is to gain enough support to help expand these conservation methods around the world.

Notpla's circular solution to waste in the U.K. NO MORE SINGLE USE PLASTIC

Looking for an alternative to fossil-fuel-based plastics? London-based start-up Notpla (short for "not plastic") was launched in 2019 by Pierre Paslier and Rodrigo Carcia Gonzalez, who both studied in an Innovation Design Engineering program run jointly by the Imperial College London and the Royal College of Art. Together, they **created a biodegradable seaweed-based packaging for everything from liquids and food.** Notpla tackles environmental issues on two fronts: first, its environmentally friendly alternative to plastic can help make a dent in the some 6.3 metric tons of plastic waste currently clogging the world's streets and sea, and second, the seaweed the product is based on can capture carbon 20 times faster than trees. So far, Notpla has provided more than 1 million take-out containers to JustEatTakeaway.com, a global online food-delivery marketplace.

Mukuru Clean Stoves tackles clean air & preventing health issues in Kenya

Mukuru Clean Stoves is a female-founded business, staffed mostly with women, which aims to bring **cleaner-burning stoves to women in Kenya.** In Sub-Saharan Africa alone, more than 950 million people rely on heavily polluting wood and charcoal for cooking, a number estimated to grow to 1.67 billion by 2050. The startup was founded in 2017 by Charlot Magayi, who used to sell charcoal for fuel in Mukuru, one of Nairobi's largest slums, and whose daughter was severely burnt by a charcoal stove, prompting a search for a better solution. According to the company, Mukuru's **stove emits 90% less pollution than cooking over an open fire, and 70% less pollution than using a traditional cookstove. Costing just \$10,** the stove is fueled by biomass created from charcoal, wood, and sugarcane; fuel expenses are also half that of traditional sources.

Kheyti is protecting and restoring nature in India. Modular Greenhouses help small farms in India

Start-up Kheyti has developed a "greenhouse-in-a-box" to help the world's approximately **570 million smallholder farmers protect their crops from unpredictable, harsh weather, and pests**—two challenges made worse due to climate change. According to the company, **its modular greenhouses are 90% cheaper than standard greenhouses,** employ drip irrigation to help use 98% less water than growing crops outdoors, and can boost yields seven-fold compared to typical agricultural methods. Together with training provided by Kheyti, farmers are able to double their incomes, according to the company. So far, some 1,000 farms are using the greenhouses; by 2027 the company hopes to reach 50,000 farmers.

Proposed Letter to FWC

**RE: Southwest Region - Specific Area Rule Changes - roads, access & vehicles Sustainability measures to address habitat damage caused by off-highway vehicles
68A-15.061 Babcock Webb WMA Preserve**

As a stakeholder, the Peace River Audubon Society (PRAS) is concerned with the limitation of vehicular access to specified management areas except for the Bird Dog Training Area. Although PRAS did not participate in the two year stakeholder engagement and education process which addressed habitat damage due to off-highway vehicle use. Our chapter was not aware of the specific closed areas until the Proposed Rule FWC-Managed Area Changes Overview were published in December 2022. It is our understanding that between December 2022 and January 2023 the rule changes are being advertised in the Florida Administrative Register. Since the Commission will not vote on the proposed rules until February; hopefully, FWC will consider stakeholder input during this two month period.

As a stakeholder, PRAS regularly conducts field trips to Babcock Webb WMA that are free to the public and conducted by our experienced volunteer bird experts, but the vehicle road closures will be a major inconvenience. The closures will cut off birding hotspots for the Bachman's Sparrows and some of the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker's nesting cavity trees. Many of our members explore on their own and other members visit for photo opportunities.

Storms and weather affect many of the birding habitats constantly so that dry hammocks may transition to wetlands or vice versus where lightning caused fires in combination with a longer drought can cause wetlands to go dry. Hurricanes can eliminate tree canopies so that a habitat becomes warmer and dryer. Birding hotspots evolve. Scouting Audubon members may not have access to large amounts of acreage to discover newly evolving hotspots. Our scouting members do not use ATVs; nevertheless, our vehicles are driven on roads until they can park near potential bird hotspots so that they can explore by hiking on trails.

More effective rules that would better target the habitat destroying ATVs without affecting the stakeholders who are environmentally sensitive to the fragile habitats of the management area. Observations have been made of many off-road vehicles during hunting periods so these rule changes may not be limiting some of the offending stakeholders who destroy habitats with ATVs. Suggested solutions might include electronic control gates opened with designated stakeholder codes or combination locked gates. Volunteer staffing to control closed roads may offer a solution. We acknowledge the difficult nuances of controlling large areas and some simple solutions may become problematic. Driving between favored habitats is more efficient and allows more survey time. Rules often create a disadvantage to particular stakeholders but these proposed rules seem to miss the intended target for the most part.

For decades, our chapter has conducted Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) at Babcock Webb WMA which provides long term data trends. We are very thankful that access for our CBC circle areas will be open for surveys under the rule changes. Nevertheless, Peace River Audubon would like more access.



We biked into Blue Spring today where the count was 606 today. Our frigid weather had them flocking to the spring water that is 72 degrees so they could warm up before going back to the river to eat. Some people got tired of waiting in line and must've parked their car and walked into the park. The banana tree at the north end of the trail looks a little sad after 28 degrees overnight.

Agency Forced to Respond After Nearly 2,000 Manatees Die in 2021, 2022 The Center for Biodiversity Nov 21st 2022 Petition Urges Fish and Wildlife Service to Protect Manatees by Re-designating Manatees as Endangered

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.— The Center for Biological Diversity, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Clinic, Miami Waterkeeper, Save the Manatee Club and Frank S. González García today petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to increase protections for West Indian manatees. The petition urges the Service to reclassify the species from threatened to endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Since the Service prematurely reduced protections in 2017, the species has declined dramatically. Pollution-fueled algae blooms sparked an ongoing mortality event that killed more than 1,110 Florida manatees in 2021 alone. This represents 19% of the Atlantic population and 13% of all manatees in Florida.

The mortality event has continued apace in 2022, with 726 manatees dying through October. Manatee experts predict that the high levels of malnourished and starving manatees will continue throughout the winter.



“West Indian manatees from Florida to the Caribbean are facing drastic threats from habitat loss, boat strikes, pollution, climate change and toxic algae blooms,” said Ben Rankin, a student attorney at the Harvard Animal Law & Policy Clinic. “The restoration of full Endangered Species Act protections is an essential first step in conserving this species everywhere it is found. “The current long-term threats faced by the manatee will take years or even decades of concerted action to solve,” said Savannah Bergeron, an eighth-generation Floridian and student attorney at the Harvard Animal Law & Policy Clinic. “In the meantime, the absolute least we can do is ensure that manatees are given the protections they deserve under the Endangered Species Act, especially since they’re so important to our coastal ecosystems and are one of Florida’s iconic species.”

“With Florida’s manatees dying by the hundreds, it's painfully clear that the 2017 federal decision to downlist the species was scientifically baseless,” said Ragan Whitlock, a Florida-based attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. “The Fish and Wildlife Service now has the opportunity to correct its mistake and protect these desperately imperiled animals. Increasing protections for manatees with an endangered listing would provide immediate protection,” said Rachel Silverstein, executive director of Miami Waterkeeper. “With astounding losses of seagrasses around the state, we need to address water-quality issues to give the manatee a fighting chance to survive and thrive.”

“In 2017 Save the Manatee Club strongly opposed the biologically unjustified downlisting of the manatee, and in the years since our worst fears have become reality as we approach what will likely be a third winter of mass manatee mortality and aquatic ecosystem collapse,” said Patrick Rose, an aquatic biologist and executive director of Save the Manatee Club. “Re-designating manatees as endangered will be a critical first critical step in righting a terrible wrong. In addition, we call for full implementation of all tools available under the Endangered Species Act, including reinstatement of the Expert Manatee Recovery Team and other expert working groups such as the Manatee Warm-Water Task Force. The time to act is now.”

“It fills us with emotion every time the local press publishes information about manatee sightings off the coast of Puerto Rico, even if it is to report that they appeared injured or dead. Being able to see them is an extremely rare but very special event,” said Frank S. González García, a local engineer concerned with the loss of natural resources. “The Fish and Wildlife Service could make a huge difference, enforcing protection, designating critical habitat, and making sure manatees have adequate food and freshwater resources to thrive.”

Unchecked pollution — from wastewater treatment discharges, leaking septic systems, fertilizer runoff and other sources — is fueling the collapse of the Indian River Lagoon, leading to the unprecedented mortality event. A recent study also found more than half of sampled Florida manatees are chronically exposed to glyphosate, a potent herbicide applied to sugarcane and aquatic weeds. Discharges from Lake Okeechobee containing glyphosate have also resulted in higher concentrations of glyphosate in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers.

Boat strikes are another leading threat to Florida manatees. On average, more than 100 manatees are killed by boaters in Florida every year. This number is expected to increase as Florida’s population continues to expand. In response to a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity, Florida Springs Council and Suncoast Waterkeeper, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has proposed a rule to increase boater awareness of manatees and other coastal wildlife.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has 90 days to evaluate whether the petition to protect the manatee as endangered presents substantial information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted. If so, the Fish and Wildlife Service must complete a thorough review of the species’ status within 12 months of receiving this petition.

Originally listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act in 1973, manatees have never truly recovered. The Fish and Wildlife Service announced its final rule downlisting the West Indian manatee from endangered to threatened on March 30, 2017 — despite hundreds of manatees still dying each year from boat strikes, habitat loss and other causes.



Pelicans

Wildlife officials weigh new rules at Skyway Fishing Pier to curb bird entanglements. More than 3,000 birds were rescued over the past two years after they were entangled in fishing gear at the pier.

Anglers fish along the North Sunshine Skyway Fishing Pier on Wednesday in St. Petersburg. Wildlife officials are considering new rules to prevent seabird entanglements at the Skyway Fishing Pier. Photos by ANGELICA EDWARDS Times]

By Max ChesnesTimes staff

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ST. PETERSBURG — Florida wildlife officials are weighing new rules for anglers at Skyway Fishing Pier State Park after thousands of birds were entangled in fishing gear over the past two years. Since January 2021, at least 3,300 seabirds required rescue from the pier after they were hooked or wrapped in fishing gear at the popular angling spot nestled next to the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, according to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission data. Of those, at least 1,000 birds needed veterinarian care and 500 died. In response to the rise in entanglements, wildlife officials now suggest prohibiting gear with more than one hook, like treble hooks and sabiki rigs, and limiting anglers to no more than three sets of hook-and-line gear within the park. It's a proposal that has sparked a vivid debate: Environmentalists claim it's an important step in protecting seabird species, while many anglers say it's a premature overreach at one of the state's premiere fishing spots.



“Entanglements of birds in fishing line has been occurring at Skyway Pier for many years, and seabird-angler interactions at this site occur more frequently than at other fishing piers in the state,” said Erika Burgess, a section leader at Florida wildlife commission. Since 2016, state wildlife experts have tried reducing entanglements with more outreach and education — to no avail. “Despite those efforts, severe entanglements still occur in large numbers at the Skyway Pier. For this reason, we’re looking for fishing rule options to address this problem,” Burgess said

Pelicans stand by at the North Sunshine Skyway Fishing Pier on Wednesday in St. Petersburg. Nearly 75% of bird rescues at the pier are pelicans, and wildlife officials are considering new rules to help prevent them from getting entangled or hooked by fishing gear. **Nearly 150 people tuned in to a spirited two-hour virtual discussion Monday night hosted by the Florida wildlife commission, which allowed the public to weigh in on the rule proposals before feedback is ultimately brought to the commission’s board in February.** Bird advocates largely applauded the proposed rules as a necessary action needed to reduce the number of rescues. But anglers said the new rules could be a slippery slope for more fishing restrictions, and more should be done to prevent the birds from approaching the pier in the first place, including “hazing” the birds to keep them away. Hazing is a technique to keep birds apart from a designated area by using tactics like long-range acoustics or visual scaring techniques like lasers.

“We really care about this issue, because I see it as a big precursor to moving more regulations across to other fishing piers. I would encourage the hazing or discouragement of pelicans from coming to the Skyway,” said Capt. Dylan Hubbard, president of the Florida Guides Association. “A lot of these regulations have longstanding recreational fishing impacts.” But environmentalists say the time for that has passed, and the issue has reached near-crisis levels. In 2018, for instance, the nonprofit Friends of the Pelicans was launched to reduce the number of bird entanglements at the pier and across the state. A full-time rescuer was even hired two years later to patrol the pier five days a week and assist birds that become snagged or hooked in fishing line. The rescuer’s presence, paired with an increase in pier attendance since 2020, has led to an increase in bird entanglement reports recently, according to wildlife officials and bird rescue groups.



At least 113,000 people visited the pier between July 2021 and June 30 of this year, according to Florida Department of Environmental Protection spokesperson Alexandra Kuchta. That compares to about 80,000 visitors a year prior, though that number was also lower due to pandemic-related closures. “I think it’s a good first step, and I wish it happened long ago,” said Kim Begay, a wild bird rescuer and Friends of the Pelicans vice chair, referring to the state’s proposed rule change. “We need to come to an amicable compromise that’s good for these federally protected birds, and something that’s workable for the anglers. But they have to be willing to compromise. It’s not an option to protect these species, it’s legally required.”

A sign listing steps to prevent seabird entanglement is displayed at the North Sunshine Skyway Fishing Pier nearby resting pelicans on Wednesday in St. Petersburg. “We feel like everything the state is asking for is reasonable,” Begay said in an interview with the Tampa Bay Times. “It’s a good compromise.” There are likely several reasons for the thousands of entanglements, wildlife experts say. For one, the pier is close to pelican breeding colonies, where hundreds of birds convene on nearby mangrove islands. Another reason is the pier’s popularity among anglers. The Skyway Fishing Pier is one of the most visited piers in the state because it doesn’t require an individual saltwater fishing license, according to Florida wildlife biologist Rebecca Schneider. It’s also open 24 hours a day, year-round. Another reason is the pier’s design: Entanglements at the pier are between five and 10 times more likely than at other fishing locations because of how it was designed, including with its perch areas, according to an Eckerd College study published in September in *Animals*, an international peer-reviewed journal. Wildlife biologists consider the pier an entanglement “hot spot” for brown pelicans — roughly 75% of the bird rescues there are pelicans, according to the Florida wildlife commission.

Several members of the fishing community known as Skyway Misfits, which boasts more than 83,000 followers on Instagram, also tuned in to oppose the regulations. Tensions ran high at times on Monday (at one point, an angler interrupted a Friends of the Pelicans member by shouting “bird f---er!”). But for the most part, the state, anglers and conservationists agreed the entanglement problem has risen to new heights in recent years. And as some pointed out, it’s also not the first time fishing regulations have been proposed to curb pelican entanglements in Florida.

In December 2021, the Naples City Council restricted fishing from the Naples Pier on Sundays after hundreds of pelicans were brought to wildlife rehabilitation facilities after being caught in fishing line. The changes there have been going well so far, said Lauren Barkley of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, which spearheaded the regulations in Naples. But Barkley left the wildlife officials with a word of advice on Monday: “Make sure you keep a balance with the fishermen, and work with them,” she told Florida wildlife experts during the virtual meeting. “The clearer the rules are, the more helpful you’ll be with the fishermen — and you guys — in the long run.”