



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Florida - Fishing Capital of the World

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Nuisance Alligators

If you need to report a nuisance alligator, call [1-866-FWC-GATOR \(1-866-392-4286\)](tel:1-866-FWC-GATOR).

The Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program is administered by the Division of Hunting and Game Management through contracts between the Commission and nuisance alligator trappers. Approximately 40 private trappers are contracted to remove specific nuisance alligators. Individuals may call the toll-free number to submit complaints regarding nuisance alligators. The Commission will evaluate the complaint and determine if the alligator should be removed by a licensed nuisance alligator trapper. This program permits the harvest of alligators that are determined to be a threat to the welfare of the public, or the public's pets, livestock, or property.

In 2004, the Commission received 18,072 nuisance alligator complaints. Nuisance alligator trappers were issued 15,485 permits and tags and removed 7,352 nuisance alligators.

What is a nuisance alligator? Generally, alligators may be considered a nuisance when they are at least four feet in length and pose a threat to people or their pets or property. Alligators less than four feet in length are naturally fearful of people and are not generally capable of eating anything larger than a small turtle. They eat small fish, frogs, and other small animals. They are too small to be a threat to even small pets and pose no threat to people. They are typically not dangerous to people unless someone attempts to handle them. Also, they are common in Florida, and the mere presence of a small alligator is not cause for concern, even when they turn up in places where people may not expect to see them such as retention ponds and drainage ditches. However, occasionally alligators less than four feet in length are legitimate problems and must be addressed. If an alligator less than four feet in length approaches people, does not retreat if approached, or is in a location that is not natural, call the Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 1-866-FWC-GATOR (1-866-392-4286). The Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program strives to reduce the threat from alligators to people and their property in developed areas, while conserving alligators in areas where alligators naturally occur. If you have a nuisance alligator call the Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 1-866-FWC-GATOR (1-866-392-4286).

Read about the history of [Florida's nuisance alligator program](#), and about [Living with Alligators](#) (or view a [Living with Alligators PowerPoint Presentation - 6.7 MB](#) or a [PDF version - 2.4 MB](#)).

If you know of an area where the feeding of alligators is occurring or may

occur, and you have authorization to do so, you can print and post this sign.

How to become a nuisance alligator trapper

Alligator Bite Statistics and Information

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Don't feed or molest.



Gators CANNOT be tamed and feeding them can result in their mistaking a hand for a handout! Florida law prohibits the feeding or molesting of alligators!!

SUPPORT Wildlife Alert!
If you see someone feeding or molesting an alligator, call the nearest office of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. . .

There may be a REWARD!!

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
CALL TOLL FREE
1-888-404-FWCC (3922)

or
* FWC or # FWC for most cellular service providers

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