

From manatee die off to algae blooms and continuing unchecked development, 2021 was [a brutal year for Florida's environment](#).

LINK: <https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/florida/2022/01/02/2021-2022-florida-environment-fishing-manatees-algae-piney-point-climate-change-everglades-hurricane/8966600002/>

That centuries-long trend will likely continue in 2022. The latest assault being a proposal from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to open a season on goliath grouper. [Grouper populations have rebounded in recent years](#), encouraging FWC – which shouldn't be confused with an organization working to conserve the state's fish and wildlife despite its title – to allow them to be hunted again.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2021/05/27/goliath-grouper-making-a-comeback-in-florida-so-lets-kill-em/>

FWC will be hosting virtual public meetings on the idea of allowing sport fishing for goliath grouper again on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Here's the link to attend: <https://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/rulemaking/workshops/>

Vehicle collisions were once again [the leading cause of death for Florida panthers](#) last year.

LINK: <https://www.fox13news.com/news/2021-florida-panther-deaths>

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The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is also updating its trapping rules, thankfully. Proposed modernizations include a ban on inhumane mechanisms like strangulation snares. [Learn more about animal trapping in Florida](#) and submit your comments.

LINK: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/trapping-rules/>

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Enough bad news, here's good news, the North Florida Land Trust received [a \\$1 million grant](#) to put toward the preservation of Little Tiger Island just off Ft. Clinch State Park on Amelia Island.

LINK: <https://www.nflt.org/2021/12/22/north-florida-land-trust-is-one-step-closer-to-protecting-little-tiger-island-in-nassau-county/>

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A glimmer of hope for critically endangered North Atlantic Right Whales as [a ninth calf this season](#) was spotted off the waters where Georgia and Florida meet.

LINK: <https://www.fbnewsleader.com/local-news-newsletter/ninth-right-whale-calf-seen-season-remains-uncertain>

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A change in state law is preventing local municipalities from [protecting their tree canopy](#).

LINK: <https://www.tampabay.com/news/tampa/2022/01/03/is-tampas-tree-canopy-shrinking-because-of-a-change-in-state-law/>

Speaking of which, Nassau County is seeking volunteers to serve on its [Tree Protection Ordinance Committee](#).

LINK: <http://www.thecountyinsider.com/home/county-seeking-volunteer-for-the-amelia-island-tree-ordinance-commission?fbclid=IwAR1Zvq42d5HZDOi64yqPVdq1QkCgd2iDPCK49AgF5FrSg7-J-Ici29Xbljo>