

Florida's Wildlife License Stamps - Synopsis  
Ira Cotton

1. MANAGEMENT AREA STAMPS

Page 1

From 1951 to 2003, Florida issued 40 license stamp series. The exhibit displays an example from all series but 1 (Osceola Bear Hunting stamp), all error stamps, and changes in stamp and sheet formats. The first page displays the first two issues, Public Hunting Area stamps for 1951 and 1952. The remainder of the page is a chronology of the series issues and their periods of issuance.

Page 2

After 1952, Florida didn't any further wildlife license stamps until 1996, when stamps were issued for access to Public Hunt Management areas by adult and under-age hunters. In 1973, Duplicate Hunt Management permit stamps were added, which could be used in the event of loss or destruction of the original stamp.<sup>1</sup> In 1977, the Management Area stamps' format were changed to accommodate tabs for quota hunt applications.<sup>2</sup>

Page 3

In 1979, there was another change in the size and format of the Management Area stamps. Two separate duplicate tabs were provided, one for the quota hunt application and one for special hunt applications, which I believe was for under-age hunters (supervised by an adult).

Page 4

In 1980, yet another change in size and format resulted in a vertical column of 3 tabs that could be separated for 3 separate purposes. The code MA identified the adult hunter stamps, UP identified the under-age hunters, and DP identified the duplicates.<sup>3</sup>

Also in 1980, the state issued 2 two small stamps for archery (AR) and muzzleloader (ML), respectively.<sup>4</sup> A license with an ML stamp shows where the stamps should be put.

Page 5

In 1973, the state began issuing individual Management Area stamps for five principal management areas. For some unknown reason, no duplicate tabs were provided.

Page 6

Page 6 completes the individual management area stamps.

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<sup>1</sup> Florida wildlife stamps use "license", "permit" and "stamp" indiscriminately from issue to issue and series to series. In my view, a license is a document, a permit is a privilege the stamp conveys, and a stamp is a stamp.

<sup>2</sup> Quota hunt applications were essentially lotteries for a limited number of hunters.

<sup>3</sup> In the exhibit, the under-age and duplicate stamps were accidentally switched.

<sup>4</sup> A muzzleloader is a rifle that is loaded from the muzzle, or tip of the gun, gunpowder first and then the bullet.

## 2. WATERFOWL & TURKEY HUNTING STAMPS

### Page 7

Florida issued its first waterfowl stamp in 1979. It was a large stamp, printed with an address tab in a vertical pane of five. In 1981 a smaller sized stamp was issued, which was turned sideways when the stamp was attached to the address tab.<sup>5</sup> That format persisted for 3 years.

### Page 8

In 1986, the stamp format was changed again, with a survey tab and a duplicate tab at the top. The duplicate tab was intended to be saved as proof should the license be lost.

In 1998, the stamp format was changed for the final time, with pairs of wide stamps going down the panes.

### Page 9

The waterfowl stamp series experienced two significant errors. In 1996, an incorrect name was printed on the stamp – **Common Golden Eye Duck**. The artist insisted that the stamps be reprinted with the correct name – **Common Goldeneye**. This was done, but not before the hunting season ended, so they were never valid for use.

The second error occurred in 2002, when the printer inadvertently flipped the color image on the press so the duck was flying in the wrong direction. Again the artist demanded that the stamps be reprinted. Then the artist bought all the reprints (about 1000) and sold them to collectors.

### Page 10

This illustrates the final pane format for waterfowl stamps, with room for hunters' names instead of survey tabs. The bottom half of the panes contains the remaining 9 stamps in rows of 3.

### Page 11

Turkey hunting stamps were first issued in 1986 and ran through 2003. The first stamps were also issued in the format of the 1986 waterfowl stamps. Then when the waterfowl stamps changed to wide stamps in 1998, so did the turkey stamps.

The last turkey stamp, printed in 2003 with the former top tab format, were not issued because the state had transitioned to printed validations on licenses for all wildlife stamps. The artist obtained the stamps and sold them to collectors.

## 3. CRAWFISH & SNOOK STAMPS<sup>6</sup>

Fishing license stamps for crawfish and snook were issued in 1989 with the top tag format of that period. The crawfish stamp series ended in 1996 and the snook stamps ended in 2001.

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<sup>5</sup> There is an error on page 7. The middle stamp and the bottom stamp are the same. The sideways format for the stamp began in 1981.

<sup>6</sup> This begins a different section and should begin on the next page.

The snook pane occupying all the space on this page is the most complicated of any stamp pane from any state that I have seen. At the top is an area for hunters' names, entered at the time of purchase by the agent or the hunter.

Next comes a stamp with a survey tab at left and a single stamp with a top tag at left. Below the first stamp come 9 more in 3 rows of 3. Each stamp has a line at bottom right where the date of sale must be put. The serial numbers on the stamps begin at the bottom right corner, going up to the top stamp, and then start up from bottom to top for each of the remaining columns. This is the sequence in which the stamps were intended to be sold.

To the left of the stamps, there are instructions for the selling agent, written sideways. Above the instructions, there are what appear to be duplicate blocks with lines for Agent, Date Issued, Date Returned, Sold, Void and Returned.

When all the stamps have been sold, there will remain the hunter names at top and the two duplicate blocks with entries just named. I think the Sold line is for entering the total number of stamps sold and paid for. Then Void would count the number of stamps damaged and unsold, and Return would count the number of intact stamps unsold.

The full pane is gummed on the back so the stamps can easily be affixed to a license. There is mention of a Survey Card in the instructions, so the Record Section (with hunter names) and the duplicate blocks can be affixed to a permanent document, returned to the state agency.

Finally, each stamp was expected to be affixed to a license ID card that the hunter must carry in the field, and the tabs at the top of each stamp are intended to be put on a duplicate license application, similar to the Duplicate tabs on the Hunt Management Area stamps.

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<sup>7</sup> The text should be on page 12 and the pane on page 13.

#### 4. TEXT HUNTING & FISHING STAMPS

Page 13

A wide variety of small text stamps were issued in 1996 for 11 different hunting privileges. These stamps are often ignored by fish & game stamp collectors, who consider them ugly, but they served the same purposes as the larger and prettier stamps.

Page 14

Also in 1996, a variety of small text stamps were issued for 12 different fishing privileges. These stamps are also often ignored by fish & game stamp collectors.

Page 15

All the small text series ended in 1996, except for a Sport License Validation stamp whose termination date is uncertain. Wider stamps for some of the fishing privileges were issued starting in 1997, ending in 2003.

#### 5. LICENSES & USAGES

Page 16

The final page illustrates some of the stamp usages on licenses, including the use of the top tab as a security measure in the event of losing a license. There are spaces on the licenses for multiple stamps, and stamps may be affixed on prior year licenses.