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Mr. James Calvin, Chairman
Collier County Local Rule Review Committee

Dear Mr. Calvin and LRRC Committee Members,

I have recently learned the LRRC is evaluating the use of permits for professional fishing guides and commercial fisherman in certain areas allowing them to run 20 mph through certain manatee slow speed zones.

I have been a USCG licensed captain here in Naples since 1992 and these new manatee speed zones, particularly the proposed Johnson Bay zone, will ultimately affect all guides holding this permit including myself.

The fishing business here in Naples brings a lot of tax dollars to the city and county. This proposed zone will affect not only the guides but the city and county restaurants, hotels, tackle shops, etc.

Just this past week I was fishing in Johnson Bay every morning and noticed each day rental boats plowing through the bay. I would like to make a suggestion to put up at least two more signs in Johnson Bay.

If the proposed zone passes, the only people that will abide by the new zones will be the captains. The people that run through it now without a permit will still run through it with the new zone in place.

For myself, I fish Johnson Bay on a daily basis year round and at low tides a guide must stay on plane to navigate to get to the woods in back of Johnson Bay. If the new zone is passed, it will do more harm then good due to idle speed. You are going to do more harm to the sea grass and Johnson Bay as a whole rather then helping.

Again, this zone change would force me to not fish Johnson Bay at all. Again, I believe more signage will help this issue but not stop it entirely. People are going to do what people do.

I remember back when Port of the Isles speed zone was implemented and it destroyed the guiding business there.
Please consider keeping the guide permits for Johnson Bay as the proposed zone change will profoundly affect the guides holding it.

Kind regards,

Capt. Bruce Jackmack