



Collier County Government

Public Services Division
3301 E. Tamiami Tr.
Building H, Suite 217
Naples, FL 34112

Public Information Coordinator
Camden Smith
(239) 252-5326

www.colliergov.net/coastalzonemanagement
www.twitter.com/collierpio

Nov. 9, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FDEP FISH CLEANING STATION RULE CLARIFIED

Proposed Rule Will Support Local Communities and Existing Facilities

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has clarified a proposed rule regulating fish cleaning stations, which has cleared the way for Collier County to reinstall fish cleaning stations at two of its parks.

Over the past few months, FDEP removed fish cleaning stations from two Collier County parks, after construction began at those sites for other modifications. FDEP's proposed rule, as is, states that fish cleaning stations, as installed in Collier County, could pose a risk to pelicans and other birds; however Collier County Commissioner Jim Coletta, the Public Services Division and Naples Fishing Club disagreed with FDEP's finding.

On Oct. 24, 2009, Bob Ballard of FDEP published an article in the Bradenton Herald clarifying how the proposed rule would apply if adopted stating that new regulation, "...does not require removing or retrofitting any existing stations." Therefore, Collier County believes its fish stations meeting this standard may now be reinstalled.

"Fish cleaning stations in Collier County were never creating any hazards for pelicans and other birds, because we use a chute system that disposes of fish remains under the water allowing blue crabs and other marine life to naturally eliminate the waste. I am thrilled DEP clarified the rule so that Parks and Recreation can now reintroduce a widely used amenity by our residents and visitors," said Commissioner Jim Coletta.

"The existence of fish cleaning stations makes it much more convenient for local fishermen to utilize the facilities," said Naples Fishing Club President Ray Russell. "We are pleased they will be reinstalled."

"We will continue to work for revisions to the proposed rule to ensure it benefits the residents and visitors of Collier County," said Public Services Division Administrator Marla Ramsey.

The revised rule does not apply to existing stations, only to new stations such as Goodland Boating Park set to come online next year. For more information, media may contact Camden Smith at (239) 252-5326.