

## **Clam Bay System (Clam Pass, Outer Bay, Inner Bay, Upper Bay, and all interconnecting shallow creeks and small open water areas)**

### **Reasons why this area was identified by the Collier County LRRC for ISNW Manatee Zone Protection:**

1. In 1982, the Clam Bay Conservation Area was deeded with restrictions to Collier County by the Pelican Bay Developer. It is to remain as a permanent nature preserve.
2. In 1995, the Clam Bay System was recognized as a Natural Resource Protection Area (NPRA) by Collier County Commissioners. Also that year, Collier County designated Clam Bay System as an ISNW zone in the Collier County Manatee Protection Plan.
3. In 1996 (Ordinance 96-16), the area was designated as an ISNW zone.
4. Manatees are well-documented in the Clam Bay System.
5. Seagrasses are well-documented in the Clam Bay System.
6. The shallow (-4 ft to -6.5 ft), warm water is an ideal environment for seagrasses to flourish, and manatees to visit, rest, and forage.
7. In 2009, ISNW signage was removed, leaving the NPRA without any conservation protection. Since then, planing watercraft have increased the turbidity, resulting in reduction in the size of seagrass beds. The LRRC agrees with FWC that destruction of essential manatee habitat is one of the standards that should be utilized in determining whether restrictions are necessary to protect manatees.
8. By designating the Clam Bay System as ISNW, low impact recreational use will be available to all water craft (motorized and otherwise). An ISNW zone will protect the nature preserve by reducing turbidity, improving conditions for seagrass beds to expand, and thus, improving manatee habitat.