

## **Minority Report: C-4 Dollar Bay by Susan Snyder**

### **Facts about C-4:**

FWC identified this area as 1) a “Potential higher risk area”, 2) having “High Fast Overlap,” and 3) “Moderate manatee density during the warm season.” Specifically, the “manatee density for this area was moderate (1.1 times the overall mean density) during the warm season and low in the cold season. Fast Overlap was high (4.4 times the overall mean) during the warm season but low in the cold season. A boat operator reported striking a manatee in April 2015 while traveling at about 25 mph just north of Dollar Bay.”

Seagrasses in this area form continuous beds. (1) Section 379.2431(2) F.S. (The Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act), 68C-22.001 Scope and Purpose lists conditions where restrictions are necessary to protect manatees or manatee habitats. The Act recognizes “the existence of features within the area that are essential to the survival of, or are known to attract, manatees, such as seagrasses or other food sources...” (2)

**Existing Zone:** This bay is a 30/SS zone pursuant to the existing FWC rule.

**Minority Opinion:** Option 2 is a better choice. Change all or part of the existing zone to shore-to-shore Slow Speed Zone.

**Rationale for Minority Opinion:** A slow speed zone would better protect the manatees by giving both manatees and boat captains more time to react to prevent possible collisions. Further, if there are collisions, blunt force injuries to the manatees will be much less severe. Finally, slow speed will reduce turbidity, creating less stress on the seagrasses.

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- (1) [Preliminary Data Benthic Habitats map: The Journal of Wildlife Management 75 \(2\): 399-412; 2011;DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.41](#) “New Aerial Survey and Hierarchical Model to Estimate Manatee Abundance:  
(2) [“Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission... Materials for Collier County LRRC, March 25, 2016,” Section 2, page 5, 68C-22.001 Scope and Purpose \(2\) \(a\) 1. c](#)