

From: Calleson, Scott [mailto:scott.calleson@MyFWC.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 9:28 AM
To: WightDebbie; McAlpinGary
Subject: FW: Naples, Collier County, Clam Bay Water System

Gary & Debbie,

I'm not sure if this was also sent to you or others so I wanted to make sure you had it in case it is something you think the LRRC should see. – Scott

From: Jeanne Findlater [mailto:findlater@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 4:01 PM
To: Calleson, Scott <scott.calleson@MyFWC.com>
Subject: Naples, Collier County, Clam Bay Water System

Scott Calleson, Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Imperiled Species Management Section
620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399

Comment on Installing Idle Speed/ No-Wake Rules in Clam Bay System

I beg the Committee to please restore Outer Clam Bay to its once-safe waters for migrating manatees. Please designate this rare Collier County estuary as an *Idle Speed Manatee Protection Zone* in accordance with the description stated in the 1995 Collier County Manatee Management Plan.

I write with a heavy heart. I live on the ninth floor of a building overlooking this beautiful estuary. In ten years, I have witnessed a steady devastation to its grasses and serene waters that allowed it to be a habitat for migrating manatees to forage, rest and nurse their calves.

Jet skis in a few hours turn the bay into a basin of white froth. Boat wakes drown mangrove roots, wash out low-lying nests, harm millions of marine animals and strip sea-grasses. According to FDEP in 2002, an acre of sea-grass was valued at \$20,500 per year, with a statewide benefit of over four billion dollars a year.

A speed regulation for one-half mile will not impinge on the rights of boat owners in the Seagate Community. It is- in fact - a safety factor. Local knowledge of these waters is required to safely navigate. Depths vary rapidly from six feet to less than a foot. There are no defined navigational channels because of shifting shoals.

A designation of an *Idle Speed Manatee Protection Zone* for the Clam Bay System will allow migrating manatees to use this only refuge on the long passage from Wiggins Pass to south of Naples. It is well established that manatee habitats are disappearing as water front communities grow and boat ownership increases. Reduced speeds can make it possible for boats and manatees to co-exist in this bay.

Idle Speed for one half mile. Didn't we once say, getting there is half the fun?

Please restore the “No Wake” rules that once protected this rare habitat.



Sincerely

Jeanne Findlater

Member of the Mangrove Action Group

iPhone photo of Outer Clam Bay by Jeanne Findlater

3:00 pm May 1, 2016

The third wake is from an unseen jet-ski at the edge of the eastern shore.