

Collier County Local Rule Review Committee

Majority Opinion

30 / 20 Zones

5/17/16

On the issue of keeping the 30 / 20 zones in the backwaters of Collier County, the majority of the Committee found that this feature was warranted, and brought no additional risk to manatees.

This zone implementation was conceived after numerous stake-holder meetings back in the 90's that included Mariners, fishermen, environmental advocates, property owners, and Law Enforcement. I will innumerate some of the reasons these zones were designed, and how they actually mitigate threats to manatees:

- * These zones cover vast shallow areas where the water is too shallow for manatees to travel. Synoptic survey data will show that manatees can only be seen on the periphery of said zones where the water is deeper along the mangroves.

- * Boats are permitted to spread out over expansive areas not used by manatees, as opposed to being corralled into the deeper waters where the animals must travel.

- * The planning speed is needed to get the hull of the boat out of the water to travel over these shallow areas.

- * Guides and other Mariners who use these areas are seasoned boaters, and have the special equipment (flats boats, jack plates, trim planes, push-poles, Gheenoës, etc.) needed to get to and through these areas.

- * Removing these zones will be a de-facto closure of much of the 10,000 Islands, as they cannot be accessed without being on plane.

- * Guides and bait & tackle stores will be impacted as will residents and license holders who have invested heavily in their businesses, their boats, and their special equipment due to this unique access opportunity.

The majority of the Committee recommends leaving these zones as they are. Removing them will cause additional risk to manatees, and will adversely impact our economy as well as the historical use of our waters. One of the most unique waterways in Florida deserves to have a unique regulatory program to protect both the manatee, and our way of life.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Kalvin

Chairman