

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission  
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Honorable Brian Yablonski  
Honorable Aliese P. (Liesa) Priddy  
Honorable Ronald M. Bergeron  
Honorable Richard Hanas  
Honorable Bo Rivard  
Honorable Charles W. Roberts, III  
Honorable Robert A. Spottswood

May 2016

Dear Sirs and Madame,

Please find, accompanying, the collection of recommendations from the Collier County Local Rule Review Committee regarding our County manatee protection zones. As your staff is aware, the existing plan that has been in place for the past 15 years has been a success story in Collier County. Manatee mortality as it relates to motorboat collisions has declined since the implementation of said plan. This is true even in the face of our human population growth, and the growth in the number of vessel registrations during that time. **It is important to note that although reported carcass counts have decreased in Collier County, synoptic surveys do not show manatee population in the county is increasing over time. In the last 15 years, the survey numbers have fluctuated significantly from year to year. It is important that manatees continue to be protected.**

It was in that light that you will see relatively few recommended changes to the existing plan.

Minority opinions are provided for areas that were not unanimous. And there will be significant public input on some of the areas discussed.

Scott Calleson and Ron Mezich were very helpful during these meetings, and we look forward to working with them when the plan comes back to Collier County for the public hearing stage of this process.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this rule development initiative, and look forward to following the process through to its conclusion.

Sincerely, and on behalf of the Committee,

James Kalvin  
Chairman