

Additions and corrections for Joshua Maxwell's Draft letter of 5/19/16 to FFWC - as suggested 5/21/16 by Susan Snyder:

Zone N2: Cocohatchee River

The majority of the LRRC (7 members) agreed with FFWCC's Option 1 "take no action and leave the existing zone in place". Currently this area is mostly a **30/20 zone** with the western portion a slow speed zone. The area has a very low manatee-boat spatial overlap and the waterway is not heavily traveled. There are only a few residential neighborhoods upstream from the current speed zone and most of the traffic west of this zone travels in and out of the pass and intercostal waterway. (This zone may be a 30/20 on the FWC records for the eastern portion of this zone, but the only sign posted in the eastern portion of that zone is a **20 mph sign**.)

Zone S5: Goodland

The majority of the LRRC (8 members) (**Change to 9 members; Marilyn was present so there were 10 votes in all**). agreed with FFWCC's Option 1 to "take no action and leave the existing zone in place."

Additional 30/20 Zones in 10,000 Islands

The majority of the LRRC (7 members) agreed that the existing zones should be left in place as they provide some level of protection to the manatees while allowing boaters to access the vast network of creeks, rivers and bays. Since the majority of this area has no marked channels the speed limit defaults to

20mph which **is (Omit “is)** provides much more protection than if the zone is removed. While there is not enough data provided by FFWCC to analyze the manatee-boat spatial overlap local knowledge by LRRC members suggests that **there (Omit “there)** the amount of boats utilizing this area is relatively small when compared to the more congested waterbodies throughout the county. These boaters are also typically more conscious of the waterway and avoiding obstacles as a vast portion of these areas are too shallow for slow speed operation and require the boater to be on plane while avoiding oyster bars, driftwood, etc.

The minority of the LRRC (2 members) felt **(Change the red type to what is in blue: “that the area should be marked with channel markers to restrict faster operations to adequate waterways and limit the remainder to slow speed.” “speed should be 30/slow speed where channels are marked and 20 shore-to-shore where there are no marked channels.”)**With the ongoing efforts of the Everglades Restoration Project it is expected **that (Omit “that”)** there will be more fresh water flowing back into the natural creeks and rivers which could attract more manatees to the area. **(If this section is too long, consider omitting “Since it is possible that the” and begin sentence with: Manatee zones may not be re-considered for another 10 years. (Add period as indicated, and begin new sentence, omitting “the”).** Future utilization of the area by **the (Omit “the”)** manatees should be considered. **(Please add : “The high number of carcasses reported in the 10,000 Islands in the last 15 years indicates a need for increased protection.”)** For more details on the minority opinion please refer to minority reports A8 and A9 submitted by Susan Snyder and Nancy Anderson.

The proposed amended minority report is stated below:

The minority of the LRRC (2 members) felt speed should be 30/slow speed where channels are marked and 20 shore-to-shore where there are no marked channels. With the ongoing efforts of the Everglades Restoration Project, it is expected there will be more fresh water flowing back into the natural creeks and rivers, which could attract more manatees to the area. Manatee zones may not be re-considered for another 10 years. Future utilization of the area by manatees should be considered. The high number of carcasses reported in the 10,000 Islands in the last 15 years indicates a need for increased protection. For more details on the minority opinion please refer to minority reports A8 and A9 submitted by Susan Snyder and Nancy Anderson.

Additional Area: Clam Bay System (Clam Pass, Outer Clam Bay, Inner Clam Bay, Upper Clam Bay and Adjacent Areas)

The majority of the LRRC (6 members) (Correct to 7 members since Marilyn was present, making 10 voting members present) felt that this area should be added as a manatee speed zone as it is a sensitive area utilized by manatees. Please end the previous sentence as indicated with the period, and add the next two sentences: “FWC Manatee survey data, FWC telemetry data, and numerous recent sightings document manatees use the area. Seagrass beds are well-documented at Clam Pass, the interconnecting tributary, and Outer Clam Bay.” Please

omit the next phrase “and has struggling”. Begin next sentence “ **In agreement with the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act, these** seagrass beds (Omit: that) should be protected to provide a food source for manatees traveling the coast. Large portions of the Clam Bay waterbody are very shallow and at low tides are too shallow for manatees to utilize, (add comma as indicated) restricting them to the channels where there is a high risk for manatee/boat interaction.(Add a period as indicated, and begin a next sentence. “Thus the entire area should be a shore to shore Idle Speed/No Wake **Zone**. Please add, “**With the ISNW designation, low impact recreational use will be available to all water craft (motorized and otherwise) and the System will experience reduced turbidity, which will improve conditions for seagrass beds to expand.** Until the previous signage was removed the Clam Bay System was marked as an Idle Speed No Wake and the LRRC feels that designation should be placed under the manatee protection purview of FFWCC.

The proposed amended majority report is stated below:

The majority of the LRRC (7 members) felt that this area should be added as a manatee speed zone, as it is a sensitive area utilized by manatees. FWC Manatee survey data, FWC telemetry data, and numerous recent sightings document manatees use the area. Seagrass beds are well-documented at Clam Pass, the interconnecting tributary, and Outer Clam Bay. In agreement with the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act, these seagrass beds should be protected to provide a food source for manatees traveling the coast. Large portions of the Clam Bay waterbody are very shallow and at low tides

are too shallow for manatees to utilize, restricting them to the channels where there is a high risk for manatee/boat interaction. Thus the entire area should be a shore-to-shore Idle Speed/No Wake Zone. With the ISNW designation, low impact recreational use will be available to all water craft (motorized and otherwise), and the System will experience reduced turbidity, which will improve conditions for seagrass beds to expand. Until the previous signage was removed, the Clam Bay System was marked as an Idle Speed/No Wake Zone and the LRRC feels that designation should be placed under the manatee protection purview of FFWCC.

Additional Area: Wiggins Pass

This majority of the LRRC (7 members) felt that the entire pass to the four way intersection of the Caloosahatchee (Correct to: Cocohatchee) River and Intercostal Waterway should be modified to Idle Speed No Wake. This area is restrictive and under a state of constant change with moving shoals requiring boaters to be very cautious while under power. These shoals also restrict manatees to the channel when traveling through the pass and thus should have the same level of protection as the other passes in the County. The entire area shows a very high manatee-boat spatial overlap (over 7x the mean) and is a highly used waterway and is confusing as there are different zones with conflicting signage in the area.