



August 5, 2016

## Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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(850) 488-3831  
(850) 921-7793 FAX

*Managing fish and wildlife  
resources for their long-term  
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620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, Florida  
32399-1600  
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(800) 955-8771 (T)  
(800) 955-8770 (V)

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## Committee Members Collier County Local Rule Review Committee

On behalf of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and my staff, I would like to thank you for serving on the Local Rule Review Committee (LRRC) for Collier County. We appreciate the time and effort you spent reviewing information, discussing issues, and preparing recommendations on potential changes to the existing FWC manatee protection zones. The information you provided is a very important component of the FWC's rule making process.

FWC staff has completed its review of the LRRC report, and prepared the required written response. As detailed in the attached response, staff concurs with the LRRC majority (or unanimous) position in 17 cases and with the LRRC minority position rather than the majority position in five cases. Staff agrees partially with the LRRC in three cases and does not agree with either LRRC position in three other cases. A detailed discussion of each area is provided in the response. The LRRC recommendations will be very helpful as staff prepares our recommended revisions to the rule.

Staff plans to present recommendations for proposed rule changes to the FWC commissioners at the November 2016 meeting in St. Petersburg. The information provided to the commissioners will include the LRRC report and the FWC staff response. If the commissioners decide to move forward with proposed rule changes, a Notice of Proposed Rule will be published soon after the November meeting. Publication of the rule notice will begin the formal rule making and public review process. As part of this process, staff will conduct at least one public hearing in Collier County. Information on this issue will be maintained on the FWC website at:

<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/manatee/rulemaking/>

In closing, I want to thank you again for serving on the Collier County LRRC. You have provided an important service, not only to the FWC, but also to Collier County and its residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Knox, Section Leader  
Imperiled Species Management Section

Enclosure