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January 22, 2019

City of Fort Pierce
Nick Mimms, P.E.
PO Box 1480
Fort Pierce, FL 34954

Dear Mr. Mimms,

The St. Lucie Environmental Resources Department was recently contacted by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) office with regards to the seasonal motor boat prohibition zone for the Indian River Veterans Memorial Park Public Boat Ramp at Moore's Creek. The adoption of the Moore's Creek seasonal zone around the former HD King Power Plant was completed in February 1979, and in 1994, further efforts to protect manatees were enhanced with the adoption of the countywide rule. The motorboats prohibited zone was established in this area to protect manatees seeking the warm water discharge in the winter months from the HD King Power Plant. However, data has shown manatee utilization has significantly decreased since the decommissioning of the plant in 2008. The attached maps depict FWC's manatee mortality data for 1974-2008 and from 2008-present, since the plant has been decommissioned.

Recently, a citizen brought to FWC's attention the Moore's Creek boat ramp is one of a limited number of boat ramps in the area. However, due to the motorboats prohibited zone, launching motorized vessels from this boat ramp between November 15 and March 31 is prohibited. Due to the reduction in risk to manatees since the decommissioning of the power plant, FWC is recommending amending this zone to remove the prohibition and implement an idle speed zone consistent with the surrounding area.

In order for FWC to amend the zone, the statutory rulemaking process must be initiated with written notification to the County of the proposed change. The County then has 60 days to form a local rule committee (LRRC), or if no response is received within this timeframe, the expedited rulemaking process will proceed per Rules 68C-22.001 and 68C-22.002, Florida Administrative Code (FAC). As the proposed change is located within the City's jurisdiction, the County is seeking the City's and any other interested stakeholders input on this matter.

Please provide any comments and/or concerns regarding this change by February 15, 2019 to the FWC and the St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Department at the contacts provided below for consideration. We look forward to coordinating with the City during this process.

Michelle R. Pasawicz
Fisheries and Wildlife Biological Scientist
Imperiled Species Management Section
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street – 6A
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
(850) 922-4330

Amy E. Griffin
Director
St. Lucie County Environmental
Resources Department
2300 Virginia Avenue Room 100
Fort Pierce, FL 34982
(772) 462-2526

Sincerely,

Howard N. Tipton,
County Administrator

Received
JAN 29 2019
City of Fort Pierce
City Manager's Office

Manatee Carcass Recovery Data 2008-Present

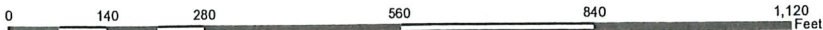


Manatee Carcass Recovery Location



Disclaimer:


This map is intended for reference only. Most information contained within is conceptual. For more information about this map please contact the Environmental Resources Department Division at 772-462-2526.



St. Lucie County
Board of County Commissioners
Environmental Resources Department



Manatee Carcass Recovery Data 1974-2008

 Manatee Carcass Recovery Location



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0 140 280 560 840 1,120 Feet

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