

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Colonel Curtis Brown, Director, Division of Law Enforcement
Date: May 14, 2020
Subject: Consent Agenda – Amendment to Establish a Boating Restricted Area Flood Zone on the St. Johns River in Sanford

Purpose:

Staff seeks approval of an amendment to Rule 68D-24.018, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), that will establish an idle speed no wake boating restricted area in the St. John's River when this area is at flood stage.

Why:

The Seminole County Office of Emergency Management has requested these changes to Rule 68D-24.018, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), for the safety of the public at times of flooding.

Top Points:

- 1) The proposed amendment would establish a new idle speed no wake boating restricted area flood zone in the St. John's River.
- 2) The zone would extend from shoreline to shoreling for approximately 1.25 miles north of the I-4 bridge in Sanford, Florida.
- 3) The zone would only go into effect when the river is at flood stage.

Affected Parties:

Local residents along the St. John's River and those who utilize the waterway.

Summary:

In order to protect the public, the FWC is proposing rule language that will establish an idle speed no wake boating-restricted area from shoreline to shoreline in the St. Johns River extending 1.25 miles north of the I-4 bridge in Sanford, Florida. This boating-restricted area would become effective only when the river is at flood stage. The proposed boating restricted area would have a flood stage restriction height of 5.5 feet as reported by the National Weather Service gauge at Lake Monroe. A slow speed minimum wake zone already exists on the St. Johns River that extends to this portion of the river; however, Seminole County has expressed concern for public safety during flooding in this area.

If approved, staff proposes to both advertise the proposed rule change and file for adoption as soon as possible as allowed by s. 120.54(3) Florida Statutes, without further public hearing.

Staff Recommendation: Approval of the proposed rule amendment with permission to publish and file the rule for adoption without further public hearing unless requested.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Major Rob Rowe, Section Leader, DLE Boating and Waterway Section