

**From:** Brown, Edward  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2012 4:17 PM  
**To:** Lee, Corey  
**Subject:**

Corey,

Lake Okeechobee officers have encountered issues with the way the current legal boundary is set up on the lake. There are three areas, with one in particular, that has been cause of concern primarily for enforcing the current black crappie minimum length limit on Lake Okeechobee. The areas are small and only accessed by a few people annually, but have created a potential “gray area” for people to catch and harvest black crappie under 10 inches. I have spoken with Lake Okeechobee Administrator Don Fox and he said that these areas were simply an oversight when creating the current boundary in rule. I would like to add these three areas, highlighted, to the boundary language. My officers and I have encountered people fishing all around the lake that will say that they caught fish in the below highlighted area. Sometimes more than two counties away and unless we actually see that they caught the fish in the size limited area then there is nothing we can do. This is a way that certain user groups our circumnavigating the law on a fairly regular basis. The change in the regulation would fix the issue since you can access these highlighted areas by vessel and when they exit the said area then they are back in the size restricted area. If this can be fixed it would be greatly appreciated by my officer's and myself. Thanks!

## **Delineation of Lake Okeechobee**

- Defined as any point lakeward of a boundary line delineated by the following points:
  - Intersection of St. Rd. 78 and U.S. 441
  - U.S. 441 SE to St. Rd. 5 (“80”)
  - St. Rd. 5 (“80”) to St. Rd. 25 (U.S. 27)
  - St. Rd. 25 (U.S. 27) to St. Rd. 78
  - St. Rd. 78 to U.S. 441

- Including:

- Harney Pond Canal (C-41) north of St. Rd. 78 to South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) structure S-71.
- C-41-A Canal, southeast of the S-84 structure
- Indian Prairie Canal (C-40) north of St. Rd. 78 to SFWMD structure S-72
- All of Taylor Creek and Nubbin Slough in Okeechobee County
- C-38/Kissimmee River south of SFWMD structure S-65E to St. Rd. 78
- All of L-50 Canal in Glades County
- Fisheating Creek to U. S. 27
- All of Sportsman's Canal (LD-3) in Glades County