

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



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August 3, 2004

The Honorable Caroline D. Ginn, Chair
Indian River County Board of County Commissioners
Indian River County Administration Building
1840 25th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3365

Dear Commissioner Ginn:

In response to the June 24, 2004 submittal of the revised Indian River County Manatee Protection and Boating Safety Comprehensive Management Plan (MPP), I am pleased to provide the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) approval of this revised document. We also coordinated our review with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service who concurred with our assessment of the changes.

The revisions were the result of much hard work and coordination between County staff and FWC staff from the newly designated Division of Habitat and Species Conservation. From our review, it is apparent that many of the changes are updates to manatee datasets and clarified definitions. However, the revisions also include improved provisions for boat ramp siting and limited exceptions to the boat facility siting section. These changes are clearly stated and enhance a plan that continues to serve as a statewide example for how to effectively implement strong manatee protection measures while providing a reasonable approach to waterway access.

We look forward to working closely with County staff to implement the Indian River County MPP. As mentioned in the County's transmittal letter, please send the complete copy of the revised MPP so that we may begin implementing its new provisions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Carol Knox or Ms. Terri Calleson of my staff at (850) 922-4330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken D. Haddad".

Kenneth D. Haddad
Executive Director

kdh/tc
ENV 7-2

cc: Honorable Arthur Neuberger, Vice-Chairman, Indian River BCC
Mr. Roland DeBlois, Indian River County Environmental Planning and Code Enforcement Section
Ms. Colleen Castille, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Mr. Ken Metcalf, Florida Department of Community Affairs
Mr. Jay Slack, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Kirby Green, St. Johns Water Management District