

**RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING MANATEE PROTECTION ZONES IN
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**Submitted by the
SARASOTA COUNTY LOCAL RULE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Final Report
July 2009**

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Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the Sarasota County LRRC, whose members include:

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This report was prepared by Jessica Koelsch, Recording Secretary and endorsed by the entire Local Rule Review Committee for submittal to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Sarasota County Natural Resources staff provided assistance in the preparation of the report. The report is submitted on behalf of the LRRC constituted by state law under the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act to review and provide recommendations on proposed manatee protection zones in Sarasota County.

The LRRC would like to acknowledge the following individuals who were present at one or more of the meetings, and offered themselves and resources to the LRRC. They provided significant assistance and valuable information that was critical to the successful completion of the task set before the LRRC. Thank you all.

Those individuals are:

Luana Guio, Sarasota County Natural Resources
Rachel Herman, Sarasota County Natural Resources
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Bruce Dillon, Nokomis Area Civic Association
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Jay Gorzelany, Sea to Shore Alliance
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Introduction and Background:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) staff analyzed manatee sighting data, watercraft-related manatee mortality, boating data, coincidence of manatees and motorboats, and seagrass coverage throughout the waters of Sarasota County. Based on an initial review of these data, FFWCC staff identified twenty-five (25) areas of the County where a manatee protection speed zone rule change may be warranted. On April 1, 2009, FFWCC notified the County that a LRRC must be created to assist in the rule review process. On May 13, 2009, the County Commission created a LRRC composed of fourteen (14) members. The membership consists of a balanced composition of manatee advocates, other environmental advocates, and waterway users pursuant to Florida Statute §379.2431(2). The purpose of the LRRC is to advise the FFWCC and to represent the public in the process of reviewing proposed changes to the existing rule for Sarasota County relating to manatee protection speed zones.

The LRRC was asked to review the existing Sarasota County manatee protection speed zone rule, and consider those 25 potential rule changes, as well as any other areas where a rule change may be warranted (zones to be either added, modified, or removed) based on their local knowledge and experience.

For ease of review, Sarasota County waterways were divided into six regions. Each manatee speed zone identified by the FFWCC preliminary review received an alphanumeric designation (e.g., B1). The regions reviewed are as follows:

- B. Sarasota Bay
- C. Big Pass/Roberts Bay
- D. Little Sarasota Bay/Blackburn Bay
- E. Venice Inlet/Airport Canal
- F. Lemon Bay
- G. Myakka River

The LRRC also reviewed three “Other Rule Issues” (Section H).

FFWCC provided preliminary data and analyses for the LRRC to use in their review of each of the potential rule changes. These data and analyses included:

- Manatee aerial survey data for Sarasota County from two time periods: 1985-89 (which was used when the manatee protection rule was first developed circa 1990-92) and 2002-08 (which represents current manatee use).
- Manatee mortality data, 1974–2008. Each data point in the mortality database represents the location where a carcass was recovered and not necessarily the location where a manatee died.
- Boating data collected during 2005 aerial surveys (published in 2006; revised in 2007).
- Seagrass coverage from SWFWMD from 2006 (LRRC also considered 2008 seagrass data).
- “Coin” Analysis (Manatee – Boat Coincidence data), for both coincidence of manatees with all boats (“Coin”), as well as manatees with fast boats (“Fast Coin”).
- Some of these data were summarized by year, season, and or region.

The LRRC met eight times, at locations in both north and south ends of Sarasota County as follows:

- May 20 - Training Room, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota
- June 1 - Press Room, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota
- June 9 - Green Room, Twin Lakes Park, 6900 Clark Rd., Sarasota
- June 15 - Federal Building, 111 S. Orange Ave., Sarasota
- June 23 - Shamrock Park Nature Center, 3900 Shamrock Dr., Venice
- June 25 - Oscar Scherer Nature Center, 1843 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey
- June 29 - Nokomis Community Park, 234 Nippino Trail, Nokomis
- July 15 - Training Room, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota

All meetings were publicly noticed, and all LRRC business was conducted in the “Sunshine”, as mandated by Florida Law. The public was invited to participate in all meetings, and public comment was accepted both at meetings and via written comment. Spoken comments provided at the meetings are summarized in the minutes, in Appendix E. Written comments are also included in Appendix E, as they were reviewed by the Committee at their meetings. The following is a summary of public participation for each of the eight meetings:

- May 20 - no comments received
- June 1 - 1 written comment and 5 spoken comments
- June 9 - 4 written comments and 2 spoken comments
- June 15 - 10 written comments and 6 spoken comments
- June 23 - 14 written comments and 12 spoken comments
- June 25 - 4 written comments and 1 spoken comments
- June 29 - 3 written comments and 1 spoken comments
- July 15 - 4 written comments only

The recommendations of the Sarasota County LRRC are reported in this document.

Summary of LRRC Recommendations

A graphic summary of LRRC recommendations showing area and extent of all zones considered appears in Appendix C.

B1: Buttonwood Harbor

Potential Rule Change: Remove the portion of the zone in Manatee County so that the area is only regulated by the Manatee County rule.

LRRC Recommendation: Remove zone from Sarasota County Rule. Accept FFWCC suggestion to move this area to the Manatee County Rule.

B2: Eastern Sarasota Bay (Steven's Point Area)

Potential Rule Change: Add a shoreline buffer zone that covers the seagrass in this area. Similar buffer zones have been enacted in other areas, including along the shorelines of Sarasota Bay in Manatee County. There does not appear to be a significant risk to manatees in these areas at the present time based on the results of the coincidence analysis; however, manatee densities were moderate to high in some areas.

LRRC Recommendation: Add Slow Speed shoreline buffer, extending far enough away from shore to encompass the outer seagrass edge. Accept FFWCC suggestion.

B3: Western Sarasota Bay (east side Longboat Key, Bishops Point to Quick Point)

Potential Rule Change: Add a shoreline buffer zone that covers the seagrass in this area. Similar buffer zones have been enacted in other areas, including along the shorelines of Sarasota Bay in Manatee County. There does not appear to be a significant risk to manatees in these areas at the present time based on the results of the coincidence analysis; however, manatee densities were moderate to high in some areas.

LRRC Recommendation: Add Slow Speed shoreline buffer, extending far enough away from shore to encompass the outer seagrass edge. Accept FFWCC suggestion.

B4: New Pass

Potential Rule Change: Extend the existing Slow Speed zone farther out toward the Gulf of Mexico, provided that this does not create any navigation or boating safety issues. FFWCC has received comment from the public requesting an expansion of this zone.

LRRC Recommendation: Amend existing zone. Extend Slow Speed zone to the east approximately 0.4 miles, to a point 50 feet east of the Sailing Squadron wave fence. The western boundary was not modified. Modify FFWCC suggestion.

B5: North side of Bird Key

Potential Rule Change: Expand the existing Slow Speed zone to add a triangular area east of the existing zone so that the zone covers more of the seagrass in this general area. Most of the area with the highest Coin and Fast Coin values (northeast of the existing zone) is within a mooring field and thus does not need to be regulated; the spatial overlap causing the higher coincidence

values was the result of faster boats north of the area (heading to or from New Pass) and manatees seen in or south of the mooring area.

LRRC Recommendation: Amend existing zone. Extend Slow Speed zone to the east to include more of the seagrass in the area. The northeast corner of this zone will join the extended area of B4 (recommended by LRRC, above). Modify FFWCC suggestion.

C1: Bird Key Channel

Potential Rule Change: Amend the zone to regulate the marked channel (approximately 1.25 miles) at Slow Speed instead of 25 MPH. Assuming no significant changes are made to the interior bay (south and east of Bird Key), this change would have limited effect on boaters transiting through the area because higher speeds would still be allowed to the east.

LRRC Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion.

C2: Northeast side Bird Key

Potential Rule Change: Add a Slow Speed zone that covers the seagrass area (but not affecting the channel area where the fast boats were seen).

LRRC Recommendation: Add Slow Speed zone to encompass the seagrass, but not impact deeper channels. A zone is recommended from the visible bar, north to the shore. Accept FFWCC suggestion.

C3. Hudson Bayou and Basins

Potential Rule Change: Expand the existing Slow Speed zone to cover the seagrass area immediately west of the zone. (Even if the zone is not changed, the description may need to be rewritten to not use marker “4” as a reference. This marker does not appear on the NOAA nautical charts and may not exist on the water.)

LRRC Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion.

C4: North Roberts Bay

Potential Rule Change (C4 and C6 were reviewed together) For C6, Amend the zone to regulate the southernmost half-mile section of ICW channel in Roberts Bay (Coin = 2.11; Fast Coin = 1.29) at Slow Speed instead of 25 MPH. As with the area discussed above (C4), the opportunity for interaction is high because the ICW bisects seagrass areas and because islands and bathymetry force boats and manatees into a more confined space. This is especially true in the southernmost quarter-mile of the zone.

LRRC Recommendation: Amend existing zone. Designate 0.4 miles of channel as Slow Speed, from North Siesta Bridge to the southern tip of Big Edward’s Island. Modify FFWCC suggestion.

C5: Roberts Bay (North) Water-sports Area

Potential Rule Change: Remove the 35 MPH speed limit and leave this area unregulated. A change to this zone may not result in a reduction in the number or complexity of the regulatory

markers, however, because this zone is surrounded by more restrictive zones. (This change would require a change to the description of the adjacent Slow Speed zone.)

LRRC Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion.

C6: South Roberts Bay

Potential Rule Change (C4 and C6 were reviewed together) For C6, Amend the zone to regulate the southernmost half-mile section of ICW channel in Roberts Bay (Coin = 2.11; Fast Coin = 1.29) at Slow Speed instead of 25 MPH. As with the area discussed above (C4), the opportunity for interaction is high because the ICW bisects seagrass areas and because islands and bathymetry force boats and manatees into a more confined space. This is especially true in the southernmost quarter-mile of the zone.

LRRC Recommendation: Amend existing zone. Extend existing Slow Speed zone in channel 0.1 mile to the north, in the southern end of Roberts Bay. Modify FFWCC suggestion.

D1: Stickney Point Bridge

Potential Rule Change: Extend the southern boundary of the Slow Speed several hundred yards farther south, with the specific distance determined by a site visit or other means of verifying the extent of shoaling, etc. All of the manatee-boat coincidence in this immediate area occurred during the warmer months.

LRRC Recommendation: Amend existing zone. Extend existing Slow Speed zone in channel few hundred yards to the south (based on extent of shoaling, etc). Accept FFWCC suggestion.

D2: North Little Sarasota Bay

Potential Rule Change: Amend the zone to regulate the roughly 1.5-mile section of ICW channel at Slow Speed instead of 25 MPH. Some investigation of sign posting issues and compliance may also be worthwhile.

LRRC Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion. However, improved signage and enforcement are needed to improve compliance in existing zone.

D3: South Little Sarasota Bay

Potential Rule Change: Add zones to duplicate the federal zones (25 MPH in ICW; Slow Speed outside ICW).

LRRC Recommendation: Add zone to duplicate existing federal speed zone. Accept FFWCC suggestion.

D4: Dryman Bay

Potential Rule Change: Amend the zone to regulate the roughly 0.6-mile section of ICW channel immediately south of the Blackburn Point Bridge at Slow Speed instead of 25 MPH. FFWCC has received comment from the public requesting more protective zones in this general area. The public comment claims the shallow bathymetry outside of the ICW forces manatees to use the

ICW during low tide conditions. This appears to be true in this location as well as in multiple other locations in the county in and south of Little Sarasota Bay.

LRRC Recommendation: Amend existing zone. Extend existing Slow Speed zone in channel, 0.6 mile to the south of Blackburn Point Bridge. Accept FFWCC suggestion.

D5: Blackburn Bay

Potential Rule Change: Amend the zone to regulate the roughly one-mile section of ICW channel at the southern end of the sub-zone (north of marker “13”) at Slow Speed instead of 25 MPH.

LRRC Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion.

E1: Venice Inlet

Potential Rule Change: Expand the existing Slow Speed zone to include the entire inlet area as long as this would not cause any navigation or boating safety issues.

LRRC Recommendation: Amend existing zone. Extend existing Slow Speed zone to include the entire inlet area, while maintaining safe boating practices. The zone should only be extended west provided that it does not adversely affect navigation or safety. Accept FFWCC suggestion.

E2: Dona Bay/Roberts Bay

Potential Rule Change: Amend the zone to regulate the roughly 0.9-mile section of ICW through Roberts Bay at Slow Speed instead of 25 MPH.

LRRC Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion.

E3: Roberts Bay (South) Water-sports Area

Potential Rule Change: Remove the 35 MPH speed limit and leave this area unregulated. A change to this zone may not result in a reduction in the number or complexity of the regulatory markers, however, because this zone is surrounded by more restrictive zones.

LRRC Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion.

F1: Manasota Key Bridge

Potential Rule Change: Amend the zone to regulate the roughly quarter-mile section of ICW channel south of Manasota Beach Road at Slow Speed instead of 25 MPH.

LRRC Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion.

F2: Forked Creek

Potential Rule Change: Amend the zone to regulate the roughly 0.75-mile section of ICW channel adjacent to Forked Creek at Slow Speed instead of 25 MPH.

LRRC Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion.

F3: Lemon Bay

Potential Rule Change: Amend the zone to regulate the 0.3-0.5 mile section of ICW channel in this area at Slow Speed instead of 25 MPH. The group of 12 manatees that was seen adjacent to the ICW in this area had a large effect on the coincidence values, and this sighting may make this area appear much more risky (relative to other areas) than may actually be the case. Contrarily, this area is one of only a few locations where there is seagrass immediately adjacent to both sides of the ICW channel.

LRRC Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion.

Other Rule Issues Identified by FFWCC

H1: Exemption Permits

Potential Rule Change: Amend the rule to narrow the permit provisions to allow only commercial fishing net-setting permits. The revised language would closely mirror the language used in the Lee County rule (68C-22.005).

LRRC Recommendation: Amend the rule to narrow the permit provisions to allow only commercial net-setting permits. Accept FFWCC suggestion.

H2: Preamble Language

Potential Rule Change: Amend the rule to make the language consistent with the current Act and rule language. The revised language would closely mirror the language used in the Lee County rule (68C-22.005).

LRRC Recommendation: No action taken. The LRRC determined they did not have adequate information upon which to make a recommendation.

H3: Clean-up and confirmation of zone description

Potential Rule Change: Amend the rule to clean-up zone descriptions, where needed, to make them more clearly understood by the public, removing references to uncommon references and coordinates.

LRRC Recommendation: No action taken. The LRRC determined they did not have adequate information upon which to make a recommendation.

Other Issues Discussed by the LRRC

In addition to the zones and issues that the FFWCC requested the LRRC consider, described above, the LRRC also reviewed and discussed the following additional areas:

Northern Siesta Key:

Add Slow Speed zone to encompass the entire shallow, shoal area north of the channel along northern edge Siesta Key (Figure 2). No FFWCC suggestion made for this area.

Pansy Bayou:

No change to existing No-Entry zone. The LRRC discussed changing Pansy Bayou from a No-Entry Zone to Motorboat Prohibited Zone but did not take action. No FFWCC suggestion made for this area.

Grand Canal, Siesta Key:

No additional zones were recommended for this area; however, better signage (clearly visible signs at mouth of canal, as well as at appropriate distances along the long, winding canal) and better law enforcement are needed in Grand Canal. No FFWCC suggestions made for this area.

Seasonal Zones:

The LRRC discussed the seasonal nature of manatee use of Sarasota County waters (except Myakka River), and debated the merits of designating some of the zones in Regions B – E as seasonal (not in effect during winter when manatees are rarely found in the area). However, the LRRC voted to not consider seasonal zones and therefore no recommendations were made to the FFWCC on this issue. No FFWCC suggestion made for this issue.

Discussion Highlights of LRRC Recommendations

B1: Buttonwood Harbor

When this zone was established in 1992, Manatee County lacked any Manatee Protection Areas, even though the Buttonwood Harbor includes waters of both Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Therefore, Sarasota County decided to regulate the Manatee County portions of Buttonwood Harbor under the 1992 rule. Because Manatee County has since adopted its own manatee protection zone for the Manatee County portion of Buttonwood Harbor, the Sarasota County Rule no longer needs to include the Manatee County portion of Buttonwood Harbor.

Consensus Recommendation: Remove the Manatee County portion of the Buttonwood Harbor Zone from Sarasota County Rule; accept FFWCC suggestion.

B2: Eastern Sarasota Bay (Steven's Point Area)

B3: Western Sarasota Bay (east side of Longboat Key, Bishops Point to Quick Point)
(the two zones were discussed together)

There are several areas along the eastern shoreline of Sarasota Bay just south of the Manatee County line (B2) and along the eastern side of Longboat Key (B3) with moderate to high manatee use and abundant seagrass, particularly adjacent to Longboat Key (outer seagrass edge is 1,000-3,000 feet from shore), and also along the eastern side of Sarasota Bay (seagrass edge extends 400-1,000 feet from shore in most places, but there are also isolated patches farther out). The LRRC considered adding a shoreline buffer zone that covers the seagrass areas. Buffer zones have been enacted in other areas for similar reasons, including along the shorelines of Sarasota Bay in Manatee County.

Majority Recommendation: Add Slow Speed shoreline buffer, extending far enough away from shore to encompass the outer seagrass edge. Accept FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Yvonne Lacey; seconded by Steven Schaefer. Vote: 8 yes; 2 no; 1 abstain.

Minority Opinion: The majority recommendation was not a unanimous vote. Some members of the LRRC determined that no changes are needed to the Sarasota County manatee zones and are described in detail in the Minority Opinion Summary (page 15). Grass flats should be protected for all species, not just under manatee rule. Slow boats do more damage to seagrass beds than boats on plane.

B4: New Pass

Whereas manatee use of this area is high, and the public has requested an expansion of the zone, the LRRC is extremely concerned about boating safety issues that may occur if the slow speed zone is extended to the west towards the Gulf. Specifically, during times when there is a strong current in the channel, sufficient speed is needed to maintain steerage.

Majority Recommendation: Amend existing zone to extend Slow Speed zone to the east approximately 0.4 miles, to a point 50 feet east of the Sailing Squadron wave fence; no change to the western boundary of the zone. Modify FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Howard Wells, seconded by Andre Spalvins; amendment (clarifying distance to zone should be extended to the

east) made by Laurel Kaiser, seconded by Yvonne Lacey. Vote (on both amendment and motion): 10 yes; 3 no.

Minority Opinion: The majority recommendation was not a unanimous vote. Some members of the LRRC determined that no changes are needed to the Sarasota County manatee zones and are described in detail in the Minority Opinion Summary (page 15).

B5: North side of Bird Key

Considerations for this area include high manatee use, abundant sea grass, high level of “human powered activity” (especially at the southern side of the area being considered), a sailboat mooring field (northeast of the area being considered), and a popular boat ramp (northwest of the area being considered). The LRRC sought to balance these factors and reach a recommendation to consider all of them.

Majority Recommendation: Amend existing zone to extend Slow Speed zone to the east to include more of the seagrass in the area. The northeast corner of this zone will join the extended area of B4 (recommended by LRRC, above); the other boundaries are as recommended by FFWCC. Modify FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Jessica Koelsch, seconded by Howard Wells; an amendment (clarifying that the northeast corner would extend to intersect with the recommended New Pass zone (B4, above) was made by Steven Schaefer, seconded by Laurel Kaiser. Vote: 11 yes; 1 no (vote on amendment: 9 yes, 3 no).

Minority Opinion: The majority recommendation was not a unanimous vote. Some members of the LRRC determined this area has supported water sports activities in the past and that these restrictions will only apply to certain vessels, not all, that will do harm to the manatees.

C1: Bird Key Channel

The area between Bird Key and Lido Key is currently regulated at Slow Speed with 25 MPH allowed in the marked channel, but the area is important for manatees and there is abundant seagrass in the area. Several public speakers (many members of Sarasota Yacht Club) expressed concern and opposition to regulating the marked channel as Slow Speed.

Majority Recommendation: No changes to existing zone based on deeper water depths which reduce potential for manatee encounters. Reject FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Howard Wells, seconded by Andre Spalvins. Vote: 8 yes, 2 no, 2 abstain.

Minority Opinion: The majority recommendation was not a unanimous vote. Manatees regularly use this area as a travel corridor to and from Pansy Bayou and the City Island area, arguably the most important calving, nursery, resting, and feeding areas for manatees in Sarasota County. Adopting Slow Speed in the channel would have limited effect on most boaters as the majority of boat traffic uses the main ICW on the east side of Bird Key.

C2: Northeast side Bird Key

A large seagrass patch on the northeast side of Bird Key has high manatee use, and is surrounded on three sides by residential canals with hardened shorelines. Boats transiting the area primarily

use the adjacent channel to the west and would not be impacted by slow speed over the seagrass bed.

Majority Recommendation: Add Slow Speed zone to encompass the seagrass, but not impact deeper channels. A zone is recommended from the visible bar, north to the shore. Accept FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Howard Wells, seconded by Ann Kaplan. Vote: 10 yes, 2 no.

Minority Opinion: The majority recommendation was not a unanimous vote. Some members of the LRRC determined that no changes are needed to the Sarasota County manatee zones and are described in detail in the Minority Opinion Summary (page 15).

C3. Hudson Bayou and Basins

A small Slow Speed shoreline buffer currently exists to protect manatees in the deeper water along the shoreline. The LRRC considered expanding this zone to encompass the seagrass beds given the high manatee use west of the deeper water. Because only a small area and relatively few boaters (the residents in the immediate area) would be impacted by any change to the zone, the LRRC determined that there was not strong evidence to either expand the zone, or leave it unchanged.

Majority Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Mark Gauthier, seconded by Howard Wells. Vote: 7 yes, 3 no.

Minority Opinion: Expanding the Slow Speed zone to encompass the seagrass beds would have only a limited impact on a small number of boaters, but would provide additional protection to manatees using the area when those boats are transiting the shallows. The minority supports expanding the existing Slow Speed zone to cover the seagrass area immediately west of the existing zone. (Even if the zone is not changed, the description may need to be rewritten to remove marker “4” as a reference. This marker does not appear on the NOAA nautical charts and may not exist on the water.)

C4: North Roberts Bay

The opportunity for manatee-motorboat interaction is high south of the Siesta Drive Bridge, because the ICW bisects the seagrass areas. Also the islands and bathymetry force boats and manatees into a more confined space. The area is currently regulated as 25 MPH in the ICW, Slow Speed outside the ICW. The LRRC was concerned about causing undue stress on boater traffic if a 0.75 mile Slow Speed zone was added to the ICW, so they considered a shorter (0.4 mile) Slow Speed in the ICW zone, that would extend to the south end of the most constricted section of waterway.

Majority Recommendation: Amend existing zone, designate 0.4 miles of channel as Slow Speed, from North Siesta Bridge to the southern tip of Big Edward’s Island. Modify FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Jessica Koelsch, seconded by Laurel Kaiser. Vote: 10 yes, 2 no.

Minority Opinion: The majority recommendation was not a unanimous vote. Some members of the LRRC determined that no changes are needed to the Sarasota County manatee zones, especially in the ICW, and are described in detail in the Minority Opinion Summary (page 15).

C5: Roberts Bay (North) Water sports Area

A 35 MPH zone exists in Roberts Bay so that water sports can be conducted at higher speeds in a portion of the bay. In other areas of the state, areas identified as being appropriate for water sports have been left unregulated rather than establishing a 35 MPH zone. However, the LRRC determined the current 35 MPH water sports area should remain posted as it is, and not left unregulated, which may result in higher unsafe speeds, and may also lead to boater confusion.

Consensus Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion.

C6: South Roberts Bay

Similar to North Roberts Bay (B4, above), the opportunity for manatee-motorboat interaction is high in the southern end of Roberts Bay because the ICW bisects the seagrass areas. Also the islands and bathymetry force boats and manatees into a more confined space. The area is currently regulated as 25 MPH in the ICW, Slow Speed outside the ICW, but a Slow Speed in the ICW zone is located immediately to the south. The LRRC was concerned about causing undue stress on boater traffic if a 0.25 – 0.5 mile Slow Speed zone was added to the ICW, so they considered a shorter (0.1 mile) Slow Speed in the ICW zone that would include the most constricted section of waterway.

Majority Recommendation: Amend existing zone. Extend existing Slow Speed zone in channel 0.1 mile to the north, in the southern end of Roberts Bay. Modify FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Steven Schaefer, seconded by Laurel Kaplan. Vote: 9 yes, 2 no.

Minority Opinion: The majority recommendation was not a unanimous vote. Some members of the LRRC determined that no changes are needed to the Sarasota County manatee zones, especially in the ICW, and are described in detail in the Minority Opinion Summary (page 15).

D1: Stickney Point Bridge

The public has expressed support for extending this Slow Speed Zone a couple hundred yards further south so that it includes a portion of the ICW that is constricted by shoaling. This extension will have little impact on boaters, and will improve both boater and manatee safety.

Consensus Recommendation: Amend the existing zone by extend the southern boundary of the current Slow Speed zone several hundred yards farther south, with the specific distance determined by a site visit or other means of verifying the extent of shoaling, etc. Accept FFWCC suggestion.

D2: North Little Sarasota Bay

The southernmost roughly 1.5 mile section of the North Little Sarasota Bay sub-zone (in the vicinity of Catfish Creek) has relatively high manatee density and abundant seagrass. The LRRC was concerned about changing a portion of the 25 MPH ICW to Slow Speed because of affect on boaters and manatees of vessels coming off of and back onto a plane. The LRRC determined the

existing zone (25 MPH in the ICW, Slow Speed outside the ICW) was sufficient if there is adequate compliance. The LRRC determined there is high non-compliance in this area.

Majority Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion. However, improved signage and enforcement are needed to enhance compliance in existing zone. Motion made by Mark Gauthier, seconded by Marian Pomeroy. Vote: 10 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain.

Minority Opinion: Manatees regularly use this area and boats travel on plane through this area and the minority determined that this area should be restricted.

D3: South Little Sarasota Bay

South Little Sarasota Bay does not currently have a FFWCC Manatee Protection Zone, but is regulated by a USFWS Federal Manatee Protection Zone (25 mph in the ICW; Slow Speed out of the ICW). Creating a state-zone to overlay a federal zone would have no noticeable impact to boaters on the water, but would improve enforcement and reduce fines and penalties for zone violations.

Consensus recommendation to add FFWCC zones to South Little Sarasota Bay, to duplicate and conform to existing Federal speed zone. Accept FFWCC suggestion.

D4: Dryman Bay

This area has high manatee – motorboat Coin, as well as abundant seagrass. The public has requested more protective zones in this general area because the shallow bathymetry outside of the ICW forces manatees to use the ICW during low tide conditions. A Boating Safety Zone exists immediately north of this area, and would be continuous with an extended Slow Speed zone.

Majority Recommendation: Amend existing zone to extend Slow Speed zone in channel, 0.6 miles to the south of Blackburn Point Bridge. Accept FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Howard Wells, seconded by Andre Spalvins. Vote: 10 yes, 2 no.

Minority Opinion: The majority recommendation was not a unanimous vote. Some members of the LRRC determined that no changes are needed to the Sarasota County manatee zones, especially in the ICW, and are described in detail in the Minority Opinion Summary (page 15).

D5: Blackburn Bay

The southernmost roughly one-mile section, north of Idle Speed zone around Albee Road Bridge is narrow and has a high density of both manatees and boats (high Coin and high Fast Coin). The ICW is regulated at 25 MPH in this area (Slow Speed outside the ICW) and all of the fast boats were seen in or around the ICW channel, but because of the relatively narrow waterway (less than 1500 feet wide in many places), manatees and boat traffic are often in close proximity. There are seagrass beds throughout Blackburn Bay (outside the ICW). However, the LRRC was also concerned that adding approximately 1-mile of Slow Speed zone in the ICW (in addition to the existing Idle Speed zone for Boating Safety) would pose a hardship on boaters.

Majority Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Patrick McCarthy, seconded by Andre Spalvins. Vote: 6 yes, 5 no, 1 abstain.

Minority opinion: As stated above, this section of waterway is very narrow and the minority determined that manatees transiting the area and feeding/resting in the seagrass beds were at risk of collision with motorboats because of the restricted space, and close proximity to the ICW. The minority would support Slow Speed in all or part of the ICW in this area.

E1: Venice Inlet

A Slow Speed zone currently exists for a portion of the Venice Inlet, but public comments requested extending the zone. This area has high manatee-boat coincidence (high Coin and high Fast Coin). The LRRC agreed expanding the zone would protect manatees but was concerned about boat handling in the mouth of the inlet at Slow Speed.

Majority Recommendation: Amend existing zone to extend Slow Speed zone to include the entire inlet area, while maintaining safe boating practices. The zone should only be extended west provided that it does not adversely affect navigation or safety. Accept FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Laurel Kaiser, seconded by Yvonne Lacey (amended to include boating safety concerns). Vote: 7 yes, 4 no, 1 abstain (amendment vote: 8 yes, 4 no).

Minority Opinion: The majority recommendation was not a unanimous vote. The minority determined that the zone should extend from Marker #3 to the existing No Wake zone to the east. Other minority members of the LRRC determined that the zone should be extended for safety issues, not specifically for manatees. This will allow for safe ingress and egress to the inlet.

E2: Dona Bay/Roberts Bay

Public inquires requested the zones in Dona Bay / Roberts Bay be revised to change the 25 MPH zone in the ICW to Slow Speed. Manatee – boat coincidence in and around the ICW are also fairly high. However, the LRRC is concerned about impact to boaters.

Majority Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Patrick McCarthy, seconded by Mark Gauthier. Vote: 8 yes, 1 no, 3 abstain.

Minority Opinion: This was not unanimous majority vote. Because of the manatee use in the area, the minority supported establishing Slow Speed in the ICW for all or a portion of this section of waterway.

E3: Roberts Bay (South) Water sports Area

A 35 MPH zone exists in Roberts Bay (South), so that water sports can be conducted at higher speeds in a portion of the bay. In other areas of the state, areas identified as being appropriate for water sports have been left unregulated rather than establishing a 35 MPH zone. However, the LRRC determined the current 35 MPH water sports area should remain posted as it is, and not left un-regulated, which may result in higher, unsafe speeds, and may also lead to boater confusion.

Consensus Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion.

F1: Manasota Key Bridge

F2: Forked Creek

F3: Lemon Bay

The above three sites within the Sarasota County portion of Lemon Bay were discussed collectively. The area is currently regulated as 25 MPH in the ICW; Slow Speed outside the ICW, with the exception of a Boating Safety Idle Zone underneath the Manasota Key Bridge. The LRRC determined that because of the deep water on either side of the ICW at all three of the areas being considered, and because adding Slow Speed in the ICW would cause boats to repeatedly come down from and go back on to plane (which may pose additional risks to manatees), they do not support changes to these zones.

Consensus Recommendation: No changes to existing zone. Reject FFWCC suggestion.

Other Rule Issues

H1: Exemption Permits

For consistency and fairness, eliminating confusion of the boating public and easing compliance, the LRRC considered making the manatee protection rules in Sarasota County consistent with the most recent FFWCC rule actions.

Majority Recommendation: Amend the rule to narrow the permit provisions to allow only commercial net setting permits. Accept FFWCC suggestion. Motion made by Jessica Koelsch, second by Laurel O'Neill. Vote: 5 yes, 4 no, 2 abstain.

Minority Opinion: The LRRC voted for consistency with other rules throughout the state, and some minority determined this is not appropriate for the unique situation in Sarasota County. Other minority members determined that no exemption permits are appropriate.

H2: Preamble Language

The LRRC determined they did not have adequate information upon which to make a recommendation.

Consensus Recommendation: No action taken.

H3: Clean-up and confirmation of zone description

The LRRC determined they did not have adequate information upon which to make a recommendation.

Consensus Recommendation: No action taken.

Other Areas Considered

In addition to the above zones FFWCC requested the LRRC consider, the LRRC also reviewed and discussed the following additional areas:

Northern Siesta Key:

The LRRC identified one additional area of Sarasota County (not previously identified by the FFWCC) where modification to existing speed regulations are needed. The deeper water channel running along the north end of Siesta Key (inside Big Pass, west of Siesta Drive Bridge) is currently posted as Slow Speed by Chapter 130, Article II of the Sarasota County Code of Ordinances, as amended. Residents, including members of the LRRC, have repeatedly observed boaters travelling “on plane” in the shallow shoals and grassbeds north of the channel (which are unregulated) to avoid the Slow Speed zone, and thus putting manatees at risk. Manatees regularly use these grassbeds for resting and feeding, and SWFMWD has documented a decrease in seagrass coverage from 2006 – 2008 on these shoals, even though seagrass coverage increased bay-wide during the same time period.

The LRRC recommends placing a FFWCC Slow Speed zone encompassing the entire shallow, shoal area to the north to reduce risk to manatees and contiguous with the existing Sarasota County zone. A detailed view of the approximate location of this recommended zone is shown in Appendix D. The LRRC requests that Sarasota County consider narrowing the existing County-designated Slow Speed zone in the channel from the existing approximate 450 feet width to 150 feet from shore (the shoreline buffer described in the original City of Sarasota Ordinance). This would allow vessels a deeper water channel to operate on a plane, while remaining 150 feet from shore, and outside of the shallow shoal and seagrass bed area. Sarasota County has not determined the appropriateness of amending the County ordinance, and the LRRC has only been directed to make recommendations regarding the FFWCC zones.

Majority Recommendation: Add Slow Speed zone to encompassing the entire shallow, shoal area north of channel along northern edge Siesta Key (Appendix D). No FFWCC suggestion made for this area. Motion made by Marian Pomeroy, seconded by Jessica Koelsch. Vote: 8 yes, 4 no.

Minority Opinion: The majority recommendation was not a unanimous vote. Some members of the LRRC determined that no changes are needed to the Sarasota County zones, and are described in detail Minority Opinion Summary (page 15). Any restriction to the southern portion could have unintended boater responses or travel patterns in other areas.

Pansy Bayou:

Pansy Bayou is a small No-Entry zone that is heavily used by numerous manatees throughout the non-winter months. It is arguably the most important calving, nursery, feeding, and resting area for manatees in Sarasota County. A member of the LRRC suggested changing Pansy Bayou from a No-Entry zone to a Motorboat Prohibited zone, to allow kayakers and swimmers to use the area. Upon further discussion and consideration of the potential for extremely high use by tourists, visitors, and residents seeking an up-close encounter with manatees (similar to what occurs at Crystal River), there was too great a risk of harassment and disruption to manatees in the critical area, and the suggestion was withdrawn. However, the LRRC discussed the appropriateness of creating some level of public viewing access of this area.

Majority Recommendation: No change to existing No-Entry zone. The LRRC discussed changing Pansy Bayou from a No-Entry Zone to Motorboat Prohibited Zone but did not take action. No FFWCC suggestion made for this area.

Grand Canal, Siesta Key:

LRRC members familiar with this area, a large network of canals through Siesta Key, determined there is an enforcement problem that warrants additional attention. The canal is very narrow (about 70 feet) for most of its length with docks and boats protruding from both sides and two-way boat traffic. Manatees are spotted in the canal frequently by homeowners/boaters as well as during aerial surveys. Local boaters are aware that the Grand Canal is not regularly patrolled; some boaters regularly travel at speeds faster than allowed, especially at night. The LRRC recommends random patrol of at least portions of the Grand Canal, and would like to explore whether residents could volunteer patrol the canal, similar to Neighborhood Watch programs.

No additional zones were recommended for this area; however, better signage (clearly visible signs at mouth of canal, as well as at appropriate distances along the long, winding canal) and better law enforcement are needed in Grand Canal. No FFWCC suggestions made for this area.

Seasonal Zones:

The LRRC discussed the seasonal nature of manatee use of Sarasota County waters (except Myakka River), and debated the merits of designating some of the zones in Regions B – E as seasonal (not in effect during winter when manatees are rarely found in the area). However, there was concern over boater confusion and how to determine the exact time periods to which seasonal zones would apply. Manatees may still be present in Sarasota County waters if it is a warm fall, and manatees may return to County waters early if it is a mild winter or early spring. Therefore, the LRRC decided not to consider seasonal zones and made no recommendations to the FFWCC on this issue.

Majority Recommendation: Do not recommend seasonal zones. The LRRC determined that seasonal zones are not appropriate and made no suggestion to FFWCC to consider seasonal zones. Motion made by Patrick McCarthy, second by Yvonne Lacey. Vote: 8 yes, 4 no.

Minority Opinion: This was not a unanimous vote. Some members of the LRRC determined that seasonal zones should be considered, given that there would be no reason to restrict speed and access at times of the year when no manatees are present.

Additional Recommendations

There was consensus by the LRRC that any Manatee Protection Speed Zones, both the existing zones, as well as those recommended in this report, are one facet of a comprehensive manatee protection strategy. In order for these zones to be effective, additional enforcement, compliance, boater education, and more clearly marked channels are necessary. This report identifies areas that would specifically benefit from additional enforcement (e.g., Little Sarasota Bay near old Midnight Pass and Grand Canal), but this is true throughout Sarasota County waters. In addition, the boating public must continue to be educated about the location of zones, and penalty for violating them. Some members of the LRRC recommend including penalty and/or fine for

violating a zone directly on the signs marking the zone. Some members also support increasing fines and penalties for zone violations.

The LRRC also supports improved boater education, for resident boat owners, as well as renters and/or visitors.

Minority Opinion Summary

It is a minority opinion of the LRRC that no changes are needed in the Sarasota County manatee zones based on several factors. Sarasota County has long been a leader in manatee conservation efforts, as home to Mote Marine Laboratory, one of the world's leading research centers on manatees. The county's waterways have been a welcome home to the manatees for many years.

With less than 0.7% of manatee mortality over the 34-year study period being attributed to watercraft in Sarasota County, the need for more regulation is not warranted. During this same study period only 2.7% of the 1,651 watercraft related manatee deaths occurred in Sarasota County.

Currently more than 50% of Sarasota's inshore waters are regulated by the FFWCC and USFWS, with 9,178 acres being regulated at or below Slow Speed by the FFWCC. That means that more than 45% of Sarasota inshore waters are regulated by FFWCC at or below Slow Speed (Summary of FFWCC and USFWS Manatee Protection Regulations in Florida, 2006).

With the 15% increase in state manatee population from 2001 to 2008, watercraft related mortalities remained the same in Sarasota County with two (2) in 2001 and two (2) in 2008. While 2006 had a record high number of six (6) watercraft related deaths, 2007 had zero (0), which demonstrates no upward trend is established.

Data and analysis provided by FFWCC in consideration of new zones did not take into consideration several factors. One example of this is the Coin values associated with Venice Inlet. The Coin value of 12.05 and Fast Coin 3.52 were the highest in the report; however, there have not been any watercraft strikes reported in this area, even though it is the most publicly viewed piece of water in the County, due to the public parks that sit on either side of the inlet. It is the minority opinion that, the depth of the channel, the specific routes that the manatees travel and other factors should have been considered. The opinion of the minority was to regulate a portion of this area for reasons other than manatee protection, such as boater safety.

The minority opinion is that an increase in enforcement of current regulations and further education of the public will bring about our common goal of a healthy and sustainable manatee population. Please note that the needs for increased education and enforcement are shared by the entire LRRC, and represent a majority opinion.



March 30, 2009

Appendix A

Florida Fish
and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission

Commissioners

Rodney Barreto
Chair
Miami

Kathy Barco
Vice-Chair
Jacksonville

Ronald M. Bergeron
Fort Lauderdale

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Executive Staff

Kenneth D. Haddad
Executive Director

Nick Wiley
Assistant Executive
Director

Karen Ventimiglia
Deputy Chief of Staff

Imperiled Species
Management Section
Kipp Frohlich
Section Leader
(850) 922-4330
(850) 922-4338 FAX

*Managing fish and wildlife
resources for their long
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benefit of people.*

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Tallahassee, Florida
32399-1600
Voice: (850) 488 4676

Hearing/speech impaired:
(800) 955-8771 (T)
(800) 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com

The Honorable Jon Thaxton, Chair
Sarasota County Commission
1660 Ringling Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34236

Dear Commissioner Thaxton:

As you may be aware, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved a Manatee Management Plan (MMP) in December 2007 to provide a state framework for conserving and managing manatees in Florida. The MMP is complementary to the federal Florida Manatee Recovery Plan, with both plans describing actions that will ensure the manatee's long-term survival. One of the many tasks called for in the MMP is to review existing manatee protection zones based on the most current data to determine if modifications are warranted. Sarasota County is the first county identified for review in the MMP. The purpose of this letter is to let you know what has already been accomplished and what is planned for the future in regard to this rule review.

No comprehensive review of the manatee protection rule for Sarasota County (68C-22.026, Fla. Admin. Code) has been undertaken since it was adopted in 1992. New data are available as the County funded efforts to collect boating data in 2005 and has also worked with Mote Marine Laboratory to collect manatee distribution data. FWC staff has reviewed these data and other available information and we have conducted a preliminary review of the existing zones. In addition, we met with County staff in January of this year and also coordinated with FWC and County law enforcement personnel. Based on our review I believe some changes to the Sarasota County rule may be warranted.

Florida Statute § 379.2431(2)(f) prescribes the steps required for the FWC to adopt or amend manatee speed zone rules. This letter serves as official notification that we are considering changes to the existing manatee rule for Sarasota County. Pursuant to the statute, Sarasota County has 60 days after receipt of this letter to form a Local Rule Review Committee (LRRC) to review the FWC proposal and provide comments and recommendations. Once the LRRC has been formed, we will provide a preliminary rule proposal to the LRRC and the LRRC will then have an additional 60 days to review the proposal and submit its report. (I have enclosed a copy of the statute for your convenience.)

We are still developing the preliminary rule proposal; however, we expect the proposal to be ready for submittal to the LRRC by the time the committee has been designated. Our planned timeline for this rule review is to complete the LRRC process by July 2009 and to have the FWC Commissioners have their first consideration of potential rule changes at the September 2009 FWC meeting, with final consideration occurring at the December 2009 FWC meeting. This is an ambitious timeline. One action that would improve our ability to stay on track would be for the County to designate its LRRC in less than the 60 days allowed by statute, which would in turn allow us to deliver the preliminary proposal to the LRRC sooner.

The Honorable Jon Thaxton
Page 2
March 30, 2009

Appendix A

Please let us know as soon as the LRRC has been selected and also if there is a specific person or persons with whom we should work at a staff-to-staff level as this process moves forward. If you have any questions about the process or the existing rule, or if we can assist you in any way, please contact Mr. Scott Calleson of my staff. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Kipp Frohlich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Frohlich" clearly visible.

R. Kipp Frohlich
Section Leader
Imperiled Species Management Section

Enclosure

Appendix B

BOARD RECORDS
FILED FOR RECORD

2009 JUN -9 PM 4: 23

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-113

KAREN E. FUSHING
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
SARASOTA COUNTY, FL

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**RE: CREATION OF A COMMITTEE TO BE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL RULE
REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THE MANATEE PROTECTION SPEED
ZONES UPDATE.**

WHEREAS, the Local Rule Review Committee (LRRC) is created to review the location of the Manatee Protection Speed Zones as directed by the Florida Legislature through Florida Statutes.

WHEREAS, The LRRC shall act solely in an advisory capacity, without compensation, reporting directly to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission pursuant to Florida Statute §379.2431(2).

WHEREAS. This Resolution shall hereby supersede Resolution No. 2009-094.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SARASOTA COUNTY
COMMISSION OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA** in public meeting assembled:

SECTION ONE: PURPOSE AND DUTIES

1. The purpose of the LRRC is to provide a conduit for citizen input to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (herein called "FFWCC"), to make recommendations or provide advice to the FFWCC in the review of the FFWCC's proposal regarding the location of manatee protection speed zones in Sarasota County waters.
2. The LRRC shall act solely in an advisory capacity, without compensation, reporting directly to the FFWCC, and appointed by the Sarasota County Commission of Sarasota County (herein called "the Commission").
3. The Environmental Services Business Center, Resource Protection Unit will provide the necessary staff resources to assist this Committee in fulfilling its Commission-directed mission. Responsibilities of Resource Protection include staff support, providing meeting space and compiling LRRC recommendations for submittal to the FFWCC.

SECTION TWO: COMPOSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. The Committee shall be comprised of the fourteen (14) individuals selected by the Commission at its May 13, 2009, regularly scheduled meeting, and who shall serve until such time that the FFWCC considers the final rule changes associated with the manatee protection speed zones in Sarasota County. The anticipated completion date is December 10, 2009.

Appendix B

2. Pursuant to Florida Statute §379.2431(2), Florida Statutes, the LRRC must be comprised of waterway users, such as fishermen, boaters, water skiers, other waterway users, as compared to the number of manatee and other environmental advocates.
3. All members will be considered "at large" members, with consideration given to ensure geographic and background diversity and to ensure that fifty percent (50%) of the voting members shall be manatee advocates and other environmental advocates, and fifty percent (50%) of the voting members shall be waterway users.
4. Members of the LRRC must not be employed by the Sarasota County Commission at any time during their term(s).
5. Members of the LRRC may not hold elective office during their term(s) unless the governing ordinance requires membership of specific elected officials.

SECTION THREE: APPOINTMENT

1. Candidates for the LRRC are appointed by the Commission.
2. Interested individuals are required to sign an Acknowledgement of the Commission's policy for Advisory Council members regarding mandatory use of County-provided e-mail accounts.
3. LRRC members are selected by a majority vote of the Commission.

SECTION FOUR: TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Members of the LRRC shall be appointed until the mission and duties described pursuant to § 379.2431(2), Florida Statutes, are completed and the FFWCC has considered the final rule changes.

SECTION FIVE: RULES OF PROCEDURE AND COMPLIANCE

1. The LRRC shall comply with all applicable requirements of Florida's Sunshine Law, Public Records laws and the Code of Ethics for public representatives. The Council may adopt additional procedures of operation provided there is no conflict with Florida State law, County Ordinances, or this Resolution. In the absence of bylaws, Roberts Rules of Order will be the standard.
2. Appointed members of the LRRC must be free from actual or potential conflict of interest relating to the business of the LRRC. If there is an actual or potential conflict of interest, the LRRC member must comply with the Florida Ethics Code.
3. The LRRC shall have only the authority specifically granted by the Commission and pursuant to Florida Statutes and are subject to all Commission policies as may be amended from time to time or as may be adopted.
4. The LRRC shall meet at such times and places as the Chair, or his/her designee, deems appropriate in order to fulfill the mission and duties of the LRRC as assigned by the Commission and Florida Statute §379.2431(2).
5. A simple majority of the existing membership shall constitute a quorum. An affirmative vote of a simple majority shall constitute adoption of a motion. A motion is lost on a tie vote.
6. All meetings shall be open to the public and a notice of said meetings shall be published

Appendix B

- in a newspaper of general circulation in accordance with Florida Statutes.
7. The LRRC shall not incur any expense or obligation to be paid by Sarasota County Government; expenditures shall only be those authorized in advance by the Commission.
 8. The agenda for each meeting shall be prepared and distributed by the Chair of the LRRC, or his/her designee, to the LRRC members in advance of the scheduled meeting.
 9. All meetings of the LRRC shall be recorded and typed summary minutes prepared and filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Board Records Division. Environmental Services, Resource Protection shall keep copies of the minutes and the recording on hand for a period of three years.
 10. Members of the LRRC must comply with the County policy for Committee members regarding mandatory use of County-provided e-mail accounts.

SECTION SIX: OFFICERS

The LRRC shall select a minimum of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Recording Secretary from among its members.

SECTION SEVEN: VACANCIES AND REAPPOINTMENTS

1. Vacancies on the LRRC shall be filled for the remainder of the term in the same manner as the vacating member was appointed as provided for in Section Three.
2. Upon expiration of the member's term there will be no automatic reappointment to the LRRC; the member must reapply for appointment to the LRRC as provided for in Section Three.
3. The member may reapply for appointment to the LRRC as provided for in Section Four.

SECTION EIGHT: REMOVAL

1. Members of the LRRC are approved by a majority vote of the Commission and can be removed or replaced by a majority vote of the Commission, should they deem it necessary.
2. Members who fail to comply with any Commission policy are subject to removal.

SECTION NINE: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Sarasota County Commission.

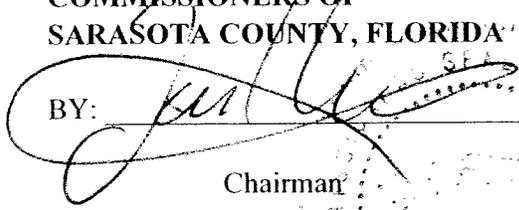
SECTION TEN: SUNSET PROVISION

This Resolution shall expire and be of no further force and effect as to any acts occurring on or after the FFWCC considers the final rule changes associated with the manatee protection speed zones in Sarasota County. Consequently, this LRRC will cease to exist after this Sunset date unless re-approved by the Commission.

Appendix B

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA THIS 9th DAY OF June, 2009.

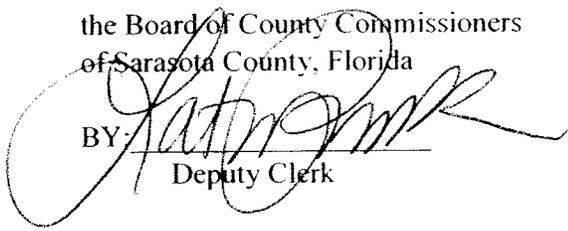
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: 

Chairman

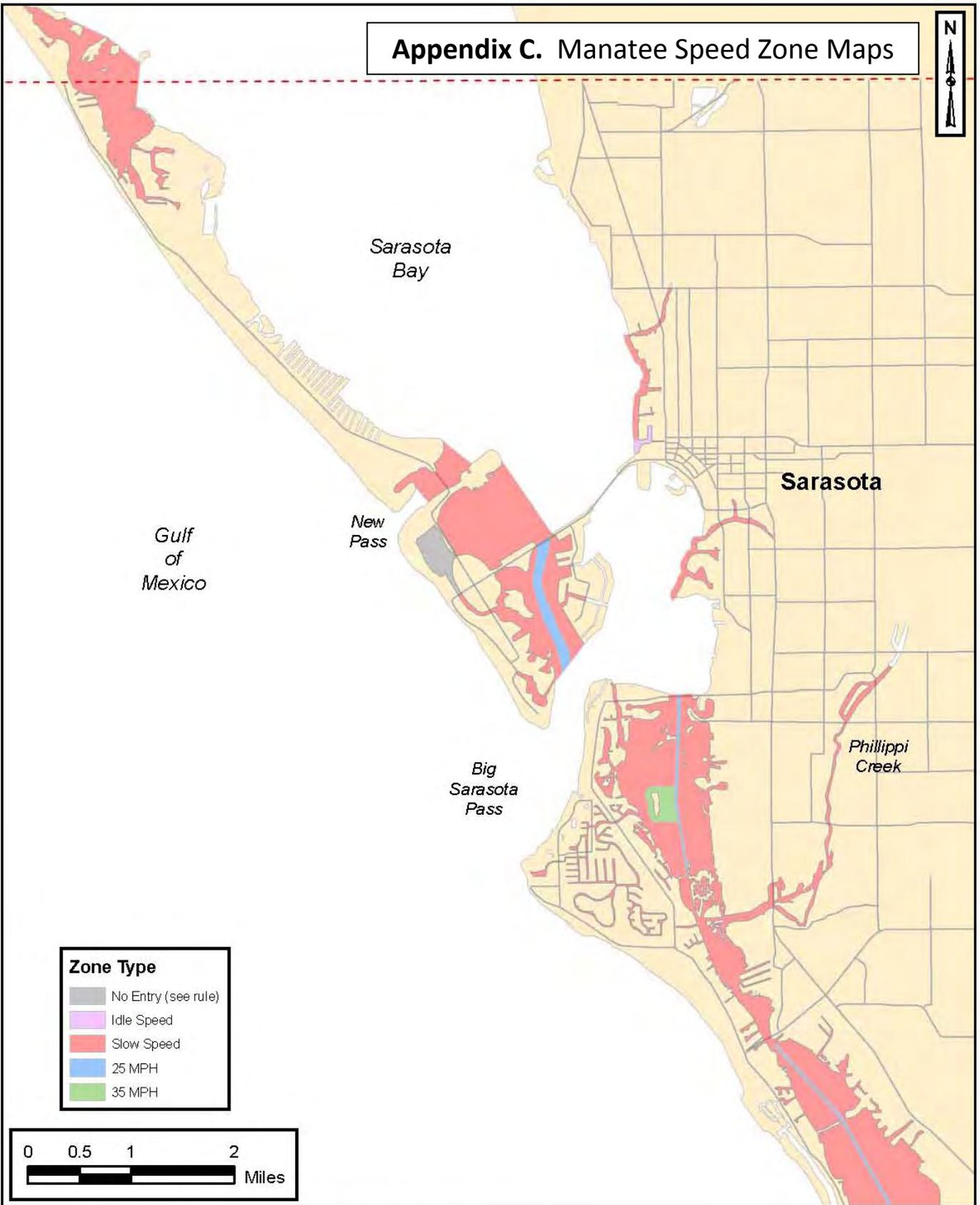
ATTEST:

KAREN E. RUSHING, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and Ex-Officio Clerk of
the Board of County Commissioners
of Sarasota County, Florida

BY: 

Deputy Clerk

Appendix C. Manatee Speed Zone Maps



**Figure 1. Existing FFWCC Manatee Protection Zones
Sarasota County: North Region**

Base map
provided by:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Impaired Species Management Section
620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 6A
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
Tel: 850-922-4330 Fax: 850-922-4338

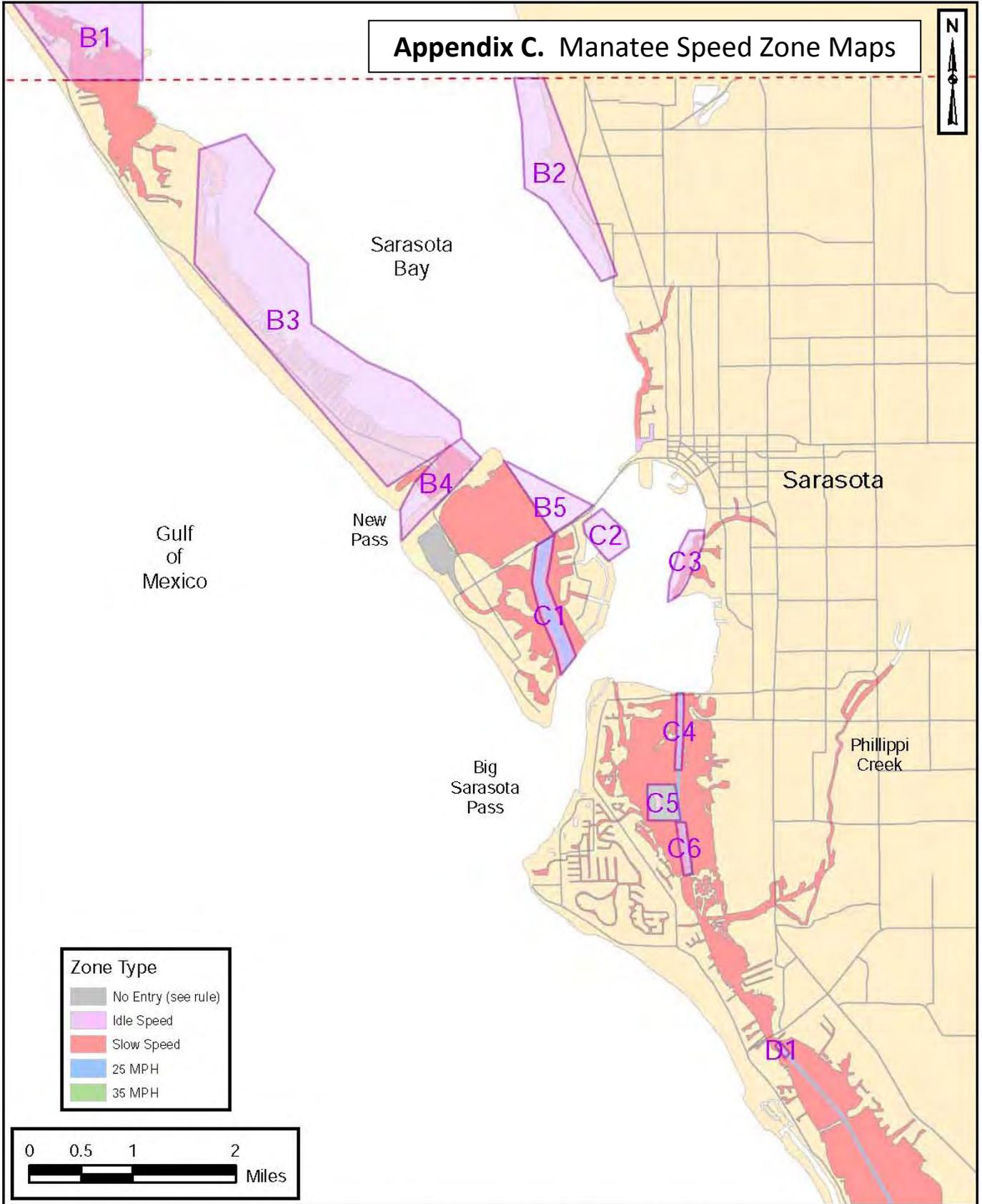


Figure 2. Areas Identified By FFWCC Staff as Potentially Warranting a Rule Change
Sarasota County: North Region

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
 Impaired Species Management Section
 620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 6A
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
 Tel: 850-922-4330 Fax: 850-922-4338

Base map provided by:

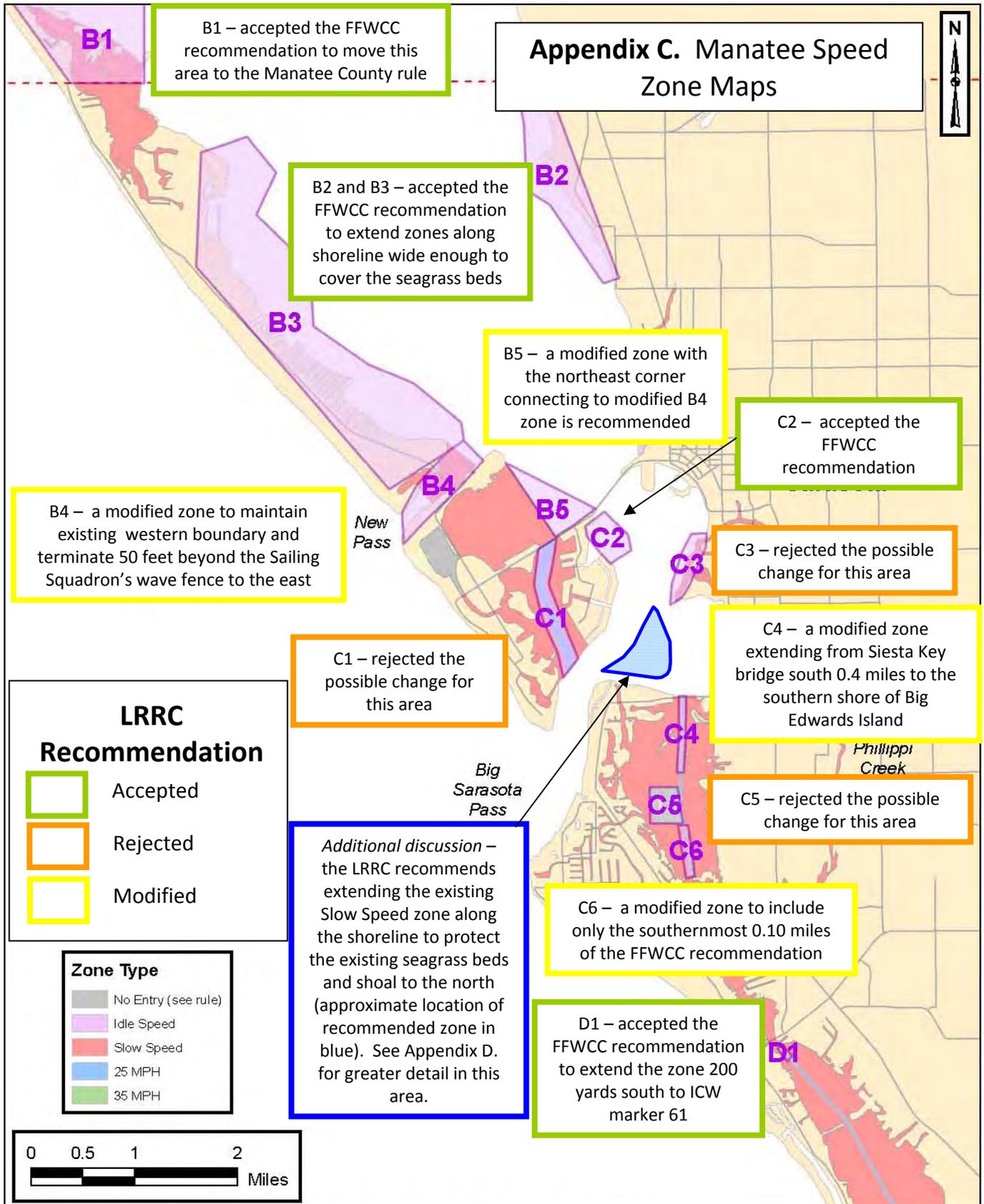
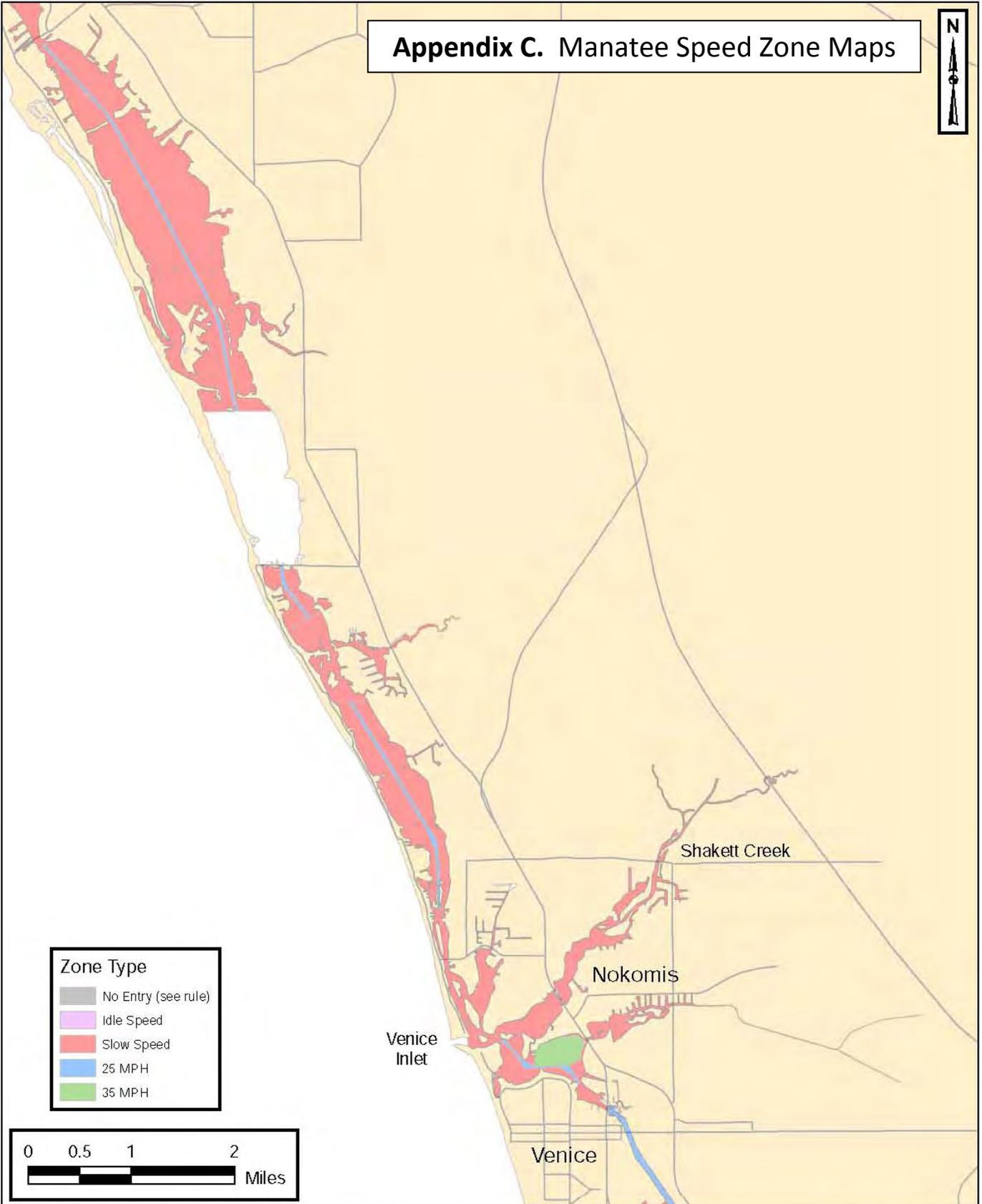


Figure 3. LRRC Recommended Manatee Protection Speed Zones Sarasota County: North Region

Base map provided by:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
 Impaired Species Management Section
 620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 6A
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
 Tel: 850-922-4330 Fax: 850-922-4338

Appendix C. Manatee Speed Zone Maps

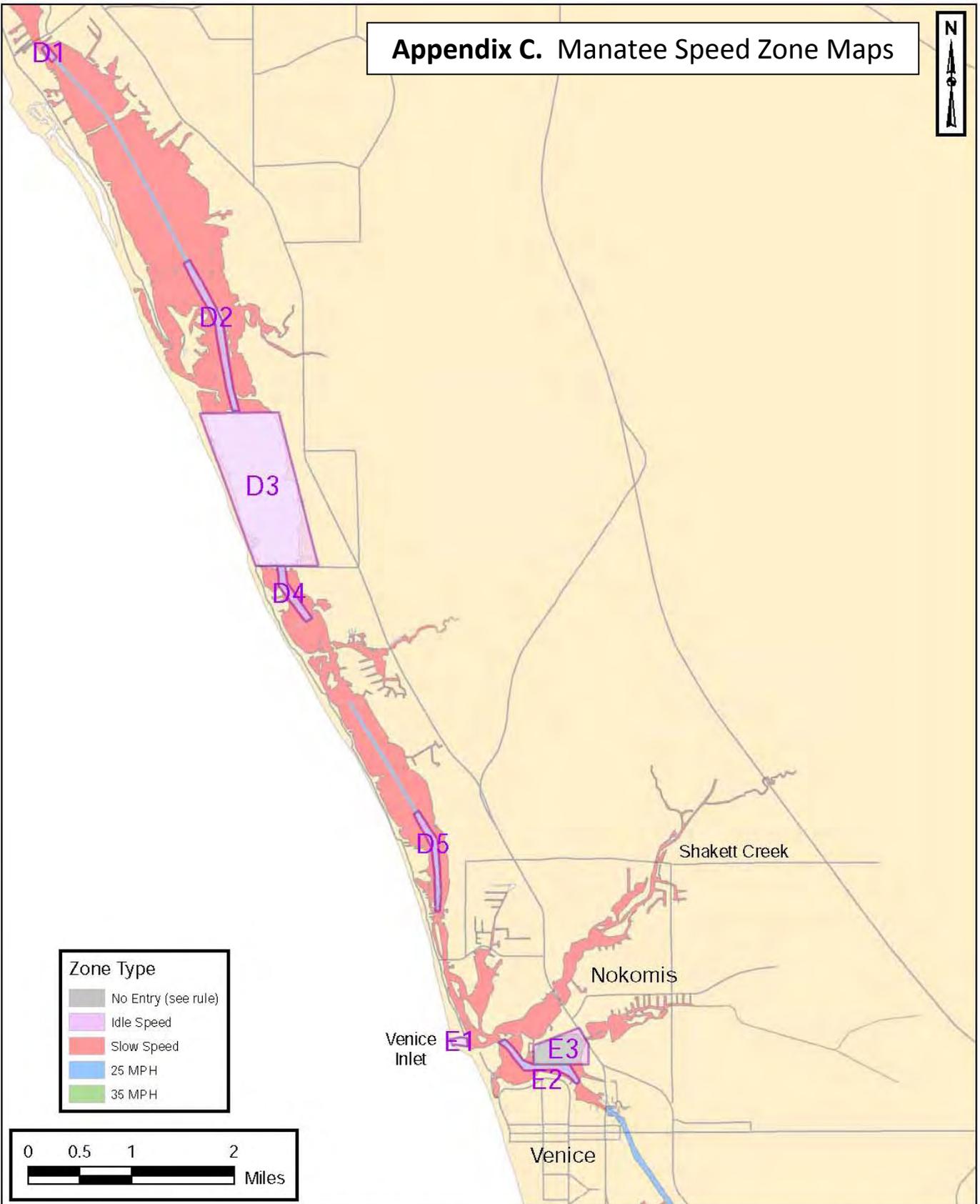


**Figure 4. Existing FWCC Manatee Protection Speed Zones
Sarasota County: Central Region**

Base map
provided by:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Impaired Species Management Section
620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 6A
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
Tel: 850-922-4330 Fax: 850-922-4338

Appendix C. Manatee Speed Zone Maps



**Figure 5. Areas Identified by FFWCC Staff as Potentially Warranting a Rule Change
Sarasota County: Central Region**

Base map provided by:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Impaired Species Management Section
620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 6A
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
Tel: 850-922-4330 Fax: 850-922-4338

Appendix C. Manatee Speed Zone Maps

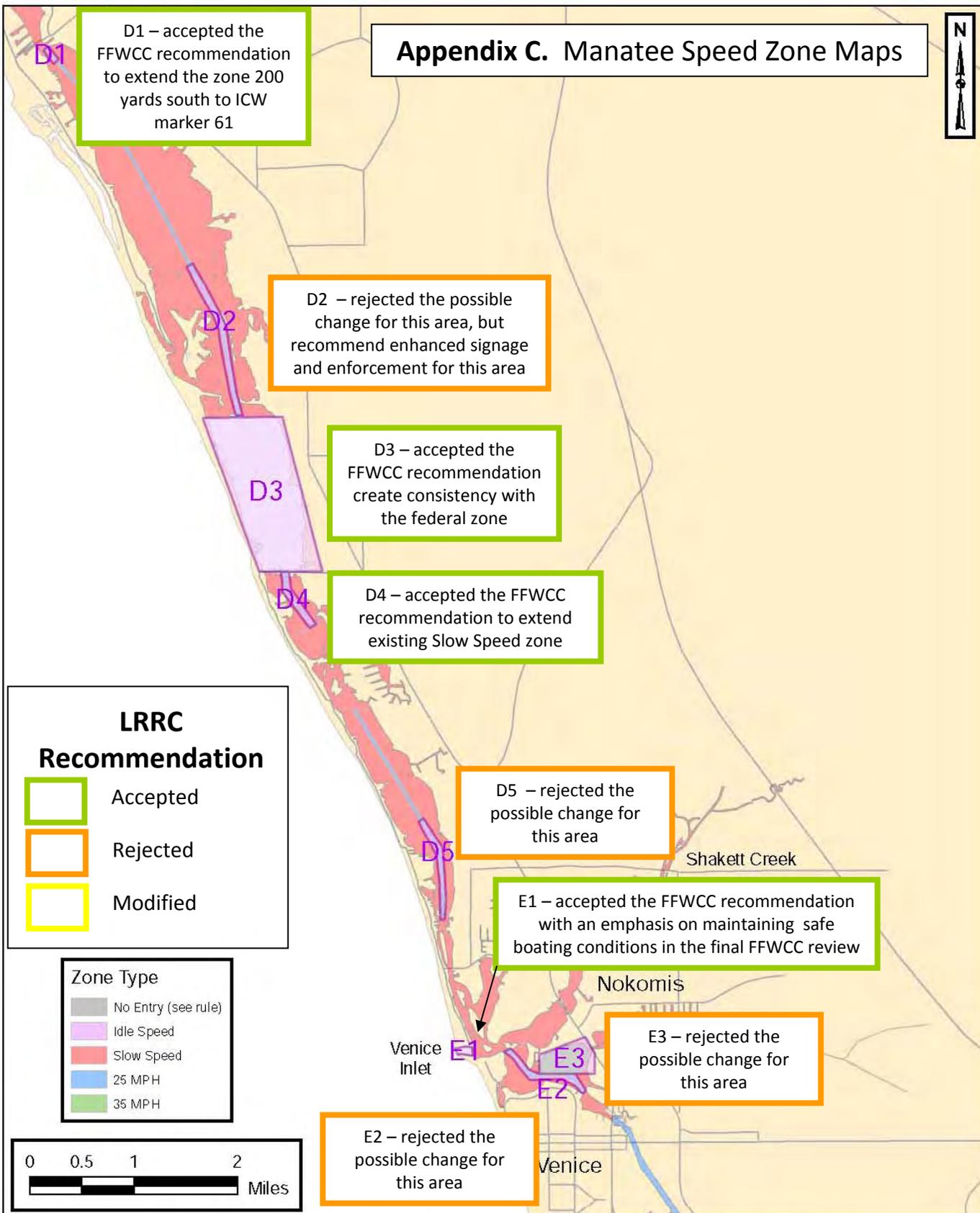


Figure 6. LRRC Recommended Manatee Protection Speed Zones Sarasota County: Central Region

Base map provided by:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
 Impaired Species Management Section
 620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 6A
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
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Appendix C. Manatee Speed Zone Maps



Venice

Gulf of Mexico

Englewood

Zone Type	
	No Entry (see rule)
	Idle Speed
	Slow Speed
	25 MPH
	35 MPH

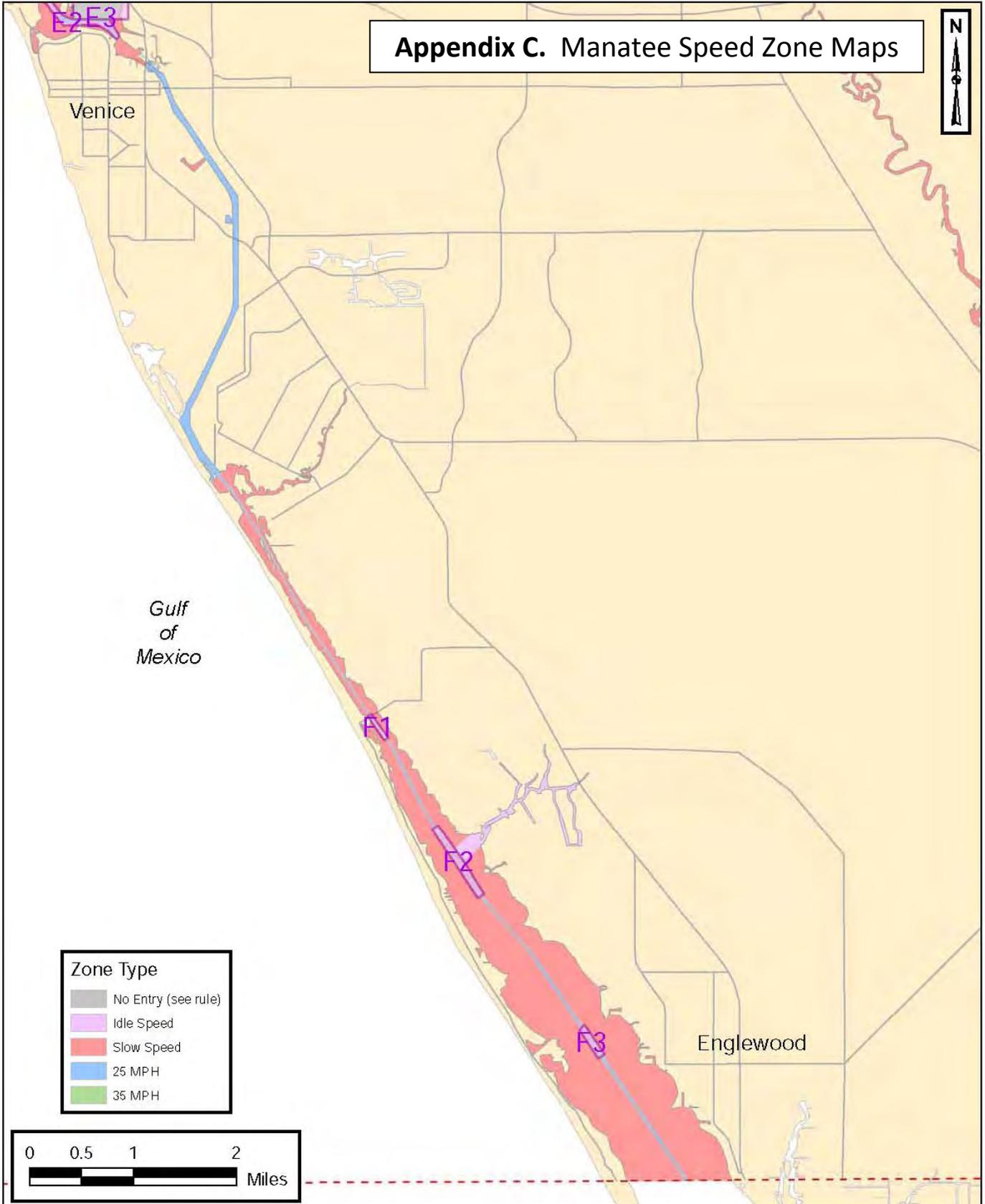


**Figure 7. Existing FWCC Manatee Protection Speed Zones
Sarasota County: South Region**

Base map
provided by:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Impaired Species Management Section
620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 6A
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
Tel: 850-922-4330 Fax: 850-922-4338

Appendix C. Manatee Speed Zone Maps



**Figure 8. Areas Identified by FFWCC Staff as Potentially Warranting a Rule Change
Sarasota County: South Region**

Base map provided by:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Impaired Species Management Section
620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 6A
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
Tel: 850-922-4330 Fax: 850-922-4338

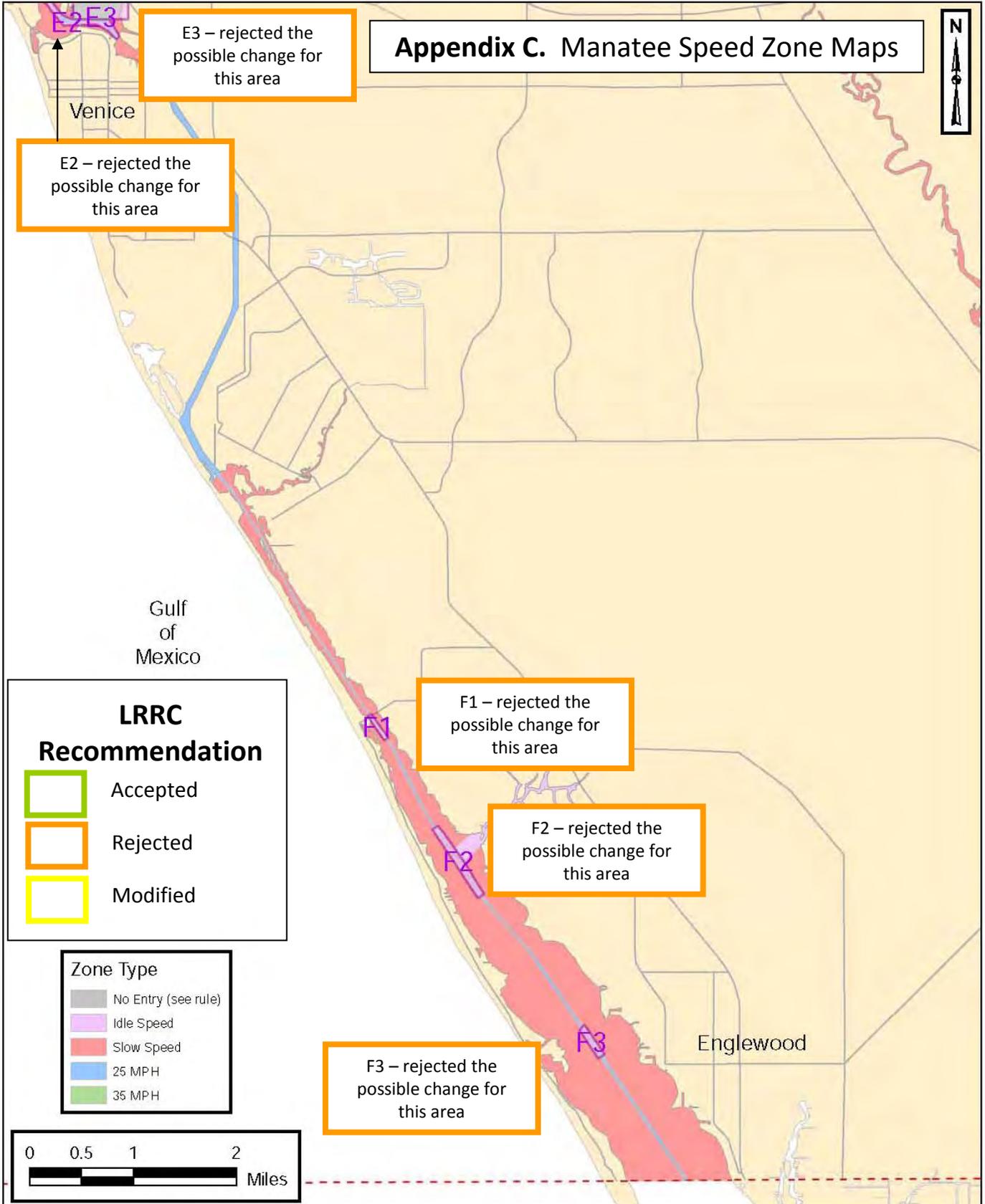
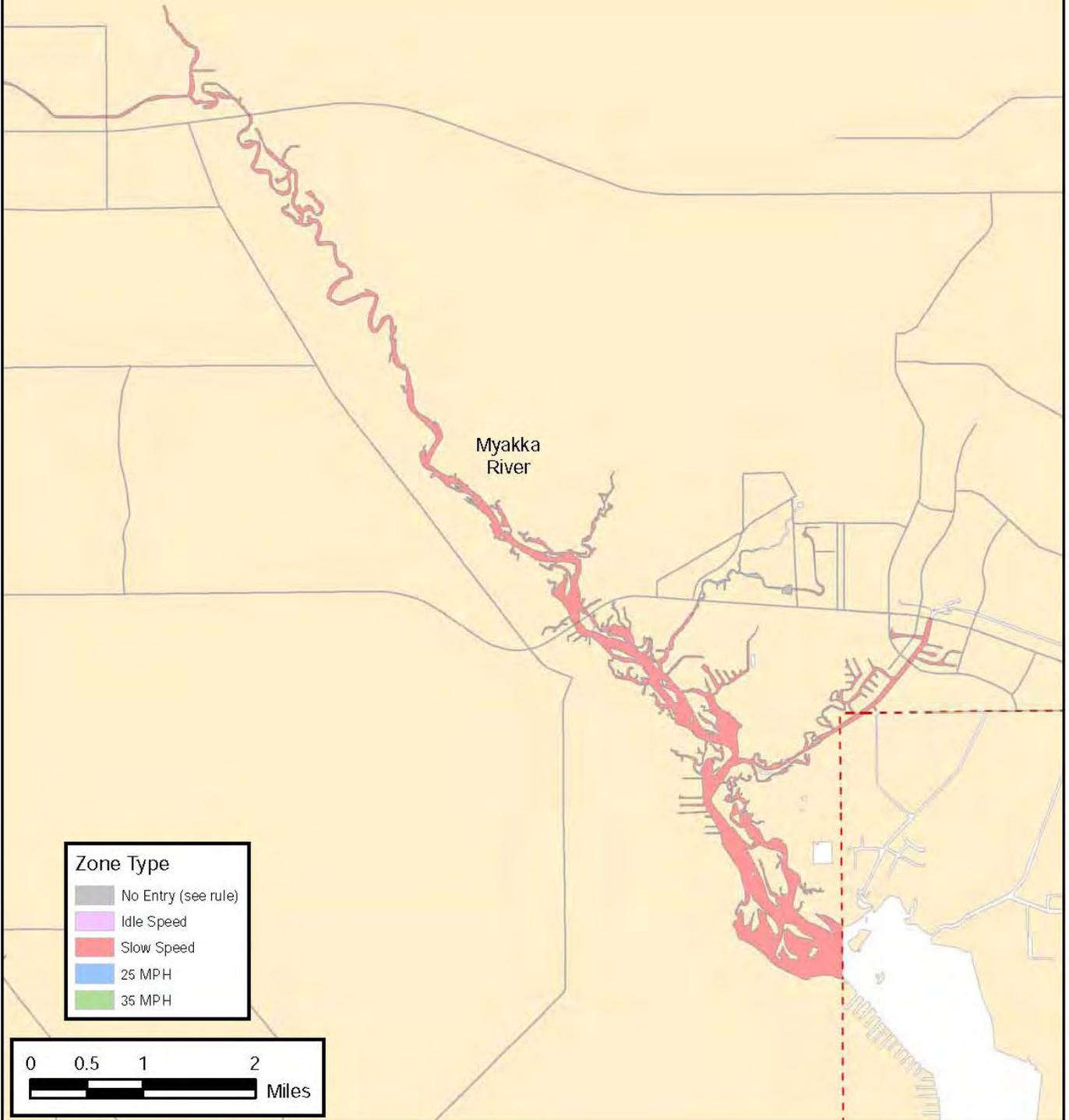


Figure 9. LRRC Recommended Manatee Protection Speed Zones Sarasota County: South Region

Base map provided by: Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
 Impaired Species Management Section
 620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 6A
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
 Tel: 850-922-4330 Fax: 850-922-4338

Appendix C. Manatee Speed Zone Maps



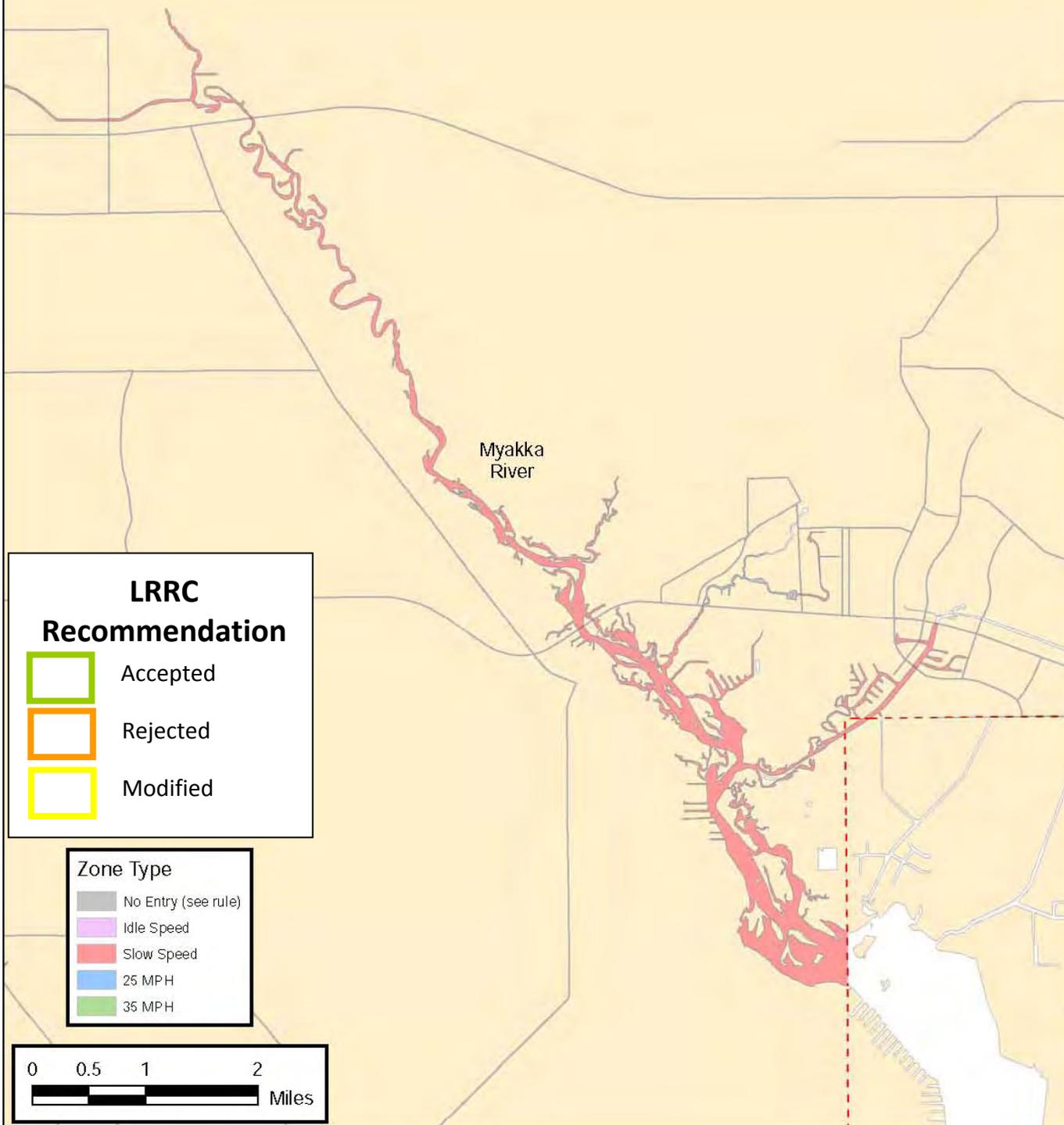
**Figure 10. Existing FFWCC Manatee Protection Speed Zones
Sarasota County: Myakka River Region**

Base map
provided by:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Impaired Species Management Section
620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 6A
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
Tel: 850-922-4330 Fax: 850-922-4338

Appendix C. Manatee Speed Zone Maps

No recommendations by FFWCC or by the LRRRC were made for this map area



LRRC Recommendation

- Accepted
- Rejected
- Modified

Zone Type

- No Entry (see rule)
- Idle Speed
- Slow Speed
- 25 MPH
- 35 MPH

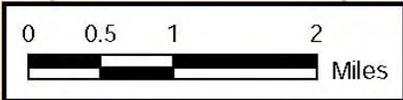


Figure 11. LRRC Recommended Manatee Protection Speed Zones Sarasota County: Myakka River Region

Base map provided by:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Impaired Species Management Section
620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 6A
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
Tel: 850-922-4330 Fax: 850-922-4338

Appendix D.

Detailed Graphic Summary of N. Siesta Key Recommendation

-  No Entry
-  Idle Speed
-  Slow Speed
-  25 MPH
-  35 MPH
-  Incorporated Areas
-  Major Roads

1 inch = 1,000 feet

1

City of Sarasota

Approximate Location of
LRRC Recommended
Slow Speed Zone

City of Sarasota

City of Sarasota

