

SUWANNEE

Parks & Recreation

Alden Rosner <arosner@suwanneeparks.com>

FW: Request for Springs Protection Zone- Ichetucknee River

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Tue, Sep 9, 2025 at 9:09 AM

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All,

Thank you to those who took the time to join Captain Bryant and I yesterday in the meeting, we hope it was beneficial for you all.

As requested, I have added in the documents showing the rule/statutory language change in the Google Drive. Also, we have received **additional videos and photos** from the submitter, it has now been added into the Google Drive as well. Below is a recap of my original email, along with the requested date for your feedback on this matter.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is considering whether or not a spring protection zone should be established on the lower portion of the Ichetucknee River in Columbia/Suwannee County, Florida. Specifically, the request is from the Ichetucknee Springs State Park boundary to the confluence at the Santa Fe River. All spring protection zones must be established in accordance with section 327.45 Florida Statutes and rule 68D-24.0035, Florida Administrative Code. The statutory language was revised as of July 1, 2025, and the FWC is in the process of revising the FAC to reflect the new statutory changes, those revisions were approved at the August Commission meeting. The *revisions* to the statutory language are copied below and the approved rule language is attached for reference.

*Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 327.45, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 327.45 Protection zones for springs.— (2) The commission may establish by rule protection zones that restrict the speed and operation of vessels, or that prohibit or modify the allowable means of anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of vessels, to protect and prevent **significant** harm to first, second, and third magnitude springs and springs groups, including their associated spring runs, as determined by the commission using the most recent Florida Geological Survey springs bulletin. **Significant harm** includes negative impacts to water quality, water quantity, hydrology, wetlands, and aquatic and wetland-dependent species where the operation, anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of **vessels is determined to be the predominant cause of negative impacts.***

You are being contacted about this matter because FWC is required by statute to consult and coordinate with the water management district, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the governing bodies in which the spring protection zone being considered is located. If the zone includes navigable waters, the commission will also coordinate with the United State Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

FWC has also gathered all known available evidence that a spring protection zone may be necessary in the requested area in accordance with the law. If you or your agency has additional evidence of the type and nature identified in the above laws relevant to consideration of this spring protection zone, please provide it to us for consideration and so we can share with others reviewing these documents. The FWC is requesting feedback from your agency/county regarding this request, specifically regarding whether or not the available evidence demonstrates significant harm (to include negative impacts to water quality, water quantity, hydrology, wetlands, and aquatic and wetland-dependent species) predominately caused by the operation,