

Email from Craig Mallison, FWC Associate Research Scientist at Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

Regarding Ichetucknee SPZ 2025

9/22/2025

"I reviewed the files in the 2025 Second Request folder along with my notes from 2023 regarding the 2022 First Request. In my opinion the evidence does not demonstrate significant harm that was predominately caused by the operation, anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of vessels such that a spring protection zone is necessary and appropriate in the requested area. Some concerns are documented by photo and video, but evidence of resulting harm (streambank erosion, degradation of aquatic vegetation) was not demonstrated. I do believe it is a valid safety concern to have outboard motors operating in an area with swimmers and tubers – this may warrant further investigation from a safety standpoint.

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