

Email Response from SRWMD, Susie Hetrick, Office of Water Resources

Regarding Ichetucknee SPZ 2025 Request

9/26/2025

"Good afternoon, Ms. Cook. I am emailing you in response to your September 9, 2025 request for agency feedback regarding the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) consideration of a spring protection zone on the lower portion of the Ichetucknee River in Columbia/Suwannee County, Florida.

Suwannee River Water Management District (District) staff have reviewed the documents FWC made available to stakeholders through the SPZ Google Drive link in your September 9 email. In addition, District staff have reviewed all studies and datasets related to the Ichetucknee River for which the District is a direct participant in the data collection. Based upon this review, District staff have determined that studies and data collection performed or overseen by the District focus primarily on the Ichetucknee River upstream of US Highway 27, and not in the area being considered for a spring protection zone.

The District is supportive of a review of available data and a scientific assessment of the effects of the operation, anchoring, mooring, beaching, or grounding of vessels in the lower portion of the Ichetucknee River, and is willing to support an effort to secure grant funding for this purpose.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information or action from me.

Sincerely,

Susie Hetrick

Office of Water Resources

Suwannee River Water Management District

9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060

386.362.1001

800.226.1066 (FL Toll Free)

386.647.3122 (Direct)

www.MySuwanneeRiver.com"