

Sarasota County Manatee Protection Plan Fast Facts

- Required by Florida Statute for the 13 “key” counties
 - Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) originally adopted September 24, 2003 by the County Commission and by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on February 11, 2004
- Applies to boat facilities with creation or expansion of five (5) or more boat slips (includes wet slips, dry stacks, and parking for trailers at boat ramps)
- Implemented throughout the County and the municipalities
- The MPP has been a planning tool that provides a manatee and community outcome, balancing human and environmental needs

MPP Statistics from adoption through present

- **28** MPP reviews conducted
 - Each were **found consistent** with the MPP
- **1,050** slips have been reviewed for consistency with the MPP (includes reconfigurations and new facilities)
- **183** were **new slips (increase over existing)**
- Since the adoption of the MPP, most reviews have been associated with redevelopment and some increases at existing facilities.

About the MPP Update

- Built-in review cycle
- Partnerships with FWC and the municipalities
 - Longboat Key, Sarasota, Venice, and North Port
 - Adopted by reference
- Contract with Sea to Shore Alliance; Jay Gorzelany serving as the primary author, same as original
- Update uses the most current manatee and boating data to validate the manatee habitat areas and the Boat Facility Siting Plan
- *A summary of major changes is provided on the following page*



Photo: Florida Division of Historical Resources



Photo: Sarasota County Multivision

Update Schedule

1. Public comment period begins – June 2011
2. Public Meetings on Adoption of MPP including targeted outreach to affected stakeholders – throughout the public comment period
3. FWC comments on MPP due to be received – July 2011
4. Close public comment period
5. BCC acceptance of MPP deliverable and public hearing to consider adoption of MPP – July 27, 2011

Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions or comments about the MPP update, please contact Rachel Herman, Natural Resources.

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Summary of Major Changes to the Sarasota County Manatee Protection Plan (2003 adopted version compared to 2011 draft)

Original Sarasota County Manatee Protection Plan (2003)		DRAFT Sarasota County Manatee Protection Plan (2011)		Impetus for Change
Section of Reference	Description	Section of Reference	Description	
Throughout document	Data pertaining to county and municipal demographics, boating, manatees, etc. is current through 2001.	Throughout document	Data pertaining to county demographics, boating, manatees, etc. is current through 2008 (or more recent where available).	The update to the MPP is based on the most current available scientific data. Changes to the document based on scientific trends and observations are made using the best available and most recent information for this 5-year update. Several data sets are new to the 2011 draft of the MPP that were not available for the original MPP. These include boater characterization data, boat traffic data, etc.
Manatee Areas – Data Trend Observation	Based on historical manatee use data, two designations are given to Sarasota County waterways, including “Priority Use” and “Secondary Use”. This information is used to help determine Boat Facility Siting outcomes.	Conclusions Based on Manatee Data	Based on historical and recent manatee use data, four designations are given to Sarasota County waterways, including “High Use – Critical”, “High Use – Important”, “Moderate Use”, and “Low Use / Limited Data”. This information is used to help determine Boat Facility Siting outcomes.	These changes reflect emerging manatee use trends. Current data indicates that certain areas are trending toward greater manatee use, which are now referred to as “High Use – Important” (including the area near the former Midnight Pass and north of the Venice Inlet), but these areas do not have the robust historical data given to those areas designated as “High Use – Critical,” formerly referred to as “Priority Use”. For areas now designated as “Moderate Use” in the 2011 draft, these generally correspond with “Secondary Use” as defined in the 2003 adopted MPP.
Boat Facility Siting Plan	Boat Facility Siting outcomes fall within three ranges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-9 slips, • 10-99 slips, and • >99 slips 	Boat Facility Siting Plan (BFSP)	Boat Facility Siting outcomes fall within four ranges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-9 slips, • 10-49 slips, • 50-99 slips, and • >99 slips The BFSP has been updated to reflect the most recent data pertaining to manatee use and boating.	This change increases opportunities for additional boat facilities within this range and reflects the dual goals of providing for boat facility expansion and manatee protection. In order to provide a more predictable outcome to the regulated community, the 10-99 slip range has been further refined into two outcomes: 10-49 slips and 50-99 slips. With such a wide range between 10-99 slips, applicants were unsure of which end of the spectrum might be appropriate for their site given specific conditions. This change is also representative of the change made to the manatee use designations (see above). Since the adoption of the MPP, the majority of boat facility increases has been within the 10-49 slip range, or less.
Not included	Not included	BFSP	A procedure for “Successive Reviews in Areas with a “Recommended Outcome” has been established.	This new section explains the procedure for successive reviews within an area with a recommended BFSP outcome. For properties located within an area with a “Recommended” outcome for a given range of new slips, the outcome will remain “Recommended” through successive reviews until the upper end of the range is reached. This new text establishes how the county and FWC will review these requests.
Not included	Not included	BFSP	A procedure for “Successive Reviews in Areas with a “Conditional Outcome” has been established.	This new section explains the procedure for successive reviews within an area with a “Conditional” BFSP outcome. Successive reviews shall consider the total number of slips installed since the adoption of the original MPP, September 24, 2003. This new text establishes how the county and FWC will review these requests.
Not included	Not included	BFSP	A procedure to address cumulative expansions of less than 5 slips has been established.	This prevents successive expansions of more than five slips without the benefit of an MPP consistency review. For proposals that seek approval for the construction or expansion of four or fewer slips, a MPP review is not required. However, if in successive expansion efforts, the number of slips / spaces may increase more than five since the original adoption of the MPP (September 24, 2003), a MPP review is required.
Boat Facility Siting Plan	A procedure to address variance options for conditional or not recommended Boat Facility Siting Outcomes.	Not included	Not included	In the final review of the 2003 MPP by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the draft variance procedures were excluded from approval of the MPP. The FWC and USFWS cited concerns of reducing protection for manatees and creating a less predictable plan as reasons for this decision. Therefore, the variance procedure section of the MPP has been removed in the 2011 draft.

Characterization of Changes to the BFSP

Changes to both manatee use designations and facility siting criteria have resulted in changes in siting outcomes in some areas. In general, the siting criteria developed in this revision are somewhat less restrictive for facility construction or expansion of less than 50 slips, and somewhat more restrictive for facility construction / expansion of 50 or more slips. For example, the amount of Sarasota County coastal shoreline designated as “Recommended” for facility construction or expansion of 5 to 9 slips has increased Countywide by approximately six percent, and the amount of coastal shoreline designated as either “Recommended” or “Conditional” for facility construction or expansion of 10 to 49 slips has increased Countywide by approximately five percent. The amount of coastal shoreline designated as either “Recommended” or “Conditional” for larger facility construction or expansion (greater than 99 slips), however, has decreased by approximately four percent.

