

RESOLUTION NO. 03-04

A RESOLUTION TRANSMITTING COMMENT TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ON PROPOSED RULE, RIN 10-18-AH86, RELATING TO THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT AND MANATEES IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA; EXPRESSING CONCERNS ON HOW THE RULE MAY ADVERSELY IMPACT THE CITY OF MARCO ISLAND; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the value of waterfront property and other property located in the City of Marco Island in Collier County is significantly tied to recreational opportunities and the quality of life offered to the citizens and visitors of Marco Island; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marco Island is an environmentally sensitive community, supporting the value of all marine life, as a part of a balanced ecological system; and

WHEREAS, Collier County has implemented a Manatee Protection Plan which will adequately protect and promote the growth of the manatee population; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of the plan proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will have a devastating effect on the overall Southwest Florida economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marco Island desires to express its concerns to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as to the proposed rule and its impact on the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MARCO ISLAND, FLORIDA that:

- Section 1. The City of Marco Island affirms the worth of all fish and wildlife, the rights of property owners, and the marine and building industries.
- Section 2. The City of Marco Island believes it would be irresponsible to implement these proposed regulations without the necessary scientific data to support the intended goals.
- Section 3. The City of Marco Island disputes the nexus, established in the proposed plan, between the dock moratorium and manatee mortalities.
- Section 4. The City of Marco Island finds that the proposed rule does not take into account the balance necessary between the manatee and public recreational boating, and that a moratorium on dock

construction will adversely impact vessel registration and the revenue provided to the community, including the funding and operation of public boat ramps and marinas.

Section 5. The City of Marco Island respectfully requests the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take into consideration the balance of the community with the protection of this species before promulgation of a rule which can have a devastating effect upon the property values and economy of Southwest Florida.

Section 6. The City of Marco Island urges the intervention of its State and Federal Officials in order to resolve the situation, by promulgation of rules, which take into consideration the balance of the community with the protection of this species.

Passed in open and regular session of the City Council of the City of Marco Island, Florida, this 21st day of January 2003.

Attest:

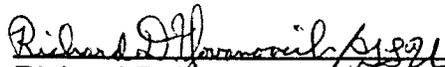


Laura A. Litzan
City Clerk



E. Glenn Tucker
Chairman

Approved as to form and legal
Sufficiency:



Richard D. Yovanovich, Esquire
City Attorney