

- The shore to shore, channel-included buffer, 152 meters (500 feet) east and west of Cape Coral Bridge changes from 40 km per hour (25 mph) year-round to slow speed year-round, channel excluded.

- Between the Cape Coral Bridge and the Shell Island Manatee Refuge, shoreline buffers approximate the existing shoreline protection configuration (*i.e.*, slow speed within 0.4 km (0.25 mile)) but limits speeds between the buffers to not more than 40 km per hour (25 mph). The exception to this is from Channel marker "72" to Channel marker "76," where the slow speed zone runs from shoreline to shoreline.

- In San Carlos Bay, much of the area to the west of the Shell Island Manatee Refuge, south of the Intracoastal Waterway, north of the Sanibel Causeway, to a line extending southwest from Channel Marker "7", changes from unregulated to slow speed year-round. The exception to this is the navigation channel and adjacent waters, which extend from Channel Marker "99" to the Sanibel Causeway, and which remain unregulated.

Speed zones have been in existence in the Caloosahatchee River since 1979. Since 1989, almost all of the near-shore waters of the Caloosahatchee have been under a slow speed restriction year-round. The Caloosahatchee River Manatee Refuge affects approximately 25.8 km (16 river miles) overall. For the most part, the regulation expands existing slow speed zones in areas around the bridges, maintains or slightly expands shoreline buffers, and slows portions of the navigation channel.

In Duval, Clay, and St. Johns Counties, in the St. Johns River and tributaries (including Doctors Lake), the designation of the Lower St. Johns River Manatee Refuge results in the following changes from the current speed restrictions:

- In the downtown Jacksonville area, between Channel marker "73" and the Main Street Bridge, slow speed zones extend out to the channel from 91- to 274-meter (300- to 900-foot) shoreline buffers. The channel changes from unrestricted speed to a 40-km-per-hour (25-mph) limit.

- Between the Main Street Bridge and the Fuller Warren Bridge, slow speed shoreline buffers change from variable width, slow speed (currently variable width along the western and northern shore and 183 meters (600 feet) on the eastern shore) to bank-to-bank, slow speed (channel included).

- South of the Fuller Warren Bridge to the southern bank of the mouth of Julington Creek (St. Johns County) on

the eastern shore and to the mouth of Peter's Creek (Clay County) along the western shore, slow speed shoreline buffers change from variable width (152 meters (500 feet) from shore or 61 meters (200 feet) from the end of docks) to between 213–305 meters (700–1,000 feet) as marked. Boat speed remains unregulated outside of the buffer.

- In Doctors Lake and Inlet, slow speed shoreline buffers extend from variable width (152 meters (500 feet) minimum or 61 meters (200 feet) beyond docks), to a 213–274 meter (700–900 feet) as marked buffer along both shorelines. Boat speed also remains unregulated outside of the buffer.

Overall, the Lower St. Johns River Manatee Refuge affects approximately 56 km (35 miles) of the St. Johns River and adjacent waters. In areas upstream of the Fuller Warren Bridge, newly protected areas extend existing slow speed areas out no more than an additional 152 meters (500 feet) but will approximate the existing shoreline buffer in many areas. Downstream of the Fuller Warren Bridge, shoreline buffers will be slightly extended from their variable widths to the channel. The greatest width of the shoreline buffer in this area is approximately 1.6 km (1 mile).

In Volusia County, for the Halifax and Tomoka Rivers Manatee Refuge including the Halifax River and tributaries (including Halifax Creek and the Tomoka River Complex), the Ponce Inlet area, and Indian River North, the final rule will result in the following changes from current speed restrictions:

- The channel in Halifax Creek changes to 40 km per hour (25 mph) from 48 km per hour (30 mph) (40 km per hour (25 mph) at night).

- An approximate 1.6-km (1-mile) reach of the Tomoka River downstream of I-95, where the speed restriction was 40 km per hour (25 mph), changes to a seasonal (April 1 to August 31) slow speed restriction.

- In the Halifax River from the Tomoka River Basin and the southern extent of Halifax Creek to 152 meters (500 feet) north of the Seabreeze Bridge (except in the vicinity of the Granada Bridge), the speed limit changes from 48 km per hour (30 mph) (40 km per hour (25 mph) at night) outside the buffer and in the marked navigation channel to 40 km per hour (25 mph).

- In the vicinity of the Granada Bridge (the SR 40 Bridge), the current shore-to-shore, channel-included buffer, 152 meters (500 feet) north and 305 meters (1,000 feet) south of the bridge, changes from a 91-meter (300-foot) slow speed buffer (48 km per hour (30 mph) outside of buffer) to slow speed.

- The area approximately 152 meters (500 feet) north of the Seabreeze Bridge to 152 meters (500 feet) north of the Main Street Bridge, changes from slow speed (channel included) excepting the watersports area, to slow speed (channel included) (including the watersports area) shoreline to shoreline.

- Between the shoreline buffers in the Halifax River from Channel Marker "40" south of the Seabreeze Bridge to a minimum of 152 meters (500 feet) north, as marked, of the Dunlawton Bridge, the speed limit changes from 48 km per hour (30 mph) (40 km per hour (25 mph) at night) outside the buffer and in the marked navigation channel to 40 km per hour (25 mph).

- The shore-to-shore, channel included buffer, a minimum of 152 meters (500 feet) north and south, as marked, of the Dunlawton Bridge would change from a 91-meter (300-foot) slow speed buffer 56 km per hour (35 mph outside of buffer) to slow speed. The adjacent western shoreline slow speed buffer north of the bridge increases from 30 meters (100 feet) to 91 meters (300 feet) for a distance of 640 meters (2,100 feet).

- Waters between the Dunlawton Bridge and Ponce Inlet will change from 48 km per hour (30 mph) to 40 km per hour (25 mph) where it is not more restrictively designated by existing regulation.

- Waters adjacent to Ponce Inlet change from variable zones with 48 km per hour (30 mph) within the channel to not more than 40 km per hour (25 mph) in waters not more restrictively designated.

- The Intracoastal Waterway (Indian River North) and adjacent waters from Redland Canal to the A1A Bridge (New Smyrna Beach) maintains the existing slow speed (channel included), year round, designation but eliminates the existing exception for the New Smyrna Beach watersports area.

Overall, the Halifax River and Tomoka River Manatee Refuge will affect approximately 58.2 km (36.1 miles) of Volusia County's waterways. The majority of the changes would include reducing the maximum speed limit, slowing boats around the bridges, and reducing or eliminating watersports zones. The overall impact of the changes would be to reduce the likelihood of take of manatees in areas where boats and manatees are most likely to interact and to reduce some of the complexity of the speed restrictions to be more consistent and clear and thus improve compliance.

In addition to speed zone changes, the rule no longer allows for the speed zone exemption process in place under State