



Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.
SECRETARY

June 26, 2020

Khoa Nguyen
Director, Office of Technical Services
Federal Highway Administration
3500 Financial Plaza, Suite 400
Tallahassee, Florida 32312

Re: State Specifications Office
Section: **007**
Proposed Specification: **SP0070401-4 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND
RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC – LAWS TO BE OBSERVED -
COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND OTHER
WILDLIFE REGULATIONS (MANATEE).**

Dear Mr. Nguyen:

We are submitting, for your approval, two copies of the above referenced Special Provision.

The changes are proposed by Katasha Cornwell to include additional measures to protect manatees for projects within water work.

Please review and transmit your comments, if any, within two weeks. Comments should be sent via email to daniel.strickland@dot.state.fl.us.

If you have any questions relating to this specification change, please call me at 414-4130.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Daniel Strickland, P.E.
State Specifications Engineer

DS/jj

Attachment

cc: Florida Transportation Builders' Assoc.
State Construction Engineer

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC – LAWS TO BE OBSERVED - COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND OTHER WILDLIFE REGULATIONS (MANATEE).

(REV 5-13-20)

SUBARTICLE 7-1.4 is expanded by the following new Subarticle:

7-1.4.1 Additional Requirements for Manatees (*Trichechus manatus*): The Department has determined that the project occurs within the known habitat of manatees.

The Department will provide instruction at a preconstruction meeting regarding:

1. The presence of the species and manatee speed zones.
2. The appearance, habits and biology of the species.
3. Their protected status.
4. The need to avoid collisions with and injury to the species.

~~5. The need to avoid any actions that would jeopardize the existence of these species.~~

56. The civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing these species.

Advise all work crews of this information.

Operate all vessels at “Idle Speed/No Wake” at all times while in the construction area and while in water where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. Follow routes of deep water whenever possible.

Do not dredge river bottom for barge access.

Lower all equipment or material to the mudline in a controlled descent. Do not allow freefall of any equipment or material below the water surface.

Use fenders or buoys to prevent entrapping manatees between vessels and other structures

Maintain taut mooring lines. If slack remains in the line, sleeve the line with PVC.

Advise all on-site project personnel they are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatees. Follow the requirements posted in the URL address in Spec 7-1.4 when manatees are observed.

Except for projects in Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Jefferson, Lafayette, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee and Walton:

1. Sediment or turbidity barriers shall be made of material which manatees cannot become entangled, shall be secured, and shall be monitored to avoid manatee entanglement or entrapment. Barriers must not impede manatee movement.

2. Temporary signs concerning manatees shall be posted prior to and during all in-water project activities. All signs are to be removed by the Contractor upon completion of the project. Temporary signs that have already been approved for this use by the FWC must be used. One sign which reads “Caution: Boaters”, must be posted in a location conspicuous to boating traffic. A second sign measuring at least 8-1/2 inches by 11 inches, explaining the requirements for “Idle Speed/No Wake” and the shutdown of in-water operations, must be posted in at least one location prominently visible to all onsite project personnel engaged in water-related activities. These signs can be viewed at:

<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/manatee/education-for-marinas/>

Use when called for by the District Environmental Permit Office

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC – LAWS TO BE OBSERVED - COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND OTHER WILDLIFE REGULATIONS (MANATEE).

(REV 5-13-20)

SUBARTICLE 7-1.4 is expanded by the following new Subarticle:

7-1.4.1 Additional Requirements for Manatees (*Trichechus manatus*): The Department has determined that the project occurs within the known habitat of manatees.

The Department will provide instruction at a preconstruction meeting regarding:

1. The presence of the species and manatee speed zones.
2. The appearance, habits and biology of the species.
3. Their protected status.
4. The need to avoid collisions with and injury to the species.
5. The civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or

killing these species.

Advise all work crews of this information.

Operate all vessels at “Idle Speed/No Wake” at all times while in the construction area and while in water where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. Follow routes of deep water whenever possible.

Do not dredge river bottom for barge access.

Lower all equipment or material to the mudline in a controlled descent. Do not allow freefall of any equipment or material below the water surface.

Use fenders or buoys to prevent entrapping manatees between vessels and other structures

Maintain taut mooring lines. If slack remains in the line, sleeve the line with PVC.

Advise all on-site project personnel they are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatees. Follow the requirements posted in the URL address in Spec 7-1.4 when manatees are observed.

Except for projects in Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Jefferson, Lafayette, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee and Walton:

1. Sediment or turbidity barriers shall be made of material which manatees cannot become entangled, shall be secured, and shall be monitored to avoid manatee entanglement or entrapment. Barriers must not impede manatee movement.

2. Temporary signs concerning manatees shall be posted prior to and during all in-water project activities. All signs are to be removed by the Contractor upon completion of the project. Temporary signs that have already been approved for this use by the FWC must be used. One sign which reads “Caution: Boaters”, must be posted in a location conspicuous to boating traffic. A second sign measuring at least 8-1/2 inches by 11 inches, explaining the requirements for “Idle Speed/No Wake” and the shutdown of in-water operations, must be posted in at least one location prominently visible to all onsite project personnel engaged in water-related activities. These signs can be viewed at:

<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/manatee/education-for-marinas/>