



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



AUG — 4 2003

Mr. Steven E. Webster
Executive Director
Florida Marine Contractors Association
P.O. Box 542111
Merritt Island, FL 32954-2111

Dear Mr. Webster:

On May 29, 2003, you submitted comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a rule proposing the designation of three federal manatee protection areas in five Florida counties. Your comments have been considered as part of the comment process for that rule.

As a part of your comments, you indicated your comments were also to be considered pursuant to IQA Guidelines. FWS' response to you under the Information Quality Guidelines has been delayed because the appropriate office was only recently made aware of your request. In the future, please be aware that when filing a challenge under the Service's Information Quality Guidelines, available at <http://irm.fws.gov/infoguidelines/index.htm>, persons wanting to challenge the quality of disseminated information used by the agency are required to contact either the agency via its website (www.fws.gov) or by mailing their request to:

Correspondence Control Unit
Attention: Information Quality Complaint Processing
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 3238-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

For the future, we also draw your attention to the form of a request for correction per the Service's Guidelines (as described on the above listed web site). A request for correction of information must include the following:

- Statement that the Request for Correction of Information is Submitted Under DOI/FWS Information Quality Guidelines.
- Requester Contact Information. The name, mailing address, telephone number, fax number, email address, and organizational affiliation (if any). Organizations submitting a request must identify an individual to serve as a contact.
- Description of Information to Correct. The name of the FWS publication, report, or data product; the date of issuance or other identifying information, such as the URL of the web page, and a detailed description that clearly identifies the specific information contained in that publication, report, or data production for which a correction is being sought.

- Explanation of Noncompliance with OMB, DOI, and/or FWS Information Quality Guidelines.
- Effect of the Alleged Error. Provide an explanation that describes how the alleged error harms or how a correction would benefit the requestor.
- Recommendation and justification on how the information should be corrected. State specifically how the information should be corrected and explain why the corrections should be made.
- Supporting Documentary Evidence. Provide any supporting documentary evidence, such as comparable data or research results on the same topic.

We have reviewed the comments you submitted concerning the proposed rule to designate three federal manatee protection areas in five Florida counties under the Information Quality Guidelines, and as those IQA guidelines provide, we have chosen the option of addressing your comments within the context of the rulemaking process given their late arrival at our office and the fact that separate (additional) information was not provided for “the request for correction of information.”

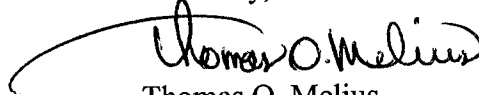
If you are interested in seeking a reconsideration of this response, you may submit an appeal to the Service within 15 business days from the date of this letter that should contain the following:

- Indication that the person is seeking an appeal of an FWS decision on a previously submitted request for a correction of information, including the date of the original submission and date of FWS decision;
- Indication of how the individual or organization is an “affected person” under the provisions of the Service’s guidelines;
- Name and contact information. Organizations submitting an appeal should identify an individual as a contact;
- Explanation of the disagreement with the FWS decision and, if possible, a recommendation of corrective action; and
- A copy of the original request for the correction of information.

Please submit your appeal to:

Correspondence Control Unit
Attention: Information Quality Complaint Processing
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 3238-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

Sincerely,



Thomas O. Melius
Assistant Director - External Affairs

cc: Sam Hamilton