

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The extent to which the recommendations contained in the St. Johns County MPP will be implemented is up to the discretion, judgment and leadership of the Board of County Commissioners. At this time, the rate of human-related watercraft manatee mortality in St. Johns County remains below the threshold at which the state and federal wildlife agencies will demand that corrective countermeasures be undertaken. Although some of the recommendations can be implemented relatively easily (e.g., compiling existing public awareness materials), implementing some of the MPP recommendations could be challenging, costly and time-consuming.

Although this Plan currently does not recommend any new vessel speed zones, additional restrictions may be warranted once additional data are collected in areas where manatees have been reported to congregate. In most cases, informed decisions concerning these additional designations cannot be made until a data-collection period of one year or more has been completed.

The primary mechanism for ensuring that at least some portions of the MPP are implemented is through the development and adoption of amendments to the County's Land Development Code. Recommendations for these changes are to be transmitted to the County in a Manatee Protection Plan 'Assessment Report' by September 30, 2005.

A recommended time line for implementation of the MPP is shown in Figure 21. It is expected, however that this MPP is a work-in-progress, and that the schedule for each step will be based upon the results of the previous step(s) and that it will be revised, as appropriate, to reflect new data, information and circumstances.