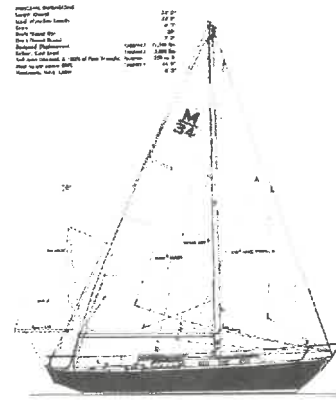


Dennis Vitton
280 Nassau Drive
Palmetto, Florida 34221
231.645.5021

Wednesday, June 17, 2020



Marine Division, Florida FWC

Hello,

I hope, I am at the right office that handles the Intercostals regulations. I was referred to you by Florida's Fish and Wildlife Division. If not, please advise me on who does or forward my letter to the right office. I want to advise your office of what I consider a significant safety concern at the Anna Marie Island Bridge.

On two occasions over the last two years we have encountered two incidents that I believe to be a serious safety issue with the Anna Marie Island Bridge as the result of the lack of a slow no wake speed limits, as most bridged do have.

Several weeks ago we were traveling north and requested a bridge opening. While we were traversing space between the bridge structures a 30 to 40 foot motor boat also enter the same space heading south. The boat's entered the area with his port side slightly over the middle of the opening at a very high rate of speed. This caused us to move significantly closer to the bridges east structure. Their boat causes a significant wake resulting in our mast to nearly making contact with the bridge structure. The power boats bow spray also made contract with my cockpit as they were that close to my boat.

On another occasion a smaller 25 foot or so, open cockpit boat turned in front of our boat at a high rate of speed as I was almost reaching the northern portion of the bridges bollards. This boat had been heading west along the bridge causeway and turned right in front of my boat. My bow was only feet away from this power boat as he turned to enter the bridge opening. Because of his high rate of speed and his closeness to my boat his bow wake spray also entered my cockpit.

I am requesting that you serious consider designating the area north and south of the Anna Marie Island Bridge as slow no wake zone to reduce this significantly safety hazard. With the new marina on the north-east side of the bridge causeway more and more traffic will be traversing this area.

Please advise as too what I can do to facilitate designating this area a slow no wake zone.

Sincerely

Dennis Vitton, denvitton@hotmail.com

Cc. Sheriff Rick Wills, Manatee County Sheriff
Sector Commander, Captain Matthew A. Thompson