

We Need Letters of Support for the Ichetucknee Springs Protection Zone (SPZ)

We need demonstrate public support to the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for establishment of a Lower Ichetucknee Springs Protection Zone. If you support this effort, please consider writing a letter. Please share this information with anyone else you know who might be interested.

Please address your letters to Captain Rachel Bryant, FWC, Division of Law Enforcement, Boating and Waterways, BUT submit your letter to the Ichetucknee Alliance, either electronically at ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com or by snail mail to the Alliance at P.O. Box 495, High Springs FL 32655-0945. **We need your letters by Nov. 23, 2022.** If you have questions, please email or call us at 386-454-0415 (leave voice mail if no answer).

Below are samples of wording that you might use. You could pick and choose any of this wording or, even better, add your own words since they will have more impact. FYI, “lower river” refers to the southern approximately two miles of the river after it crosses Highway 27.

Sample Wording

1. I would like to express my support for the non-motorized SPZ for the Lower Ichetucknee River pursuant to FL Statute 327.45. I have seen the harm done to the river and its ecosystem from motorized vessels including_____.
(Destruction of vegetation, harm to river bottom and manatees from anchors/propellers, poor water turbidity after boats pass, oil and gas in water, anchors pulling up vegetation, erosion, etc.)
2. I strongly support the non-motorized SPZ for the Lower Ichetucknee River. The FWC Commissioners have been granted authority by the Florida Legislature to establish such zones and I hope you do the right thing and take steps to save this precious natural resource. (Give personal experiences with the river and/or harm from motorized vessels.)
3. I am writing to let you know that I am in full support of the SPZ for the Lower Ichetucknee River. The upper river has been protected as part of the State Park for many years so it makes sense the lower river should also be protected. The upper river has placed even further restrictions on human use and the results have been outstanding. Please do all you can to prevent further destruction to this delicate spring run.
4. I am writing to express my full support for the Lower Ichetucknee SPZ. I have seen large craft with outrageous horsepower engines that have no business on this spring run. (List harm to river you have seen.)
5. I am a boater and I am writing to let you know I support the non-motorized vessel SPZ for the Lower Ichetucknee. (See #4).