

CONCEPTS FOR SLIP TRANSFER DISCUSSION

- Slip transfer would serve as a form of mitigation to compensate for the potential impacts to manatees from proposed new operations or expansion of marine facilities in sensitive habitats above the guidelines recommended for manatee protection.
- To assure no net increase in impact to manatees, the type and frequency of vessel use associated with the slips removed (transferred) from a donor site must be equivalent to the type and frequency of use at the receiving site.
- Slip transfers as a form of mitigation to reduce potential impacts to manatees only have the ability to offset potential impacts if they represent an actual reduction in use of slips at the donor site.
- To assure no net increase in impact to manatees, slips should not be transferred from one tributary to another or from one geographic area to another. For example, for a project on the Miami River, both the donor and recipient sites should be located on the River; for a project in the 79th Street Causeway basin, both the donor and recipient sites should be located within this basin.
- Only slips with all required approvals should be eligible for transfer. Illegal or unauthorized docking should be ineligible for transfer.
- Dry or wet berths should be considered for transfer.
- Transfers should require the consent of the property owner(s) involved (donor and receiving properties) and restrictive covenants running with the land in favor of Miami-Dade County should be required on the donor and recipient sites.
- In order to preserve riparian property rights and to prevent net reduction of waterfront access sites, not all existing slips should be allowed to be transferred away from a given donor site. Only slips that are present in excess of the recommended base density of the MPP for the donor site should be eligible for transfer.
- Within cold weather aggregation areas such as the Miami River, Little River, Coral Gables Waterway etc, slips to be transferred must be located further from (or equidistant to) Biscayne Bay than the proposed recipient site in order to qualify as donor slips in order to prevent increased potential of manatee/vessel travel pattern overlap.
- Slips located in areas recommended for expansion of commercial marinas, dry storage, transitory docks, boatyards, ramps, or large vessel (>100') berthing under the MPP should not qualify as donor slips.
- Slip transfers should only be allowed if all federal, state, and local approvals at the receiving site are obtained for the proposed work including all requirements for transfer.
- A mechanism could be created to also facilitate transfers to or from properties that do not require a construction permit from DERM.
- A donor slip should be eligible for transfer once; subsequent transfers from the recipient site to other sites should not be allowed.