

RESOLUTION 07-261

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PARKER, FLORIDA TO URGE THE COMMISSION OF THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (FWC) TO DENY THE AGENCY'S STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO UP-LIST THE PANAMA CITY CRAYFISH (PROCAMBRARUS ECOFINAE) FROM A SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO A THREATENED SPECIES.

WHEREAS, the FWC Staff has recommended to the Commission that it approve the up-listing of the Panama City Crayfish along with an unacceptable management plan that threatens the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Panama City Crayfish Management Plan includes the placement of small crayfish habitat sites (marshes) throughout the greater Panama City area providing excellent mosquito breeding areas; and

WHEREAS, the Panama City Crayfish has been found in over eight hundred (800) human altered places mostly in wetland pine plantations that could be conserved at a little cost and thereby preserve the species; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Panama City Crayfish Management Plan appears to be a new aggressive extension of environmental control of the maintenance and construction of needed municipal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Panama City Crayfish Management Plan will remove valuable properties from the City's tax roll; and

WHEREAS, the historic range of the crayfish is nothing more than a guess and its historic habitat is nothing more than a guess; and

WHEREAS, in Florida there is only one person that is competent at identifying the species; and

WHEREAS, it is unseemly for the FWC to base the need for an up-listing on a possible future de-listing. The FWC lists species, up-list species by almost never de-lists a species. The Panama City Crayfish will almost certainly never be de-listed by the FWC; and

WHEREAS, there are ten species and subspecies of crayfish in Bay County that will cause confusion as to which species a certain specimen might be; and

WHEREAS, required mitigation for use of property suspected of having crayfish could, and probably would, add to county-wide development costs; and

WHEREAS, the present Panama City Crayfish Management Plan will add costs to low-cost housing which is badly needed in the area.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF PARKER, FLORIDA.

1. That the City urge the Commissioners of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to reject the Agency's Staff recommendations to up-list the Panama City Crayfish, (*Procambarus econfinae*), and reject the Staff's presented Panama City Crayfish Management Plan.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City of Parker, Florida this 20th day of November 2007.


Brenda G. Hendricks, Mayor

ATTEST:


Adonna S. Mullen, City Clerk