ORDINANCE
98- 6

AMENDING ORDINANCE 97-13 BY AMENDING SECTION 6 REGULATORY VESSELS AT IDLE SPEED; SECTION 7 BY AMENDING REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT AND OTHER VESSEL OPERATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT ORDINANCE 97-13 IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 6

VEHICLE/VESSEL REGULATION

A. No vessel shall operate in excess of idle speed in the following areas:

a. In all bayous on the south side of the Choctawhatchee Bay EXCEPT Horseshoe Bayou and Hogtown Bayou west of the mouth of Churchill Bayou;

b. Within 500 feet of any shore or dock along the entire shoreline of Choctawhatchee Bay, Hogtown Bayou, Alaqua Bayou, LaGrange Bayou and Basin Bayou EXCEPT that this provision shall not apply to the waters encompassed by the shipping channel in LaGrange Bayou and the waters within the designated limits of the Intracoastal Waterway and shall be exempted from the provisions of this ordinance;

c. In the waters of Alaqua Creek north from Portland Park to State Road 20 bridge;

d. Within 750 feet of the shoreline of all sandy beaches and shorefront bathing areas on the Gulf of Mexico.

SECTION 7

REGULATION OF VENDING OPERATIONS, EQUIPMENT RENTALS AND VENDORS ON THE BEACH, BAY AND ADJOINING WATERS

REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONALIZED WATERCRAFT AND OTHER VESSEL OPERATIONS

1. The applicant must have an operations center located at a land based location with direct access to the beach in the immediate area where the vending services are being provided for public use.

2. The applicant must provide "access corridors" for such personal watercraft or vessels from entering into the Gulf of Mexico. Such "access corridors" shall be designated by the Board of County Commissioners and or its designated representatives and shall be posted as such. The "access corridors" shall not exceed 50 feet in width.

3. The applicant must have a motorized chase boat or personalized watercraft in good running condition, when renting motorized watercraft. The Chase boat must meet all U.S. Coast Guard safety requirements at vessel rental site during all hours of applicant's rental operations. The Chase boat shall be equipped with operational marine radio or cellular phone.

4. The applicant shall provide a list describing and itemizing each vessel the applicant shall place in service. Any motorized vessel placed in service for public use, shall have a Florida vessel registration number affixed thereon.

5. The applicant shall provide proof of having minimally one operational life vest for each occupant space on each of the vessels to be offered for public use under Section Seven of this Ordinance.

6. Personal watercraft's shall not be allowed to launch from county owned parks adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico.

7. Commercial personal watercraft operations are prohibited adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico between the western boundary of Tops'l Hill and the Bay County line.

SECTION TWELVE

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect upon receipt of notice from the Secretary of State that this Ordinance has been filed with the Secretary of State.

All other provisions of Ordinance 97-13 not inconsistent herewith shall remain in full force and effect.

UNANIMOUSLY adopted this 6th day of April, 1998.

William A. Young, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners of Walton County

ATTEST:

Dan Bodiford, Clerk