

RESOLUTION NO. 2001-44

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA REQUESTING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO ADOPT A RULE PROHIBITING THE USE OF TROTLINES, BUSHHOOKS OR SETLINES WITHIN THE BORDERS OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, harvesting of freshwater turtles decimated the population of these turtles in Southwest Ranches in 1999; and

WHEREAS, a study in 1995 by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission titled "Impact of Commercial Exploitation on Softshell Turtle Populations" concluded in part that the demand by domestic and overseas Asian markets for Florida turtles is greater than the current supply; and

WHEREAS, the continued commercial harvest of freshwater turtles within Southwest Ranches will negatively and permanently impact the sustainable population, resulting in unknown consequences to the ecology and natural resources of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Southwest Ranches is an equestrian community which is semi-rural in nature; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Southwest Ranches enjoy and wish to maintain the existing wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Ranches is an environment whereby the preservation of remaining natural resources is paramount; and

WHEREAS, equestrians in Southwest Ranches ride their horses along the canal banks due to lack of other equestrian trails; and

WHEREAS, children and adults walk and play along the canal banks in Southwest Ranches; and

WHEREAS, turtle harvesters are now inserting wooden stakes at frequent intervals along the canal banks for use in attaching trotline; and

WHEREAS, wooden stakes create a real hazard to those using the canal banks for recreation, as they could cause serious accidents resulting from horses or individuals tripping over the stakes and/or the line; and

WHEREAS, children playing along the canal banks could be injured by the hooks used by turtle harvesters; and

WHEREAS, harvesters litter the area with used trotline and ribbon markers, causing additional hazards and unsightliness.

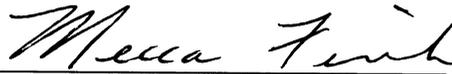
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida.

Section 1: The above referenced recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2: The Council requests that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission adopt a rule prohibiting the use of trotlines, bushhooks or setlines for the harvest of freshwater turtles or fish in the Town of Southwest Ranches.

Section 3: That this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida, this 8th day of March 2001.



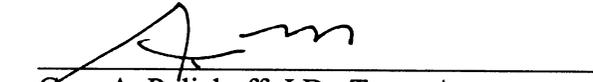
Mecca Fink, Mayor

Attest:



Arielle Haze Tyner, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:



Gary A. Poliakoff, J.D., Town Attorney

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