

Sutton, Kaitlyn

From: MIKE MATHIAS <captain55@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 12:55 PM
To: Sutton, Kaitlyn
Subject: water

Thank you for letting me voice my opinion on the Indian river water quality. I grew up in Florida (Jupiter area) in the 60's and after getting married in 1974 moved to Stuart and now live on Indian River drive 8 miles north of Jensen Beach. Fishing and enjoying the river and ocean for over 60 years. In that time I have seen a big change in the water quality.

I will start my opinion and what I believe to have been the problem form my years on the water. In the 1960's the locks in Jupiter was open just as much as now but the water was just fresh water because their were very few farms to the west and the fishing didn't seem to be effected. At that time their was not any filling of the beaches until the 1990's. Fishing for the most part was very good until the late 1990's. After that in the late 1990"s till 2010 things took a big change for the worse. I know the filling of the beaches is for the tourist and the people that live on the beach but that filling has destroyed the reefs that are along the beach and the fishing has suffered a lot. The biggest problem I see is along the Indian River lagoon itself. The road that runs right on the river most of the way drains directly into the Indian River. I don't think its the septic tanks because their mostly several hindered feet away from the river for the most part, but lawn fertilizer and all the waste that comes off all the cars that travel Indian River drive. When it rains the road fills with water and it all goes in the river. I think the best way to fix this problem is to move Indian river drive to the west of the river so you don't have all that run off and traffic to pollute the river.

Thanks , Michael Mathias