

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: February 11, 2025

To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

From: Nicholas Caristo, Chief of Police

Re: Proposed Ordinance to Amend Chapter 74 of the Town Code, Relative to Regulation of Fishing, to Modify Prohibitions From Bridges and Docks, and Relative to Fishing Prohibitions Concerning Public Docks, to Update Language
Ordinance No. 003-2025

Date: January 30, 2025

GENERAL INFORMATION

During the January 14, 2025 Town Council meeting, there was discussion regarding resident concerns with fishing from a Town-owned bridge connecting to Ibis Isle. These concerns were centered around matters of public health, safety, and welfare with mentions of discarded fish, dangerous obstructions to the public right of way, and possible criminal activities. Members of the Town Council asked that this issue be examined further and that a possible ordinance amendment be proposed to address the concerns.

Currently, Town Code prohibits fishing in the Lake Worth Lagoon (the Intracoastal Waterway) from public property or adjacent right-of-way from sunset to sunrise; however, no prohibitions exist during daytime hours. During this review we also found language in Chapter 74 Section 162 (a) and Section 163 (a) that needed to be updated in order to remain valid and enforceable. Specifically, language limiting the night time fishing restrictions in Lake Worth to include only Town-owned properties and from any right-of-way, and accommodating additions and renovations at the Town Marina.

The Police Department has provided a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 74 Section 162 and Section 163 of the Town Code which would prohibit fishing at all times from Town-owned bridges and docks as well as modify aforementioned language. This would primarily affect the bridge to Ibis Isle, the bridge to Everglades Island, and the Inlet Dock (as prohibitions already exist for the Marina docks).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Town Council review proposed Ordinance 003-2025, amending Chapter 74 of the Town Code, relative to Regulation of Fishing, and Fishing Prohibitions Concerning Public Docks and either approve, deny, or provide further direction on the matter.

TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW

The Town Attorney has reviewed this ordinance and approved for legal form and sufficiency.

NC/wmr

cc: Joanne O'Connor, Town Attorney
Carolyn Stone, Deputy Town Manager
Robert Miracle, Deputy Town Manager
Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works