

CITIZENS FOR FLORIDA'S WATERWAYS

Volume 21 - Issue 6

November/December 2014

Citizens For Florida's Waterways promotes the need for responsible use of Florida's waterways. Our primary objective is to encourage coexistence among recreational and commercial boaters, the marine industry, property owners and the environment. Citizens For Florida's Waterways advocates education in the safe and considerate use of watercraft with respect for our marine environment and conservation.

CFFW Had a Very Busy YEAR

by Bob Atkins

On the Manatee Front - As many of you know, at the spring meeting of the Forum in May, we presented an analysis of the manatee carrying capacity of the Indian River Lagoon. This analysis clearly indicated that the risk of local area manatee over population was highly likely with dire consequences. Unfortunately the agencies have remained focused on the non-existent risk of extinction due to the erroneous classification of the manatee as 'endangered'.

Subsequent to the May meeting, the USFWS formally announced the intent to consider reclassification of the manatee to 'threatened'. Many of you submitted comments in support of this effort (THANK YOU) and your CFFW Board prepared and submitted a more significant formal response to assist USFWS to make the correct decision. We hope to have this posted on the website soon and will let you know via email when you can read this response (please at least take a look – read the Executive Summary). We want our members to be the most informed on manatee science and help to spread the truth.

In this document, we firmly support complete declassification (removal from the Endangered Species Act) of the manatee. We address all the ESA classification considerations – Habitat, Abundance and Survivability, as well as Carrying Capacity, Optimum Sustainable Population and Risk Management. For completion, we counter all of the predominant arguments of the Save the Manatee Club in support of continuing the endangered classification. The only real question that remains is will USFWS have the courage to stand behind the science in the face of the political pressure and never ending suit-happy approach

of the enviros. We hope we helped bolster that stand with a good science base analysis.

From a Boating Perspective – Thanks to all of you who participated in some or all of our events this past year. We continue to hold monthly Board Meetings and some of you have attended. We wish more of you would come out and share in the workings of the organization by sharing your ideas with the board.

We had another very successful Marine Flea Market this March and continue to enjoy tremendous support from Harbortown Marina. They are great supporters of these annual events and next year we will have our TWENTIETH ANNUAL event over the weekend of March 28/29. That's right, CFFW is celebrating our 20 Year Anniversary.

We moved our Annual Poker Run to July this year and based on the great turnout and the perfect weather, we will continue to aim this event for the more summer-time season. In addition, we promoted a few boating day-outings to local restaurants and enjoyed the company of many of you at one or more of these. We will strive to do more boating events as an encouragement to all of us to spend more time together on the water. Don't forget our final social get together this calendar year at the BAJA Tavern and Eats during the Port Canaveral Christmas Boat Parade on December 6th. �

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Please Mark Your Calendars!

Please call Kelly Haugh at 321-449-0827 for more information.

- » 12/13/2014 Cocoa Beach Boat Parade: 6pm. Captain's Meeting to be held on December 3rd at the Cocoa Beach Country Club at 7pm. Contact Walter & Lyn Blaser at 783-1207 or wlblaser@yahoo.com.
- » 12/19/2014 CFFW Holiday Social and Port Canaveral Boat Parade: Parade at 7pm at Baja Tavern and Eats. Please call Kelly at 321-449-0827 to confirm. There are 30 seats available for dinner so reserve early! Captain's Meeting at 5pm on December 18th at Larry's Shack. Call 321-508-3547 for more info on the parade.
- » 12/19/2014 Titusville Boat Parade: At 7pm depart from the Titusville Municipal Marina and travel south on the Indian River to Kennedy Point Yacht Club and Marina (just beyond the Highway 50/US 1 intersection) then return to the starting point. To participate in the parade, contact Michelle DeVoss by Friday, December 12th at 321-607-6787 or michelle.devoss@earthlink.net.
- » 12/20/2014 Merritt Island Boat Parade: 6pm. Captains's meeting to be held at 6pm on December 15th, on Kiwanis Island in the Karen Rood Community Building (next to the boat ramp). Contact Kim Johnson at 453-5149 or kim.d.johnson@ulalaunch.com
- » 1/5/2015 Board Of Directors Meeting: 6:30pm Karen Rood Bldg (near the boat ramp) at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island. Open to the public.

Newsletter Delivery Mode

E-Newsletters Now Available

CFFW is offering all members the option to receive all future newsletters by email instead of a hard copy by mail. The Board of Directors have reviewed the expense logs for the past few years to determine where we could save money and this is the biggest expense we have.

If you wish to save your club money on printing and postage, please reply to info@cffw.org and we will add you to the email list for your newsletters! You will receive an email stating your E-Newsletter is ready for viewing. If at any time you wish to receive the hardcopy again, just send us a note at the same email and you will again receive the hardcopy.

You can view the same exact version online at CFFW.org and click on "newsletters" tab and the issue you would like to view. \$\ddots\$

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Citizens For Florida's Waterways Boat Safe Reimbursement Program

CFFW promotes the need for responsible use of Florida waterways. Our primary objective is to encourage coexistence among recreational and commercial boaters, the marine industry, property owners, and the environment. CFFW advocates education in the safe and considerate use of watercraft with respect for our marine environment and conservation.

If you would like to receive reimbursement for the class fees charged by the Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron, you can attend a CFFW meeting, present your certificate of completion, and receive your reimbursement.

CFFW funds are limited, and we do have a finite amount of money in our scholarship fund, so it is on a first come, first served basis, and as noted above this is for the Basic Safe Boating class only.

You can visit our website at <u>www.cffw.org</u> or <u>www.savefamilyboating.com</u> for the location of our events and meetings.

You may also contact Kelly Haugh at 321-449-0827 for more information.

Enjoy safe boating! <

Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron Safe Boating Courses

The Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron Education Officer has graciously invited all of our members to participate in their boating education classes and pay only the member fee!

To enroll, refer to the web site www.cbsps.org where they post the upcoming classes. Mention that you are a CFFW member and the Education Officer will reply via email and then ask you to confirm you are a CFFW member the first night of classes. You can confirm this with your most current copy of the newsletter, which has your name, address and renewal date on the back page.

This is a great opportunity for education in safe boating if you have not had the chance to participate in any safe boating classes!

Stay safe and see you on the water! *





When Does Your Membership Expire? (See Back Cover)

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Today at the Forum

10/29/14 - The annual fall meeting of Manatee Forum has been held at the Florida Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) in St Petersburg for the last several years. It is not surprising that the agenda for this meeting had a focus on the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) issues that we had presented and discussed at the Tallahassee meeting this May and at several earlier meetings.

We presented an assessment of the Carrying Capacity of the IRL in May. This assessment was based on data provided by FWC on the capacity of the IRL to produce submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV - seagrass) and the SAV consumption habits of the manatee. What our assessment established were bounds on the number of manatee the IRL SAV could support. Clearly, the most extreme upper limit of the IRL is less than 5,000 and at this limit, the pressure on the SAV will be greater than can be sustained. In other words, we lose the SAV that is required by the IRL to sustain a healthy ecosystem for all life. Our results established a limit at which the IRL can remain healthy is clearly less than the 5,000 and more likely around 2,000.

The results we presented last May are consistent with a recent study conducted by USFWS, which was focused on carrying capacity of natural warm water sources (these do not include power plant outflows). This study recognized and addressed the fact that SAV near some of the warm water sites, and clearly those in the IRL, was more limiting to the number of

manatees accommodated than the warm water volume itself. The USFWS study produced an SAV limited carrying capacity consistent with our assessment of around 2,000.

Two recent sets of data combined with longer-term assessments elevate the concerns that we may be facing near-term localized manatee over-population in the IRL. These data and trends are:

- 1) The loss of nearly 50% of the IRL SAV in the last 5 years according to the efforts of the St Johns River Water Management District (SJRMD). Fortunately, we have seen 5% of this loss recover in the last year, a reverse of the downward trend of previous years.
- 2) The February 18, 2014 count of 1966 manatees in Brevard County conducted by FWRI. All available statistical data and analysis estimate the population is increasing at 5% per year, which equates to doubling every 10-15 years. More interestingly, the same agency conducted the official Synoptic Survey (statewide manatee count) on January 14 and only counted 630 manatees in Brevard. This 630 (not 1966) is the number included in the synoptic total count of 4824 that is widely published.
- SO It's not surprising that the first three presenters at today's Forum were:
 - 1) The principal author of the USFWS ... (Continued on Page 6)

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Two New Board of Director Members

CFFW would like to welcome 2 new Board Of Directors members, Bob Bridges, and Dave Zimmerman. You may recognize Bob's name, he served for several years as a Board Member, and has returned to his post for more abuse!

We are pleased to have some "New Blood" on the Board, and look forward to the coming year and working with both of them. Introduce yourself to them next time you attend a CFFW function! Stay safe and have fun out on the water! •



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Today at the Forum

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warm water carrying capacity report,

- 2) The representatives of SJRWD responsible for the IRL SAV assessment and,
- 3) The principal individual responsible for conducting FWRI manatee counts.

It was clear that the presentations were intended to show that our analysis was incorrect. What the presenters actually established is that our approach to estimating population limits in the IRL is valid, even though it may not take into account every single variable. Further, our results are the correct order of magnitude – that is – the IRL limit is a few thousand and clearly less than 5,000. Much work remains to be done on this subject. I promise to continue to push the agencies to alter their focus from endangerment to the real issue of optimum sustainable population.



Further, to look for approaches that can legally be employed to actually manage the manatee population so it never reaches the limiting factor of available SAV.

USFWS presented what would change in manatee protection (almost nothing) if the agency actually implements the long over-due reclassification of the manatee to threatened. They have until this time next year to announce their findings on reclassification. They also presented their concerns and intent to more clearly define and limit human interaction with manatees in the Crystal River area while considering the potential impact on the local area economy of too much restriction.

Much to our disapproval, the FWC presented their plan to implement manatee protection (boating regulations - what else) for areas for western Pinellas County. Specifically the inland waters inside the barrier islands from Tarpon Springs to the mouth of Tampa Bay, including the communities of Clearwater, St. Pete Beach and several others. These new zones are proposed in a 75 square mile area where an average of 47 manatees have been counted and an average of less than 4 manatee deaths per year are attributed to boating. We pointed out that the agency continues to fund pointless efforts like this one that at best would impact four fatalities per year that has absolutely no affect on the manatee population - yet, to date, has applied little or no effort to further understand the impact or determine management ... (Continued on Page 8)

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EPA Punts on Renewable Fuel Standard

WASHINGTON, DC, November 21, 2014 - Ensuring a safe fuel supply for America's 12 million registered boat owners may have to wait, said Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that the agency will further delay the final rule on how much ethanol refiners must blend into the nation's gasoline supply under the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). After almost a year of review, the 2014 Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs), which dictate ethanol levels, are now not set to be released until 2015.

BoatUS testified before the EPA on the proposed rule in November of 2013, which for the first time would have lowered the amount of mandated ethanol in gasoline and aligned the law with current gasoline usage. BoatUS supported this move that would have held gasoline/ethanol blends to a safe level for boats and small engines. Currently there is not a single marine engine warrantied to run on any fuel containing over 10% ethanol and this fuel is not authorized for use in recreational vessels. However, the national boat owners group has concerns over misfueling and poor pump labeling. Many boat owners trailer their vessels and refuel at roadside gas stations, filling up both the tow vehicle and boat at the same time.

"There is solid scientific data that supports levels of ethanol in gasoline over 10% damage marine engines," said BoatUS Government Affairs Program Manager Nicole Palya Wood. "The

EPA's failure to efficiently administer this program, utilize its waiver authority and set standards that provide protections for consumers sends a clear message that congress must act now to reform the RFS. We were hoping the EPA would utilize their waiver authority to ease the pressure on the nation's fuel supply with regard to ethanol. Now, with their failure to act, it's even more critical we work for a Congressional legislative fix which would bring the investment in safer, more compatible renewable fuels, which was what the RFS originally intended," added Wood.

The refiners and obligated parties under the RFS will be held to comply with 2013 mandates until the EPA issues the final rule in 2015. Today's announcement comes on the eve of the 90-day comment period expiration for the final rule.

A Federal Register Notice by the EPA can be found at http://goo.gl/MwgSbx *

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Today at the Forum

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approaches for a continuously increasing population that will only reach its limit by destroying the habitat for all.

The motivation for the proposed county-wide zones was stated to be an effort by the FWC to get USFWS to approve some marina permits in the extreme southern portion of the county that have been in limbo for a few years due to manatee protection concerns. This was actually stated in writing in correspondence from FWC to Pinellas County announcing the intent to regulate. When asked directly, USFWS did not provide a firm commitment to approve the permits even after the proposed zones are implemented. First of all, this kind of inter-agency blackmail is extremely distasteful and second, for the state to implement these restrictions for the reason stated, without any guarantee that the stated purpose will be accomplished is just plain nuts.

We thought you should know. ❖

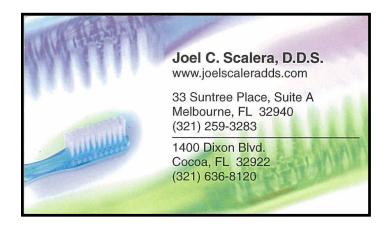
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conducting Anchoring Survey

FWC is seeking input from all boaters with respect to the future of potential anchoring regulations. They have conducted three public meetings and subsequently produced this survey. The survey was developed using the comments received during the public meetings on this subject. It was further refined to minimize apparent areas of confusion discovered during the analysis. Feel free to forward this announcement. It will assist FWC in ensuring widespread participation from persons interested in this subject.

The survey will be tabulating results starting at 4pm November 21 and will close on December 7 at 11:59pm EST.

The site of the survey is: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AnchoringSurvey .





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Brevard County Dredging Report

In the central and northern regions of the Indian River Lagoon, record setting algal blooms have caused the loss of over 40,000 acres of seagrass, and the deaths of 223 manatees, 74 bottlenose dolphins, and over 300 pelicans. One major contributing factor is the extensive organic muck deposits created by decades of runoff, erosion and nutrient loading. These accumulated muck sediments contain significant "legacy" nutrients, which regularly flux into the water column, and recycle nutrients within the Indian River Lagoon system. Muck sediments also negatively impact navigation, damage seagrass beds, and can consume dissolved oxygen to create anoxic bottom conditions detrimental to lagoon organisms.

Brevard County has embarked on an aggressive restoration strategy for the lagoon to reduce excess nutrient inputs, remove the legacy load of muck, restore the filtration system (oysters, clams and wetlands) and ensure that sound research is the basis of the effort. As part of this restoration strategy, the removal of the legacy load (muck) is critical to overall success.

In 2014, the State legislature allocated \$10M to this project to accomplish both the science side of this question and also kick start the removal of the legacy load of muck in the lagoon. While there have been several tributary muck removal projects, to include the Eau Galle River project currently in permitting, little work has been done in the main stem of the lagoon or at the interface of the lagoon and the tributaries.

The primary purpose of this project focuses on "Removing the Muck" and providing sound "Research" by employing science alongside muck removal in the lagoon. Intuitively most ecologists and scientist are in agreement that removing the muck is a beneficial restoration effort, along with reducing the upland sources. However, there is very little science to document the actual ecological benefit of muck removal.

The Brevard County Muck Dredging project will remove up to 350,000 cubic yards of muck soils from sites within the Indian River Lagoon, the Banana River Lagoon and associated tributaries. This dredging project will remove up to 672 tons of total nitrogen (TN) and 144 tons of total phosphorous (TP) which are contained within the muck deposits.

Brevard County has identified Sykes Creek as the first of several Brevard County muck dredging projects funded under legislative appropriation authorized by the 2014 legislature. Sykes Creek was identified as nutrient impaired and ... (Continued on Page 10)

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"Catch A Memory" Radio Show

The radio show will again be an hour long on WMEL 1300-AM, Saturday mornings at 7:35AM − 9:30AM. The program will be covering the fishing action on Florida's East Coast. Anglers can tune in to hear Captain Jim Ross and his cohosts provide the latest fishing and new product information. ❖

"Chevy Florida Insider Fishing Report" Television Show

Captain Jim Ross has joined a host of other top professional guides across the State of Florida on a new television show called the "Chevy Florida Insider Fishing Report." The TV show is on the SunSports network on Thursday evenings from 5:00PM to 6:30PM (times vary, check your local TV guide). Reporting expert, Captain Jim Ross will bring you an up-to-date fishing report from our offshore and inshore local waters.

Captain Jim Ross also provides daily reports Sunday through Wednesday on the TV shows website: www.floridainsiderfishingreport.com

If you would like to contact Captain Jim Ross, his phone number is 321-636-3728 and his web-site is: www.finelinefishingcharters.com. ❖



CFFW members are entitled to a full Membership in BoatUS for only \$15 - that's 50% offthe regular \$30 annual dues!



BoatUS and BoatUS ANGLER Member benefits include Member Rewards at West Marine stores, discounts at marinas nationwide on fuel, repairs, and overnight slips, on-the-water Towing Services, highly-respected Marine Insurance, a subscription to BoatUS Magazine or BoatUS ANGLER.

Brevard County Dredging Report

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in 2013 FDEP issued a TMDL for nutrient impairment based on the annual average chlorophyll concentration.

The permitting process has begun, and the goal is to initiate dredging in early January 2015. Because this is mainly a residential area only daytime dredging will be done.

The island immediately north of Kiwanis will be used as a dredged material management area. The island was permitted and used for the same purpose in at least one previous dredging event.

For information on the meeting times and places you can visit the Brevard County Natural resources website at http://www.brevardcounty.us/NaturalResources/Boating/D2DredgeCommittee

Kelly Haugh is on the Brevard County District 2 Dredging Committee, and will have periodic reports posted in the newsletter and at WWW.CFFW.org. •

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CFFW Member Recognition

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Dave Zimmerman

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George Legters Troy & Lisa Lotane

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CFFW is a 501(c)4 organization. Donations and membership dues are not tax-deductable.

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Citizens For Florida's Waterways

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If you're not a member... please join.

Your membership dues provide the financial support needed to save family boating from the million-dollar enviro-businesses.

Please join online at cffw.org or by mailing the enclosed membership form.

When Does Your Membership Expire?



- » 12/13/2014 Cocoa Beach Boat Parade
- » 12/19/2014 CFFW Holiday Social and Port Canaveral Boat Parade
- » 12/19/2014 Titusville Boat Parade
- » 12/20/2014 Merritt Island Boat Parade
- » 1/5/2015 Board Of Directors Meeting
- » SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFO!



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