



Proposed Changes to FWC Rules Related to Boating Grants

Chapter 68-1.003, Florida Administrative Code
Chapter 68D-16.029, Florida Administrative Code

These proposed rule changes pertain to the Florida Administrative Code regarding grant programs administered through the Division of Law Enforcement's Boating and Waterways Section.

These rules provide grant opportunities to counties, municipalities, and other governmental entities for boating access and infrastructure, other boating related activities, derelict vessel removal, and boating safety education that is also available to non-profits.

Purpose

- Statutory changes have occurred that affect the Florida Boating Improvement Program and the Derelict Vessel Removal Grant Program, amend guidelines to conform to statute and reference in the rule
- Add the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program to the rule and reference the guidelines
- Delete references to repealed rules
- Change the Boating Safety Grant Program to include Boating Education and reference the new guidelines



Statutes have been changed to add new grant eligibilities, funding sources, and modified the Derelict Vessel Removal Grant program to allow all local governments to apply and gives all law enforcement officers the authority to designate a vessel derelict. Amended guidelines must be adopted in the rule.

The Commission is charged with administering a federally funded Boating Infrastructure Grant Program. This Program needs to be inserted into the rule and the guidelines adopted.

There are references to repealed rules that need to be removed.

The word "Education" needs to be added to the Boating Safety Grant Program reference, to clearly reflect education objectives, and grant guidelines adopted in the rule.

Copies of the draft Program Guidelines are included in the rule amendment package.

What have we done so far?

- Notified 220 eligible program participants and interested parties
- Held stakeholder meetings in December in West Palm Beach, Lakeland, and Tallahassee with 13 participants attending



Staff published a notice of proposed rulemaking and met with stakeholders in locations throughout the State.

Participants at the stakeholder meetings included local government staff, a boating interest representative, and a Boating Advisory Council member.

Participants provided positive feedback and suggested changes that were incorporated into the proposed draft language.

Staff Recommendations:

- Approval to move forward with amendments to the rules, 68-1.003 and 68D-16.029, Florida Administrative Code
- Present the rules for a final public hearing and approval at the April 2008 Commission meeting in Tallahassee



Staff requests Commission approval to move forward with amendments to Rule 68-1.003 and 68D-16.029 and present the rule for a final public hearing and approval at the April 2008 Commission Meeting in Tallahassee.