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and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission**

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(850) 921-6453 FAX

*Managing fish and wildlife
resources for their long-
term well-being and the
benefit of people.*

620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida
32399-1600
Voice: (850) 488-4676

Hearing/speech Impaired:
(800) 955-8771 (T)
(800) 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com

October 14, 2009

TO: Chairperson, Board of County Commissioners
County Manager
Chairperson, City Council
Mayor
City Manager

RE: Solicitation of Participants for Mooring Field Pilot Program

Dear Potential Participants:

The 2009 Legislature directed the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to explore options for regulating the anchoring or mooring of non-liveaboard vessels outside of legally permitted mooring fields. Because your municipality/county currently operates or has applied for permits to operate a permitted mooring field, the FWC is soliciting your partnership in this program.

If your municipality/county is interested in being considered, please send a letter of interest to the letterhead address no later than **November 13, 2009**. This letter should include a statement of your municipality/county's willingness to collect all necessary data during the study period along with its willingness to engage stakeholders in all aspects of the pilot program. If you have a legally established and permitted mooring field, please complete the enclosed questionnaire. If you are in the process of receiving permits for a mooring field, or believe you can obtain the necessary permits by March 1, 2011, please complete the enclosed questionnaire. Data collection for both existing mooring fields and those engaged in the process must begin no later than March 1, 2010.

The goals of the program are to explore regulatory options that promote public access, enhance navigation safety, protect maritime infrastructure, protect the marine environment, and deter improperly stored abandoned or derelict vessels.

As specified in the law, FWC will coordinate the review of any proposed ordinance with associations or organizations representing vessel owners or operators, the DEP, United States Coast Guard (USCG), applicable Inland Navigation Districts, and your municipality/county government. The FWC will monitor and evaluate the pilot program based on the monthly submission of data from your municipality/county government. The FWC, with the assistance of the municipality/county, will submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and legislative leadership by January 1, 2014.

FWC is directed to select a total of five sites, two (2) locations on the east coast, two (2) locations on the west coast, and one (1) location in Monroe County. A municipality/county that our Commissioners select for participation will be authorized to adopt an ordinance regulating anchoring outside of its mooring field. The five sites must be selected by July 1, 2011.

Chairperson, Board of County Commissioners
County Manager
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Mayor
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The program and associated ordinances will expire on July 1, 2014, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

We appreciate your consideration to partner with us. If interested, please submit your letter of interest no later than November 13, 2009 to: Ms. Tara Alford, Boating and Waterways Section, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399. Any questions on this program can be sent to anchoring.mooring@myfwc.com

If you require more information about this program, please contact Ms. Alford at 850-410-0656, extension 17169.

Sincerely,

Paul Ouellette / e-signature

Major Paul R. Ouellette, Section Leader
Boating and Waterways
Division of Law Enforcement

/PRO
Attachments

cc: Mr. Bud Vielhauer, FDEP