

HB 7043/SB 1338

Anchoring and Mooring Presentation
Stuart Corinthian Yacht Club
November 30th 2017

Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission



Anchoring and Mooring Pilot Program

In 2009, the Legislature required the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to establish a pilot program to explore policy options for regulating the anchoring and mooring of vessels outside the boundaries of public mooring fields (pilot program).



Anchoring and Mooring Pilot Program

- Except for those participating in the pilot program, local governments were prohibited from regulating the anchoring or mooring of vessels, other than live-aboard vessels, outside the marked boundaries of mooring fields.
- FWC was required to submit a report of its findings and recommendations on the pilot program to the Legislature by January 1, 2017.



Statutory Changes

- The bill incorporates many of the findings and recommendations from the pilot program. The bill:
- Defines “barge,” “commercial fishing vessel,” “commercial vessel,” and “effective means of propulsion for safe navigation,” and revises the definition of “live-aboard vessel.”



Statutory Changes

- Provides that a vessel is at risk of becoming derelict if the vessel does not have effective means of propulsion for safe navigation within 72 hours after the owner or operator of the vessel receives notice of such from a law enforcement officer and cannot provide proof of purchase of parts necessary for repair.
- Removes the expiration of anchoring limitation areas.



Statutory Changes

- Prohibits a vessel or floating structure from anchoring or mooring within 150 feet of a marina, boat ramp, boatyard, or other vessel launching or loading facility, within 300 feet of a superyacht repair facility, or within 100 feet outward from the marked boundary of a public mooring field, and provides exemptions.



Statutory Changes

- Prohibits a vessel or floating structure from anchoring, mooring, tying, or otherwise affixing to an unpermitted or unauthorized object that is on or affixed to the bottom of waters of the state.



Statutory Changes

- Provides enhanced penalties for operation with an expired registration (greater than 6 months) and for anchoring or mooring where prohibited.
- Allows local governments to enact and enforce regulations related to proof of proper sewage disposal and removal of a vessel affixed to a public dock that is abandoned or lost property.



Statutory Changes

- Prohibits the department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles from issuing a certificate of title for a derelict vessel, until the vessel is no longer deemed derelict.
- Provides that a law enforcement officer who has provided written notice through a citation to an owner of a derelict vessel is not required to send notice by certified mail.



Questions?

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