

2024 Legislative Session

Marine Industries Association of Florida

Week 7 Report

Two weeks left of the regularly scheduled 2024 Legislative Session and there is still uncertainty if the Legislative Session will end on time, end smoothly or if we could possibly come back for a Special Session.

This week we will be eagerly anticipating the outcome of the newly passed social media bill championed by the House Speaker. The bill was sent to the Governor for action on Friday. Since the Legislature is in Session, the Governor has seven days to act on the bill. If Session was over, he would have 15. The intrigue is what action will the Governor take on the bill and if he does not approve it, what if any action will the Legislature take to potentially override the veto and can they get two thirds to do it.

This issue is pivotal and could change the trajectory of the Session, the budget negotiations, and the next two weeks. Remember, the only thing the Legislature must do is pass a balanced budget. Our current budget runs through June 30th. A lot can happen this week and we will keep you apprised.

The big issue this week is the anchoring bill we have been keeping a close eye on. The bill is on the last Senate Rules Committee agenda with many other bills. Currently, an amendment is filed to the bill for the committee taking it back to specific waterbodies in Miami Dade.

We hope to get out a report next week, but depending on the status of the budget conference and one hour notice we might be delayed. However, we will continue to update the chapters daily on everything that goes on in Tallahassee.

For your reading pleasure, we have provided a link to the newly released Long Term Vessel Study for your convenience.

Long Term Vessel Study

Also, if you are interested in reading the Long Term Vessel Study that has been released, please refer to the link below as it is now posted on the FWC website. **This was referenced during the FWC presentation during the 2024 MIA Days in Tallahassee. We encourage you to share it with your members.**

<https://myfwc.com/boating/>

As you will see, we have provided links to each bill, bill staff analysis and bill history for your convenience. Please let us know if you would like us to add any boating related bills to the report.

Below you will find updates to a few of the bills we are working on this Legislative Session. We have also included some budget line items of interest in the House and Senate budgets for your review.



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Boating Safety

[Senate Bill 30-Boating Safety by Senator Garcia](#)

As of the writing of this report, CS/SB 30 relating to Boating Safety still does not have a linked House companion bill. This bill received three committees of reference in the Senate, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Senate Transportation, and Senate Fiscal Policy.

The bill passed the first committee of reference with a delete everything amendment unanimously December 6th. CS/SB 30 was then placed on the agenda of the second committee of reference, Senate Transportation on January 10th. The bill was temporarily passed. As we enter the eighth week of the Legislative Session, the bill is not on the Senate Transportation agenda.

This is a comprehensive bill relating to boating safety. The bill would delete the age exemption for individuals born before January 1, 1988, to have to take a boater safety course if driving a boat with 10 horsepower or more.

The bill also included language requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue an identification card or driver's license with a lifetime boater safety symbol if there is proof the individual received a boater safety identification card.

The bill also requires insurance for an individual convicted of BUI. The bill has other provisions for mandatory boating insurance and limits.

The bill includes language adding boating under the influence and human trafficking to the boater safety course.

This is a comprehensive boating bill. We will keep you posted on the progression of this bill and any potential amendments to other boating vehicles. **The bill is still temporarily postponed in the Senate Transportation Committee. We will continue to watch for this language as we move through the final weeks. The Senate Transportation Committee does not have any other meetings scheduled at this time.**

This language is available for amendment as it has been heard in the first committee of reference. Any part of the bill could be filed as an amendment. We will keep you posted if we see anything linked to the bill filed.

Lost and Abandoned Property

[House Bill 487-Lost and Abandoned Property by Representative Chaney](#)

[Senate Bill 682-Lost and Abandoned Property by Senator Martin](#)

House Bill 487 has been moving through the process quickly. The bill only had two committees of refer-

ence. The bill was referred to the House Criminal Justice Committee and to the House Judiciary Committee. The bill has passed both committees unanimously. The bill passed the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee 15-0. The bill passed the second committee of reference as a committee substitute 19-0. CS/HB 487 passed on the House floor 115-0 and was sent to the Florida Senate. The Senate has referred the bill to the Senate Rules Committee. The bill was withdrawn from the Senate Rules Committee and taken up on the Senate floor. The House Bill was substituted for Senate Bill 682 and passed 36-0. The bill was ordered enrolled. The next step for this bill will be signed by the presiding officers and sent to the Governor for his action.

The bill deals with derelict vessels and has been supported by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The goal of the legislation is to eliminate the number of trips law enforcement must make to meet statutory requirement to remove a derelict vessel.

The Senate Bill is comparable. The Senate Bill has received three committees of reference, Senate Environment and Natural Resources, Senate Criminal Justice, and Senate Rules. The bill was on the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee agenda January 10th. The bill passed 7-0. The bill passed the Senate Criminal Justice Committee with a vote of 8-0. The Senate Rules Committee met on February 8th and heard Senate Bill 682. The bill passed 20-0. The Senate Bill is scheduled on the Senate Special Order Calendar February 21st. **The Senate Bill was laid on the table and the House Bill was taken up and passed unanimously. The bill is now enrolled and expected to be approved by the Governor.**

Anchoring

[House Bill 437-Anchoring Limitation Areas by Representative Porras](#)

[Senate Bill 192-Anchoring Vessels in Anchoring Limitation Areas by Senator Garcia](#)

Every year it seems Marine Industries deals with proposed bills limiting or banning anchoring on sovereign submerged state lands. Unfortunately, this year is not any different.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 437 has two committees of reference. The bill was referred to the House Agriculture, Conservation and Resiliency Subcommittee and the House Infrastructure Strategies Committee. The bill was heard in the first committee of reference on December 12th and passed with an amendment. The bill is now a committee substitute that will limit anchoring in sections in Biscayne Bay in Miami -Dade County. The bill states that a vessel may not anchor within 200 yards from the shore of the City of Miami Beach between State Road A1A and State Road 112. The law remains the same with the timeframe for the limitation area between one half hour after sunset and one half hour before sunrise. This bill is scheduled to be heard in the second committee of reference on January 16th at 1:00 pm.

The bill passed the committee with an amendment that added “nautical” mile and requires a tracking device “permanently affixed to the vessel”. The bill passed 19-1 and is now CS/CS/HB 437. **The bill is now ready to be heard on the House floor. As of the writing of this report, the bill has not been placed on Special Order. There is plenty of time for this bill to get a hearing on the House floor.**

Senate Bill 192 has three committees of reference. The bill is referred to Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Senate Community Affairs, and the Senate Rules Committee. The bill was heard in its first committee of reference and passed favorably as a Committee Substitute 7-0. The bill had an amendment offered to mirror the House Bill. The bills are now identical. The bill passed in the Senate Community Affairs Committee on February 6th at 3:00 p.m. The bill passed 8-0. There was support and opposition to the bill on the record. The bill has one more committee stop to pass, the Senate Rules Committee. **The Senate Bill is scheduled in the Senate Rules Committee meeting on February 26th. This bill has an amendment deleting the 200 yard requirements in the bill and listing specific waterbodies in Miami-Dade. The bill still contains adding “nautical” mile and requires an affixed GPS. As of the writing of this report this is the only amendment filed. Other groups are still trying to shop language and we will need to keep a close eye on them as the bills head to the floor. Remember, bills must be identical to pass.**

As always, we are aware others are shopping their own ideas to deal with the anchoring issue. We continue to work closely with other Marine Industries groups and NMMA on this issue. We will continue to watch this closely and communicate any changes over the next two weeks.

Vessel Safety

[Senate Bill 822-Vessel Safety by Senator Rodriguez](#)

As of the writing of this report, this bill still does not have a linked House companion. The bill has three committee references, Senate Criminal Justice, Senate Appropriations Committee on Criminal Justice and Civil Justice and Senate Fiscal Policy. **As of the writing of this report, the bill is not scheduled to be heard in its first committee of reference. The Senate Criminal Justice Committee is not scheduled to meet again this Session.**

The bill amends the current statute regarding penalties relating to collisions, accidents, and casualties. The bill amends penalties for damages only, injury other than serious bodily injury, serious bodily injury, and death of an individual under the influence. The bill goes on to amend the reckless and careless operation of a vessel. The bill provides an individual convicted of BUI manslaughter receive a minimum mandatory term of four years. The bill also includes penalties for killing an unborn child due to injuries to mother.

I highly recommend reading this bill to see the proposed changes for boating violations on the water.

Safe Storage of Firearm and Ammunition within Motor Vehicles and Vessels

[Senate Bill 1250-Safe Storage of Firearm and Ammunition within Motor Vehicles and Vessels by Senator Berman](#)

[House 1087-Safe Storage of Firearm and Ammunition within Motor Vehicles and Vessels- by Representative Cassello](#)

This bill requires a gun or ammunition be locked in a trunk, glove box, utility box or a locked container. This must be done when the vessel is not under the individual's control. This applies to unloaded weapons as well.

Senate Bill 1250 was referred to three committees of reference. The bill was referred to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Rules Committee. **As of the writing of this report the bill is not on the agenda of its first committee of reference. The Senate Criminal Justice Committee is not scheduled to meet again this Session.**

House Bill 1087 is similar to Senate Bill 1250. House Bill 1087 was referred to three committees of reference House Criminal Justice, House Local Administration, Federal Affairs and Special Districts Subcommittee and House Judiciary Committee. **The bill has not been scheduled to be heard in its first committee of reference as of the writing of this report. The House Criminal Justice Subcommittee is not scheduled to have another meeting this Session.**

We will keep reporting on this bill, as we do not consider anything dead until the gavel goes down and Session is officially over.

Installation of Waterway Markers

[Senate Bill 784-Installation of Waterway Markers by Senator Gruters](#)

This bill **still** does not have a House companion. The Senate Bill is referred to three committees, Senate Environment and Natural Resources, Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government, and Senate Fiscal Policy. **As of the writing of this report, the bill has not been scheduled to be heard in its first committee of reference. The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee is not scheduled to meet again this Session.**

Again, this bill looks unlikely to pass, but we will keep our eyes open for amendments.

The bill deals specifically with the installation of waterway markers. The proposed legislation requires all waterway markers permitted July 1, 2024, or after being attached to plastic breakaway structure or floating buoys. This language applies to state and local governments. The bill also prohibits waterway markers being attached to steel beams wood pilings. The bill allows for state and local governments to replace existing waterway markers prior to this language to be replaced by January 1, 2025.

We will continue to monitor all bills relating to boating even if they appear not to be moving at this time. We will also watch closely for any language that could be added to the proviso in the budget or to a budget conforming bill. Stay tuned as the next two weeks could be very exciting!!!!

Budget

As we enter week eight, the presiding officers have yet to agree to budget allocations. We are hopeful they will announce allocations on Tuesday. Rumors are circling the budget subcommittee chairs could meet Tuesday through Thursday and then bump all unresolved issues to the full Appropriations Chairs on Friday. Fingers crossed everything gets worked out and a conference report is placed on the legislator's desks March 5th!

We will keep you posted once allocations are agreed upon and the conferences are named.

Most of the items we are tracking are identical and will hopefully be resolved quickly. However, they are tightening the belt regarding spending and any and all projects are being reviewed.

House Bill 5001

1843 SPECIAL CATEGORIES CONTRACTED SERVICES FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND
650,000 FROM RESILIENT FLORIDA TRUST FUND . 2,000,000
FROM LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FUND . . 524,443

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1843, \$650,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided to the Monroe County Mobile Vessel Pumpout Program to be administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. Administrative cost for the program shall not exceed five percent.

1851 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY CORAL REEF RESTORATION
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 9,500,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1851 are provided to implement Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery (FCR3) Initiative to enter into agreements with academic and private partnerships to establish, expand, and maintain in-state propagation and grow-out facilities; develop and implement strategies and site-specific restoration plans including curriculum for a trained workforce; and reinforce and expand restoration efforts across Florida's Coral Reef.

1855 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY CLEAN MARINA
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 500,000

1904 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOAT RAMP MAINTENANCE CATEGORY
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 1,279,730
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 67,048
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 143,750

1908 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING AND WATERWAYS ACTIVITIES
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,626,025

1914 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 625,650

1916 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 4,000,000

1919 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 3,885,881

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1919, \$3,885,881 in nonrecurring funds from the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund are provided to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for grants to local governments or to remove, store, destroy, and dispose of, or to pay private contractors to remove, store, destroy, and dispose of, derelict vessels or vessels declared a public nuisance.

1919A GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY VERO BEACH CITY MARINA SOUTH COMPLEX FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 500,000

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1919A, \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided for the Vero Beach City Marina South Complex (HF 3236).

1919B GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY BRADENTON BEACH SEAGRASS PROTECTION & BOATING ACCESS
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 625,000

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1919B, \$625,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided for the Bradenton Beach Seagrass Protection & Boating Access (HF 2604).

1920 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 1,784,919
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 1,250,000

1991 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY ARTIFICIAL FISHING REEF CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 300,000
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 300,000

SECTION 177. The unexpended balances of funds appropriated from the state's award from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (Public Law 117-2), in section 233 and section 234 of chapter 2023-239, Laws of Florida, remaining on June 30, 2024, shall revert and are appropriated for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the same purposes, except the following unexpended balances which shall revert immediately:

Derelict Vessel Removal Program..... 5,300,000

Senate Bill 2500

Marine Industries

1837 SPECIAL CATEGORIES CORAL REEF PROTECTION AND RESTORATION
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 8,000,310

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1837 are provided for coral reef restoration and protection efforts.

1855 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY CLEAN MARINA
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 500,000

1904 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOAT RAMP MAINTENANCE CATEGORY
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 1,279,730
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 67,048
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 143,750

1908 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING AND WATERWAYS ACTIVITIES
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,626,025

1914 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 625,650

1916 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE FROM FEDERAL GRANTS
TRUST FUND . . . 4,000,000

1919 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 3,885,881

1919A GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY VERO BEACH CITY MARINA SOUTH COMPLEX FROM GENERAL REVE-
NUE FUND 650,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1919A are provided for the Vero Beach City Marina South Complex
(SF 2586).

1920 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 1,784,919
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 1,250,000

1991 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY ARTIFICIAL FISHING REEF CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 10,000,000
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND ... 300,000
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 300,000

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1991, \$10,000,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the purpose of implementing a framework for the placement, monitoring, and maintenance of artificial habitat in Monroe County.

SECTION 205. The unexpended balances of funds appropriated from the state’s award from the federal Corona-virus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (Public Law 117-2), in section 233 and section 234 of chapter 2023-239, Laws of Florida, remaining on June 30, 2024, shall revert and are appropriated for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the same purposes, except for the Department of Transportation’s unexpended balances, which shall be included in the department’s Roll-Forward amendment as authorized in section 339.135(6)(c), Florida Statutes, and the follow-ing unexpended balances which shall revert immediately:

Workforce Information System..... 229,053,035
Broadband Opportunity Program..... 150,000,000
Derelict Vessel Removal Program..... 20,000,000

