



MIACC

At the Helm



MIACC News from your Board of Directors

April 2025

- ◆ Your President, Robin Rosario, Executive Director, Tiffany Schank and newest board member, Alex Garland traveled to Tallahassee this week to meet with legislators at the Capitol. The Marine Industries of Florida put together excellent round table discussions and appointments with key legislators for the 2025 Legislative Days!



- ◆ MIACC is organizing a committee to work on improving our city and county ramps, providing more access. If you would like to get involved, contact Tiffany, director@miacc.org



Talking Points

Marine Industries Association has a very diverse membership that truly represents a broad industry that is ever evolving and changing. We have members who sell small power boats and members who sell mega yachts. We represent marina owners, engineers, maritime attorneys, and all things boating related, including boat towing, upholstery and marine retailers. Most importantly, we also represent boaters and their ability to continue to have public access to our waterways to fish, swim or just enjoy a family day on the boat. Recreational boating in Florida has a \$31.3 billion impact according to the National Marine Manufacturers Economic Study. The industry supports over 109,000 direct and indirect jobs and over 7000 businesses are supported.

Florida boasts 2.4 million residential and non-resident fishing licenses of which 1.5 million are saltwater licenses (data from 2019/2020 FWC). Florida is the Fishing Capitol.

Outdoor Education

MIA is actively supporting Outdoor Education to be offered in every public school district in the state. The program is offered in several counties now and we would like to see it offered at every high school as an elective. The curriculum is currently approved by the Department of Education. The course code is #1502480. The course can be tailored to the outdoor education of the region. Bay District Schools has done an excellent job, and I have a handout of their course if you are interested. We are currently in discussions with FWC on suggested improvements to the program.

Boating Infrastructure

MIA would strongly support more money for boating infrastructure including boat ramps and mooring fields where permissible. We know budgets are tight, but we respectfully request any additional funding to upgrade existing boat ramps and encourage funding for new boat ramps and parking in areas with the heaviest demands. Mooring fields are an alternative to provide cost effective dockage for boats and sanitation facilities for water quality.

Protecting Existing Infrastructure

Marine Industries supports protecting our existing boatyards and marinas from local ordinances that could limit their operations. Boatyards and marinas are pivotal in keeping boats on our waterways.

Grant Program for Open to the Public for Marinas impacted by Storms

Marine businesses are always impacted during named storms. Unfortunately, they have few if any options for financial relief. During 2005, the Florida Legislature passed language in the budget for open to the public marinas that provide public access to our waterways and suffered uninsured damages to apply for a grant. There were terms regarding the grant, and it was administered by FWC. MIA would respectfully request this budget line item to be considered for named and unnamed storms in 2023 and 2024 for open to the public marinas damaged these last two years.

We will be happy to provide you the language or for your reference it is Line Item 1910A Fixed Capital Outlay Hurricane Relief from General Revenue...\$5 million. This passed in 2005 in Conference Report 2600.

Protect Public Access to Our State Waters

As always, we are constantly watching all restrictions and limitations to boating access including anchoring bans on sovereign submerged lands.

Interactive Active Map of State Waters for Boaters

Finally, MIA would request consideration of an interactive map for boaters to be able to access to show all the boating restricted areas, slow speed zones, no anchoring areas, critical wildlife areas, etc. We believe this would be a beneficial tool for all boaters including boaters who come to Florida to enjoy our waterways.



- ◆ Save the date for the 2026 Naples Boat Show!
- ◆ The marine industry has lost a pioneer! Philip Cotting "Cottie" Morse III, passed away peacefully at home on March 20, 2025.

Cottie and his family moved to Naples while building Boat Haven in 1957. Boat Haven was the first full-service marina on Naples Bay.

A Celebration of Life will be held, Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 2-5pm at 2200 Heritage Trail, Naples, FL 34112.

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Welcome Aboard New Members:

Share the benefits of membership
With your colleagues!

Sign Up a New Member
And earn a free meeting ON US!

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Member News & Events



- ◆ Gulf Coast Marine is now offering mobile dockside boat washing, and detailing



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Upcoming Events



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ECO250 - Get \$2.50 OFF each Dolphin, Eco & Island Shelling Tour Ticket

FISH5 - Get \$5 OFF each Deep Sea Fishing Trip ticket

BAY5 - Get \$5 OFF each Backwater Calm Bay Fishing Trip ticket

RENT10 - Get \$10 OFF any Deck Boat Rental

*Discounts are per couple. Cannot be combined with any other coupon, discount or promotional campaign. Cannot use promotional gift certificates toward purchase.

Visit our website at www.PureFL.com or call 239.263.4949 to book your next experience!

Upcoming Events

Bark on the Ark Dog Cruise - Second Saturday of each month, Cruise with your favorite pup to Keewaydin Island. Each pup receives their own shelling pup bag filled with healthy treats, waste bags, tennis ball and water. Departure is at 8 am and returning at 11 am. Tickets are \$64 per pup plus one human. Taxes & Fees not included in the price.

Mothers Cruise FREE - Plan ahead to bring Mom out for a FREE Sightseeing Cruise aboard M/V Double Sunshine. The 90-minute Sightseeing Cruise is a perfect option for FUN on Mother's day. Saturday, May 11 Sightseeing Cruise departures are at 12pm, 2pm and 4pm. Call 239.263.4949 to book the FREE ticket for Mom. Additional Adult is \$48; Child (3-12 yo) \$24. Taxes & Fees not included in the prices.

Veterans Cruise FREE - Saturday, May 24 through Monday, May 26, Veterans can get a FREE Sightseeing Cruise ticket aboard M/V Double Sunshine. We are so grateful for your service and would be honored to welcome Veterans and Active Duty Service Members to relax and have some fun on the water. Cruise times that weekend are 12pm, 2pm & 4pm. Call 239.263.4949 to book the FREE ticket. Additional Adult is \$48; Child (3-12 yo) \$24. Taxes & Fees not included in the prices.

****Specialty & Discounted Cruises do not allow other coupons nor promotional gift certificates.

Member News



- ◆ Pelican Isle Yacht Club's 2025 Annual Fleet Review hosted by the International Order of the Blue Gavel

Over 130 Members, family, and friends of the Pelican Isle Yacht Club (PIYC) recently gathered for the Club's Annual Fleet Review and Blessing of the Fleet Ceremony. This cherished tradition honors maritime heritage as the Club's fleet is reviewed by the Commodore, Flag Officers, and distinguished Guests from neighboring Yacht Clubs. This year, Commodore Jack Kane and his wife Kimberly Kane, along with Vice Commodore Kevin McCabe and his wife Mary Lou McCabe and Rear Commodore Jeff Carr and his wife Marie Carr, led the review from PIYC's scenic Portside Patio overlooking Wiggins Pass. They were joined by honored Guests, including Commodore David McBride and Carolyn McBride of the Isles Yacht Club, FCYC Director Scott Hopkins and Nancy Hopkins of the Marco Island Yacht Club, and Commodore Carol Joseph and Tom Joseph of the Naples Sailing & Yacht Club. The 2025 Fleet Review featured 16 PIYC Member vessels, along with appearances from the North Naples Fire Department, showcasing the strong bond between the Club and local maritime services. Following the review, attendees assembled on the Pool Deck for the Blessing of the Fleet, a time-honored maritime tradition seeking safety and prosperity for all vessels. The celebration continued with a poolside luncheon, fostering camaraderie among Members and Guests. This was the first Fleet Review following the complete reconstruction of the PIYC Marina. This brand-new facility includes in-water floating slips as well as lifts accommodating vessels up to 55 feet.

Nestled in an exclusive location just minutes from the Gulf of America via Wiggins Pass, Pelican Isle Yacht Club offers an unparalleled boating and social experience. With a brand-new marina and a vibrant Membership community, PIYC is the Yacht Club of Choice in Southwest Florida! For more information on Membership and Marina opportunities, visit www.piyc.net.



- ◆ Freedom Waters Foundation Hosts Annual Murdo Smith Adaptive Sailing Regatta

Freedom Waters Foundation, in partnership with Collier Parks and Recreation, held its Annual Murdo Smith Adaptive Sailing Regatta on March 5th. Over 60 sailors of various abilities and volunteers attended this fun-filled day which included a day of sailing for children and adults with disabilities at Sugden Regional Park. The day also included an awards ceremony and evening BBQ dinner.

Freedom Waters Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer, David Bakelman, stated, "To see the impact not only on our sailors but the entire family reinforces the life-long impact of our programs."

To become involved as a volunteer or boat owner with Freedom Waters Foundation, with its mission being - To Enhance the well-being of children and adults with disabilities and veterans through therapeutic boating experiences. Please visit www.freedomwatersfoundation.org

- ◆ Scuttlebutt Gulf Coast magazine May/June Hurricane Preparedness issue

As we approach the start of Hurricane Season in the next few months, Scuttlebutt Gulf Coast will be focusing their May/June issue editorial on preparing boats and waterfront properties for the storm season.

Scuttlebutt Gulf Coast (Part of the Kyle Media Inc, Scuttlebutt brand) is dedicated to life around boating in the waters of SW Florida (Tampa south to Marco Island). As a "free" magazine model it's available at marinas, yacht clubs, boat shows, marine retailers and boat dealer locations.

As an MIACC member, if you have a storm topic you'd like to see covered or have a storm product/service you'd like to advertise please reach out, tom@scuttlebutt.com, space reservation deadline is 4/3 and materials are due 4/10.



Member News & Listings



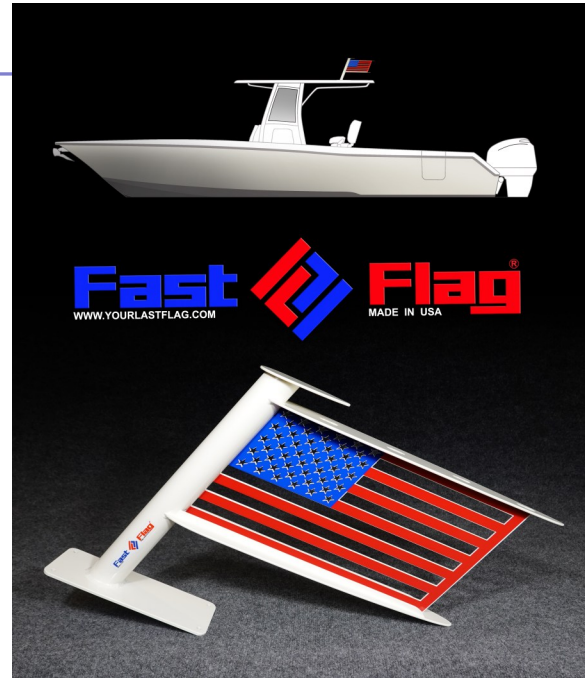
◆ How Boat Repair Businesses Can Build Their Brand During Slower Months

Slower seasons might seem like a time to hit pause, but for boat repair businesses, they're a hidden opportunity to build a powerful brand. This blog explores how using the off-season to strengthen your online presence, nurture customer relationships, and provide added value can keep your business top of mind year-round. It also highlights how strategic networking and preparation during down-time can position your shop for a strong comeback when peak season hits. If you're ready to turn quiet months into a launchpad for long-term success, this is a must-read.

◆ Tired of replacing your American Flag?

Fast-Flag LLC has the answer. A solid rigid American flag made entirely out of marine grade aluminum. No more ripping, tearing, or fading because their patented flags are strong and stand tall 24/7. You can even install your anchor light on top. Offering numerous sizes, styles, with features and options to fit your boat, their flags are sleek and attractive - a compliment to any vessel.

Their website says it all: yourlastflag.com and they mean it. Best of all, all Fast-Flags are proudly made in America - something the



owners of Fast-Flag take very seriously. Visit their new show room in Naples (to schedule an appointment or more information, contact Fast-Flag LLC at info@fast-flag.com)

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43' Open Fisherman	40' Catamaran
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36' Open Fisherman	36' Catamaran
33' Open Fisherman	33' Catamaran

2016 Princess Flybridge 64 Motor Yacht	1990 Buddy Davis 61 Convertible
2002 Sea Ray 510 Sundancer	2011 Hunt Yachts 52
2021 Gulf Crosser 52	1999 Post 50 Convertible
2020 Beneteau Swift Trawler 47	2014 Sea Ray 470 Sundancer
2023 Freeman 471	2015 Regal 46 Sports Coupe

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Member News

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Tiffany Sawyer-Schank
Executive Director



MIPAC 2nd Quarter Contributions

Marine Industries Promoting Access for Citizens

In 2002 the Marine Industries Association of Collier County formed a Political Action Committee named Marine Industries Promoting Access for Citizens (MIPAC). This action was taken so that we can support issues and legislative candidates who assist the goals and purposes of the marine industries community.

On a quarterly basis, the MIPAC seeks donations of \$50.00 from each member. The MIPAC's mis-

sions and goals are to act upon problematic issues that must be addressed at the legislative level for the growth and protection of the marine industry. Monies collected from the MIPAC donations are used in supporting political decision makers that will tackle the very issues that affect all members of our industry. As a good steward of our member's donations, MIPAC adheres to uniform contribution criteria when determining how much and

to which candidate assistance is allocated.

MIPAC will educate you about the political landscape and issues facing our organization and will strategize political impact. In addition, the committee is always open to suggestions, questions and comments.

Please send your quarterly donations to MIPAC, PO Box 9887, Naples, Florida 34101

Upcoming Events

Membership Meeting: Naples Princess
Christmas Boat Parade 2025
Naples Boat Show 2026

July TBD
December 13
January 22-25

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Our Mission: Marine Industries Association of Collier County (MIACC) is a not-for-profit membership-based organization focused on the responsible growth of the marine industry for the benefit of its members, recreational boaters, the community, and the environment.

Our Goal: MIACC represents recreational boating and member interests at the Local, State, and Federal levels; Issues of interest include Water Access, Recreational Boating, Commercial Boating, Free Trade, Advocating for Property Rights, and Legislative or Regulatory initiatives that impact these interests.

Our Members: Members include Dealers & Manufacturers, Boating & Professional Services, Charters, Marine Contractors, Boat Lifts, Shipyards & Storage, and Equipment & Accessories.



2nd Quarter Contribution requests will be sent soon! Please make checks payable to MIPAC

