

2026 Legislative Session

Marine Industries Association of Florida Week 5

We have officially passed the halfway point of the 2026 Legislative Session!

For those that are marking days off their calendars, March 13th is supposed to be the last day of the sixty-day legislative session. We are keeping our fingers crossed the House of Representatives and Florida Senate can agree to a balanced budget before the deadline.

The good news is the House and Senate rolled out their initial budgets. This is great news as we can hopefully begin the process of positioning for the budget conference process to iron out differences between the two proposals.

We have included some highlights for you regarding beach and boating funding from both budget proposals. The Florida Senate also released a conforming bill relating to Fuel Taxes. The bill adds a percentage of fuel tax instead of a set amount for marine and other fuel taxes. We have requested input from FWC on this conforming bill and hope to hear back from them early this week on the differences in numbers. We will keep you posted on any information we receive.

Finally, some boating bills were heard in committees this week and it appears a boating bill has traction regarding code enforcement and a Keys issue and now maybe boating restricted areas. Also, a proposed committee bill was offered to a public waters bill that now only deals with moorings.

We still have four weeks left and this is when issues start moving fast and we will be sending amendments and bills for your review and commentary.

Below are some of the bills we have highlighted for you and some budget highlights as well.

Please let us know if you would like us to add any other boating issues to the report.

Thank you again for allowing us to be your voice in Tallahassee!

Boater Safety

[Senate Bill 900 by Senator Ileana Garcia](#)

[House Bill 1447 by Representative Rob Long](#)

Boating safety continues to be a hot topic in Florida. Last year, the legislature passed major changes to boating safety laws.

This year there is a bill in the Senate and House adding to what was passed last session. These bills are very lengthy and need a concise and thorough review by the industry and law enforcement.

We have reached out to FWC and asked for their commentary on this bill.



Senate Bill 900 by Senator Garcia was **temporarily passed** in its first committee of reference in Senate Criminal Justice Committee on January 20th. The bill had one amendment filed by the sponsor and a late filed amendment by Senator Martin. **The bill was not scheduled in Senate Criminal Justice during the second, third, fourth or fifth weeks of Session. The Senate Criminal Justice Committee is not scheduled to meet again as of the writing of this report.**

Senate Bill 900 has three committees of reference. Senate Criminal Justice Committee, Senate Appropriations on Transportation and Economic Development and Senate Fiscal Policy.

House Bill 1447 was referred to four committees. The bill was referred to house Criminal Justice Subcommittee, House Governmental Operations, House Budget Committee and House Judiciary Committee. **As of the writing of this report, the agenda has not been released for the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee. The meeting is on February 18th, and the agenda notice deadline is February 16th at 5 pm.**

Public Waters

[Senate Bill 1042 by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez](#)

[House Bill 669 by Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman](#)

The bills include everything from mooring boundaries to protecting beaches and bathing places. The bill concerning aspect of the bill would be the language specifying local government boundaries when applying for mooring field permits.

The Senate Bill is sponsored by Senator Rodriguez and has three committees of reference. The first committee is the Senate Health Policy Committee. **The bill was not heard in the fifth week. The Senate Health Policy Committee is not scheduled to meet again as of the writing of this report.** The bill is also referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government.

House Bill 669 has four committees of reference. The bill refers to House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee, House Budget and House State Affairs.

A proposed committee substitute and amendment to the proposed committee substitute passed the House Natural Resources and Disasters on February 12th. Representative Skidmore did a fantastic job asking questions regarding the need for the bill. The Town of Palm Beach did waive in support of the proposed committee bill. We will continue to watch this bill as it could be amended to other bills.

The next committee hearing is the House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee. The committee has one more meeting scheduled on the 18th. The agenda has not been released as of the writing of this report.

The House Bill and Senate Bill are now comparable.

Boating Restricted Areas

[House Bill 1173 by Representative Tyler Sorois \(House Majority Leader\)](#)

This bill was filed by the House Majority Leader. The bill does not have a Senate companion currently. The bill is referred to three committees, House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and House State Affairs Committee. **A delete everything amendment was heard and passed the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee on February 12th. Again, Representative Skidmore did a good job of asking questions especially requesting clarity if FWC still needed to approve the ordinances as staff changed “shall not” to “may not” in the delete all. This is a drafting concern, and we have discussed it with staff. We hope to report more on this issue in the future.**

As anticipated, this language was also amended in Representative Andrade’s bill (HB 1103) regarding code enforcement and derelict vessels.

Please remember, last year bills without Senate companions did pass as they were sent to the Senate and referred to committee, heard and then passed on the Senate floor. We will be watching this bill closely.

We have discussed our concern with FWC regarding local interpretation could be permissive with the drafting change.

Surface Waters/Coral Reefs

[Senate Bill 1422 by Senator Ileana Garcia](#)

[House Bill 1319 by Representative Lindsay Cross](#)

This bill filed by Senator Garcia and Representative Cross are **no longer** identical. Senate Bill 1422 has three committees of reference. The bill is referred to Senate Environment and Natural Resources, Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government and Rules. The bill passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on February 3rd with a delete everything amendment. The bill is now related to Coral Reefs. We sent the bill and staff analysis for review. If you are interested in reviewing the information immediately, please click the link above for the Senate Bill. The bill does reference Palm Beach. **The bill is not on the agenda this week in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government Rules. The next meeting is February 25th.**

House Bill 1319 by Representative Cross only has two committees of reference. The bill is referred to House Natural Resources and Disaster and House State Affairs Committee. **The agenda for the first committee of reference has not been released as of the writing of this report. The agenda is due February 16th at 5 pm. We will look for amendments if the bill is placed on the agenda.**

Nature Based Coastal Resiliency

[Senate Bill 302 by Senator Ileana Garcia](#)

[House Bill 1035 by Representative Jim Mooney Jr.](#)

House Bill 1035 is referred to two committees of reference. The bill is referred to the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee and the House State Affairs Committee. The bill passed the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee unanimously. **The bill is on the House State Affairs Committee February 17th. This will set the bill to be heard on the House floor.**

Senate Bill 302 passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee with an amendment. The bill is now a committee substitute. The bill has two more committees of reference. The next stop is the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government. The last stop for the bill is the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

Senate Bill 302 passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government this week. The bill passed with a delete all amendment 11-0. The bill is now a Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute. **The bill passed the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee and is now ready to be heard on the Senate floor.**

The bills are similar.

Local Administration of Vessel Restrictions

[Senate Bill 1682 by Senator Jay Trumbull](#)

[House Bill 1103 by Representative Alex Andrade](#)

The bills are identical. They allow local governments to pass ordinances granting code enforcement administrative authority over vessels at risk or becoming derelict, derelict vessels and long-term anchoring permits.

The Senate bill has three committees of reference. The bill passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on January 27th. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government, the second committee of reference on February 4th. The bill was amended with language reducing the number of moorings in statute for the Key West Bight City Dock. Senate Bill 1682 is now a committee substitute. **The bill is up in its last committee stop, Senate Rules on February 17th. We will be looking for amendments to this bill.**

The House Bill also has three committees of reference. The bill is referred to House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and House State Affairs Committee. **The bill passed the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee is January 28th with an amendment and is now a committee substitute. The bill passed the House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee with amendments including adding the language from the House Boating Restricted Area bill. The final stop for the bill is the House State Affairs Committee. The bill is not on the agenda February 17th.**

We have reached out to FWC and discussed these bills.

Motor Vehicle Registration

We will be watching House Bill 841 by Representative Fabricio and Senate Bill 982 by Senator Rodriguez relating to Motor Vehicle Registration. Meetings this week hinted that vessel registration potentially could be added to this proposed legislation. We will keep you posted.

The Senate Bill is not on the agenda this week in its first committee of reference.

The House Bill passed the first committee of reference without any amendments this week. House Bill 841 is on the House State Affairs Committee on February 17th.

We will keep a lookout for amendments if the bills are placed on committee agendas.

Budget Highlights

Please find below some of the budget highlights we have found in the House and Senate proposed budgets. Please remember, this is just the start of the budget process and there is a long way to go to iron out differences and ultimately come up with a balance budget both chambers will agree on.

PCB BUC 26-02

House Budget

Beaches

1883 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY BEACH PROJECTS - STATEWIDE FROM LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FUND .. 50,000,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1883 are provided to the Department of Environmental Protection for distribution to beach and inlet management projects consistent with any component of the comprehensive long-term management plan developed in accordance with section 161.161, Florida Statutes. Funds may be used in accordance with section 161.101, Florida Statutes, for projects on annual ranked lists, storm repair projects, or projects on lands managed by the state.

Boating

1865 SPECIAL CATEGORIES CORAL REEF PROTECTION AND RESTORATION FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 8,000,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1865 are provided for coral reef restoration and protection efforts.

1869 SPECIAL CATEGORIES SEAGRASS RESTORATION TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 2,000,000

1882 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY CLEAN MARINA FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND ... 200,000

1937A SPECIAL CATEGORIES GRANTS AND AIDS - SPECIAL PROJECTS
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 350,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1937A are provided for the following projects:

Boater Safety Education Program (HF 1453)..... 100,000
Boating Safety Education, Advocacy & Outreach Program Expansion (HF 2128)..... 250,000

1938 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOAT RAMP MAINTENANCE CATEGORY

FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 306,754
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 1,279,730
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 67,048
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 143,750

1942 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING AND WATERWAYS ACTIVITIES
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 1,944,318

1947 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 625,650

1948 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1,000,000

1951 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAP-
ITAL OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,291,976

The funds in Specific Appropriation 1951 are provided to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commis-
sion for grants to local governments to remove, store, destroy, and dispose of, or to pay private contrac-
tors to remove, store, destroy, and dispose of, derelict vessels or vessels declared a public nuisance.

1951A GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTI-
TIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1,865,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1951A are provided for the following projects:

Boca Raton Public Safety Dock Rehabilitation (HF 3269).... 500,000
Clermont Coast to Coast Traffic Safety Control Station (HF 1371)..... 500,000 Historic
Spring Park Public Access Pier Project Phase II Construction (HF3042)..... 490,000
Indialantic Riverside Park Fishing Pier (HF 2105)..... 225,000
Melbourne Pineapple Pier Restoration (HF 2101)..... 150,000

1952 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAP-

ITAL OUTLAY FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND ... 6,000,000
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 783,844
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 1,250,000

SPB 2500 Senate Budget Beaches

1883 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY BEACH PROJECTS - STATEWIDE
FROM LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FUND .. 64,141,067

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1883 are provided to the Department of Environmental Protection for distribution to beach and inlet management projects consistent with any component of the comprehensive long-term management plan developed in accordance with section 161.161, Florida Statutes. Funds shall be used to fund post-construction monitoring and projects 1 through 4 on the Strategic Beach Management Plan and projects 1 through 6 on the Inlet Management Plan.

Boating

1865 SPECIAL CATEGORIES CORAL REEF PROTECTION AND RESTORATION
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 8,000,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1865 are provided for coral reef restoration and protection efforts.

1869 SPECIAL CATEGORIES SEAGRASS RESTORATION TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 2,000,000

1882 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY CLEAN MARINA
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND ... 200,000

1938 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOAT RAMP MAINTENANCE CATEGORY
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 306,754
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND ... 1,279,730
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 67,048
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 143,750

1942 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING AND WATERWAYS ACTIVITIES
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,626,025

1947 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 625,650

1948 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 2,600,000

1951 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,400,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1951 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.

1952 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND ... 6,000,000
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 783,844
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 1,250,000

1952B GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY GRANTS AND AID - SPECIAL PROJECTS
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 2,600,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1952B are provided for the following special projects:

Glades County Indian Prairie Boat Ramp Improvements (SF 3345)..... 2,000,000

Indian River Lagoon Park Fishing Pier (SF 1127)..... 450,000

Melbourne Pineapple Pier Restoration (SF 1178)..... 150,000

SPB 2506

Fuel Tax Budget Conforming Bill

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/2506/BillText/pb/PDF>

Boating Capital of the World

Calling all boaters to sign up to purchase a “Boating Capital of the World” license plate. There is a requirement to presale a certain number of license plates before they go into production. We need to get the work out and let everyone know this tag is available for pre-sales and the monies benefit Captain Sandy’s Charities.

We will be highlighting this project all Session and hope you can help us hit our goal!

Please sign up for every vehicle and boat trailer and share with friends and family!

PRE-ORDER your Boating Capital of the World license plate today!

www.boatingplate.com

Thank you so very much for allowing us to be your voice in Tallahassee!

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.