



Managed Mooring Fields

MARINE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY *Position Paper on Managed Mooring Fields*

The Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County supports the establishment of reasonable state rules allowing and regulating managed mooring fields in local waters for the following reasons:

- Managed mooring fields provide affordable dockage which is not readily available in many places today.
 - Managed mooring fields help protect the environmental resources and water quality of Florida's waterways.
 - Encourages use of our waterways and supports the boating lifestyle
 - Increases public access to public waterways.
 - Development of locally established managed mooring fields may lead to the local adoption of state established **reasonable** anchoring regulations in local waters. Both aspects, coupled with new boat registration rules and regulations, will help diminish the number of derelict boats in state waters.
 - Uniform statewide mooring field and anchoring regulations will aid boating interests, reducing confusion among boaters regarding varying rules in different jurisdictions.
 - Uniform rules and enforcement will also prohibit local governments from outlawing anchoring.
- The MIAPBC believes that the following issues should be considered in the formulation of state rules establishing and regulating managed mooring fields and any associated state anchoring regulations:
- Managed mooring fields should address the needs of transient, local and live aboard boaters, with the allocation of space for each type of boater depending upon local needs and conditions.
 - Any State anchoring regulations should be tied to the establishment of adequate mooring fields within the jurisdiction.
 - All helix/boat connectors should prevent bottom scouring.
 - Managed mooring fields must be attached to an appropriate upland facility which can adequately manage removal of trash and garbage, sewage pump out, registration and other environmental, health, safety and enforcement issues. This facility could be either a government run facility or one that is privately owned.
 - Portions of managed mooring fields should be designed to accommodate transient dockage in the winter and to facilitate hurricane mooring during the summer and fall storm season. This management model will provide additional financial viability. In addition, boats in mooring fields rather than at anchor will help reduce the amount of storm-related damage to docks, boats and the environment.
 - Rules must establish and maintain a safety zone around mooring fields to prevent boats at anchor dragging into the mooring field during storm events. This will reduce damaged to moored boats from boats coming lose from anchoring during those storm events.
 - Keeping with existing state lands rules for managed mooring fields, contracts for boats at mooring fields on state lands must not exceed one year.
 - Permitting of mooring fields by agencies that regulate submerged state lands should be processed in a timely manner, recognizing that boats swinging at anchor do not shade sea grass beds. In addition, mooring fields provide mitigation in that they reduce the number of boats at repetitive anchor that might inflict damage to sea grass and benthic communities.
 - Consideration should also be given to the fact that the helix that holds the mooring to which a boat is securing in a mooring field has only 3 square feet



of installation impact; this “halo” effect disappears over time with no net impact to sea grass. A mooring field for 100 boats will result in 300 square feet of potential impact; whereas 1,000 square feet of impact is allowed for a single family dock, clearly demonstrating that developing public access through mooring fields have de minimis impacts to the environment.

- In cases where counties or cities have water bodies that do not support a mooring fields, consideration should be given to whether or not these entities should be allowed to develop reasonable anchoring ordinances.

MIAPBC support for managed mooring fields should not be construed as support for the prohibition of anchoring in state or federal waters.

The Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County is a not-for-profit organization created to promote and protect the sound growth of the marine industry in Palm Beach County for the benefit and education of its members, the community, and the environment. It provides a strong and respected voice on issues related to the \$2 billion marine industry in Palm Beach County.

For more information, contact the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County at 561-832-8444 or visit www.marinepbc.org