

Peter D. O'Bryan

From: Jason Brown
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 12:01 PM
To: DL_BCC_Board_Members
Cc: Rich Szpyrka; Dylan Reingold; Edward Barenborg; Sean Lieske; Eric Flowers
Subject: Fwd: FWC Summary - Operation "Leaky Bottom"
Attachments: image001.jpg; Operation Leaky Bottom Summary.doc

Commissioners,

Please see the information below regarding actions by FWC and local law enforcement regarding marine sanitation and derelict vessels. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please let me know.

Jason

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Barenborg, Edward" <Edward.Barenborg@myfloridahouse.gov>
Date: May 13, 2022 at 11:35:42 AM EDT
To: Jason Brown <jbrown@ircgov.com>
Subject: FW: FWC Summary - Operation "Leaky Bottom"

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Jason;

I've heard the BCC discuss this topic several times so thought you might want to share this with them if they aren't already aware of it.

Edward P. Barenborg
Legislative Aide for Representative Erin Grall
Florida House of Representatives
District 54

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From: Crawford, Jessica <Jessica.Crawford@MyFWC.com>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 11:32 AM
To: Grall, Erin <Erin.Grall@myfloridahouse.gov>

Cc: Barenborg, Edward <Edward.Barenborg@myfloridahouse.gov>

Subject: FWC Summary - Operation "Leaky Bottom"

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Representative Grall,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to provide you with some information on efforts being done in and around your district as it relates to vessels on the water. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Law Enforcement recently conducted a multi-agency target enforcement action, focusing on marine sanitation device compliance, as well as user education regarding new pump-out record keeping requirements, derelict vessels and boating safety. The attachment provides a summary of this successful effort, which is a result of great partnership amongst several agencies (FWC, United States Coast Guard Mayport/Miami Sectors, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Environmental Protection, Brevard County Sheriff's Office, Indian River County Sheriff's Office, Cocoa Police Department, Cocoa Beach Police Department, Melbourne Police Department, Sebastian Police Department, and Indian River Shores Police Department). Altogether, this was an incredible outcome, not only for the success of this operation but for the developed relationships between all of the participating agencies.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

We thank you for all you do and your support of FWC.

Jessica

Jessica Crawford

Legislative Affairs Director

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Law Enforcement
Operation "Leaky Bottom"

As part of a holistic response to the ongoing manatee unusual mortality event (UME), the FWC is working with partner agencies to direct additional enforcement resources to issues directly related to water quality in Brevard and Indian River County waterbodies. Double digit growth in these counties, coupled with growing vessel sales, has amplified pressure on area waterways and the observed number of boating-associated environmental violations has increased. As the primary statewide boating enforcement agency in Florida, the FWC prioritizes boating enforcement and safety.

Recently, the FWC Division of Law Enforcement conducted a multi-agency targeted enforcement action (TEA), focusing on marine sanitation device (MSD) compliance, user education regarding new pump-out record keeping requirements, derelict vessels and boating safety.

A marine sanitation device is designed to receive, retain, treat, or discharge sewage onboard a vessel. Any vessel with installed toilet facilities must have an operable MSD on board. Marine sanitation devices also have a "Y" valve designed to enable environmentally safe treatment, pump-out or discharge of effluent after treatment. The "Y" valve must be always secured to direct waste to the MSD within Florida waters (three miles or the edge of the Gulf Stream, whichever is greater, off the Atlantic coast or nine miles off the Gulf of Mexico coast). "Y" valve settings were a particular point of interest for law enforcement officers during this detail, since if left in the open setting, raw sewage could be discharged directly into the water.

More than 20 law enforcement officers from ten agencies spanning federal, state, county and city authorities participated in the operation April-May 2022. Officers conducted foot patrols checking vessels at marinas and water patrols focused on moored or anchored vessels on state waters. Officers performed 241 vessel inspections, 359 user checks, resulting in warnings (94) and citations (56), many for MSD violations (29). Officers also identified three additional derelict vessels in the region, which are currently being processed.

Nine vessel owners were cited for actively dumping waste into the water, with 20 more vessels found with an unsecured "Y" valve. All liveaboard vessels were educated about the new law requiring a one-year pump out log capturing the date and location of MSD pump outs. Later in May, vessels cited or warned during the operation will be contacted by participating officers for follow up checks to ensure compliance.