

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Board of County Commissioners

THROUGH: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator

THROUGH: Eric Charest, Interim Natural Resources Director

FROM: Melissa Meisenburg, Lagoon Plan Environmental Specialist

SUBJECT: Completion of September 2023 Derelict Vessel Removal

DATE: October 2, 2023

This is an update to inform the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), Indian River County's (IRC) residents and visitors of the completion of the September 2023 derelict vessel removal project in the Indian River Lagoon.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

Derelict vessels are defined by the state in section 823.11, F. S. as vessels left, stored or abandoned in a wrecked, junked or substantially dismantled condition upon the waters of the state, at a port without the consent of the agency or upon private property without the consent of the owner. Vessels under the derelict designation are sinking, degraded and inoperable, creating navigational hazards and pose threats to the environment. Officers from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission investigate abandoned vessels to determine derelict status in accordance with Florida Statutes, 705.101 (3) and 823.11. The derelict vessel designation from FWC allows the County to remove and dispose of abandoned vessels, improving boater safety, removing hazards to navigation and to the environment.

Indian River County Coastal Division staff routinely meet with FWC law enforcement to monitor vessels within the County undergoing derelict status investigation. In April 2023, the County received authorization to remove three (3) derelict vessels. Outlaw Maritime, LLC (Outlaw Maritime) provided a cost proposal to the County of \$31,295.00 to remove the derelict vessels in accordance with FWC Best Management Practices.

County Coastal Division staff applied for a Derelict Vessel removal grant from FWC in May 2023 and were awarded \$31,295.00 in a Bulk Derelict Vessel Reimbursement Grant (Agreement 22299) to cover the costs associated with the removal and disposal of the three (3) derelict vessels from the Indian River Lagoon. The grant agreement was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on July 11, 2023.

Outlaw Maritime began derelict vessel removal on September 5, 2023. The removal process was completed on September 29, 2023. The contractor disposed of the vessels at an authorized landfill per Agreement 22299, providing the County with documentation of removal and

disposal. County staff are now completing the grant reimbursement request to seek reimbursement for the three (3) of the derelict vessels identified in the FWC Agreement 22299.

FUNDING

The County is currently seeking reimbursement in the amount of \$31,295.00 from FWC Grant Agreement 22299.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no BCC action needed under the Derelict Vessel Project update.

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR OCTOBER 17, 2023