

## NEWS ABOUT THE MARINE INDUSTRY IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA AND TAMPA BAY

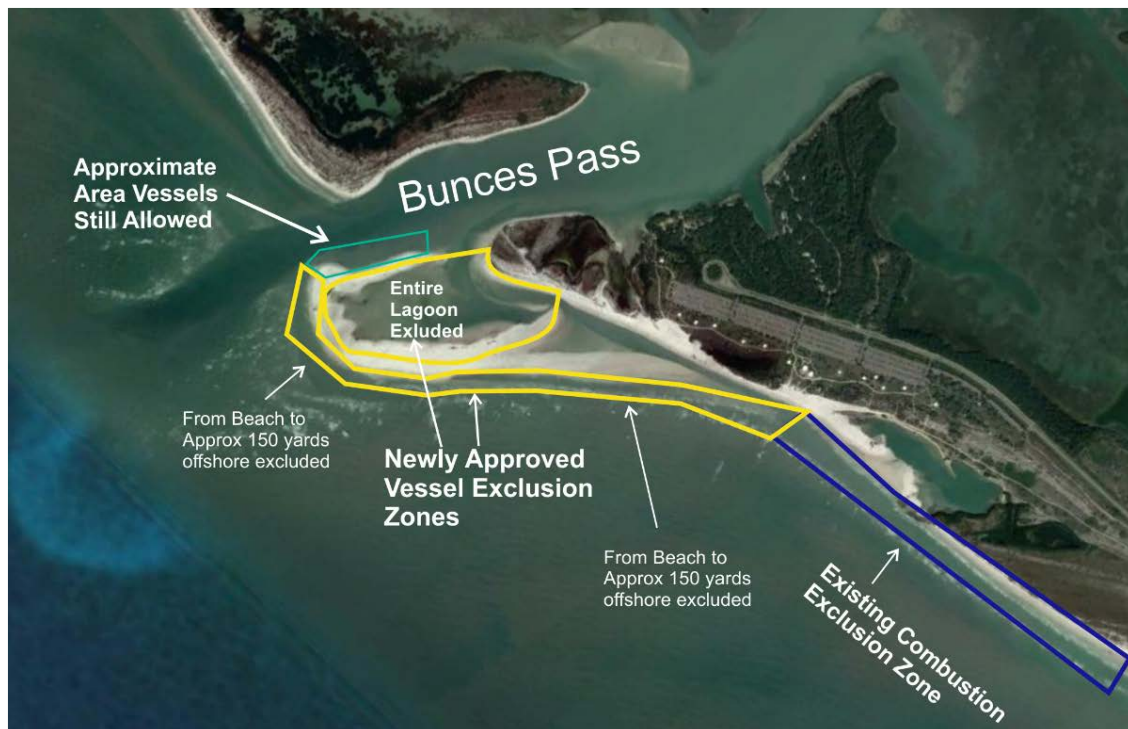
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# HELP STOP PINELLAS COUNTY 'S VESSEL EXCLUSION ZONE AT BUNCES PASS

## YOUR INPUT NEEDED

The Pinellas Board of County Commissioners last Tuesday passed an ordinance that creates a Vessel Exclusion Zone at Bunces Pass. TBMIA Chairman Kevin Carlan from Mastry Engine Center and TBMIA's Misty Bottorf are meeting with Commission Chair Pat Gerard tomorrow (Wednesday) at 2pm and are asking for input from members.



This has come as a surprise to everyone. While the commission may have acted within their legal rights, there was little real public notice until it was too late to react. They are citing a safety issue with swimmers and boaters interacting in a confined area, although there does not appear to be any real data to back this up. It seems very poorly thought through and we are hoping that there will be a "Motion to Reconsider" at the Virtual Commission Meeting this Thursday at 9:30. We urge you to contact County

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E-mail [misty@swfmia.com](mailto:misty@swfmia.com)

Tell her how important this area is to you and your customers.



**WE'RE MORE THAN  
HALFWAY TO OUR GOAL  
OF \$35,000.00!!**

The Community Cooperative is a Lee County based food cooperative that is working tirelessly to deal with the long lines we have all seen at food distribution centers throughout our community. SWFMIA'S Board, led by Bill Golden of Golden Boat Lifts is sending out a challenge to the marine industry. We cannot forget our neighbors who are in greater need and we hope our industry will help.

This will provide food kits for a family of four plus! 350 kits per day for ten days, 3,500 total kits feeding 14,000 hungry people!!! Golden Boat Lifts and SWFMIA/TBMIA have each pledged \$3,500.00 and with contributions from other members we are 50% of the way towards that goal.

***Let's show our community that the marine industry cares***

## TO DONATE

[www.CommunityCooperative.com](http://www.CommunityCooperative.com)

PLEASE ENTER "SWFMIA" on the "first name" line in the Tribute section at the bottom of the donation section or on the memo line if sending a check



**BIZARE ACCIDENT  
DESTROYS  
FISHN' FRANKS**

Our friends at Fishin' Franks Bait & Tackle suffered an unimaginable loss over the weekend as fire totally destroyed their 35 year old business. At 2am on Sunday morning a truck travelling at high speed lost control, crossed into a ditch, launched into the air and

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See the link below. <https://www.winknews.com/2020/05/24/business-fire-shuts-down-us-41-in-port-charlotte/>

The level of support pouring out from the community is amazing, a testament to how much Frank has given to all of us over the years. Here's a link to a Facebook Group that has been formed. [https://www.facebook.com/groups/285711652824131/?hc\\_location=group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/285711652824131/?hc_location=group)

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## **SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE JUNE 1st**

The deadline to apply for a SWFMIA scholarships is fast approaching, June 1st. Available to graduating seniors of Association members and their employees. Scholarship awards are \$1,000.00 each. Students may apply each academic year for a maximum of four academic years following their high school graduation. Each subsequent year is subject to Board approval.

### SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduating High School Seniors or students enrolled in a college or post-secondary trade or vocational school (Must be within four years following high school graduation)
- Child or spouse of SWFMIA/TBMIA member business employee
- 3.0 or higher GPA on 4.0 Scale
- Must display and provide confirmation of strong work ethic, school attendance, civic and extracurricular activities, and leadership skills

### To Apply:

- Apply On-Line <https://swfmia.com/scholarship-opportunities/>
- Application must be filled out in Full
- 500 word Essay detailing educational and future occupational goals
- Letter of Recommendation from teacher, administrator or employer
- E-mail essay and letter to [info@swfmia.com](mailto:info@swfmia.com) (include your name and contact info)

Direct any questions to [info@swfmia.com](mailto:info@swfmia.com)



Be sure to mark your calendars for this year's show. We are finalizing floor plans and contracts, the Caloosa Sound Conventions Center and Luminary Hotel are on schedule and we expect a great show.

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**CHARLOTTE COUNTY BOAT SHOW**

-- *January 14-17, 2021*

**BONITA SPRINGS BOAT SHOW -**

- *March 4-7, 2021*

[reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1587652685209&key=GRP&app=resvlink](https://reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1587652685209&key=GRP&app=resvlink)



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