

2025 Legislative Session

Marine Industries Association of Florida Week 5 Report

The Marine Industries Association of Florida had a busy week full of presentations, networking and advocacy in Tallahassee.

The 2025 Legislative Session has had numerous legislative boating proposals moving through the process...some good...some not so good. MIA representatives from around the state came to Tallahassee this week to network, advocate and hear numerous presentations and updates on FWC, outdoor education, National Marine Manufacturers Association, ASA update on red snapper, workforce, campaigns and the changing dynamics and much more from Deeper Dive host Dara Kam.

We packed a lot of information in just two days and met with numerous members regarding concerns on certain bills, bills we support and even some suggested changes to bills moving through the process.

A big thank you to everyone who took time out of their schedule to come all the way to Tallahassee to participate and make your voice heard. We hope you found the trip beneficial and informative.

The meeting was very inclusive with many marine groups, and we have received some great feedback to make improvements for next year if everyone is willing to travel back for the 2026 Legislative Session. The Legislative Session next year will start in January.

With a successful few days at the Capitol, we must continue to build on our momentum over the next four weeks. There are several boating bills that are moving on both sides, and we must stay vigilant.

We will keep you updated as the bills move through the process. We will do our best to keep our messaging to you simple and precise as there are so many bills and varying nuances.

Again, thank you for all you do to protect and preserve the marine industry in Florida. Together as a united voice we can make positive impacts for the marine industry!

As always, please let us know if you would like us to add any bill or budget item to the weekly report.

Boating Safety Bills -- “Lucy’s Law”

Senate Bill 628 Boater Safety by Senator Martin
<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/628>

House Bill 289 Boating Safety by Representative Oliver and Lopez
<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=80882>

Senate Bill 58 Boater Safety by Garcia



Boating Safety is a big issue this year. There are three bills currently filed regarding Boating Safety. Senate Bill 628 by Senator Jonathan Martin and House Bill 289 by Representative Vanessa Oliver and Vicki Lopez were filed identically. Senator Illeana Garcia filed a more comprehensive bill that included the provisions of the bills filed by Rep Oliver and Senator Martin. The bills to watch are House Bill 289 and Senate Bill 628.

The bills are a result of a tragic accident that happened in Miami. The bills increase penalties for boating violations and boating under the influence. Includes provisions for boating safety and changes the definition of a livery. We anticipate there to be more changes to these bills as they move. They are still not identical.

Senate Bill 628 is referred to three committees, Senate Criminal Justice, Senate Transportation and Senate Fiscal Policy. The bill was originally filed striking the boater education date of January 1, 1988. An amendment was filed striking that language in the bill and the bill passed the Senate Criminal Justice Committee as a Committee Substitute. The bill passed the Senate Transportation on March 12th at 8:30 am with an amendment. The bill passed unanimously and is now a Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute. The amendment requires individuals who commit a specific boating violation to complete a boater safety course. This would be a mandatory requirement. Marine Industries support this change as it would go after bad actors on Florida waters. The next stop is the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee. **The Senate Bill is up in its final committee stop Senate Fiscal Policy on April 8th at 2 pm. We anticipate one amendment to the bill.**

House Bill 289 is also moving this Legislative Session. The bill received three committee references and has already been heard in its first committee and passed with a proposed committee bill that also altered the boater safety education language. We anticipate this to change again.

House Bill 289 is referred to House Criminal Justice Subcommittee where the Proposed Committee Substitute passed unanimously. The bill was referred to the Senate Budget Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee last week but was changed and referred this week to House State Affairs and House Judiciary Committee. CS/HB 289 was heard this week in House State Affairs. The bill was amended with similar language as the Senate bill but still contains a five-year residency requirement. The bill is also forty-five pages, and the Senate Bill is seven. The bill was taken up in the House Judiciary Committee on March 20th and amended again and is now CS/CS/CS HB 289. The bill is now eighty-one pages. The differences between these bills need to be cleared up before final passage as they must be identical. CS/CS/CS/SB 289 passed off the House floor this week 112-0. **The bill was in Messages to the Senate and has now been referred to the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.**

Also, Senate Bill 58 by Senator Garcia was temporarily passed in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

We will keep you posted as these bills continue to move through the process. The bills must be identical to pass, and the bills are still very different. There is still a lot of time for these bills to work out language and pass this Session.

Anchoring (Port Version)

Senate Bill 594 Anchoring or Mooring at Seaports by Senator Rodriguez

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/594>

House Bill 795 No Anchoring or Mooring by LaMarca

<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=81434&SessionId=105>

The proposed bills would allow seaports to apply to FWC to prohibit anchoring or mooring for up to 5,000 feet. This could have serious impacts in areas such as Palm Beach, Bay County and Fort Pierce.

The Senate Bill was heard in the first committee of reference and passed with amendments. Questions were asked about impacts to Peanut Island and Palm Beach. More questions arose about the port in Jacksonville. The bill did pass as a Committee Substitute. After the meeting the Senate sponsor met with us to discuss our concerns.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 594 is currently scheduled to be heard in the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee with an amendment to change “up to 5000 feet” to “up to 1500 feet”. This amendment is an improvement but continues to be a great concern. Again, this impacts more areas in the state than just Palm Beach. The bill and amendment are scheduled to be heard Monday, March 17th at 4 p.m. A substitute amendment was filed to the bill to replace the “up to 1500 feet” to “up to 2500 feet”. The substitute amendment passed. MIA went on the record to oppose the bill as amended. We spoke to the recreational boaters that could be impacted including Peanut Island and Shell Island in the panhandle of Florida. The Port of Palm Beach and the Town of Palm Beach stood in support of the bill. The Port Council only put in a card for information. MIA will continue to oppose this bill.

The bill has language up to 2500 feet, which appears to be more in line with what the Palm Beach Port is supporting. The bill was not on the Fiscal Policy agenda this week on April 8th. There is still plenty of time for the bill to get a hearing at its final stop. The next Senate Fiscal Policy Committee meeting is April 17th.

The House Bill also received three committees of reference. The House bill is referred to House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Commerce Committee and House State Affairs Committee. MIA had good meetings with the sponsor and expressed concerns regarding the bill. The House Bill passed its first committee of reference, House Natural Resources and Disaster Subcommittee on March 25th. The bill was amended with an insurance provision and allows up to 1500 feet. MIA waived in opposition to the bill. Questions were raised whether the Coast Guard already has this authority. The bill passed as amended and has two more committee stops. **CS/HB 795 has two more committee stops House Commerce Committee and House State Affairs Committee. CS/HB 795 was not on the House Commerce Committee agenda on April 7th. The next Committee meeting is April 15th.**

We anticipate other groups coming out and opposing this bill as written. Of note, the House and Senate have different distances currently. We expect the Port to try and get closer to 2500 feet.

We will continue to oppose this bill as we believe the Coast Guard already has the authority to enforce the provisions of the proposed bills.

The Bay County Commission passed a resolution this week opposing this legislation.

Again, we will keep you posted, but these bills impact Palm Beach, Bay County., Ft. Pierce and all areas with a seaport.

Vessel Accountability

Senate Bill 164 Vessel Accountability by Senator Rodriguez

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/164>

House Bill 1149 Vessel Accountability by Representative Basabe

<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=81827&SessionId=105>

This bill is aimed at improving long-term storage issues in the state. FWC has made several presentations on this issue in committees in the House and Senate.

The bill creates a free permit for vessel owners and operators. The bill also adds a few violations and penalties. Included in the proposal is the expansion of the Derelict Vessel Prevention and Voluntary Turn-In Program.

We are looking at this bill closely as we believe it is a priority this Session. We are happy to report we have met with both sponsors and had a great dialogue about this proposal.

The Senate Bill received three committees of reference. The bill is referred to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government, and Senate Fiscal Policy. The bill passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee with two amendments and is now a Committee Substitute. Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 164 passed the second committee of reference Senate Appropriation Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government on March 18th unanimously. The bill passed the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee 18-0 on March 27th. **The Senate bill passed on the Senate floor with one amendment 37-0 on April 3rd. MIA supports this bill in its current form. The bill is now Engrossed.**

The House Bill is referred to the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Criminal Justice Subcommittee and House State Affairs Committee. The bill passed its first committee, House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee 18-1 and MIA waived in support of the bill in committee. **The bill passed its second committee of reference on April 1st in House Criminal Justice Subcommittee with one amendment 15-0. CS/HB 1149 has one committee stop left, House State Affairs Committee. The bill was not on the State Affairs Committee this week. The next State Affairs Committee meeting is scheduled for April 16th. MIA supports this bill.**

Driving and Boating Under the Influence -- "Trenton's Law"

Senate Bill 138 Driving and Boating Under the Influence-Trenton's Law by Senator Wright

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/138>

House Bill 687 Driving and Boating Under the Influence-Trenton's Law by Representative Kendall

<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=81302&SessionId=105>

This bill is in response to a tragic accident that resulted in death. The bill adds “impaired substances” to the statute for driving and boating under the influence the bill also has increased penalties and provides for diversion programs.

The Senate bill has passed two committees of reference and was amended in both committee meetings. The bill is now a CS/CS/SB 138. The bill is now a Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute.

The bill is referred to three committees of reference, Senate Criminal Justice, Senate Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice and Senate Fiscal Policy. The bill passed the Senate Criminal Justice Committee as a committee substitute unanimously and passed the Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice with an 8-2 vote. There was discussion in the committee about using “impaired” over “intoxicated”. The bill passed the Senate Fiscal Policy with a vote of 18-1. **The bill is ready to be heard on the Senate floor. The bill is comparable to the House companion.**

House Bill 687 has three committees of reference. The bill is referred to House Criminal Justice Subcommittee, House Justice Budget Subcommittee and House Judiciary Committee. The House Bill was heard in its first committee of reference with a proposed committee substitute. The bill passed 17-0. **The next stop is the Senate Judiciary Committee which is the final committee stop before the House floor. The bill is not on the agenda for April 8th. The next meeting is April 17th.**

Anchoring

Senate Bill 866 Anchoring Limitation Areas by Senator Martin

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/866>

House Bill 481 Anchoring Limitation Areas by Representative Lopex

<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=81046&SessionId=105>

This is an anchoring bill coming out of Miami Dade. The bill has proposed language that would allow local regulation of vessels outside marked boundaries of mooring fields. Applies to counties with a population of 1.5 million or greater and areas of critical state concerns. The bill also increased the distance of the buffer from anchoring of a mooring field to 300 feet. The bill also sets limitations for overnight anchorage.

The Senate Bill has three committees of reference. The bill is referred to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources, Senate Community Affairs and Senate Rules. Senate Bill 866 passed its first committee of reference this week in Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on March 25th. The bill was not amended, but did draw opposition and feedback from committee members about the number of boating bills and concerns about utilizing laws currently on the books. The bill passed 7-1 with Senator Polsky voting against the bill. The next committee of reference is the Senate Community Affairs Committee. The bill did not make the Senate Community Affairs agenda during the fifth and final week of substantive policy committees in the Senate. The bill is available for amendment as it has been heard in its first committee of reference. We will continue to watch in case any other Senate Community Affairs Committees are noticed for extra meetings.

The House Bill has 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 Disaster Subcommittee on March 11th as a Committee Substitute. The bill was scheduled to be heard at its final committee stop, the House State Affairs Committee. The bill was temporarily passed. **The State Affairs Committee passed the bill with one amendment on April 2nd. The bill is ready to be heard on the House floor.**

We will keep you updated on the progress of this anchoring bill. This is another anchoring bill that has drawn opposition from boating groups.

Boater Freedom

Senate Bill 1388 Vessels Bill by Senator Trumbull

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1388>

House Bill 1001 Vessels by Representative Griffitts

<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=81631&SessionId=105>

The Governor announced the Boater Freedom bills at a press conference. House Bill 1001 by Representative Griff Griffitts and Senate Bill 1388 by Senator Jay Trumbull. The bills are identical as filed.

The House Bill has three references, House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Criminal Justice Subcommittee and House State Affairs Committee.

The Senate Bill has three committee references, Senate Environmental and Natural Resources, Appropriations Committee Agriculture, Environment and General Government and Fiscal Policy.

As of the writing of this report House Bill 1001 has not been placed on the agenda of its first committee of reference.

Senate Bill 1388 passed in its first committee of reference, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on March 25th with a vote of 8-0. MIA waived in support of the bill in committee. **We are waiting for the bill to be placed on its second committee of reference.**

Also, **House Bill 735 and Senate Bill 1162 relating to Water Access Facilities** are moving through the process. The bill language from these bills is included in the Boater Freedom Bills. Simply they provide for Clean Manufacturers to be under the Clean Marina Program.

House Bill 735 has passed off the House floor 112-0 and is currently in Senate Fiscal Policy Committee. Senate Bill 1162 passed this week in Fiscal Policy and is now ready for the Senate floor. This bill is positioned to pass and go to the Governor for approval.

Gulf of Mexico/Gulf of America Bills

For those who are following the Gulf of America bills they are moving through the process. House Bill

575 passed both committees and is now ready to be heard on the House floor. **House Bill passed House Special Order April 3rd with a 78-27 vote. The Bill is now in Messages.** Senate Bill 608 passed the Senate Community Affairs Committee 4-3. The bill also passed the Senate Fiscal Policy on April 2nd with a vote of 10-5. The Senate Bill is scheduled to be on the Senate Special Order April 9th. The bills should be enrolled and will be on the way to the Governor. **These bills will update the statutes to say Gulf of America.**

Also, Senate Bill 1058 passed its first committee on March 11th with a delete all amendment with a vote of 6-1. **The bill has passed the second committee of reference PreK-12 Education and passed Senate Rules Committee 22-3.** The bill is now scheduled for the Senate Special Order April 9th. This bill would update educational materials to read Gulf of America. House Bill 549 was heard in the House Education and Employment Committee on March 13th and passed with a vote of 16-2. The bill is now a committee substitute. The bill had references removed and passed its final committee stop. The House bill passed both committees of reference and is now ready for the House floor. **The House passed the House floor on April 3rd 78-29. The bill is now in Messages.**

Budget

SB 2500 Budget Items

1643 SPECIAL CATEGORIES CORAL REEF PROTECTION AND RESTORATION
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 8,000,000

1656 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY CORAL REEF RESTORATION FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND .
. . . . 9,500,000

1660 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND
NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY
CLEAN MARINA
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 500,000

1710 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOAT RAMP MAINTENANCE CATEGORY
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 1,279,730
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 67,048
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 143,750

1714 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING AND WATERWAYS ACTIVITIES
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,626,025

1718 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 625,650

1719 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 6,000,000

1725 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1,536,658
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,963,342

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1725 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.

1726 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 1,783,772
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 1,250,000

1727A GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY MELBOURNE FRONT STREET BOAT DOCK REPLACEMENT PROJECT
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1,000,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1727A are provided for the Melbourne Front Street Boat Dock Replacement Project (SF 1397).

1727B GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY MONROE COUNTY FLORIDA KEYS MARINE PROTECTION BOCA CHICA
MOORING FIELD SHORESIDE FACILITY
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1,000,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1727B are provided for the Monroe County Florida Keys Marine Protection: Boca Chica Mooring Field Shoreside Facility Project (SF 2757).

1727C GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY FRANKLIN COUNTY SAINT GEORGE ISLAND BOAT RAMP
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 690,717

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1727C are provided for the Franklin County SGI Boat Ramp (SF 2484).

1727D GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY INDIALANTIC RIVERSIDE PARK PIER AND KAYAK LAUNCH
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 350,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1727D are provided for the Indialantic Riverside Park Pier and Kayak Launch (SF 2266).

House Bill 5001 Budget Items

1643 SPECIAL CATEGORIES CORAL REEF PROTECTION AND RESTORATION
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 8,000,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1643 are provided for coral reef restoration and protection efforts.

1656 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY CORAL REEF RESTORATION
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 9,500,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1656 are provided to implement Florida’s Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery (FCR3) Initiative to enter into agreements with academic and private partnerships to establish, expand, and maintain in-state propagation and grow-out facilities; develop and implement strategies and site-specific restoration plans including curriculum for a trained workforce; and reinforce and expand restoration efforts across Florida’s Coral Reef.

1660 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY CLEAN MARINA
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 500,000

1709A SPECIAL CATEGORIES GRANTS AND AIDS - SPECIAL PROJECTS
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 50,000

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1709A, \$50,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided for the Boater Safety Education Program (HF 1169).

1710 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOAT RAMP MAINTENANCE CATEGORY
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 1,279,730
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 67,048
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 143,750

1714 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING AND WATERWAYS ACTIVITIES
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,626,025

1718 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 625,650

1718A FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1,536,658

1719 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 6,000,000

1725 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,963,342

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1725, \$2,963,342 in nonrecurring funds from the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund 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.

1726 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 1,783,772
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 1,250,000

1727A GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY ANNA MARIA HISTORIC CITY PIER RESTORATION
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1,250,000

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1727A, \$1,250,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided for the Anna Maria Historic City Pier Restoration (HF 1525).

1727B GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY SAFETY HARBOR PIER REPLACEMENT
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 570,000

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1727B, \$570,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided for the Safety Harbor Pier Replacement (HF 3017).

1727C GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY SOUTH GULF COVE PARALLEL BOAT LOCK TENDER HOUSE
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 3,050,000

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1727C, \$3,050,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided for the South Gulf Cove Parallel Boat Lock Tender House (HF 2692).

