

Derelict Vessels in the Keys: Evolving From Removal to Prevention

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting
April 18, 2017

Presented by:
Rich Jones
Monroe County
Office of Marine Resources



Derelict Vessels in the Keys

“Derelict vessel” means a vessel, as defined in s. [327.02](#), that is left, stored, or abandoned:

1. In a wrecked, junked, or substantially dismantled condition upon any public waters of this state.
2. At a port in this state without the consent of the agency having jurisdiction thereof.
3. Docked, grounded, or beached upon the property of another without the consent of the owner of the property.



Floating Structures

“Floating structure” means a floating entity, with or without accommodations built thereon, which is not primarily used as a means of transportation on water but which serves purposes or provides services typically associated with a structure or other improvement to real property. The term includes, but is not limited to, an entity used as a residence, place of business or office with public access; a hotel or motel; a restaurant or lounge; a clubhouse; a meeting facility; a storage or parking facility; or a mining platform, dredge, dragline, or similar facility or entity represented as such. Floating structures are expressly excluded from the definition of the term “vessel” provided in this section. Incidental movement upon water or resting partially or entirely on the bottom does not, in and of itself, preclude an entity from classification as a floating structure.



Physical Impacts



Photo: FWC



08/01/2013 13:04

Photo: FWC



Water Quality Impacts



Photo: FWC



Photo: FWC



Photo: FWC



Photo: FWC

Hazard to Navigation Impacts



Photo: FWC



Photo: FWC

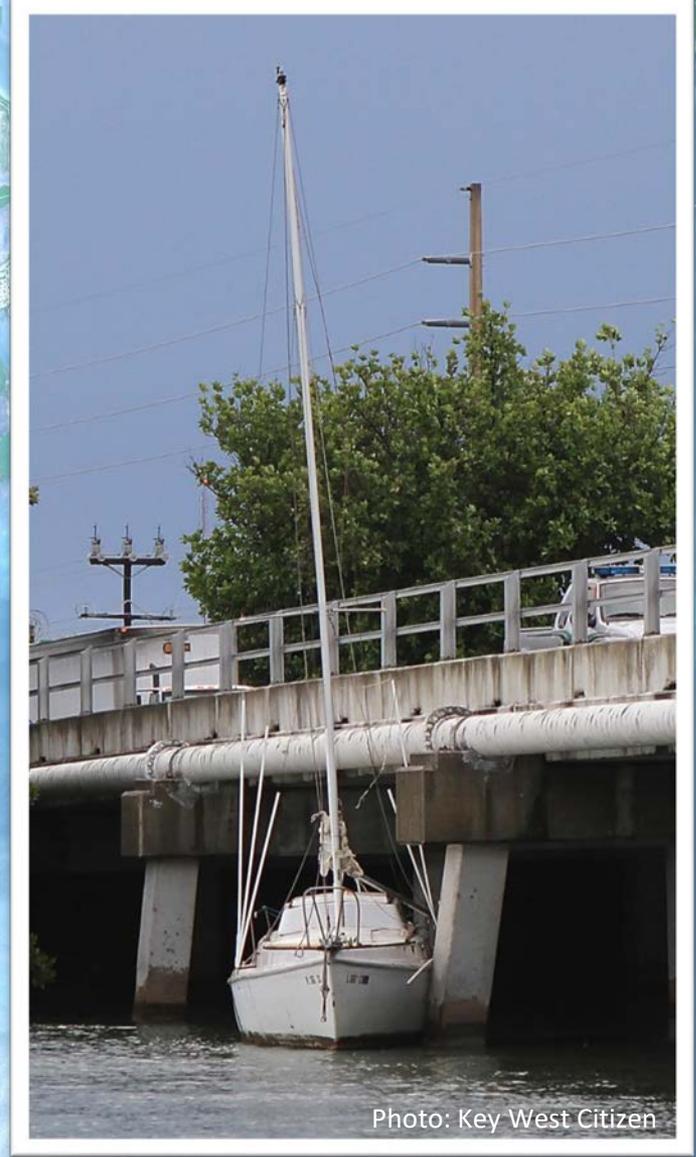
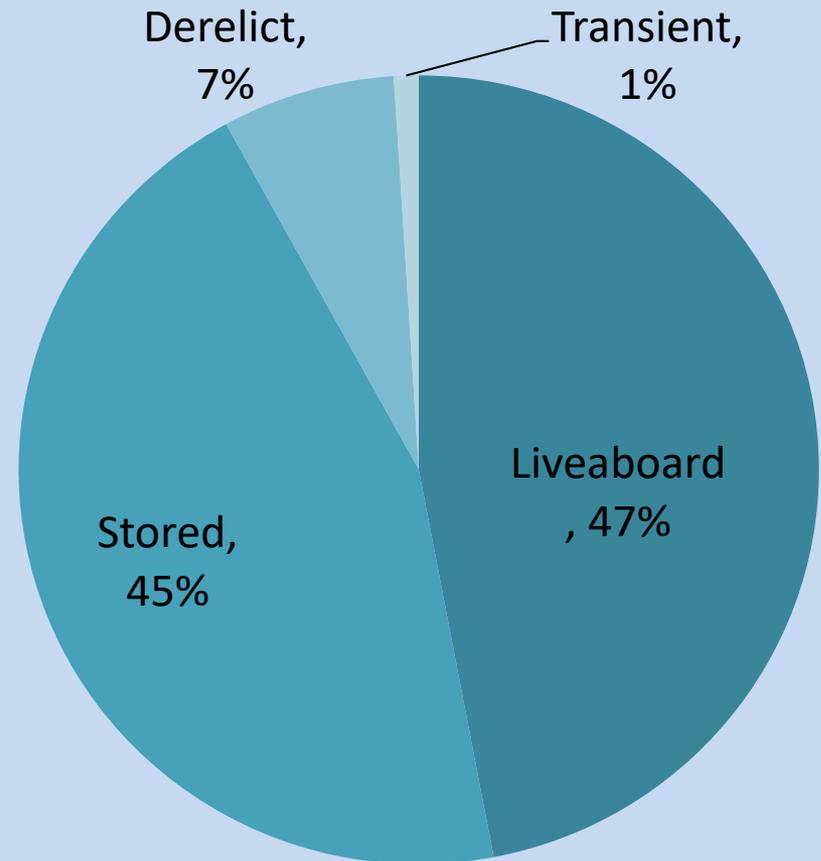


Photo: Key West Citizen

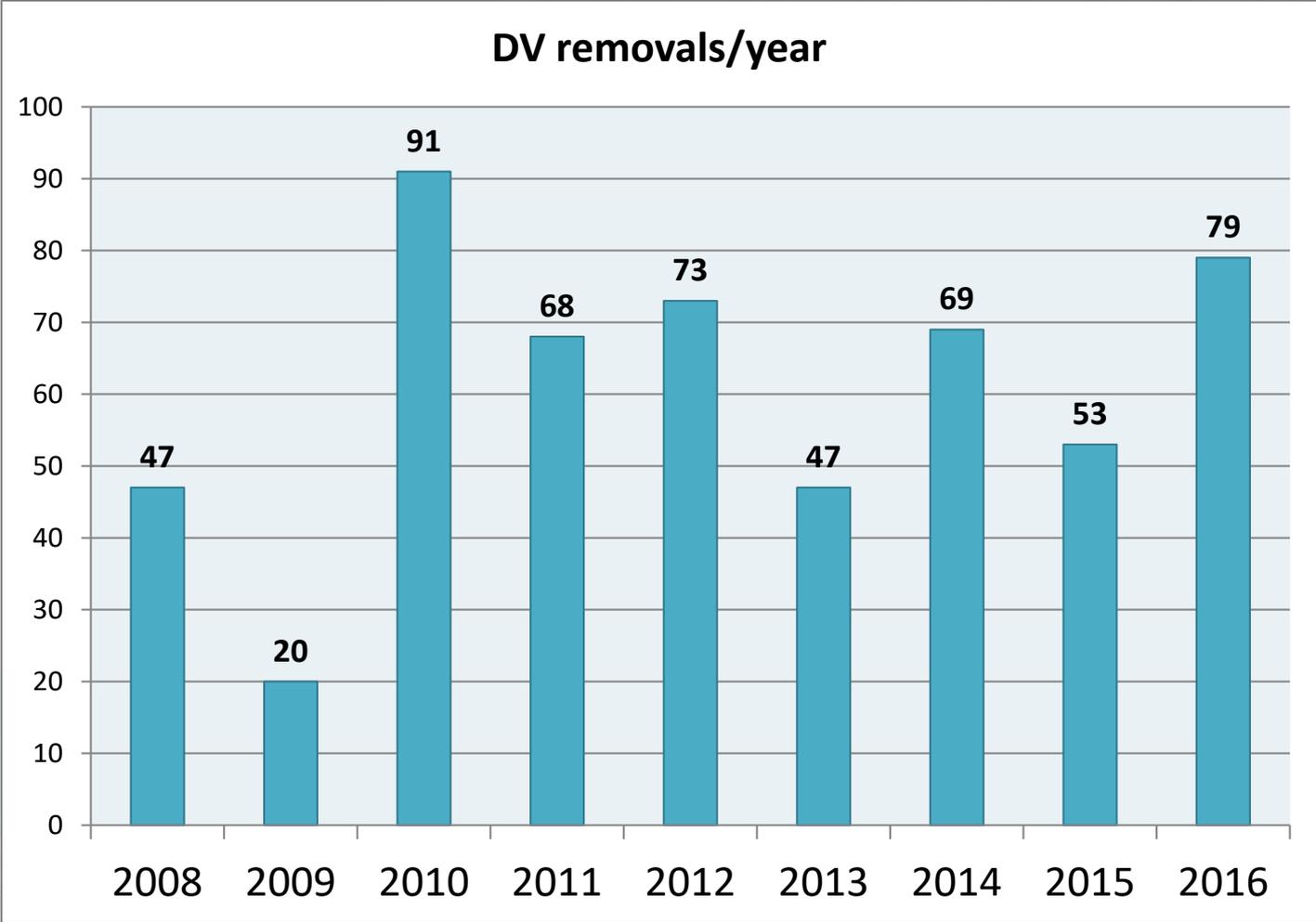
Why is it a problem in the Keys?

- **Geography**
 - Large management area
 - Abundance of shallow, sensitive marine habitats
- **Vessel demographics**
 - High # of registered vessels
 - High # of local liveaboards
 - Migrant vessels
 - Floating structures
- **Socio-economic factors**

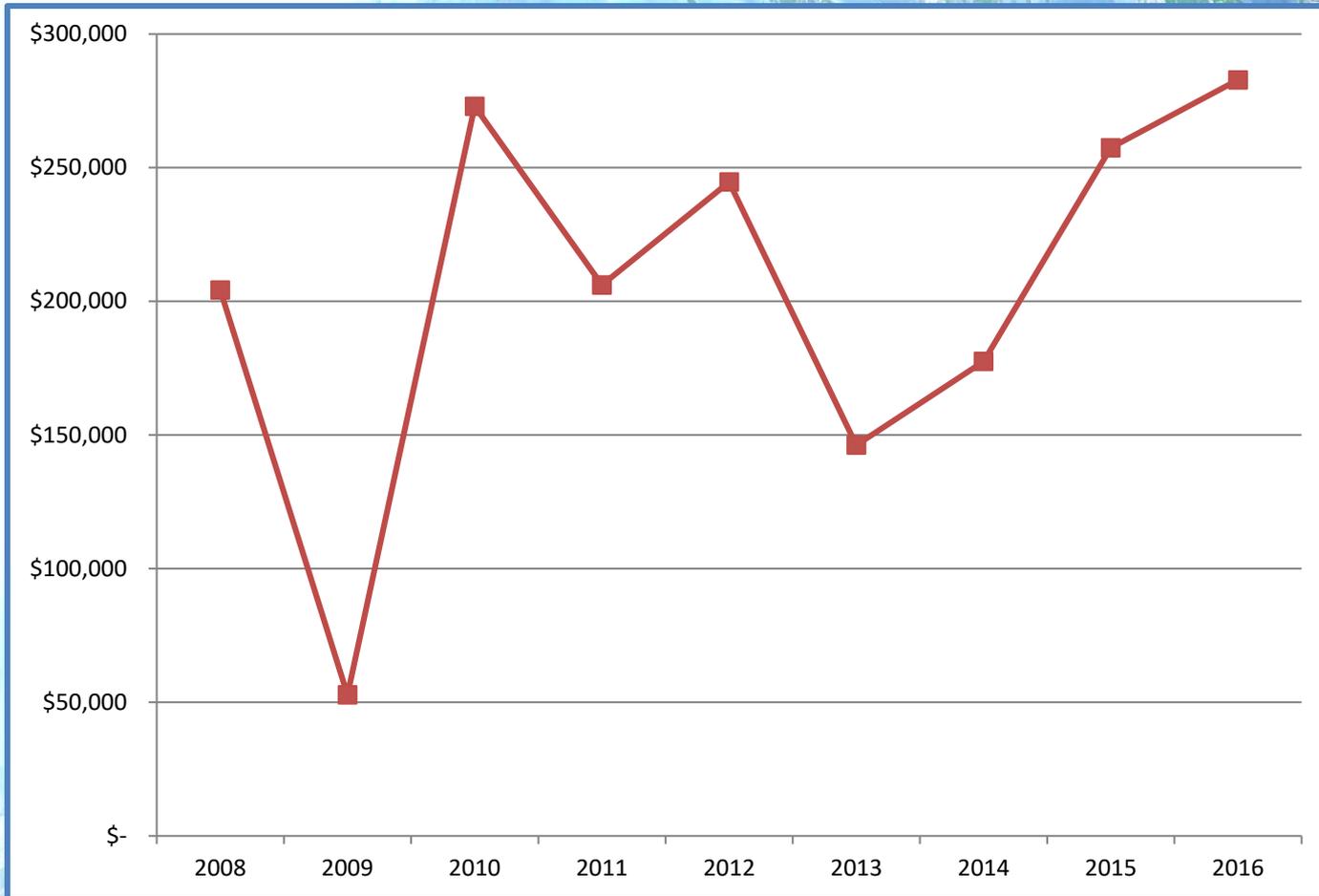


Data based on Managed Anchoring Zones
In Key West Area

DV removals in the Keys (2008-2016)



DV Removal Costs (2008-2016)



D/V Removal Funding Sources

County Boating Improvement Funds- \$180,000/yr.

Grant opportunities:

- FWC Boating Improvement Program (BIP) grants
- FY'17 FWC Derelict Vessel Grant Program- over 200k received this year by County
- Pros and cons with grants- vessels pile up, etc

Restitution payments- historically minimal, but in recent years has increased to approximately 5-8% of d/v owners. Approximately \$10,000/yr.

All Marine Contractors are Qualified

- Must have suitable staff and equipment, familiarity with Keys waters, and ability to mobilize quickly
- Must have strong references and history of similar work projects (preferably in the Keys)
- Must have all applicable insurance coverages
- County maintains ongoing contracts with pre-qualified contractors
- Competitive bidding on every d/v job

Removal Procedures

Derelict Vessel Report

Case Number: FWSB-13-OFF-10892
Registration/Documentation: FL 1233 BT
HIN: FLZA49211272
Hull Material: Fiberglass
Color: White and blue
Vessel Type: Sailboat
Length: 26'
Lat and Lon: 25 00.762 / 80 31.385
Geographical Location: Community Harbor
Approximate Water Depth: 4
Hazard to Navigation or Environment threat: No anchor light and ma
Additional Descriptors: "Cotton Cloud"
Investigating Officer: FWC Officer Janette Costoya N104
Additional direction to contractor:

This vessel has been declared derelict and may be removed and destroyed in accordance with Florida Statute 823.11 and was investigated in accordance with Florida Statute 7



REQUEST FOR QUOTES

for
DERELICT VESSEL/MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL
 Monroe County Office of Marine Resources

Date: January 17, 2014
From: Celia Hitchins, Marine Biologist
 Phone: (305) 289-2580
 E-mail: Hitchins-Celia@monroecounty-fl.gov

The Office of Marine Resources is requesting quotes in accordance with the Contract For Removal, Refloating And/Or Demolition Of Derelict Vessels.

Please provide a quote for the Derelict Vessel/s.

Description: 26' fiberglass sailboat (FWSB-13-OFF-10892)
Location: Community Harbor
Quote Deadline: January 27, 2014 at 1:00 pm. Please print company name and address (e-mail address optional)

Priority Level:	Routine Removal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Environmental Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hazard to Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>

Miscellaneous: Any associated ground tackle/unpermitted mooring shall also be removed.

Removal Timeline: All work should be completed by **February 7, 2014**.

Additional Requirements: The awarded contractor may take any or all removed materials to a certified recycling center. Engines (if applicable) at a County transfer station) may be taken to any of the three County transfer stations or may be disposed of at a certified recycling center. All documents required (invoices, photographs showing removal, disposal/recycling tickets) shall be submitted to the Marine Resources office. Any vessels or debris that require "processing" must be handled at an appropriate facility (Russell at DEP for details).

Planning & Environmental Resources Department
 2798 Overseas Highway, Suite 410
 Marathon, FL 33050
 Phone: (305) 289-2500
 FAX: (305) 289-2536

County of Monroe
 Growth Management Division



Board of County Commissioners
 Mayor Sylvia Murphy, Dist. 5
 Mayor Pro Tem Danny L. Kolhage, Dist. 1
 Heather Carruthers, Dist. 3
 David Rice, Dist. 4
 George Neugent, Dist. 2

We strive to be caring, professional, and fair.

Task Order #2014-ASAP-25

For the Removal of Derelict Vessel/s and/or Marine Debris

Date: January 27, 2014

ASAP, Inc. is hereby authorized to proceed with the removal and disposal of the 26' sailboat in Community Harbor (FWSB-13-OFF-10892).

The County agrees to pay the proposed cost of \$2,395.00 upon completion of the work and receipt of an invoice, complete disposal receipt, and photographs.

The completion of the work shall be in accordance with the following schedule:

Routine Removal- *vessel should be disposed of by February 7, 2014*
 Environmental Emergency
 Hazard to Navigation

Miscellaneous: Any associated ground tackle/unpermitted mooring shall also be removed.

Additional Instructions

The Contractor shall contact the Marine Resources Office immediately if circumstances arise in which the work cannot be completed according to the above indicated schedule, in which case other arrangements may be necessary to be made. It is understood that weather may delay removal efforts, however the Contractor's work load or logistical issues will not be considered 'good reason' for delays.

All vessel and marine debris removals shall comply with all County, State and Federal regulations.

Vessels and marine debris shall be properly disposed of at any Monroe County Solid Waste Transfer Station or by a certified disposal service. Any fuel shall be removed and properly disposed of. Any engine/s and/or fuel tank/s shall be separated from the vessel/s as necessary. Any materials (e.g. fuel tanks, engines, oversize metal pieces) that are not suitable or allowable for disposal at a Monroe County Solid Waste Transfer Station shall be properly disposed of at other landfills or recycling centers.

Richard Jones, Senior Administrator

Removal Documentation for Payment



Coffin
MARINE SERVICES Inc.

Specializing in Marine Salvage

PO. Box 430538 BIG PINE KEY, FL. 33043 (305) 872-8863 FAX (305) 872-5613

May 2, 2014

Celia Hitchins
Monroe County Marine Resources

INVOICE: Ref FWSB 11232

Coffin Marine performed the following services: Salvage and properly dispose of a derelict vessel, described as a 27-foot sunken sailboat. This vessel was abandoned on the bay side of Marathon.

COST: 2,867.00

MONROE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MGMT
1100 SIMONTON ST. ROOM #2-231
KEY WEST, FL. 33040

000000 Cash Customer
Cash Customer

SITE	TICKET	GRID	WEIGHMASTER			
03	00280648		Robert Dickens			
DATE IN	DATE OUT	TIME IN	TIME OUT	VEHICLE	ROLL OFF	
05/02/14	05/02/14	15:23	15:35			
REFERENCE			ORIGIN			
COFFIN			614647			

QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	RATE	EXTENSION	FEE	TOTAL
2.52	TON	CONSTRUCTION/DEMO DE	123.500	311.22	0.00	311.22

Cudjoe Key Transfer Station
Operating hours 8 AM to 4 PM Monday thru Saturday
CATCH THE "GREEN" WAVE !! Please call 305-292-4536 if this
ticket does not contain a green "wave". Thank you.

DV 27' sailboat

SIGNATURE _____

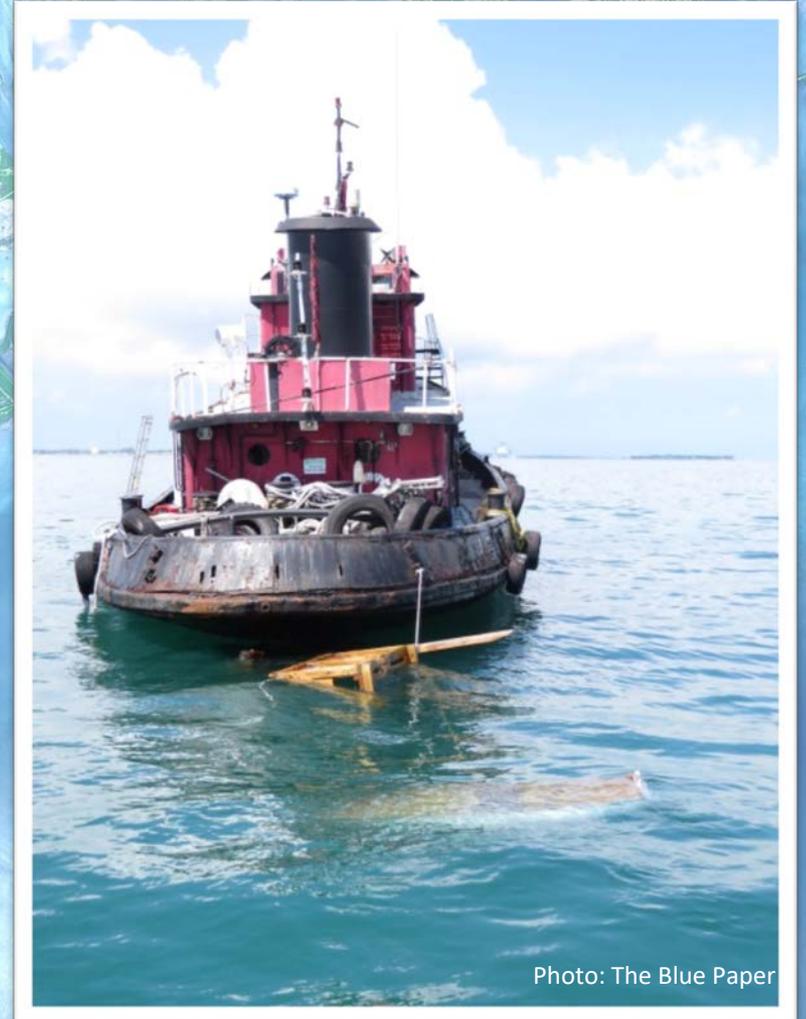
PRINTED NAME _____

NET AMOUNT
311.22
311.22
0.00
TOTAL

7110

The Biggest Challenges

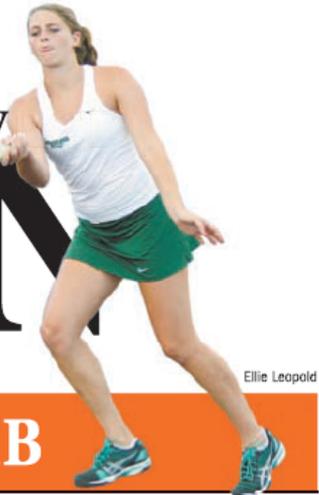
- Big Boats!!!
- Challenging locations



THE CITIZEN

The Florida Keys' Only Daily Newspaper, Est. 1876

KEY WEST



Key West hosts Coral Shores for tennis — Page 1B

Tuesday

March 4, 2014 ♦ Vol. 138 ♦ No. 63 ♦ 16 pages

50 Cents

WEATHER



Judith Mayonga, third grade,
Glynn Archer Elementary School

See forecast on Page 2A

ROAD CLOSURE CAUTION

Traffic updates

One lane of First Street will be restricted from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. today to install streetlight foundations. Traffic from First Street approaching North Roosevelt will

Tugboat salvage may cost \$500K

Sunken tug is navigational hazard near channel

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA
Citizen Staff

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary scientists on Monday conducted a preliminary review of a steel-hull tugboat that sank off Key West near the main shipping channel.

The 81-foot tugboat Tilly sank two miles off Fort Zachary Taylor State Park sometime before 6 p.m. Friday, according to reports received by the

Coast Guard.

The roughly 100-ton vessel was unable to move under its own power, and was towed to the area near the main shipping channel on Feb. 21 by workers at the Stock Island Marina Village.

Marina officials were in the process of evicting the vessel and its owner, Stephen Freer, and offered to take the Tilly to an anchorage off Fleming Key, according to marina representatives and Freer. Also,

marina officials reportedly gave Freer a small outboard engine, a marine battery and vessel light.

When the Tilly and the tow boat reached the area near the shipping channel, the tow boat began to overheat and could no longer pull the Tilly, marina representatives said.

Marina workers called a professional marine tow company, but Freer did not have a



Photo courtesy of Raymond Cabanas

See TUG, Page 8A

The tugboat Tilly sank Friday about two miles off Fort Zachary Taylor State Park while being towed to a mooring off Fleming Key.

Additional Challenges

- Impoundment may be necessary- additional costs
- Restitution is always difficult
- Strategy and prioritization



Improvements in Enforcement Staffing and Coordination

- FWC- always working on d/v's- several dedicated officers
- Sheriffs Office now has a dedicated d/v Officer, James Hager, in the Lower Keys
- Sheriffs Office Officer Willy Guerra also working Marathon area
- Monroe County performs all d/v removals



Legal Issues

- Is it a vessel by definition?
- How quickly can it be removed?
- How to deal with the constant change in ownership?



MONROE COUNTY ANCHORING & MOORING ORDINANCE



In Association with

City of Key West

City of Marathon

Florida Fish & Wildlife
Conservation Commission



So, what about Prevention?

In recent years the d/v issue has shifted focus from removal to prevention:

- At Risk Vessels, previous to 2016 was an information only program, are now prohibited by State Statute
- A 2017 anchoring bill prohibits vessels from tying off to an 'unauthorized' mooring on sovereign submerged lands
- A 'Vessel Turn-In Program' is in the works to address boater behavior that leads to abandonment of vessels, and will provide for voluntary disposals (similar programs in other states)
- Staff is drafting an ordinance prohibiting floating structures at anchor throughout the Keys
- Other draft d/v laws in current legislative bill
- Future of technology for recycling of fiberglass is critical

To report a derelict vessel call:

Monroe County:

Rich Jones 289-2805

Celia Hitchins 289-2580



Or call FWC directly:

888 404-FWCC (dispatch)



Can also go online to the FWC D/V site to see if vessel is already being investigated.

(<https://public.myfwc.com/LE/ArrestNet/DerelictVessel/VesselMap.aspx>)