

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ESCAMBIA
COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Regular Meeting - January 11, 2021 - 5:30 PM
Escambia County Central Office Complex
3363 West Park Place Pensacola, FL 32505

1. Call Marine Advisory Committee Meeting to Order

The Marine Advisory Committee Meeting was Called to Order at 5:36 pm,
by the Chairman.

2. Attendance

Committee Member	Appointee	Present	Absent Excused	Absent Unexcused	Vacant	Note
Cathy Watson	Bergosh – 1	X				
Mark Moore	Bergosh – 1			X		
Sidney Clopton	Underhill – 2	X				
Clint Retherford	Underhill – 2	X				Secretary (late)
Eilene Beard	May – 3	X				
Joe Denmon	May – 3	X				
Pete Gaddy	Bender – 4	X				Vice-Chair
(Vacant)	Bender – 4				X	
Kerry Freeland	Barry – 5	X				
Walt Woodfin	Barry – 5	X				Chair
(Vacant)	County Administrator				X	

Staff Present	Position
Robert K. Turpin	Marine Resources Division

	Manager
Mark A. Nicholas	Marine Resources Environmental Programs Manager

3. Approval of Minutes (and Minutes from Previous MAC Meetings, as applicable)
No Minutes approved at this meeting.

NOTE: Hurricane Sally and subsequent storms damaged numerous maritime properties and Marine Resources Division's (MRD) mission has been modified for disaster response. Therefore, many project have been put on "hold" until resources can be reallocated back to those projects.

4. Old Business

5. 10836 Lillian Highway Public Boat Ramp

MRD Update: Army Corps of Engineers has not responded to recent request for update on their review of Permit application. Next Step: County Commission authorization to record Conservation Easement.

6. Natural Resources Damage Assessment - Oil Spill Restoration and Recovery

MRD received verbal information from FWC regarding federal agency denial of use of LAARS East for artificial reefs funded by NRDA. This eliminates the possibility to deploy large ships via NRDA (due to vertical reef height limitations), however, Escambia Southeast Artificial Reef Site is available for reefing moderate-sized vessels. In addition, the strong positive response to the reefs in the Old Casino Reef Site indicates value in expanding the site for additional deployments.

7. Proposed Boating Regulatory Areas in Bayou Garcon and Innerarity Point

MRD Update – awaiting USACE for permit for Bayou Grande piling for “slow speed, minimum wake” sign. Once that is acquired, we will seek permission from the USCG for the signage. MRD and Escambia County Attorney staff had a conference call with FWC regarding the “Motorboat Exclusion Zone” at the Innerarity Point Park Paddle craft Launch. FWC is holding their position that without records of citations, accidents, hospital records or other data, they will not approve the requested Zone. MRD and other County staff are evaluating possible options.

8. Lionfish Issues / Developments

MRD update: FWC 2021 Lionfish Rodeo will be held in Destin on 15-16 May, 2021. MRD received report of lionfish washed ashore in Big Lagoon

around Christmas.

9. Vessels Anchored in Bayou Chico

MRD Update: MRD continues to deal with vessels that owners have neglected, abandoned and allowed to sink. MRD recently removed two sunken vessels, funded via FWC grants. Unless additional funds become available, FWC Derelict Vessel Grant funds are exhausted for the remainder the state's Fiscal Year (July 2021). MRD recently received another FWC DV allocation from an unanticipated funding opportunity. MRD will continue to diligently monitor FWC for additional funding.

10. Galvez Landing Public Boat Ramp Issues

MRD Update: Engineering consultant is working through issues with ECUA regarding utilities connection for restroom facilities.

11. Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Project

No MRD report this month.

12. Langdon Bay Artificial Reef Site Proposal

MRD Update: Recent retirement of the former Gulf Islands National Seashore Superintendent may provide an opportunity to remove the GINS objection to the federal permit application.

13. Comprehensive Water Way Management

MRD Update: (See also Agenda Item #8 above). MRD has responded to an increase in the incidents of private vessels moored at various county docks. MRD conferred with Escambia County Risk Manager and Natural Resources Management Department senior staff, and have drafted a written Notice for Immediate Removal.

14. Old Highway 399 Fishing Bridge and Park West Fishing Pier Project

MRD Update: MRD met with Escambia County Engineering/Public Works staff regarding placing a fishing pier at/near the existing fishing bridge (which may be demolished and reefed).

15. Optional Vessel Registration Fee Increase - Public Input / Discussion

MRD Update: MRD provided a detailed cost analysis with an estimated economic benefit (using the most recent available vessel registration data: 2018). Ready to receive public input.

***ADDENDUM, Motion made by Kerry Freeland that the MAC recommends the BCC to approve the Vessel Registration Fee Increase as listed in FL Statute 328.66. This was 2nd by Pete Gaddy with all in favor. 8-0 ***

16. Pensacola Bay Fishing Bridge Damage

MRD Update: MRD has not received any engineering report regarding repair or demolition/replacement.

17. New Business

None.

18. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.