

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DATE: August 5, 2008
AGENDA ITEM NO. 10d

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Public Hearing

County Administrator's Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]*

Subject:

Commercial Dock Application CC38505-07/Revised
City of Gulfport Mooring Field
5500 Shore Boulevard, Gulfport
Boca Ciega Bay
Section 33, Township 31 South, Range 16 East

Department:

Environmental Management

Staff Member Responsible:

William M. Davis

Recommended Action:

I RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOARD) APPROVE THIS APPLICATION AND EXECUTE THE ATTACHED ORDER BASED UPON NEGATIVE FINDINGS OF FACT, ITEMS ONE THROUGH NINE, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- (1) The hurricane plan for the City marina must be updated to include the mooring field and submitted to the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management prior to operation of the mooring field.
- (2) The Harbor Management Plan for the proposed mooring field as presented to the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management must be adopted in final form prior to operation of the mooring field.

Summary Explanation/Background:

The City of Gulfport proposes to construct a 100-slip municipal mooring field in the waters of Boca Ciega Bay.

The proposed structure will consist of 100 mooring buoys and nine perimeter, marker buoys within a 1,504 ft. by 1,301 ft. area. The waterfront width of the City's property in this location is approximately 2,000 ft. The proposed mooring field will be located approximately 766 ft. from the west extended property line and extends past the east extended property line by about 200 ft. The waterway width in this location is 7,560 ft. and the structure will be located from approximately 665 ft. to 2,000 ft. offshore. Depths within the mooring field range from 8.7 ft. to 10.6 ft. at Mean Low Water.

Pursuant to Section 166-249(b), the County Administrator has the option of bringing any application before the Board for final action. As this is the County's first review of an application for a mooring field, staff has determined that a public hearing is warranted.

The Department of Environmental Management has reviewed the application and finds it to be consistent with the Pinellas County Code, specifically the nine Findings of Fact which are the criteria governing the placement of mooring fields. There are no environmental or navigational concerns with the project. No seagrasses are located within the project area and the project location is already used as a mooring area in an unregulated fashion. The City has developed a Harbor Management Plan which will provide for a high level of supervision over the facility and addresses issues such as boater behavior, boat condition and appearance, sewer and other discharges, etc. Upland support will be provided at the City's municipal marina which has dinghy docks, restrooms, laundry facilities, showers, etc. There is also a dinghy dock located at the Casino pier. In addition to the nine Findings of Fact, the

facility is consistent with the County's criteria for marina siting (water depth, adequate flushing, access to navigable water, upland support, provisions for wastewater treatment, compatible upland land uses, etc.) with the exception of those criteria addressing projection from land (i.e. 25% and 300 ft. projection limitations). These two criteria can not be applied to mooring fields as they address projection from land and mooring fields are offshore facilities.

An Administrative Hearing was held on Monday, June 30, 2008. Five people spoke in support of the application and two people spoke in opposition. The objectors raised concerns with how the mooring field would be operated, whether the economic impacts are accurate, the water depths in the area, manatees, and seagrass. Water depths in the mooring field exceed 8 feet at Mean Low Water and there is no seagrass present within the limits of the mooring field. One letter in support of the project and five letters of objection to the project have been received. The objectors are also concerned with an increase in derelict vessels, pollution, mooring lines breaking, navigational hazards, economic impacts, and environmental concerns. Most of these concerns are addressed in the City's Proposed Harbor Management Plan.

Fiscal Impact/Cost/Revenue Summary:

Not applicable.

Exhibits/Attachments Attached:

- Copy of proposed order.
- Copy of application.
- Copy of the Department of Environmental Management's report.
- Copies of correspondence received.
- Copies of legal notices.

BEFORE THE PINELLAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

In Re: City of Gulfport

Application No.: CC 38505-07/Revised

PROPOSED ORDER

The Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, pursuant to Article II, Section 2.04(u) of the Home Rule Charter for Pinellas County, after receiving testimony and data at a properly noticed public hearing held on August 5, 2008, makes its findings of fact and determination as to whether or not the proposed plan in said application will materially affect any of the rights and interest of the public, as follows:

- | | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> | |
|----|------------|-----------|---|
| 1. | () | (X) | <u>Would</u> have a detrimental effect on the use of said waters for navigation, transportation, recreational or other public purposes and public conveniences. |
| 2. | () | (X) | <u>Would</u> restrict the free use of the waterways and navigable waters. |
| 3. | () | (X) | <u>Would</u> have a material adverse effect upon the flow of water or tidal currents in the surrounding waters. |
| 4. | () | (X) | <u>Would</u> have a material adverse effect upon erosion, erosion control, shoaling of channels, extraordinary storm drainage, or would be likely to adversely affect the water quality now existing in the area in question. |
| 5. | () | (X) | <u>Would</u> have a material adverse effect upon the natural beauty and recreational advantages of Pinellas County. |

6. () (X) Would have a material adverse effect upon the conservation of wildlife, marine life, and other natural resources, including beaches and shores so as to be contrary to the public interest.
7. () (X) Would have a material adverse effect upon the uplands surrounding or necessarily affected by said plan or development.
8. () (X) Would adversely affect the safety, health and welfare of the general public.
9. () (X) Are inconsistent with the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.

The Board, based on the above findings of fact and determination, hereby approves Application No. CC38505-07/Revised, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The hurricane plan for the City marina must be updated to include the mooring field and submitted to the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management prior to operation of the mooring field.
- (2) The Harbor Management Plan for the proposed mooring, as presented to the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management, must be adopted in final form prior to operation of the mooring field.

Any person, firm or corporation, including the State of Florida, Pinellas County, and any municipal corporation in said County, aggrieved by the findings of fact and determination of the Board, may within thirty (30) days of the filing of this order, petition for rehearing, stating in such petition the grounds upon which the governing authority has erred in its finds and wherein such person, firm or corporation is aggrieved by said findings. The Board may, in its discretion, grant or deny such rehearing.

Any person, firm or corporation, including the State of Florida, Pinellas County, and any municipal corporation in said County, who is aggrieved by the Board's above ruling on the petition for rehearing shall have the right to have the entire cause reviewed by the Circuit Court of the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida in and for Pinellas County, as provided by law for other appeals to the circuit court.

Chairman

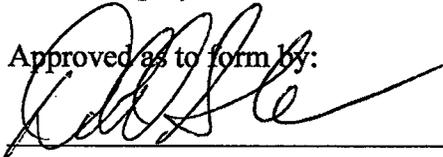
The Foregoing Decision Has Been
Filed With Me This _____
day of _____, 2008

Attest: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By: _____

Deputy Clerk

Approved as to form by:



Pinellas County Attorney's Office

Direct all correspondence to
Clerk, Water and Navigation
Control Authority
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 34616 33756
464-3464 Robert

Application # CC38SDS-07/REV
(OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

COMMERCIAL AND MULTI-USE DOCK PERMIT APPLICATION
PINELLAS COUNTY WATER AND NAVIGATION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Please type, or hand print in BLACK ink

RECEIVED

JUN 09 2008

I. PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION:

A Applicant's Name City of Gulfport
B Mailing Address 2401 53rd Street South
City Gulfport State FL Zip 33707
C Telephone No (s) (727) 893-1000/(727) 893-1005

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

II. AGENT INFORMATION:

A Name Andrew M. Nicholson, PE-PLS, Challenger Enterprises, Inc.
B Address P O Box 285
City Safety Harbor State FL Zip 34695-0285
C Telephone No (s) (727) 236-3642

RECEIVED

JUN - 9 2008

III. SITE INFORMATION:

A Construction Site Address 5500 Shore Boulevard
City Gulfport
B Intended Use Public Marina (Mooring Fields -- Public Anchoring on Mooring Balls)
C Parcel ID Number / / / / /
D Incorporated Unincorporated City of Gulfport
E Affected waterbody Boca Ciega Bay
F Previous Permits N/A
G Date applicant assumed property ownership Uplands in 1920's/ Submerged
Lands Lease Pending
month/year
H Obstructions (dogs, fences, etc) N/A
I Attach 8-1/2" X 11" vicinity map showing specific project location
J All other information pursuant to P C O 90-19 (amended), Section 10 9, as needed
K Does the project abut residentially zoned property? Yes No
L For projects requiring a public hearing, attach a copy of the complete legal description

by the Clerk of
Pinellas County Water and
Navigation Control Authority

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: MULTI-USE COMMERCIAL

A. Nature and Size of Project: Provide, install, maintain 100 moorings in two phases of 50 moorings each to be operated as municipal mooring fields.

See attached plans revised on 5/25/08 Square feet _____

B. Variance Yes No
Amount in variance Length _____ Width _____
Setbacks L _____ R _____
Other _____

NOTE: It is the applicant's responsibility to clearly demonstrate that any requested variances are consistent with the variance criteria of the Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority Regulations. The applicant must submit a written variance request outlining the nature of and need for any variances. The applicant must demonstrate that a literal enforcement of the regulations would result in an extreme hardship due to the unique nature of the project and the applicant's property. The hardship must not be created by action(s) of the property owner(s). The granting of the variance must be in harmony with the general intent of the regulations and not infringe upon the property rights of others. The variance requested must be the minimum possible to allow for the reasonable use of the applicant's property. Should the applicant fail to demonstrate that any variance request is consistent with the criteria outlined in the regulations, staff cannot recommend approval of the application.

V. CONTRACTOR INFORMATION:

I, To be determined by bid after earning permits, a certified contractor, state that the dock has not been constructed and that it will be built in compliance with all requirements and standards set forth in the "Rules and Regulations" of the Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority, and in accordance with the attached drawings which accurately represent all the information required to be furnished. In the event that this dock is not built in accordance with the permit or the information furnished is not correct, I agree to either remove the dock or correct the deficiency.

Signed _____ Cert No _____
Company Name _____ Telephone No _____
Address _____

VI. OWNER'S SIGNATURE:

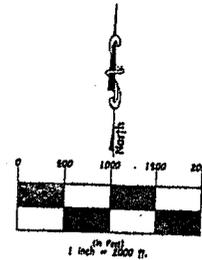
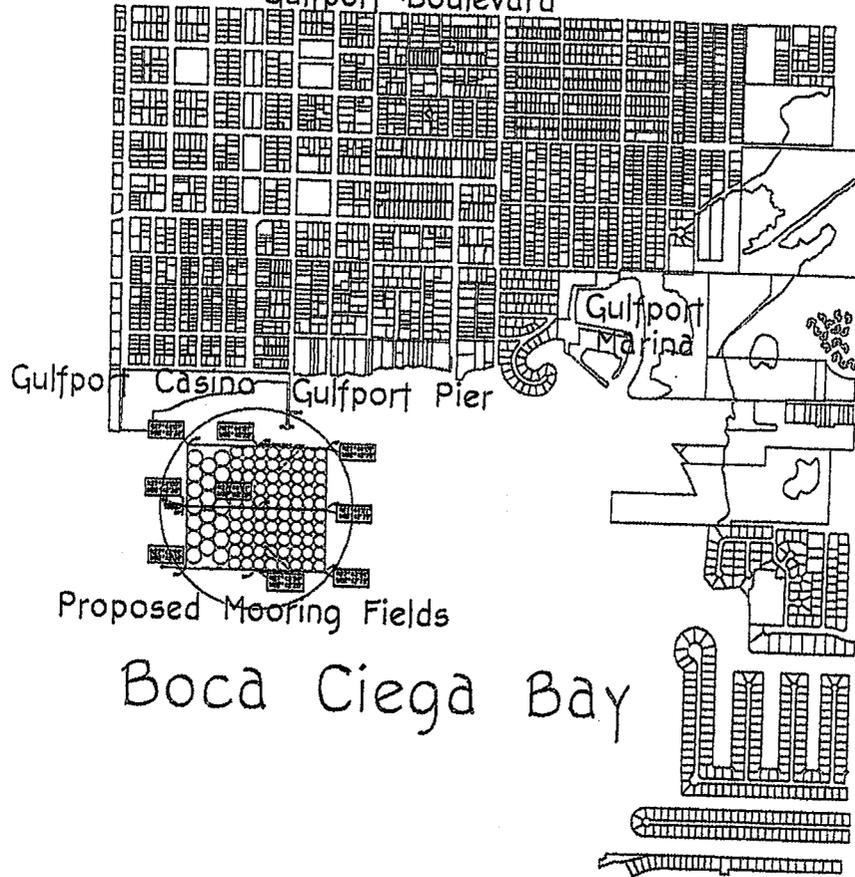
I hereby apply for a permit to do the above work and state that the same will be done according to the map or plan attached hereto and made a part hereof, and agree to abide by the "Rules and Regulations" of the Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority for such construction and, if said construction is within the corporate limits of a municipality, to first secure approval from said municipality. I further state that said construction will be maintained in a safe condition at all times, should this application be approved, that I am the legal owner of the upland from which I herein propose to construct the improvements, and that the above stated agent/contractor may act as my representative. I understand that I, not Pinellas County, am responsible for the accuracy of the information provided as part of this application and that it is my responsibility to obtain any necessary permits and approvals applicable for the proposed activities on either private or sovereign owned submerged land.

5/29/08 Date *James E. Drilly* ACTING CITY MANAGER, City of Gulfport Authorized agent.
Legal Owner's Signature

0038505-07/REV

City of Gulfport

Gulfport Boulevard



Proposed Mooring Fields

Boca Ciega Bay

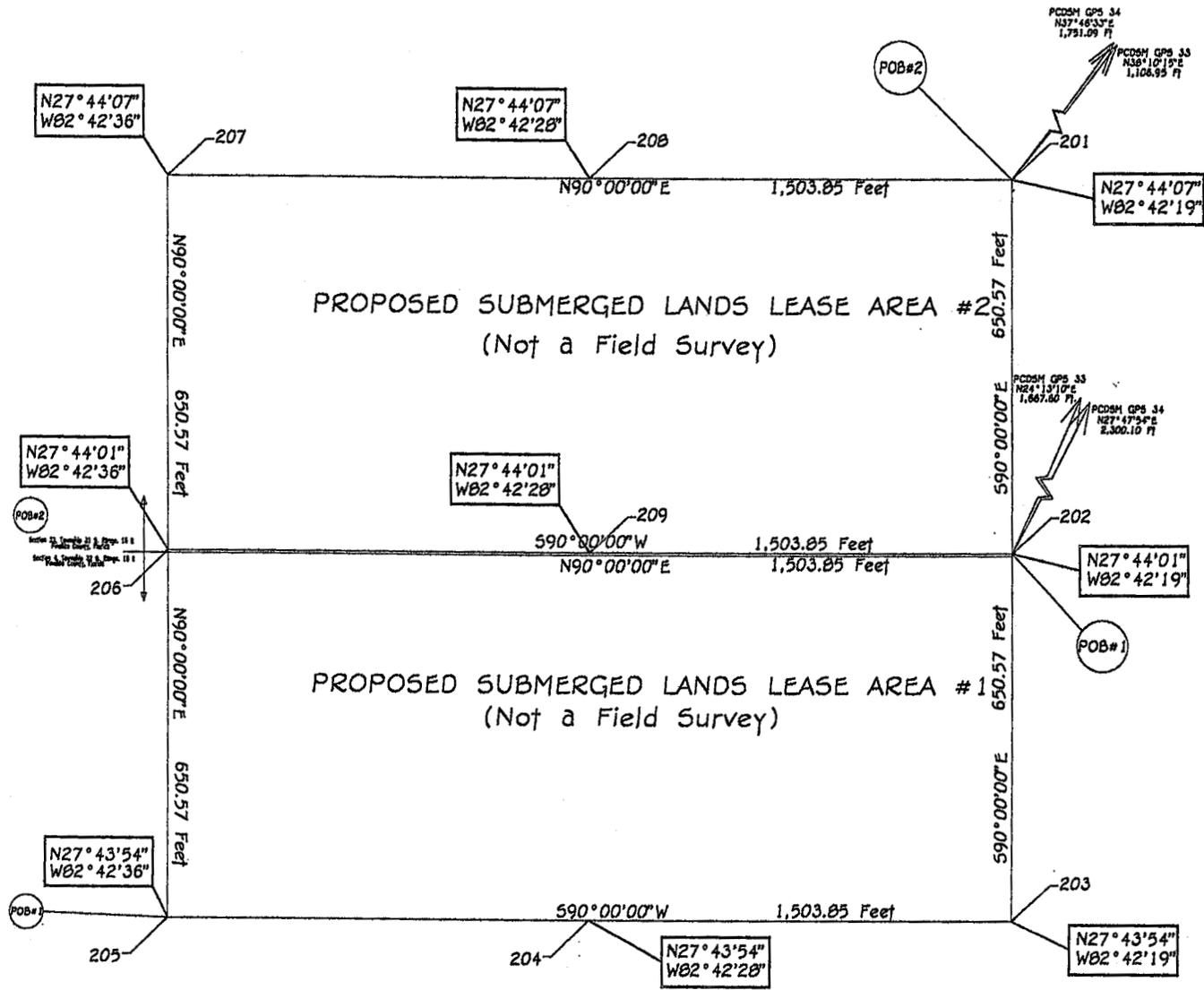
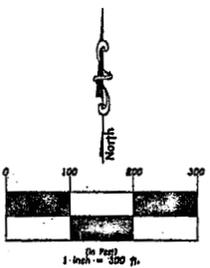
SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 31 SOUTH, RANGE 16 EAST
AND
SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 32 SOUTH, RANGE 16 EAST
PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA



REVISIONS	BY	DATE	SURVEY NO.		P.L.		DESCRIPTION	CLIENT	PROJECT NAME	PLAN	DATE
			BY	DATE	BY	DATE					
							Science and Engineering in the traditions of the Challenger Expedition Challenger Enterprises Inc. 5284 5600 Mossburn Drive New Port Richey, Florida 34855 Phone & Fax (727) 236-3642 Florida Professional Engineer No. 21372	City of Gulfport Pinellas County Florida <i>[Signature]</i> City of Gulfport, Florida Florida Professional Engineer No. 21372	Mooring Fields #1 and #2 Boca Ciega Bay City of Gulfport, Florida	Mooring Fields Orientation to Property Lines	6/04/2008 XX-Property Lines.dwg XX

© Copyright

CC38505-07/RBV



I hereby certify that the legal description represented hereon meets the minimum technical standards set forth by the Florida Board of Professional Land Surveyors in Chapter 61G17-6, Florida Administrative Code, Pursuant to Section 472.027, Florida Statutes. Not valid unless signed and embossed with seal.

Surveyor of Record: Andrew M. Nicholson, P.E. P.L.S.

© Copyright

REVISIONS		BY	DATE	SURVEY NO.	PG.	CLIENT	PROJECT NAME	PLAN	DATE
						City of Gulfport, Pinellas County, Florida	Mooring Fields #1 and #2 Boca Ciega Bay City of Gulfport, Florida	Legal Descriptions Sketch Proposed Submerged Land Lease Areas for City of Gulfport Mooring Fields	6/04/2008
									FILE NAME 04-MOORING-FIELDS.dwg
									PROJECT NO.
									SHEET 4 of 8

Science and Engineering in the Tradition of the Challenger Expedition
Challenger Enterprises Inc.
 MAIL: P O Box 205,
 Safety Harbor, Florida 34699-0205
 OFFICE: 9500 Mossberg Drive,
 New Port Richey, Florida 34699
 Phone & Fax (727) 236-3642
 Surveyor of Record: Andrew M. Nicholson, P.E. P.L.S.

City of Gulfport, Pinellas County, Florida
Andrew M. Nicholson
 Florida Surveyor's Registration No. 3403

PROJECT NAME
 Mooring Fields #1 and #2
 Boca Ciega Bay
 City of Gulfport, Florida

PLAN
 Legal Descriptions Sketch
 Proposed Submerged Land
 Lease Areas for City of
 Gulfport Mooring Fields

DATE
 6/04/2008
 FILE NAME
 04-MOORING-FIELDS.dwg
 PROJECT NO.
 SHEET
 4 of 8

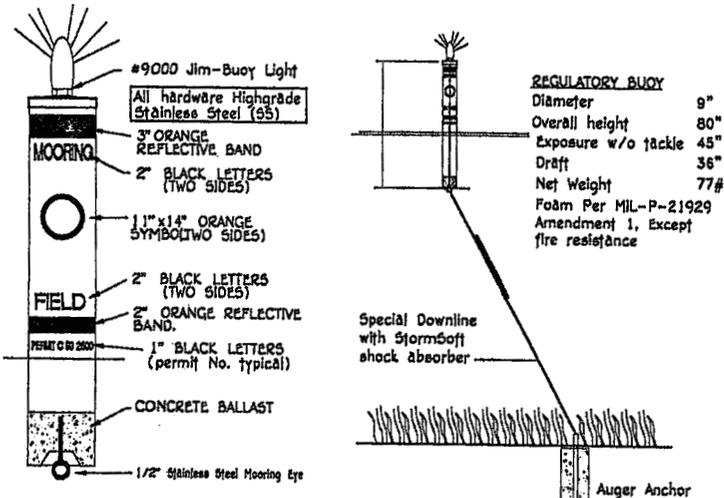
CC38505-07/REV

Mooring Field Regulatory Marker Buoy Sites

for

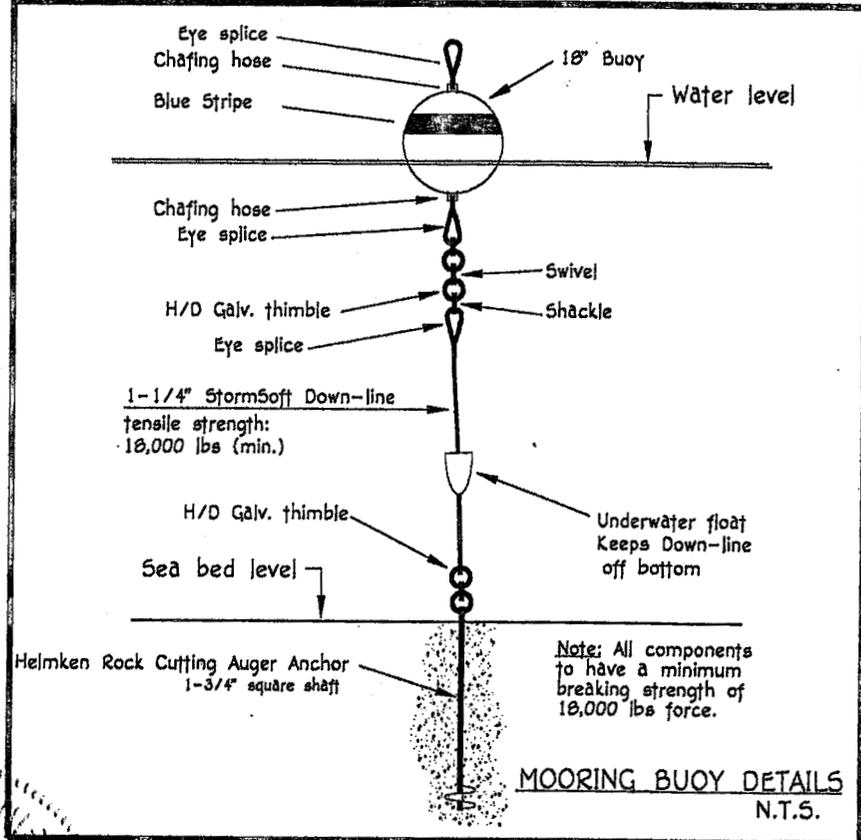
PROPOSED SUBMERGED LANDS LEASE AREAS #1 and #2

Marker Site No.	Northing	Easting	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)
201	1237065.39	271029.24	27°44'07"	02°42'19"
202	1236414.02	271029.24	27°44'01"	02°42'19"
203	1235765.39	271029.24	27°43'54"	02°42'19"
204	1235765.39	271077.32	27°43'54"	02°42'28"
205	1235765.39	270325.39	27°43'54"	02°42'36"
206	1236414.02	270325.39	27°44'01"	02°42'36"
207	1237065.39	270325.39	27°44'07"	02°42'36"
208	1237065.39	271077.32	27°44'07"	02°42'28"
209	1236414.02	271077.32	27°44'01"	02°42'28"



Plan Symbol	Qty. Req'd	Buoy Symbol	Text
A	15		MOORING FIELD

REGULATORY BUOY DETAILS
N.T.S.



MOORING BUOY DETAILS
N.T.S.

REVISIONS	BY	DATE	SURVEY DR.	PG.	Science and Engineering in the Solutions of the Challenger Expedition	CLIENT	PROJECT NAME	PLAN	DATE
					<p>Challenger Enterprises Inc. HALL: P.O. Box 209, Safety Harbor, Florida 34695-0209 OFFICE: 9620 Hovland Drive, New Port Richey, Florida 34655 Phone & Fax (727) 236-3642</p>	<p>City of Gulfport Pinellas County Florida</p>	<p>Mooring Fields #1 and #2 Boca Ciega Bay City of Gulfport, Florida</p>	<p>Anchor & Buoy Details Regulatory Buoy Sites Gulfport Municipal Mooring Fields</p>	<p>6/4/08 FILE NAME: 08-DETAILS.dwg PROJECT NO. SHEET: 8 of 8</p>

© Copyright

**Seagrass Survey for Two Proposed Mooring Fields
Boca Ciega Bay, City of Gulfport, Florida**

**GEOFFREY C. LANE
MARINE SCIENTIST/CONSULTANT
ML CONSULTING OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

AUGUST 2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The benthic habitats of two proposed moorage fields were surveyed for seagrass by divers during August 2007. A series of linear transects were completed utilizing weighted Suremarker[®] buoys with a compass line. Transect points were plotted on a map utilizing a 48 GPS. Where divers found evidence of seagrass, a point was plotted on the GPS to produce a map of the locations of submerged resources within the proposed mooring fields. Only one species of seagrass was found growing in the area and its distribution was very sparse.

PRIOR HISTORY

In December 2006, random surveys were conducted within the perimeter and the two (2) proposed mooring fields as part of the preliminary work for the City of Gulfport (see APPENDIX A). For each transect, biologists snorkeled a 1 meter transect area or completed a 30 meter transect utilizing commercial SCUBA equipment and documenting coordinates where flora and fauna were located. A minimum two (2) 30-meter transect dives were made per mooring area. A total of fourteen (14) transect dives were completed. A 30' open dive/fishing boat was utilized as transportation. Visibility was noted using the weighted transect line and water depth was recorded utilizing dive computers, the transect line, or the boat's depth finder. Confirmation of the perimeter and selected dive sites was conducted by Tim Carlile of Land & Sea Surveying Concepts, Inc, the underwater surveyors chosen to survey and define the perimeter and anchorages.

PRIOR CONCLUSIONS

There was an overall lack of SAV within the mooring areas. In general, no submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) was encountered below 2 meters depth. Several factors were proposed that might be responsible with the most probable being the lack of light penetration within the highly turbid water column. A source of these turbid conditions may be insufficient tidal flushing of bay waters due to decreased hydrologic function of the bay's outlets to Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

METHODOLOGY

New surveys were conducted within the perimeter of the two (2) proposed mooring fields as shown on the maps in ATTACHMENT I. An aerial view of the proposed mooring fields can be found in ATTACHMENT II. For each transect, coordinates were marked utilizing a 48 GPS. Biologists conducted linear transects utilizing commercial SCUBA equipment. Each linear transect dive was made in a northerly/ southerly (or visa versa) direction. Divers first swam the length of the proposed mooring areas at the corners, then swam transects inside the proposed areas beginning 3 meters outside a marker buoy and continuing through the proposed mooring fields until the diver reached 3 meters outside the opposite marker buoy. Under standard survey protocol, divers would space each transect every 50 ft along the shoreline and extend each transect 7 meters past the project area. However, due to the lack of resources found, it was decided that 3 meters past the project area would give sufficient coverage for the

survey. Also, since there is no immediate shoreline associated with this proposed mooring field, each transect was separated by a minimum of 50 feet to a maximum of 100 feet and at least 15 to 17 transects were completed in each mooring area. Overall coverage was estimated at approximately 40% of the proposed mooring field area. However, for easier viewing of transects and seagrass resources, not all transects completed are shown on the map in Attachment I. A complete boat track can be seen in Attachment II.

The corners of the proposed mooring field and project area were pre-marked by the 26' open dive/science boat utilized as transportation. These corners were marked utilizing the Suremarker[®] buoy system which is a weighted and flagged buoy that is visible by in-water divers. Each end of a transect line was then set by marking it with a weighted buoy placed 50-100 feet apart.

Divers swam transects by taking a compass reading on the opposite buoy and periodically surfacing to report the location of any SAV found and to reconfirm the direction and distance to the target buoy. Due to poor visibility along some transects, some were not linear as it sometimes became difficult to follow the compass. The low visibility meant divers had to more frequently surface to check their bearings. Each time any seagrass was located, the dive boat would immediately approach the diver and input the location as a waypoint on the GPS (see Table 1). Although a 1-meter square transect was onboard, it was not utilized due to the sparse distribution of seagrass. Divers also swam between the markers in an easterly or westerly direction so that parts of the northern and southern perimeter were also seen between markers.

The bottoms are dominated by unconsolidated sands, overlain with soft muck and silts. Penetration into the bottom was easy, and divers were easily able to penetrate the soil by hand. Current was minimal during both days of diving and the depth averaged about 3.0 meters. Visibility was noted using the weighted transect buoy line and water depth was recorded utilizing dive computers and the boat's depth finder. Tide on departure from Gulfport Marina was noted utilizing the boat's onboard computerized dive tables. Day 1 was during the high to outgoing tide while dives on Day 2 were during low tide. The previous survey was done during high tide and these new surveys were conducted during both high and low tide. Initial conditions during high tide were found to be better for visibility during this time of year, but deteriorated rapidly as the tide receded possibly due to seasonal rains earlier in the week causing an influx of sediment-laden runoff from the surrounding area that still had not settled out in the water column. Winds were light, only gusting to 5 knots on the second day of diving, and the Sea State was 1-2 (few waves) which is generally calm. Water temperature remained constant at 88°F while the air temperature was 93°F. All dives took place between 0930hrs until 1400hrs on Day 1 and 1800hrs to 1930hrs on Day 2. The sky was partially cloudy with bright (direct) sunshine on both days.

RESULTS

Twenty individual seagrass points were recorded during the survey. Divers found only a single strand of rooted shoal grass (*Halodule wrightii*) at each point. No quantification of seagrasses was needed since the located resources were separated by large distances. No other rooted seagrass was recorded. The other two common seagrasses found in this area (turtle grass- *Thalassia testudinum* and manatee grass- *Syringodium filliforme*) were only seen as elements of drift or scattered along the bottom, although prior surveys located them within the area (see Appendix A) but not in the proposed mooring fields.

Visibility was poor and less than 2 meters on both days of diving. In fact, the second day of diving was needed due to the visibility dropping to less than 1/3 meter during the 8th long transect on Day 1. In order to finish the transects, divers returned during low tide on Day 2 when visibility had improved.

The included map shows the locations of all seagrass resources located during the two days of diving. Each point represents a single rooted shoal grass plant except Point 8* where two plants were found about 1/3 meter apart. It is quickly apparent that the majority of seagrass located in the proposed project area is generally found on the eastern side of the proposed mooring fields. Desktop review of recent aerial photographs seems to support this finding. However, as was noted in the previous report, the dark areas which appear to be seagrass coverage may in fact be the slime-like reddish algae found and previously mentioned in the earlier surveys. Some areas on an aerial photograph downloaded from the Google Earth server show a clear pattern that appears to be prop dredging through a seagrass bed on the eastern to southeastern side of the project area with a smaller seagrass-covered patch on the western fringe of the proposed mooring fields. However close inspection by divers in the proposed mooring areas found no evidence of either extensive seagrass coverage or prop-dredged channels. Several transects found no seagrass resources along the entire transect.

DATA

Table 1 location of seagrass resources in the proposed mooring field area.

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Point number</u>	<u>DIVE DAY</u>	<u>NOTE</u>
27.73202556,	-82.70516258,	Corner	4		
27.73200162,	-82.70828120,	Corner	5		
27.73322226,	-82.70930873,	Corner	6		
27.73327810,	-82.70410801,	Corner	3		
27.73560764,	-82.70480204,	grass	1	1	
27.73213725,	-82.70619010,	grass	10	1	
27.73180217,	-82.70633431,	grass	11	1	
27.73286325,	-82.70585661,	grass	12	1	
27.73338979,	-82.70602786,	grass	13	1	
27.73378071,	-82.70577549,	grass	14	1	
27.73416365,	-82.70585661,	grass	15	1	
27.73447479,	-82.70672189,	grass	16	2	
27.73472210,	-82.70680301,	grass	17	2	
27.73552786,	-82.70819107,	grass	18*	2	corner also
27.73391634,	-82.70883102,	grass	19	2	
27.73550393,	-82.70519863,	grass	2*	1	corner also
27.73241648,	-82.70855160,	grass	20	2	
27.73533639,	-82.70516258,	grass	3	1	
27.73469817,	-82.70516258,	grass	4	1	
27.73455457,	-82.70538791,	grass	5	1	
27.73436310,	-82.70549607,	grass	6	1	
27.73399611,	-82.70541495,	grass	7	1	
27.73327810,	-82.70544199,	grass	8*	1	2 plants
27.73266380,	-82.70561324,	grass	9	1	

The first four entries (identified as 'corner') on the table above are locations where the Suremarker[®] flagged buoys were initially set to define the study area. Each point identified in Table 1 above as

'grass' is a single, rooted seagrass plant except for Point 8* where two plants were found approximately 1/3 meter apart. Point 18* and Point 2* in the above table identify where a seagrass resource was located nearly directly at the marked corners that define the proposed mooring field area. A total of twenty (21) individual shoots of rooted shoal grass were located within the proposed mooring field area.

Biological Survey for Proposed Mooring Fields in Boca Ciega Bay for the City of Gulfport

Geoffrey C. Lane
Marine Scientist
ML Consulting of Central Florida

and

Terrie Weeks
Marine Scientist

January 2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The benthic habitats of two proposed moorage fields were surveyed by divers during December 2004. A series of transects were completed utilizing both a submersible square meter of PVC and a weighted 30.0 meter line. Transect points were plotted on a map utilizing a 48 GPS. Divers found little evidence of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) possibly due to poor light conditions below 2.0 meters depth.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Random surveys were conducted within the perimeter and the two (2) proposed mooring fields as shown on the attached map. For each transect, coordinates were marked utilizing a 48 GPS. The Biologist would either snorkel a 1 meter transect area or snorkel a 30 meter transect noting the flora and fauna to be documented. Additionally, divers conducted 30-meter transects utilizing commercial SCUBA equipment. A minimum two (2) 30-meter transect dives were made per mooring area. A total of fourteen (14) transect dives were completed. A 30' open dive/fishing boat was utilized as transportation. Visibility was noted using the weighted transect line and water depth was recorded utilizing dive computers, the transect line, or the boat's depth finder. Tide was noted on departure from Gulfport Marina.

Prior to the actual day of diving, dive team leader and marine scientist Geof Lane visited the site from land and interviewed local residents, marina users, and a member of the Gulfport police to become familiar with the area. A literature search was also performed, and this search ultimately lead to contact with scientists from the Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) who have been monitoring two seagrass transects in the area. Unfortunately, their sites are some distance from the proposed anchorage, but a review of their data allowed us to become more familiar with species we might potentially encounter.

Our plan was for transect sites to be chosen such that an estimation of the size and maximum depths of any SAV encountered could be plotted on a matrix. This could then become a GIS-based layer defining seagrass patterns within the project area.

Perimeter Survey

Upon departure from the marina, the perimeter of the study area was surveyed from the boat. This served to familiarize the divers and boat operator with the project site from the water and to check depth and hazards which could be encountered during the dive.

Confirmation of the perimeter and selected dive sites was conducted by Tim Carlile of Land & Sea Surveying Concepts, Inc, the underwater surveyors chosen to survey and define the perimeter and anchorages. Once the perimeter was checked and marked on reference maps, the dive boat was anchored at the first dive area. It was decided during the perimeter surveys that because of the large area to be covered, dives would be conducted both inside and outside the proposed mooring areas, in order to determine the limits of any Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) encountered.

The first five dives were placed around the channel near the entry to the marina. We chose to dive in this area first as visibility was less than 0.6 meters and the early hour of the first dives would ensure safety of the divers as few recreational boaters would be utilizing the navigation channel early in the day. Because of the extremely shallow water depth (less than 1.1 meters), the boat was anchored just outside the navigation channel, and divers snorkeled shoreward with the 1 meter-square transect. The transect equipment was then randomly placed along the predetermined transect line, and divers submerged to estimate any species present.

The remainder of the perimeter was accessed randomly but within a geographic pattern that would relate to the position of the two proposed mooring sites. Within these sites, a one-meter square transect was utilized and divers would then be able to estimate the relative extent of any SAV encountered. Results along with a short discussion of dives within the perimeter area are described and shown in matrix form in the Results section.

Mooring Areas

Wholly enclosed within the perimeter are two areas selected as the actual moorage sites. In each of these areas, two 30-meter transect dives were performed. These dives were in both a North/South alignment and an East/West alignment. The larger of the two proposed moorage areas (Moorage Area West or MAW) lies within the western half of the defined perimeter and its approximate location is to the south of the Gulfport Casino, a local landmark. Several boats were moored within this area on the day we surveyed, so care was taken to avoid approaching any vessels at anchor. This was mainly a safety concern, as boat traffic within the area was concentrated around these yachts.

The earliest dives revealed the extent of the SAV present. One transect within MAW was extremely long, with divers utilizing local landmarks to determine the transect start and end points, then entering the water and swimming the entire transect using a compass to follow the predetermined course. The start/end points were recorded by GPS readings (see Transect 10 below). This was done to confirm the results of earlier transects that revealed no SAV present below the 2 meter depth line.

The smaller of the two proposed moorage areas (Moorage Area East or MAE) lies within the eastern half of the perimeter. As with the MAW, two 30 meter transects were completed within this area. Unlike the larger area however, the origin of the two transects was the same, with one transect aligned in a North/South direction and the second in an East/West Direction. The reason that these two transects were combined as such is explained in detail in the Results section below.

RESULTS

The matrix below lists each transect, it's GPS coordinate, type of transect performed, water depth, and presence or lack of SAV. Where SAV was present, the dominant species is given.

Transect	Location	Type	Water depth	SAV present, cover, and length
1	27°44'12.7", 82°41'48.39	M2	1.1 meters	None present
2	27°44'14", 82°41'45.8"	M2	1 meter	None present
3	27°44'15", 82°41'45"	M2	.6 meter	TG, 70% cover,
4	27°44'14", 82°41'42.5"	M2	.6 meter	SG, 80% cover,
5	27°44'13", 82°41'43"	M2	1.1 meters	SG, 65% cover
6	27° 44'09.7", 82° 42' 04.6"	M2	2 meters	None
7	27°44'07.5", 82°42'22.3"	M2	2.3 meters	None
8	27°44'04.0", 82°42'31.0"	M2	2.5 meters	None
9	27°43'58.5", 82°42'32.0"	L	2.5 meters	None
10	27°44'01.0", 82°42'27" to	L	2.5 meters	None
	27°44'01.2", 82°42'25"	L	3.0 meters	None
11	27°44'03.0", 82°42'16" (E-W)	L	2.5 meters	None
12	27°44'03.0", 82°42'16" (N-S)	L	3.0 meters	None
13	27°44'6.1", 82°42'0.3" (E-W)	L	2.7 meters	None
14	27°44'6.1", 82°42'0.3" (N-S)	L	2.9 meters	None

KEY

M2 = square meter transect performed

L = 30 meter transect performed

TG = Turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*)

SG = Shoal Grass (*Halodule wrightii*)

E = East

W = West

N = North

S = South

Transect 1

Water depth = 1.1 meters

The substrate was dominated by calcareous sand/ muck with a little sea grass debris. No fauna was seen here, but numerous holes in the bottom suggested the presence of benthic animals such as burrowing crabs and clams. Determination of lack of SAV in this habitat due to low light levels, previous dredging activities, high boat traffic, or any other number of factors working in concert would require further study.

Transect 2

Water depth = 1.0 meters

The substrate was dominated by calcareous sand/ muck with variable sea grass debris. Hand checking revealed that no SAV seen in the meter square transect was attached, although bottom coverage by debris was in excess of 60% of the transect area. Fauna was seen here in the form of attached organisms on the seagrass debris plus, again, the numerous holes in the bottom most likely from burrowing benthic animals.

Transect 3

Water depth = 0.6 meters

Calcareous sand increased dramatically over the level of muck present, but otherwise a similar substrate as recorded previously. Approximately 70% coverage by TG with open sandy patches and sea grass debris. High levels of siltation on leaves required divers to surface to check concordance with calculations of % cover and average blade length. Blade length variable, but averaged 5-8 inches (12-20cm). Fauna seen here (tunicates, barnacles, unidentified gastropods) was in the form of attached organisms on the seagrass blades. Also noted the evidence (holes) most likely from burrowing benthic animals. TG bed continued shoreward into depths too shallow to accurately check by divers.

Transect 4

Water depth = 0.6 meters

Calcareous sand present with several large rocks on substrate. Approximately 80% coverage by SG with open sandy/rocky patches and sea grass debris. Siltation level on leaves lower, but still persistent. SG blade length is variable, but averages 6-10 inches (15-25cm). Little attached fauna seen here, most likely due to narrowness of leaf surface compared to TG on other side of channel. Some attached organisms (barnacles, unidentified gastropods) on hard surfaces. Few holes in sandy substrate in comparison to other side of channel. This lack of burrowing benthic animals suggests higher sand/rock content than previously recorded sites.

Transect 5

Water depth = 1.1 meters

Fewer large rocks on substrate with approximately 65% coverage by SG with open sandy/rocky patches and little sea grass debris. SG blade length is variable, but again averages 6-10 inches (15-25cm). Fauna seen here in the form of some small (minnow-sized) fish (approximately 10-12 fish) swimming in the water column above the transect. Unidentified gastropods remain attached on hard surfaces with some small oysters (*Crassotera spp*). Sandy patches increase dramatically outside of transect (suggests edge of grass bed near).

Transect 6

Water depth = 2.0 meters

No SAV present. Muck/ sand bottom covered approximately 20% by slime-like algae (reddish hue). Reappearance of numerous holes in substrate probably due to high concentration of burrowing benthic animals.

Transect 7

Water depth = 2.3 meters

No SAV present. Muck/ sand bottom covered approximately 20% by same reddish algae.

Transect 8

Water depth = 2.5 meters

No SAV present. Muck/ sand bottom covered approximately 20% by same reddish algae.

Transect 9

Water depth = 2.5 meters

No SAV present. Muck/ sand bottom covered approximately 20% by reddish hued algae. 30-meter transect performed. Some individual TG SAV debris seen, but no attached SAV. Bottom surface with variable depressional contours- possibly from anchors.

Transect 10

Water depth = 2.5 to 3.0 meters

No SAV present. Muck/ sand bottom covered approximately 20% by same reddish algae. Numerous holes in substrate are only indication that fauna may be present. Transect length increased by following compass along original 30 meter transect line to determine if any SAV present as no flora/fauna seen on previous four transects. (NOTE: Resultant transect exit location recorded on ship's GPS unit by following transect line/ compass heading and matching landmarks (Gulfport Casino lettering, distance from shore and pier, etc.). This possibly means actual exit point may not be accurate. However, since no SAV or fauna recorded, this is not seen as problematic to final results of the survey.)

Transect 11

Water depth = 2.5 meters

No SAV present. Muck/ sand bottom covered approximately 20% by same reddish algae. 30 meter transect performed in East-West direction. Divers noted that bottom sand content increased (compared to earlier transects) as transect neared western terminus. There did not seem to be any other changes relative to previous five transects.

Transect 12

Water depth = 3.0 meters

No SAV present. Muck/ sand bottom covered approximately 20% by same reddish algae, but with no apparent change in sand/muck ratio. 30 meter transect performed in a North-South direction with same origin as Transect 11 resulted in slight increase in depth at southern terminus of transect. No other changes noted.

Transect 13

Water depth = 2.7 meters

No SAV present. Muck/ sand bottom covered approximately 20% by same reddish algae. 30 meter transect performed in an East-West direction similar to transect 11. Similar results for flora and fauna, but with no changes in ratio of sand to muck on substrate.

Transect 14

Water depth = 2.9 meters

No SAV present. Muck/ sand bottom covered approximately 20% by same reddish algae. 30 meter transect performed in a North-South direction with same origin as Transect 13. No changes noted.

Common to all sites:

These areas are dominated by silty bottom, mainly composed of unconsolidated mucks and sand. Visibility was less than .6 meters, even with the early morning sunlight during our dives. As the day wore on, clouds dominated the sky, and visibility dropped off sharply for a short time at mid-day as a light precipitation was encountered. Even with the bright sunshine however, the water appeared brownish in hue. Water temperature remained constant, around 72° F, with no variations noted at any depth or transect site. We performed the survey during low tide, with the tide incoming during the survey. Winds were light, gusting to 5-6 knots, with a Sea State of 1-2 (few waves). What larger waves we encountered were almost totally caused by the wakes of passing vessels. Very few organisms seen although local fishermen interviewed during an earlier site visit spoke of catching several species of fish (saltwater catfish, spotted seatrout, redfish, jacks, etc.) from the shoreline and within the bay. This information was confirmed by a member of the local police force who was patrolling the marina during the time I was conducting interviews.

DISCUSSION

Boca Ciega Bay is designated by the State of Florida as an 'Outstanding Florida Water'. The bay forms a portion of the southern boundary for the City of Gulfport. Bordered on the west by Saint Petersburg Beach, the water within the bay is exchanged tidally with water from Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico through several passes such as Pass-A-Grille, Blind Pass and John's Pass (Becker 1999). There are also several creeks that enter the bay (Squires 1996). Although similarly tidal for the most part, these creeks bring runoff from the surrounding neighborhood into the bay.

Throughout recent years, several boats have taken up unregulated mooring in Boca Ciega Bay. The City of Gulfport was concerned with the effects that unmanaged mooring might be having on the benthic communities of Boca Ciega Bay. In order to control these potentially disastrous events, the City of Gulfport contracted Challenger Enterprises Inc. to proceed with the design and permitting of a mooring field with an anchor system that would not only provide safe moorage, but have minimal impact on the benthic environment. To these ends, ML Consulting of Central Florida was subcontracted to perform a biological survey to give a gross assessment

of the flora and fauna inhabiting the benthos within two (2) proposed mooring fields in Boca Ciega Bay.

Seagrass beds represent one of the most productive habitats in Florida. Their presence is an indicator of pollution and water quality in coastal areas. They are however, vulnerable to human-induced impacts and anthropogenous stresses. Dredge and fill activities are recognized as environmentally destructive (Culter 1993). The resultant benthic habitat that results is of poor quality and frequently an environmental liability (Culter 1993). Industrial or residential discharges, oil spills, extreme thermal fluxes or effluents, and changes in light from turbidity or color have also been associated with reductions of SAV.

The water was very turbid, most likely with a high silt and organic (plankton) combination. A layer of silt covered the bottom and plants where SAV was encountered. This silt was easily suspended once the bottom was disturbed either by movements of the divers or during the process of measuring the SAV found in each transect. Once the bottom silts had been disturbed, visibility dropped to nearly zero. Since both divers have more than 10 years combined experience diving and working in this area, we were familiar with keeping our bottom disturbing movements to a minimum in order to complete our measurements prior to total loss of visibility.

Many causes for this high level of suspended sediments are suspected. Tidally-influenced creeks drain the watershed and bring much rainfall runoff into the bay's waters. Since these creeks run through industrial areas as well as residential neighborhoods, they bring sediment runoff as well as nutrients into the bay. These sediments may add to those already present, and the nutrients flushed in from such things as landscaping and poor lawn management practices might elevate nitrogen levels in the water column. High levels of nitrogen are suspected to cause plankton 'blooms', a condition where suspended plankton reproduces explosively due to high concentrations of nutrients in the water. Unfortunately, we did not bring field scopes to try and identify planktonic forms present as that was not included in the scope of services.

It is a fair assumption however, to believe the majority of light attenuation and scatter within the water column was caused by silt and not plankton, since this study was being undertaken in December. During the winter, as water temperatures drop, growth of planktonic forms is retarded, bringing one to the likely conclusion that biologically-based light scatter and shading or absorption should decrease during periods of colder water temperatures. Typically the nutrient response (bloom) is seen after rain events and is generally much lower if occurring during cooler temperatures. However, since this year's hurricane season was unusually strong, sediment loading into the bay may be much higher than one would normally expect.

In general, no SAV was encountered below 2 meters depth. This was most likely due to lack of light penetration within the highly turbid water column. The exception to this was a reddish, unidentified algae which occurred in a patchy distribution (less than 20% cover in any given transect) in all transects below 2 meters depth. In this area's waters and Florida in general, there are five general types of bay plant communities. Each community has a variety of plants which have evolved to survive in that particular habitat, but frequently there may be some species which occur in more than one community. The communities are drifting microscopic algae (plankton), seagrass beds or macroscopic algae growing on the bottom (SAV), two shoreline plant communities (tidal swamps (mangroves) and tidal marshes), and algal mats covering the

surface of the mudflats and bay bottoms. Within the latter habitat, the algae are generally highly tolerant to the effects of environmental extremes. Furthermore, the low light penetration due to the attenuation caused by the high turbidity or scatter results in few species of SAV able to find the depths of the bay habitable.

Additionally, SAV are generally slow to recover from repeated assaults on the benthos from such human-caused activities such as prop scarring, dredging, and anchoring. In areas with good light penetration and clear water, these activities may affect the recovery and establishment of SAV. In this case however, no evidence of such destructive practices was seen, possibly due to selection of transect sites. Regardless of site selection though, SAV was only seen in water depths of slightly over one meter or less, leading us to the conclusion that poor light condition may be a greater factor than human-caused destruction of SAV within the project area.

CONCLUSIONS

Seagrasses, though not true grasses, are vascular plants that form communities in the shallow waters of Florida. Their importance to the overall health of the coastal waters of Florida cannot be overstated. They provide not only food and shelter for organisms, but their root systems help stabilize the benthic habitat and their high rate of productivity helps replenish oxygen in the atmosphere. The shelter they provide is also one of the best habitats for several important commercial and recreational fisheries (e.g. blue crab and shrimp). Seven seagrass species occur in Florida, but three are common and easily recognized. The three are Turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*), Shoal grass (*Halodule wrightii*), and Manatee grass (*Syringodium filiforme*) (Multi-Species Recovery Plan for South Florida).

Seagrasses have declined in recent years as human activities in coastal areas have increased. Activities like dredging, pollution, and propeller scarring can have both direct and indirect effects on these plants. Given sufficient time and reducing stresses due to human activities, these seagrasses may recover on their own, but natural recovery may be on the order of decades if not centuries.

Several factors are most likely responsible for the overall lack of SAV within the mooring areas selected. Chief among these is the probable lack of sufficient light at the proper wavelengths (Johansson 2002) to support SAV in waters deeper than 2 meters in this area of Boca Ciega Bay. A factor of these turbid conditions may be insufficient tidal flushing of bay waters due to decreased hydrologic function of the bay's outlets to Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico (Becker 1999). Whatever the causes may be for this lack of attached macroscopic algae, increasing and restoration of SAV would help the health of the bay in the long term.

The high levels of turbidity may also require sufficiently long periods of time to allow suspended sediment to settle out of the water column. Not surprisingly, this is one of the most important functions of SAV- to hold sediments in place which in turn maintains water clarity. Accordingly, this is possibly one of the best arguments for the placement of mooring fields within the bay. At minimum, a mooring field would eliminate suspension of sediments by boats anchoring and/or eliminate suspension through the inadvertent movement of anchors by improper placement, currents, or during storm events. Even suspension of sediment due to

improper vessel handling (e.g. propeller dredging) might be reduced as boaters would have a better defined area in which to safely pilot their vessels.

As a step toward restoration of the area's waterways, any plan which could help replace SAV to former (historical) levels should be scrutinized before adoption. If the plan passes the test of reducing impacts to the benthos while increasing the chance for SAV to regain a foothold, then it should be adopted. The system proposed for establishing these mooring fields is a sound, ecologically based decision and the City of Gulfport should receive recognition for their efforts in this cause. Likewise, because the actual anchor system is of such low environmental impact, other jurisdictions should also consider the benefits of this type of moorage system.

Furthermore, we must also consider the placement of a mooring field may not be enough to help restore SAV in the bay. Placement of these mooring fields should allow the City of Gulfport the ability to regulate vessels within their moorage areas. Additional benefits may be a chance for the City to reduce the amount of debris entering the water by discouraging vessels to dump trash in the water or to make their own permanent moorage. If a vessel should happen to sink, the City of Gulfport may have the ability to quickly contact owners to avert possible ecologic damage that could be caused by fuels or wastes entering the water once a vessel goes down. This is especially pertinent, as several vessels sank at their moorages throughout the state during this year's hurricane season, one of the worst on record. Even during both site visits I made during the preparation of this report I saw vessels below water. The longer a vessel is down, the greater the chance for deleterious impacts to the environment.

REFERENCES

- Becker, M.L. and M.A. Ross. (1999). A Model Study of Boca Ciega Bay, John's Pass, and Blind Pass. Center for Modeling Hydrologic and Aquatic Systems, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of South Florida. CMHAS.FDOT.99.01
- Culter, J. K. and J. R. Leverone. (1993). *Bay bottom habitat assessment*. Final draft report. 69 pp. Sarasota: Mote Marine Laboratory.
- Dawes, C. J. D. Hanisak, and W. J. Kenworthy. (1995). Seagrass biodiversity in the Indian River Lagoon. *Bulletin of Marine Science*, 57(1):59-66.
- Dawes, Clinton J and D. A. Tomasko. (1988). Depth distribution of *Thalassia testudinum* in two meadows on the west coast of Florida; a difference in effect of light availability. *Marine Ecology*, 9(2): 123-130.
- Eide S.D., M.E. Bolen, S. Carlson, S.M. Doty, E.A. Forsys, J.M. Morris, J.L. Odell, K.A. Thoms, and J.E. Reynolds III. 1997. Assessment and habitat use of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), in Boca Ciega Bay, Florida. From *Atlantic Dolphin Research Cooperative ADRC*. Marine Science, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
- Fourqurean, Jim and Susie P. Escorcia. (2002). *Seagrasses of South Florida*. South Florida Seagrass Ecosystems. <http://www.fiu.edu/~seagrass/>

Gulf of Mexico FMC. 1998. Generic amendment for addressing EFH Requirements in the following fishery management plans of the Gulf of Mexico, US waters: Red drum fishery of the GOM; Reef fish Fishery of the GOM; Coastal migratory Pelagic Resources (Mackerels) in the GOM and S Atlantic; Stone crab fishery of the GOM; spiny lobster in the GOM and S Atlantic; Coral reefs of the GOM, NOAA.

Iverson, R. L. and H. F. Bittaker. (1986). Seagrass distribution and abundance in eastern Gulf of Mexico coastal waters. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 22(5): 577-602.

Janus Research. City of Gulfport, Rediscovering Our Past. Online brochure from Gulfport website- <http://www.ci.gulfport.fl.us>.

Johansson, J. O. R. and H. S. Greening. (2000). Seagrass restoration in Tampa Bay: A resource-based approach to estuarine management, p.279-293. In Bortone, S. A. (ed.), *Seagrasses: Monitoring, Ecology, Physiology, and Management*. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida.

Johansson, J. O. R. (2002). Water depth (MTL) at the deep edge of seagrass meadows in Tampa Bay measured by GPS carrierphase processing: evaluation of the technique. In H. S. Greening, (Ed.). *Seagrass Management: It's Not Just Nutrients!* (pp. 151-168). 2000 Aug 22-24. St. Petersburg, FL: Tampa Bay Estuary Program.

Lane, G.C. (2000). Plant communities in Florida. Marine Life Adventures- Activities for all ages. Clearwater Marine Aquarium. www.cmaqarium.org

Lewis, R. R. (2002). Potential importance of the longshore bar system to the persistence and restoration of Tampa Bay seagrass meadows. In H. S. Greening, (Ed.). *Seagrass Management: It's Not Just Nutrients!* (pp. 177-184). 2000 Aug 22-24. St. Petersburg, FL: Tampa Bay Estuary Program.

Luczkovich, J.J., S.F. Norton, and R.G. Gilmore, Jr. 1995. The influence of oral anatomy on prey selection during ontogeny of two percoid fishes, *Lagodon rhomboides* and *Centropomus undecimalis*. *Environmental Biology of Fishes*, Vol. 44: 79-95.

Multi-Species Recovery Plan for South Florida. Seagrasses, p. 3-597 to 3-618 and Restoration of Seagrasses, p. 3-619 to 3-622.

NMFS. 2004 EFH relative abundance maps for Tampa Bay. For brown shrimp, gray snapper, gulf stone crab, stone crab, pink shrimp, red drum, Spanish mackerel, spiny lobster, and white shrimp. <http://galveston.ssp.nmfs.gov/research/fisheryecology/EFH/index.html>

Pattillo, M.E. T.E. Czaplá, D.M. Nelson, and M.E. Monaco. 1997. Distribution and abundance of fishes and invertebrates in GOM estuaries, Volume II Species Life History summaries. ELMR Rep. No 11. NOAA/NOS Strategic Environmental Assessments Division, Silver Spring, MD. 377p.

Phillips, Ronald C. (1960). Observations on the ecology and distribution of the Florida seagrasses. 72 pp. St. Petersburg, Florida State Board of Conservation, Marine Lab.

- Part 1: <http://library.fgcu.edu/chnep/277a.pdf>
- Part 2: <http://library.fgcu.edu/chnep/277b.pdf>
- Part 3: <http://library.fgcu.edu/chnep/277c.pdf>
- Part 4: <http://library.fgcu.edu/chnep/277d.pdf>
- Part 5: <http://library.fgcu.edu/chnep/277e.pdf>
- Part 6: <http://library.fgcu.edu/chnep/277f.pdf>
- Part 7: <http://library.fgcu.edu/chnep/277g.pdf>

Post spill information- <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2004/apr03/noaa03r125.html>

Squires, A. (1996). Tidal creeks in Pinellas County. PowerPoint presentation for Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management. asquires@co.pinellas.fl.us.

Sykes, J.E. 1971. Implications of dredging and filling in Boca Ciega Bay, Florida. *Environ Lett.*; 1(2): 151-6. PMID: 5168681 [PubMed- indexed for MEDLINE]

Unknown. Guidelines for the conservation and restoration of seagrasses, chapter1.

Virnstein, R., W. Avery and J. O. R. Johannson. (2002). On defining the "edge" of a seagrass bed. In H. S. Greening, (Ed.). *Seagrass Management: It's Not Just Nutrients!* (pp. 169-170). 2000 Aug 22-24. St. Petersburg, FL: Tampa Bay Estuary Program.

Zieman, J. C. (1982). *Ecology of the seagrasses of south Florida: a community profile*. Washington, DC: U. S. Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.
<http://fulltext.fcla.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=feol&idno=UF00000120&format=pdf>

Zieman, J. C. and R. T. Zieman. (1989). The ecology of the seagrass meadows of the west coast of Florida: A community profile. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, biological report 85 (7.25). Washington, D.C.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-44

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN IN CONCEPT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PROCEED WITH PERMITTING OF THE MOORING FIELD AS OUTLINED IN THE PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

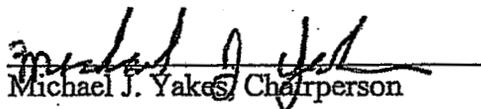
WHEREAS, on March 22, 2007, City Council conducted a Special Workshop in which the City Manager explained a Harbor Management Plan which has been made available to the public and on the City's website.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA:

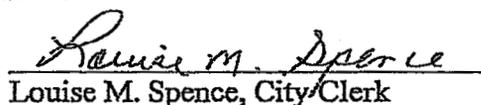
Section 1. The City Council hereby adopts the Harbor Management Plan in concept and authorizes the City Manager to proceed with permitting of the Mooring Field Project, as outlined in the Plan.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th day of April, 2007, by the City of Gulfport City Council.


Michael J. Yakes, Chairperson

ATTESTED by the City Clerk on the date above-written.


Louise M. Spence, City Clerk

ARTICLE I HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MOORING AREA

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

DRAFT

Sec. 6-45. Definitions.

(a) *Anchorage* shall mean a customary, suitable and designated harbor area in which vessels may anchor.

(b) *Anchoring* shall mean the use of a heavy device fastened to a line or chain to hold a vessel in a desired position.

(c) *Designated special anchorage areas* shall mean anchorage areas designated by the Coast Guard where it has been determined such an anchorage ground is necessitated due to maritime or commercial interests.

(d) *Emergency* shall mean, but is not limited to, any occurrence, or threat thereof, whether natural, technological or manmade, in war or in peace, which results or may result in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of property, or as may be otherwise be determined by the City Council or the City Manger.

(e) *Harbor* shall mean a natural or man-made anchorage and/or mooring area providing some degree of protection and security from most storms.

(f) *Harbor management plan for mooring area* shall mean a plan adopted by ordinance of the city council to address the rules and regulations for anchoring, mooring, docking and loading within the City limits.

(g) *Harbormaster* shall mean a designated city employee charged with implementation of the harbor management plan for mooring area.

(h) *Houseboat/live-aboard vessel* shall mean any vessel, which is used primarily as a residence for a minimum of twenty-one (21) days during any thirty-day period, in a county of this state, and this residential use of the vessel is to the preclusion of the use of the vessel as a means of transportation. This includes any vessel represented as a place of business, a professional or other commercial enterprise, or a legal residence. A commercial fishing boat is expressly excluded from the term "live-aboard vessel."

(i) *Mooring* shall mean permanent ground tackle provided by the City where vessels are kept at anchor.

(j) *Mooring field* shall mean a designated area where permanent ground tackle is utilized to provide multiple vessel moorings in accordance with the harbor management plan for mooring area.

(k) *Vessel*. Shall mean every description of self-propelled watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, including, without limitation all types of boats and all uses thereof. As used herein, the terms "boats" or "vessel" are synonymous with watercraft.

Sec. 6-46. Intent.

It is the intent of the harbor management plan for mooring area to address the primary management of the managed mooring field located in the Boca Ciega Bay. The harbor management plan for mooring area also addresses anchoring outside the designated anchorage on the remainder of the City limits. The purpose of the City mooring area is to be boater friendly and to encourage more boaters to visit downtown; therefore, there is a need to provide additional facilities to accommodate transient vessels in an anchorage, or a mooring.

Sec. 6-47. Purpose.

The purpose of the harbor management plan for mooring area is to establish a plan for adequate management of the managed mooring field in a manner that will reduce the potential discharge of pollutants into the water and provide boaters with maximum protection from irresponsible or unthinking actions of other boaters.

Sec. 6-48. Target group of boaters.

The harbor management plan for mooring area is designed to accommodate the needs of operators of adequately equipped motor vessels or sailboats, operating their vessels in a responsible manner. However, this plan also addresses possible issues that may arise from irresponsible actions of a minority group of boaters anticipated to utilize the managed mooring field. It is acknowledged that the majority of vessel operators are responsible and comply with applicable federal and state requirements.

Sec. 6-49 Permit Required.

- (a) All vessels intending to moor in the anchorage shall register and pay any applicable fees at the harbormasters office. It shall be unlawful for any person to anchor any vessel within the designated anchorage area unless properly attached to a mooring placed by the city in that area for that purpose. Such mooring shall be assigned by the harbormaster at the time the permit is issued. Any owner or person mooring or anchoring any vessel in contravention to this section shall move immediately after directed to do so by the harbormaster or his designee. Any person who remains in the anchorage area after being instructed to move shall be considered a trespasser, as defined by Section 810.09, Florida statues, and being subject to the penalties provided therein.
- (b) Application. Any person desiring to obtain a permit to moor a vessel shall make application to the harbormaster on the appropriate form supplied by the harbormaster.

Sec. 6-50. Lease agreement description.

- (a) Tenancy in the managed mooring field shall be defined as transient, overnight to no more than thirty (30) days in a twelve (12) month period. Transient tenants shall sign a lease agreement with a hold harmless clause, as well as a section on the acknowledgement of the rules and operational requirements within the managed mooring field, and pay the required daily fee in advance. There will be no assessment of a security deposit for transient tenants.
- (b) Fees for mooring in the anchorage shall be based on length of stay, and shall be established by a resolution of the City Council.
- (c) All vessels with the intention of utilizing the managed mooring field must make prior reservations with the office of the harbormaster/dockmaster, regardless of the planned length of stay. Arrangements for transient stays are on a space available basis and can be made upon arrival utilizing a very high frequency (VHF) radio on channel sixteen (16). Arrangements for any length of stay shall be made prior to arrival in person or via telephone.

Sec. 5-51. Departure of vessels with due balances.

It is unlawful for the vessel owner to vacate a mooring without the permission of the harbormaster/dockmaster when said vessel has a delinquent dockage account. Additionally, as part of the lease agreement, the city will be authorized to place a lien on the vessel for the cost of the unpaid fees or charges assessed by the harbormaster/dockmaster.

Sec. 6-52. Tenant information required.

- (a) The owner/vessel operator shall provide information for the lease/dockage agreement for the managed mooring field as follows.
 - (1) Owner name;
 - (2) Home address, including city and state;
 - (3) Telephone number;
 - (4) Emergency number;
 - (5) Length over all (LOA);
 - (6) Beam;
 - (7) Draft;
 - (8) Type of vessel;
 - (9) Mooring assignment;
 - (10) Vessel name;
 - (11) Registration or document number;
 - (12) Insurance Company

- (b) The tenant shall be responsible to inform the harbormaster/dockmaster of any changes in the preceding required lease information.

Sec. 6-53. Liability of the city.

The city assumes no liability for use of the managed mooring field by tenants or guests. Also, the city neither assumes nor accepts any responsibility for personal possessions, vessel, dinghy, or their contents or use while said vessels are located within the managed mooring field or upland facilities. Persons using the water of the city shall assume all risk of personal injury and damage or loss to their property. The city assumes no risk due to accident, fire, theft, vandalism, or acts of God.

Sec. 6-54. Enforcement.

The harbor management plan for mooring area shall apply to all vessel(s), owner(s), crew(s), and guests entering the managed mooring field. Any vessel operator in violation of federal law(s) or regulations(s), Florida law(s) or regulation(s), or the city code would result in cause for eviction from the managed mooring field.

DIVISION 2. ANCHORAGE REGULATIONS

Sec. 6-55. Establishment.

- (a.) Rules governing the use of the anchorage shall be established by ordinance and any violation of these rules shall be a violation of this Code of Ordinances. A copy of these rules shall be available in the office of the city clerk and in the office the harbormaster.
- (b.) The tenants, upon taking residence within the managed mooring field, shall execute acknowledgement of the rules of the harbor management plan for mooring area, as well as the operational requirements of the managed mooring field. The lease agreement shall contain reasonable language as deemed necessary to enforce compliance with the provisions of this article.

Sec. 6-56. Safe operation of vessels.

Reckless or careless operation of any vessel, including but not limited to violation of navigation rules, when the vessel endangers or is likely to endanger life, limb, property or person, shall be grounds for immediate eviction from the managed mooring field, without the necessity or any prior warning or repetitive violations.

Sec. 6-57. Only operational vessels allowed.

- (a) Only vessels that are in compliance with (1) the United States Coast Guard (USCG) regulations, and (2) Florida Statutes, particularly the operational and safety standards

shall be allowed within the managed mooring field. Only seaworthy vessels in good operating condition, capable of maneuvering under their own power or sail, possessing current registration and acceptable documentation shall be allowed to moor or anchor within the managed mooring field. This is to ensure that all vessels are functional and operational, in the interest of public safety.

- (b) Maximum length of a vessel is limited to thirty-five (35) feet, or forty (40) feet in those moorings designed to accommodate this length.
- (c) The decision of whether a vessel is considered to be in good operational condition, capable of maneuvering under its own power shall be the responsibility of the harbormaster/dockmaster, based on the United States Coast Guard and state laws and regulations concerning safety and operational requirements.
- (d) All vessels, except dinghies, without an integral source of propulsion (sail or motorized) are not allowed to remain within the managed mooring field. Examples of vessels that would not be allowed to remain within the managed mooring field are a sailboat with no motor and no serviceable sails, a motorboat with no operational motor, or a vessel that must be towed. This requirement does not include vessels that require minor sail or engine repairs.
- (e) Every vessel twenty-six (26) feet or more in length, which has an enclosed cabin with berthing facilities, shall, while on the waters of the state, be equipped with a toilet. On a vessel other than a houseboat, the toilet may be portable or permanently installed. Every permanently installed toilet shall be properly attached to the appropriate United States Coast Guard certified or labeled marine sanitation device.
- (f) Every houseboat shall be equipped with at least one (1) permanently installed toilet which shall be properly connected to a United States Coast Guard certified or labeled Type III marine sanitation device. If the toilet is simultaneously connected to both a Type III marine sanitation device and to another approved marine sanitation device, the valve or other mechanism selecting between the two (2) marine sanitation devices shall be set to direct all sewage to the Type III marine sanitation device and, while the vessel is on the waters of the state, shall be locked or otherwise secured by the boat operator so as to prevent resetting.

Sec. 6-58. Vessel appearance.

All vessels shall be maintained in good condition and shall not be allowed to become unsightly or to be reduced to a dilapidated condition. Laundry shall not be hung on vessels, docks or piers in the city yacht basin at any time.

Sec. 6-59. Use of sewage pump-out facilities.

- (a) Absolutely no discharge of sewage or other pollutants within the managed mooring field is allowed. Use of the pump-out facility located at the fuel dock of the city yacht basin or some other city approved pump-out facility is required on an as needed basis. All tenants within the managed mooring field must maintain strict compliance with 33 CFR 159 and Section 327.53, Florida Statutes, as to the operation and management of marine sanitation devices to reduce discharges that would adversely impact public health. The use of the yacht basin pump-out facility is free for all tenants and the general public.
- (b) Violation of this section will be reason for immediate eviction and prosecution to the fullest extent provided by federal, state, county and city laws.

Sec. 6-60. Conduct of tenants.

- (a) Tenants shall use discretion in using any sound producing devices or machinery, which may include but is not limited to televisions, radios, stereos and musical instruments, so as not to create a nuisance to other tenants. Generator, blowers or other noisy machinery shall not be operated between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Disorderly, boisterous or rowdy conduct by a vessel owner, crew or guest that disturbs the peace of other occupants in the managed mooring field shall be cause for a warning to the operator/tenant or eviction of the vessel from the managed mooring field.
- (b) The use of charcoal burners or any open flame equipment is prohibited on the docks or other common areas, except as provided by the city yacht basin. Swimming, diving and fishing are prohibited from yacht basin docks and bulkheads. All pets must be leashed while on the docks or in any of the common areas. Pets are permitted, provided they do not disturb other tenants. Laundry shall not be placed in public view aboard any vessel or in the common area.

Sec. 6-61. Discharge of waste or other materials prohibited.

- (a) While within the managed mooring field, any discharge into the bay of any fluids, waste or other material, regardless of nature that would adversely impact public health is prohibited. If the harbormaster/dockmaster or any employee observes any such discharge, they will immediately notify the Department of Environmental Protection or call the State Warning Point number (800-320-0519). If such a discharge occurs and is illegal, eviction from the managed mooring field shall be mandatory.
- (b) In the event of an accidental discharge, the vessel captain, operator, or owner shall immediately notify the harbormaster/dockmaster to ensure any action that could improve the containment of the spilled/discharged material will begin as soon as possible.

Sec. 6-62. Boarding by law enforcement personnel.

The vessel operator is encouraged to cooperate with and assist law enforcement personnel in the lawful pursuit of their duties. The vessel operator shall not improperly resist or obstruct a lawful boarding or inspection conducted by an authorized law enforcement officer. The City shall be permitted to board the vessel, at any time, in the event of an emergency to life or property, danger to the environment and to inspect for compliance with the terms of the lease.

Sec. 6-63. Illegal activities prohibited.

Any illegal activity within the boundaries of the city, which includes the manned mooring field, shall be grounds for immediate prosecution under the provisions of Florida Statutes and/or city code. It is the intent of the city to prosecute each violation to the fullest extent of the law and any such violation shall be grounds for eviction.

Sec. 6-64. Zero tolerance for drug use or possession.

It is the policy of the city not to tolerate any illegal drug use or possession within its boundaries, which includes the managed mooring field. Such use or possession shall subject the offender to be immediately prosecuted to the fullest extent of the provisions of all applicable laws and any violation shall be grounds for eviction.

Sec. 6-65. Anchoring outside the designated anchorage.

(a) Anchoring or mooring of vessels in any portion of the waterways within the limits of the city for more than twelve (12) hours is permitted only in the marked anchorage or mooring field. Exceptions to anchoring or mooring are permitted under the following conditions:

- (1) Recreational purposes such as, but not limited to fishing and visiting downtown or other special events approved by City Council, or
- (2) Emergency malfunction of vessels; or
- (3) Workboats performing water-related construction

(b) Vessels anchored within city but not in the designated anchorage, are not allowed to utilize any city yacht basin amenities, including the dinghy dock.

- (c) Owners of private submerged land or submerged leases land leases within city limits can negotiate with the city for enforcement of anchoring regulations.

Sec. 6-66. Transportation requirements.

All vessels should have a dinghy or other small craft as a method of conveyance to enable access to the dinghy dock and the office of the harbormaster/dockmaster. The vessel owner shall report the absence of a dinghy to the harbormaster/dockmaster. The vessel owner is responsible for transportation to and from the office of the harbormaster/dockmaster for registering to rent the mooring facilities. The vessel owner can utilize his/her main vessel for this purpose by bringing it temporarily to the fuel dock. The lack of such a dinghy shall not be cause to refuse rental of a mooring. It is the sole responsibility of the occupants of the vessel to provide their own conveyance to the upland facilities. Under no circumstances is the city yacht basin responsible for owning, operating or maintaining a dinghy for the exclusive use of mooring patrons.

Sec. 6-67. Commercial uses of the managed mooring field.

- (a) Commercial activities or vessels engaged in commercial activities are prohibited from mooring in the managed mooring field. The site is designed as a recreational and residential site and shall be maintained as such. No advertising or soliciting shall be permitted on any vessel within the managed mooring field except for "for sale" signs not to exceed one (1) square foot in size. Each vessel shall be limited to two (2) "for sale" signs. Commercial vessels, such as day charter or sport fishing boats, will be allowed to store, but not operate the boats on a mooring the same as a private vessel tenant.
- (b) Minor commercial activities and vessels, such as water taxis, delivery vessels, pump-out vessels, and those performing minor repairs on mooring vessels or facilities, may extend service to the vessels in the managed mooring field. The harbormaster/dockmaster shall make the final decision on determining whether a commercial vessel is allowed in the managed mooring field.

DIVISION 3. OPERATIONS

Sec. 6-68. Authority of harbormaster/dockmaster.

The harbormaster/dockmaster has the right to assign moorings. No vessel shall occupy any mooring berth without the approval of the harbormaster/dockmaster or his designee. Subleasing of any mooring by the lessee is prohibited. Owners wishing to transfer to a different mooring other than the one assigned must obtain the prior authorization of the harbormaster/dockmaster or his designee and complete the required forms. It may be necessary to reassign a vessel from the particular space rented to another mooring within

the managed mooring field as dictated by the practical needs of the existing use of the managed mooring field and the tenants therein. The decision or interpretation of this article shall be the responsibility of the harbormaster/dockmaster. No tenant of the mooring field shall have any right or entitlement to any particular mooring or anchorage and tenants may be relocated within the discretion of the harbormaster/dockmaster.

Sec. 6-69. Mooring and anchoring methods.

(a) The method of mooring vessels in the managed mooring field shall be by tying the buoy line to the bow only. The line used to attach a vessel to the mooring buoy shall be the one furnished, which has one (1) end permanently attached to buoy. No vessel shall be moored at the stern or be tied to more than one (1) buoy or points on a vessel. There shall be no dropping or placement of additional anchors or anchor systems from any vessel in the managed mooring field. All vessels within the managed mooring field shall only use the established buoys and anchoring systems.

(b) Notwithstanding the above, vessels may not anchor in a manner that:

- (1) Jeopardizes other vessels at anchor or underway;
- (2) Might cause damage to other property or persons; and/or
- (3) Impedes access to docks, slips or public or private property.

In the event an assigned mooring or anchorage results in any of the above-noted circumstances, it shall be the responsibility of the tenant to notify the harbormaster/dockmaster and request a different anchorage or mooring.

Sec. 6-70. Emergency repairs in absence of tenant.

The harbormaster/dockmaster shall have the authority to make necessary repairs in the event of an emergency when an unattended vessel is in immediate danger of sinking or represents a threat to other vessels. The emergency may include, but shall not be limited to, the vessel sinking or fire, breakdown of a bilge, fuel or sewage pumps or fluid leaks or broken lines. The cost of repairs, parts and labor will be assessed to the owner of the vessel and be due and payable within forty-eight (48) hours of the return of the owner of the vessel or as provided by the harbormaster/dockmaster. The city will be authorized to place a lien on the vessel for the cost of the unpaid fees or charges assessed by the harbormaster/dockmaster. If the vessel is deemed to be in imminent danger of sinking, fails to meet United States Coast Guard and state standards, leaks fluids or materials, or represents a threat to other vessels, the harbormaster/dockmaster will require repairs to be made within a reasonable, but specific time frame. If the repairs are not adequately accomplished, the vessel may be evicted from the managed mooring field.

Sec. 6-71. Repairs within the managed mooring field.

Major repairs or refitting of vessels, including any activity that could result in a deposition of any materials into the waterway or within the managed mooring field, are

strictly prohibited since a significant water quality violation would result in an adverse impact to public health. Only minor repairs or mechanical adjustments may be conducted on the vessels while in the managed mooring field. The harbormaster/dockmaster office shall be notified in advance to verify compliance of any proposed activity.

Sec. 6-72. Abandonment of vessels.

If a vessel is left unattended for more than seventy-two (72) continuous hours without giving prior notification to the harbormaster/dockmaster, the vessel shall be considered abandoned. If any vessel is determined to be abandoned, it may be stored in a secure location or commercial marina for thirty (30) days, during which time the harbormaster/dockmaster shall make a reasonable, diligent effort to locate the owner of the vessel. If the vessel is not reclaimed within thirty (30) days, the vessel shall be sold under the process prescribed by Florida Statutes, at fair market value, which will cover the cost of unpaid rental fees, as well as any fees due for storage.

DIVISION 4. AMENITIES AND SERVICES

Sec. 6-73. Damage of amenities and property.

Misuse of any amenity or property is grounds for eviction. If any tenant, crew or guest damages any property or equipment of the amenities, due to neglect, misuse, vandalism or failure to follow stated instructions, the tenant shall be held responsible for the cost of repair and replacement, as well as any civil or criminal charges for the activity.

Sec. 6-74. Use of parking lot.

Reserved.

Sec. 6-75. Use of dinghy docks.

- (a) Registered managed mooring field tenants shall have free use of the dinghy docks located at the city yacht basin. Dockage is limited to a single dinghy at any one (1) time with a maximum length of ten (10) feet overall. Dinghies must be kept in the water and secured by a single line of good quality from the bow to a cleat or ring on the dock.
- (b) Use of the dinghy docks by vessels anchored in designated anchorage is included in the anchorage amenity package. The same restrictions apply as to vessels in the managed mooring field.

Sec. 6-78. Use of sewage pump-out facility.

The city yacht basin pump-out facility, located at the city yacht basin fuel dock, shall be open and in operation from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., seven (7) days a week, with the

exception of Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is no fee for the use of this facility. All vessels in the managed mooring field must use the pump-out facility on an as-required basis.

DIVISION 5. SEVERE STORM OR HURRICANE PLAN

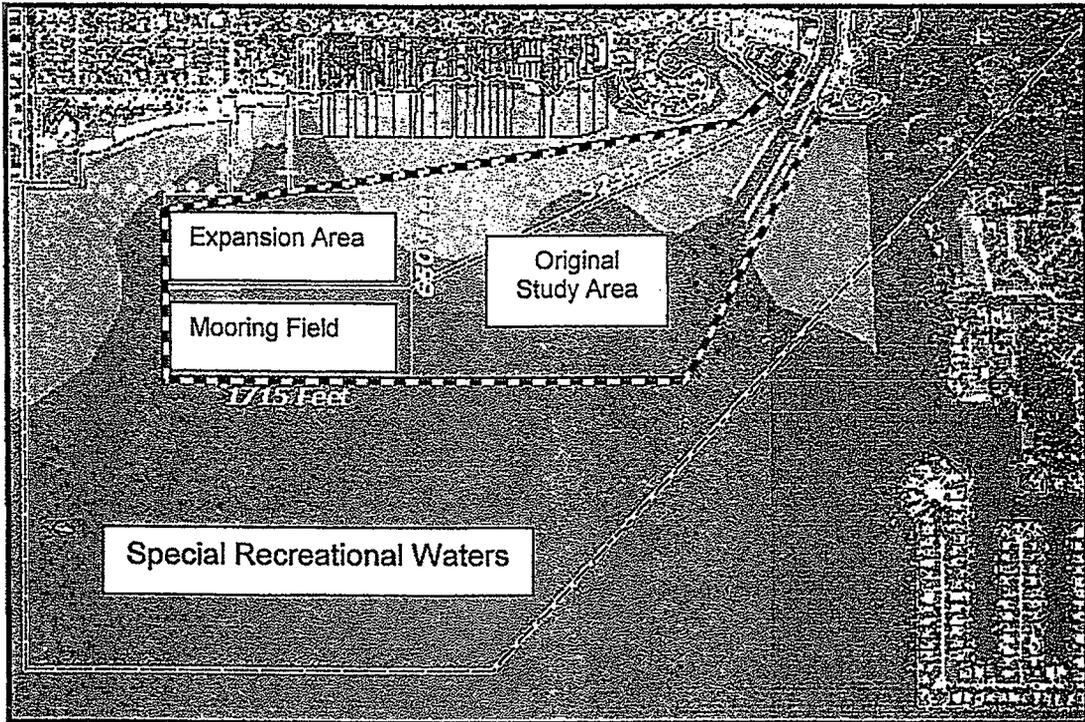
Sec. 6-79. Severe storms and hurricanes.

The office of the harbor master/dockmaster shall, if possible, warn the managed mooring field tenants to exercise prudent and appropriate judgment in the event that a severe storm or hurricane threatens the area. The tenants shall be advised that the mooring equipment provided in the managed mooring field may not be able to withstand a hurricane or tropical storm and/or the associated wind and tidal surges. Evacuation of the managed mooring field will not be mandatory; however, it may be recommended.

DIVISION 6. MANAGED MOORING AREA

Sec. 96-80. General description.

Include physical description of mooring field.



**SPECIAL RECREATIONAL WATERS
(Figure 2)**

It encompasses most of the City's corporate waters, excluding:

- The Managed Mooring Field.
- The Channel.
- The Marina area.
- Submerged lands owned fee simple or leased by the City or private property owners.
- Restricted areas or exclusion zones that are environmentally sensitive.
- Designated swimming areas.

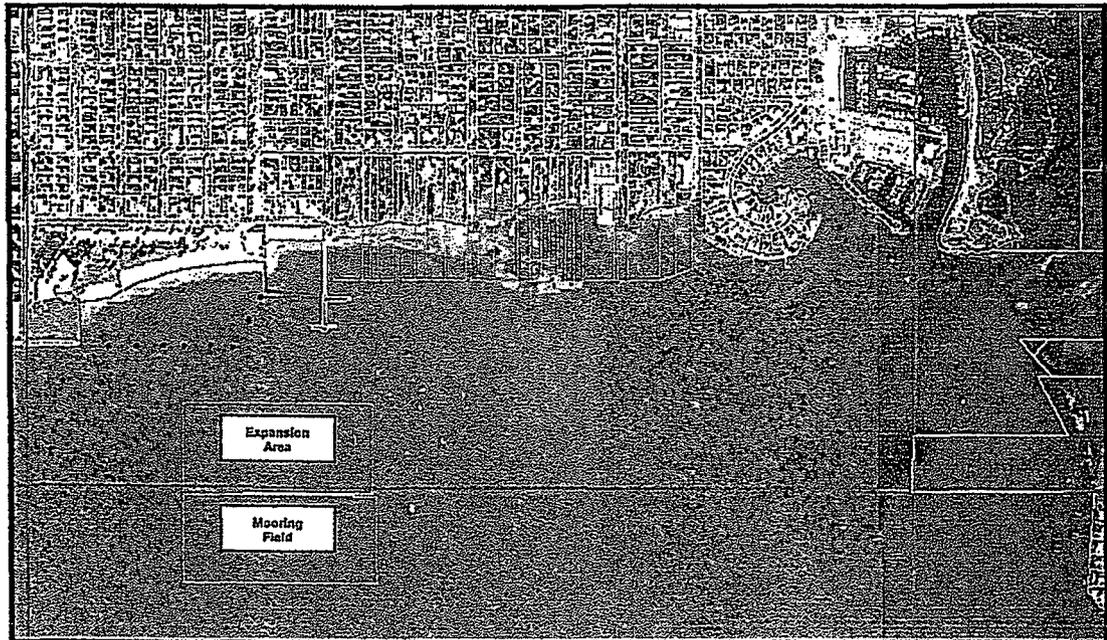
The rather large Special Recreational Waters area basically recognizes laws that mariners have the right to anchor as part of their rights of navigation.

3. Managed Mooring Field

The City's Managed Mooring Field is intended for boaters who do not have a slip in the Marina but wish to stay in the City's corporate waters for more than seventy-two hours. Moorings have been allocated between

short-term visitors, seasonal cruisers, and long-term storage - with one-third of the moorings allocated to each use. All boats in this area must be registered with the Harbormaster.

The mooring field is located approximately 1,840 feet offshore from the Gulfport Casino Dock. Its dimensions are approximately 650 feet north – south by 1,715 feet east – west. It contains 50 moorings. 20 moorings have a swing length of 65 feet, while 30 moorings have a swing length of 85 feet, accommodating boat sizes having a maximum length of 40 feet and 60 feet, respectively.



MANAGED MOORING FIELD
(Figure 3)

The Managed Mooring Field is identified in the map presented below. A larger scale chart identifying this area is provided in Appendices B and C.

A second mooring field labeled "expansion area" is displayed on the map, and is reserved for future expansion in the event there is a need. Should this area ever be developed, it would be configured in the same way as the Managed Mooring Field.

The specific location of the mooring field was fixed in accordance with three criteria. First, and most importantly, this particular area meets environmental siting criteria discussed in the next section. Secondly, it was the area found most acceptable to the boating public and owners of waterfront residential property who could be materially affected by the by a

TABLE 7

AMENITIES SUMMARY

AMENITY	LOCATIONS
PUMPOUT STATION	Gulport Marina Pumpout Vessel Planned
GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL	Gulport Marina
PUBLIC RESTROOMS	Gulport Marina Gulport Beach
PUBLIC SHOWER FACILITIES	Enclosed Men/Ladies at Gulport Marina Open Beach-Style Showers at Gulport Beach
COURTESY AND DINGHY DOCKS	Gulport Beach Gulport Marina
COIN LAUNDRY	Waterfront District
GROCERIES & SUNDRIES	Waterfront District
TELEPHONE	Gulport Marina Gulport Beach Waterfront District
POST OFFICE	Waterfront District
INTERNET ACCESS	Gulport Marina Hotspot Waterfront District (Hotspots at several business establishments) Gulport Library (adjacent to Waterfront District)
WEATHER INFORMATION	Gulport Marina
CATV NEWS	Gulport Marina Gulport Library (adjacent to Waterfront District)
EATING & DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS	Waterfront District
COMPLAINT SERVICES	Harbormasters Office - Marine Radio Channel 16 or Telephone Number 727-893-1071
POLICE SERVICES	Police Boat In-Service - 911 on Cell Phone for Area Code 727 or Harbormasters Office - Marine Radio Channel 16 or Cell Phone Number 727-365-2446

In addition to the services identified above, boaters have access to the City's many waterfront parks in the vicinity of both the Marina and Waterfront District, including nature trails, picnic pavilions, and other amenities.

The City continues to work with other organizations and business establishments to provide additional services to boaters. Organizations include the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, Waterfront District Merchant's Association, and the City's two yacht clubs. These additional services

Chapter 6

BEACHES, BOATS, BOATING AND WATERFRONT STRUCTURES*

- Art. I. In General, §§ 6-1—6-13.3
Art. II. Gulfport Yacht Basin, §§ 6-14—6-33
Art. III. Seawalls, Bulkheads and Other Waterfront Structures, §§ 6-34—6-44

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 6-1. Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following terms and phrases shall mean:

- (1) *Berth*: Any water area, including slips, utilized to secure or moor watercraft by any means employed, such means including, but not limited to, anchorage, and moorage to piling, docks, and piers.
- (2) *Gulfport Yacht Basin*: That body of water, watercraft facilities and land area confined within the following boundaries:

Beginning at a point being the centerline of 29th Avenue South and 46th Street South in the City of Gulfport, Florida; thence proceeding east along the north line of the southwest quarter of section 34, township 31 south, range 16 east, nine hundred ninety feet; thence south on and along the east three-quarter line of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of said section 34, one thousand three hundred twenty feet; thence proceeding west on the east and west centerline of said southwest quarter of said section 34 to the west boundary of said section 34 and continuing west on the east and west centerline of the southeast quarter of section 33, township 31 south, range 16 east, six hundred sixty feet; thence north one thousand three hundred twenty feet to the centerline of 29th Avenue, being the north boundary of said southeast quarter of said section 33; thence west six hundred sixty feet to point of beginning.

- (3) *Municipal beach*: All lands and water area being particularly described and designated as follows:

Beginning at a point where the south line of Shore Boulevard intersects with the west line of 58th Street South in the City of Gulfport, Florida; thence running east along the south line of Shore Boulevard one thousand ninety-eight feet, more or less, to the point of the west wall of the casino building, if produced northerly, [thence] in a southerly direction along the west wall of said casino, if produced northerly, into the waters of Boca Ciega Bay, four hundred fifty feet; thence at right angles in a westerly direction, one thousand two hundred ninety-eight feet; thence north four hundred fifty feet to the point of beginning.

*Cross reference—Fires prohibited in certain public places, § 14-59.

State law reference—Boat registration and safety law, Ch. 371, Fla. Stats.

- (4) *Municipal pier*: That city-owned pier which extends into the waters of Boca Ciega Bay at the point of the intersection of Shore Boulevard and 54th Street South.
- (5) *Municipal waterfront*: All city-owned land contiguous to the waters of Boca Ciega Bay and Clam Bayou.
- (6) *Slip*: An area of water, together with any dockage facilities, utilized for the berthing of watercraft.
- (7) *Waters*: All waters of Clam Bayou and Boca Ciega Bay within the city.
- (8) *Waterways*: All navigable waters in Clam Bayou and Boca Ciega Bay within the city.
- (9) *Public casino boat dock*: That certain boat dock in the waterways of the city, generally located between the municipal pier and the Gulfport Casino property, and having berths for the docking of vessels.
- (10) *Vessel/watercraft/boat*: As referenced in Section 1(b), Art. VII of the State Constitution, includes every description of watercraft, barge, and air boat, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.1; Ord. No. 2002-11, § 1, 9-3-02; Ord. No. 2005-21, §§ 1, 2, 12-6-05)

Sec. 6-2. Operation of watercraft under municipal pier.

It shall be unlawful to steer, sail, propel or operate any watercraft underneath the municipal pier without first having obtained from the city manager a permit to do so.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.2)

Sec. 6-3. Blocking channels.

It shall be unlawful, by the deposit of trash, sand, stone or other material whatsoever, or in any other manner, to block or obstruct any channel or make unsafe the bottom of any waters within the city. This section shall not be construed to prohibit the mooring of boats at such places as may be approved by the city manager.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.3)

Sec. 6-4. Reckless and dangerous operation.

It shall be unlawful to operate any boat or watercraft in waters within the city in a reckless, careless or dangerous manner so as to endanger the lives or property of the operator or others.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.4)

Sec. 6-5. Operation under influence of intoxicants.

It shall be unlawful to operate a watercraft within the city while the operator is under the influence of intoxicating liquors or beverages to the extent that his normal faculties are impaired.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.5)

Sec. 6-6. Watercraft at municipal beach.

(a) No person shall place any watercraft of any kind on the uplands or beaches of Gulfport Beach, except as specifically authorized by the city council. This subsection (a) shall also apply to the designated "No Boat" area between the Gulfport Municipal Pier and the Gulfport Casino.

(b) No person shall operate any watercraft of any kind within any designated swimming area in the waters adjacent to the Gulfport Beach.

(c) Watercraft shall be prohibited from anchoring, mooring or traversing the area west of the municipal pier extending to the casino municipal dock, as more particularly described in Exhibit "A" to Ordinance No. 2002-04.

(d) No watercraft or equipment shall be placed, stored or deposited within twenty-five (25) feet landward of the mean high water line of any public beach, between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.7; Ord. No. 96-3, § 3, 3-5-96; Ord. No. 2005-21, § 3, 12-6-05)

Sec. 6-7. Watercraft in parks, rights of way and public places.

(a) No person shall operate any watercraft of any kind in any park or adjacent waterway, or place any watercraft upon any upland or beach in any park, except in areas designated for the same, or except in an emergency. No person shall attach any watercraft in any manner to any pier, dock, boardwalk, or other structure of any kind, within any park.

(b) No person shall secure, tie, dock, or anchor any boat, watercraft or vessel of any kind to any public property, including any park, beach, bench, tree, pole, post, sign, bulkhead or seawall adjacent to any public right of way, easement, park or public place within the city, except the public casino dock or boat launching ramp; except where the city manager, or his or her designee, has issued a permit providing for the use of public property for docking or unloading.

(c) No person shall secure, tie, dock, or anchor any boat, watercraft or vessel of any kind to any local, municipal, city, county, state or federal governmental agency regulatory, directional or informational sign or sign post, or any buoy, or piling.

(d) Any boat, vessel or watercraft of any kind found in violation of this section may be deemed a public nuisance and impounded by the city, in accordance with chapter 12 of the Code of Ordinances.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.8; Ord. No. 96-3, § 3, 3-5-96; Ord. No. 2005-21, § 4, 12-6-05)

Sec. 6-8. Combustion motor exclusion.

(a) No person shall operate any watercraft of any kind using any type of internal combustion engine within any park or adjacent waterway of the city in any area where the same are designated as prohibited. Any area where internal combustion engines are prohibited

shall be referred to as a combustion motor exclusion zone. The operation of electric trolling motors, and the paddling or polling of power boats with the engine off, within such zones, shall not be prohibited. A map depicting all combustion motor exclusion zones within the city shall be maintained in the public records of the city.

(b) The area west of an imaginary line beginning at the fishing dock at the southeast corner of the Clam Bayou Nature Park, running north around the east side of the park islands to the northernmost dock and running north thereof to the northern boundary of said park, is hereby designated as a combustion motor exclusion zone.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.9; Ord. No. 96-3, § 4, 3-5-96; Ord. No. 2002-04, §§ 1, 2, 4-2-02; Ord. No. 2005-21, § 5, 12-6-05)

Sec. 6-9. Depositing waste matter—In waters.

It shall be unlawful to place, throw, discharge or deposit, or cause, suffer or procure to be placed, thrown, discharged or deposited either from or out of any watercraft, or from the shore, any trash, oil, garbage, human waste, debris, dead animal or fish, timber, logs, or refuse matter of any kind or description whatsoever into any of the waters lying within the city. It shall be unlawful to deposit, cause, suffer or procure to be deposited materials or matters of any such kind in any place on the bank or beaches of any waters within the city where the same is liable to be washed into such waters, either by ordinary or high tide, or by storms or floods, or otherwise.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.6)

Sec. 6-10. Same—On municipal beach.

It shall be unlawful to throw upon the municipal beach any waste or refuse, or to leave upon such beach any food, food scraps, paper, or papers, containers, cartons, towels or any other article or object of any kind.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.10)

Sec. 6-11. Idle speed/no wake zones.

(a) *Idle speed/no wake zones designated.* The following waterways within the city, as depicted on the map available in the office of the city clerk, are hereby designated as idle speed/no wake zones, and all vessels operated therein shall comply with the provisions of this section:

- (1) *Gulfport Municipal Marina.* The area beginning at the northern channel markers of the municipal marina (marker numbers 3 and 4) and extending north into the marina basin.
- (2) *Pasadena Yacht and Country Club Marina.* The area beginning at the southeast mooring pole of the southernmost boat slip behind Kipps Colony Condominium building number three (3), extending directly across the channel to a point off the southeast corner of Pasadena Point Estates, and extending north into the marina basin.

- (3) *Kipps Colony/Seabreeze Drive.* All waters northeast of an imaginary line extending from the southernmost point of Lot 11A of Kipps Colony Estates At Pasadena Yacht And Country Club to the westernmost point of Lots 100 and 101 of Skimmer Point Phase III, including the waterway between Kipps Colony Drive and Seabreeze Drive.
- (4) *Skimmer Point/Town Shores.* All waters within the area bounded by the properties on Bayview Circle, Town Shores Boulevard, Seabreeze Drive, Skimmer Point Boulevard, 59th Street South, and an imaginary line extending between the southernmost point of Lots 116 and 117 of Skimmer Point Phase III and the westernmost point of Town Shores of Gulfport Condominium, including the waterway adjacent to the properties on Skimmer Point Drive, Seabird Road, Seabreeze Drive, Skimmer Point Boulevard, 59th Street South and 30th Avenue South, and a portion of the waterway adjacent to Bayview Circle and Town Shores Boulevard.
- (5) *Clam Bayou Nature Park.* All waters north of an imaginary line beginning at the fishing dock on the southeast corner of the Clam Bayou Nature Park, running east to the Gulfport city limits, including all waters of Clam Bayou and the Clam Bayou Nature Park.

(b) *Excessive speed prohibited.* No vessel within a designated idle speed/no wake zone shall be operated at a speed greater than that speed which is necessary to maintain steerage.

(c) *Penalty for violation.* Any violation of this section shall be punishable as provided in Section 327.73 Florida Statutes, or as otherwise provided by law.

(Ord. No. 89-15, §§ 1-3, 11-21-89; Ord. No. 91-17(A), § 2, 12-3-91; Ord. No. 96-3, § 5, 8-5-96; Ord. No. 96-8, § 0, 6-4-96)

Sec. 6-12. Swimming.

No person shall swim or bathe in any boat channel or other waterway designated for boat traffic of any kind.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.13; Ord. No. 96-3, § 2, 3-5-96)

Sec. 6-13. Mooring watercraft to municipal pier.

It shall be unlawful to moor any watercraft to the municipal pier except in an emergency. (Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.14; Ord. No. 77-15, 11-10-77)

Sec. 6-13.1. Disposition of abandoned vessels.

(a) Any boat or watercraft which appears to be abandoned or is disabled and unattended found on the beach or upon or under the water within the limits of the City of Gulfport may be salvaged, rescued or removed to a place of safety by any person or persons of authority.

(b) All costs of removal and storage charges, based upon the same amount as charged for slip rental at the Gulfport Yacht Basin, shall be levied against such boat or watercraft.

(c) The harbormaster or other official, as soon as practical, shall endeavor to determine the identity of the owner of said boat or watercraft and notify said owner in writing that said boat or watercraft is being held by the city and is subject to certain charges.

(d) If said boat or watercraft is not removed by the owner or his agent and all charges paid within fifteen (15) days after said boat or watercraft is taken into custody, the harbormaster or other official shall notify the owner in writing that the boat will be sold at public auction, stating the date, time and place but in no event shall said auction be held less than fifteen (15) days after giving such notice. In the event the owner of said boat or watercraft is not ascertainable, notice of sale as stated herein shall be placed in a prominent place at the city hall for fifteen (15) consecutive days before said sale. Nothing stated herein shall preclude the advertising of said sale in any other manner.

(e) The harbormaster or other official shall conduct the sale of said boat or watercraft at the appointed time and place and, upon sale, shall give the purchaser a bill of sale describing said boat or watercraft, stating that same was sold at public auction pursuant to notice as required by this section. The bill of sale shall be signed by said official and notarized. The city shall be entitled to keep all proceeds of said sale, whether the amount is more than, less than or the same as the charges against said boat or watercraft.

(Ord. No. 73-20, § 1, 9-18-73)

Sec. 6-13.2. Living aboard vessel prohibited; exceptions.

It shall be unlawful for any person to live aboard any houseboat or other vessel within the city. However, this prohibition shall not apply to persons authorized to live on board under the city's lease with the Boca Ciega Yacht Club nor to persons occupying such vessels on a temporary basis for a period not to exceed seventy-two (72) hours within any thirty-day period, if such vessel contains a Coast Guard approved, self-contained, sewage treatment or storage system.

(Ord. No. 85-23, § 1, 1-7-86)

Editor's note—Ord. No. 85-23, § 1, adopted Jan. 7, 1986, did not specify manner of codification; hence, inclusion herein as § 6-13.2 has been at the discretion of the editor.

Sec. 6-13.3. Public casino boat dock.

(a) The public casino boat dock shall be closed from 11:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. every day, and during said times, it shall be unlawful for any person to enter on the public casino boat dock, except persons in the employ of the city on city business, or in the event of an emergency;

(b) No vessel shall be moored to the public casino boat dock for more than eight (8) hours in any day;

(c) No personal watercraft, as defined by F.S. ch. 327, shall be moored at the public casino boat dock, at any time;

(d) There shall be no diving, fishing or netting, of any kind, from the public casino boat dock at any time;

(e) No vessel shall be moored at the public casino boat dock, except in a berth provided for the mooring of vessels; and

(f) No commercial business of any kind shall be conducted from or on the public casino boat dock at any time, except that commercial vessels no greater than thirty (30) feet in length, moored primarily at other facilities, shall be permitted to pick up and drop off passengers at the public boat dock.

(Ord. No. 2002-11, § 2, 9-3-02; Ord. No. 2005-21, § 6, 12-6-05)

ARTICLE II. GULFPORT YACHT BASIN

Sec. 6-14. Owners, operators, etc., of craft governed by article.

All persons owning, operating, leasing or otherwise exercising control of any boat or watercraft operating in or utilizing the facilities of the Gulfport Yacht Basin of the city shall be governed by and subject to the hereinafter enumerated rules and regulations.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.15)

Sec. 6-15. Report and register of incoming craft—Required.

The master, owner or operator of any watercraft, not currently registered with the city, shall immediately, and in no event later than twenty-four hours after the arrival of such watercraft in the Gulfport Yacht Basin, report the arrival of such watercraft to the harbormaster and register his vessel with the harbormaster and arrange for berthing facilities for such craft. In making such registration the master, owner or operator of the watercraft shall designate whether his watercraft is for pleasure or for commercial purposes.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.16)

Sec. 6-16. Same—Registering, paying fee and assignment prior to occupying berth or slip.

It shall be unlawful for any owner, operator, master or person in charge of any watercraft to permit such watercraft to occupy any berth in the Gulfport Yacht Basin without having first registered the watercraft in the office of the harbormaster and having paid therefor the proper fee and being in receipt of a proper assignment of a berth for such watercraft.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.17)

Sec. 6-17. Transferring from one berth to another; assigning berth.

It shall be unlawful to transfer any watercraft from one berth to another or sublet any berth assigned to any watercraft without first obtaining the permission of the harbormaster to do so.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.18)

Sec. 6-18. Effect of sale of craft on berth assignment.

The sale or transfer of title to any watercraft shall immediately cancel the berth assignment for such craft, and a new berth for such craft shall be procured from the harbor master within forty-eight hours from the sale or transfer.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.19)

Sec. 6-19. Payment of rent for berth.

It shall be unlawful to permit or allow watercraft to occupy or utilize a berth until the rental for such berth has been paid, to permit or allow the watercraft to occupy any berth after the period for which the rent has been paid has expired. All rents for berths shall be payable in advance to the city finance director.

(Code 1952, Ch. 22; Ord. of 5-1-56, § 22.20; Ord. No. 77-15, 11-10-77)

City of Gulfport
Mooring Fields Impact Area Tabulation

Mooring Field #1

Vessel Length	45 Feet	60 Feet		
Swing Radius	65 Feet	85 Feet		
Swing Diameter	130 Feet	170 Feet		
Swing Circle Area	13273.2 SF	22698 SF		
Number of Moorings	40	10	50 total	
Total Impact Area for Vessel Size	530929 SF	226980 SF		
Cummulative Swing Circle Area			757909 SF	17.4 Acres

Mooring Field #2

Vessel Length	45 Feet	60 Feet		
Swing Radius	65 Feet	85 Feet		
Swing Diameter	130 Feet	170 Feet		
Swing Circle Area	13273.2 SF	22698 SF		
Number of Moorings	40	10	50 total	
Total Impact Area for Vessel Size	530929 SF	226980 SF		
Cummulative Swing Circle Area			757909 SF	17.4 Acres

Total project impact area (Cummulative area of all swing circles) 1515818 SF 34.8 Acres

PINELLAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

WATER AND NAVIGATION REPORT

SUBJECT: Commercial Dock Application CC38505-07/Revised
City of Gulfport – Municipal Mooring Field
5500 Shore Boulevard, Gulfport
Boca Ciega Bay

FROM: Brian Johns *BJ*
Environmental Specialist II
Department of Environmental Management

THRU: David L. Walker, Jr., Environmental Program Manager *[Signature]*
Water and Navigation Section
Department of Environmental Management

DATE: July 11, 2008

The original application was received by this Department on August 7, 2007. The subject site was inspected by this Department on August 31, 2007. The revision to this application was received by this Department on June 9, 2008.

PROJECT AND SITE DESCRIPTION:

The City of Gulfport proposes to construct a 100 slip municipal mooring field in the waters of Boca Ciega Bay in two phases of 50 slips each.

The proposed mooring field will consist of 100 mooring buoys and nine perimeter marker buoys within a 1,504 ft. by 1,301 ft. area. There will be long-term, seasonal and short-term leases available in the facility. The waterfront width of the City's property in this location is approximately 2,000 ft. The proposed mooring field will be located approximately 766 ft. from the west extended property line and extends past the east extended property line approximately 200 ft. The waterway width in this location is 7,560 ft. and the structure will be located approximately 665 ft. to 2,000 ft. offshore. Depths within the mooring field range from 8.7 ft. to 10.6 ft. at Mean Low Water.

The shoreline varies with a combination of seawalls and sandy beaches.

Seagrass is present north of the proposed structure between the mooring field and the beaches and west of the proposed mooring field near the marked shoal. It consists of dense Cuban shoal

grass (*Halodule wrightii*) and turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*). No seagrass was observed within the proposed mooring field.

Wildlife observed during the field inspection included a wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), gulls (*Larus* spp.), cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*), great egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), and gafftopsail catfish (*Bagre marinus*).

Depth information is outlined below and also shown graphically in relation to the proposed mooring field on Attachment A.

Depths at 435 ft. off the end of the municipal pier:

<u>Distance from West P/L</u>	<u>Depth (MLW)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
320 ft.	> 11.5 ft.	West end of the beach.
545 ft.	11.2 ft.	End the of boardwalk on the beach.
870 ft.	9.2 ft.	Rest area on the beach.
1405 ft.	8.9 ft.	Casino dock.
1764 ft.	9.2 ft.	Municipal fishing pier.
1983 ft.	8.7 ft.	Corner of seawall on east property line.

Depths at 916 ft. off the end of the municipal pier:

<u>Distance from West P/L</u>	<u>Depth (MLW)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
320 ft.	3.5 ft.	West end of the beach. On seagrass.
545 ft.	8.1 ft.	End the of boardwalk on the beach.
870 ft.	9.3 ft.	Rest area on the beach.
1405 ft.	10.0 ft.	Casino dock.
1764 ft.	10.1 ft.	Municipal fishing pier.
1983 ft.	10.0 ft.	Corner of seawall on east property line.

Depths at 1078 ft. off the end of the municipal pier:

<u>Distance from West P/L</u>	<u>Depth (MLW)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
320 ft.	5.8 ft.	West end of the beach.
545 ft.	9.7 ft.	End of boardwalk on beach
870 ft.	10.1 ft.	Rest area on the beach.
1405 ft.	10.6 ft.	Casino dock.
1764 ft.	10.5 ft.	Municipal fishing pier.
1983 ft.	10.4 ft.	Corner of seawall on east property line.

Depths at 1952 ft. off the end of the municipal pier:

<u>Distance from West P/L</u>	<u>Depth (MLW)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
320 ft.		West end of the beach.
545 ft.	10.1 ft.	End the of boardwalk on the beach.
870 ft.	10.1 ft.	Rest area on the beach.
1405 ft.	10.5 ft.	Casino dock.
1764 ft.	10.8 ft.	Municipal fishing pier.
1983 ft.	10.7 ft.	Corner of seawall on east property line.

COMMENTS:

1. The criteria for permitting mooring fields are the nine Findings of Fact which the County must use when reviewing all permits. However, in addition to the nine Findings of Fact, the facility is consistent with the County's criteria for marina siting (water depth, adequate flushing, access to navigable water, upland support, provisions for wastewater treatment, compatible upland land uses, etc.) with the exception of those criteria addressing projection from land (i.e. 25% and 300 ft. projection limitations). These two criteria can not be applied to mooring fields as they address projection from land and mooring fields are offshore entities.
2. The project does not create any navigational concerns. It is located in an area that has historically had moored vessels and there will still be sufficient room for navigation and recreation in this waterbody. It is a good location for a mooring field in that it is a protected waterbody, but it is large enough and has deep enough water that the placement of the proposed mooring field will not significantly impact other uses.
3. There are no significant environmental concerns with the proposed mooring field. There are no seagrass beds in the project's limits and the seagrasses located nearshore are protected by the City's swim zone and local ordinance which prohibits the beaching of boats in this area. There are also seagrasses in the shoal area west of the project and this shoal is clearly marked for boaters to avoid. Water depths in the mooring field are sufficient and will range from 8.7 ft. to over ten feet at Mean Low Water. The project will place minimal structures in the water and therefore have no significant effect on shoaling or water flow. There is no evidence indicating that the project area has any unusually high levels of manatee usage or watercraft related mortality.
4. One of the City's goals is to clean up the existing, unregulated mooring situation that occurs in this area. There have been a number of inoperable and unsightly vessels that have moored in this location over the years. It is the City's intent to make the waterfront in this location safer and more attractive to both residents and visitors. The location of the mooring field was chosen by the City in order to place the project in an area with no environmental

concerns but also where the visual impact to surrounding waterfront property owners was minimized.

5. In April of 2007, the City of Gulfport adopted a Harbor Management Plan in concept by Resolution No. 2007-44. This plan covers the rules and oversight of the proposed mooring field in order to ensure that the facility will operate in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. The majority of the support for the facility will be at the City Marina where transient dinghy docks have already been permitted. Pump-out facilities, fuel, showers, restrooms, laundry facilities, etc. will be available. The Harbormaster will have the ultimate responsibility for monitoring the mooring field and enforcing rules. Overall, the Plan provides for a significantly greater degree of control over the operation and mooring of vessels within the City's waters and will allow the harbormaster to deal with abandoned vessels and unregulated mooring. Mooring in City waters outside of the project will be limited to 72 hours.

FINDINGS:

The Department of Environmental Management has reviewed this application and finds it to be consistent with the Water and Navigation criteria of the Pinellas County Code subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The hurricane plan for the City marina must be updated to include the mooring field and submitted to the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management prior to operation of the mooring field.
- (2) The Harbor Management Plan for the proposed mooring field, as presented to the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management, must be adopted in final form prior to operation of the mooring field.

The applicant is advised that approvals for this project may also be required from the State of Florida and/or the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.



-11.5'	-11.2'	-9.2'	-8.9'	-9.2'	-8.7'
-3.5'	-8.1'	-9.3'	-10.0'	-10.1'	-10.0'
-5.8'	-9.7'	-10.1'	-10.6'	-10.5'	-10.4'

Proposed Mooring Field

- = Water Depths

-10.1' -10.1' -10.5' -10.8' -10.7'

Attachment A

CC 38505-07/Revised
City of Gulfport - Mooring Field



We, the undersigned citizens, residents of and visitors to Pinellas County, Florida find it is in the best public interest to establish a managed mooring field in Gulfport, Florida.

We urge the Pinellas County Commissioners, the US Army Corps of Engineers and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to permit the City of Gulfport's proposed managed mooring field in Gulfport, Florida as outlined in the following applications and the Harbor Master's plan: Pinellas County Board of Commissioners #CC38505-07/Revised; Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers # SAJ-2007-4697; Florida Department of Environmental Protection #52-0153995-003.

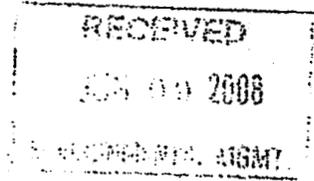
147	N/G	Linda Maloy	SEMINOLE	FLORIDA	N/G	N/G	Jul 21, 2008
146	N/G	Kathleen M. Cassidy	Gulfport	Florida	USA	View	Jul 21, 2008
145	N/G	Frances Worthington	Gulfport	N/G	USA	N/G	Jul 21, 2008
144	N/G	Matt Maloy	SEMINOLE	FLORIDA	N/G	View	Jul 21, 2008
143	Mr	Robert Trehy	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 20, 2008
142	Mr.	Larry J Fiorenza	South Pasadena	Florida	N/G	View	Jul 20, 2008
141	COL (Ret)	Clinton Willer	Rotonda West	Florida	USA	N/G	Jul 20, 2008
140	Mr.	Richard Meier	Palmetto	FL	N/G	View	Jul 20, 2008
139	N/G	John Mackey	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 20, 2008
138	Mr	Paul Hopkins	Asheville	North Carolina	USA	View	Jul 20, 2008
137	N/G	Susan Smith	St. Petersburg	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 20, 2008
136	N/G	Debra Vance	Palmetto	FL	USA	View	Jul 19, 2008
135	N/G	John D Brown	St Petersburg	FL	N/G	View	Jul 18, 2008
134	MR.	Stephen Honour	Seminole	FL	USA	View	Jul 18, 2008
133	Ms	Jeff Ricketts	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 18, 2008
132	Ms	Diane Reeve	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 18, 2008
131	Mrs.	Margaret mcAvaddy	Seminole	FL	USA	View	Jul 18, 2008
130	N/G	roger sullender	clearwater	fl	USA	View	Jul 18, 2008
129	Mr.	Robert Merriman	Bradenton	FL	N/G	View	Jul 18, 2008
128	N/G	Morris Fishman	clearwater	fl	USA	View	Jul 18, 2008
127	mr	roger smith	N/G	N/G	USA	N/G	Jul 18, 2008
126	N/G	Clifton Wyatt	Clearwater	FL	USA	View	Jul 17, 2008
125	Ms	Amber Raulerson	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 17, 2008
124	Mr	Richard Fortino	Seminole	FL	USA	View	Jul 17, 2008
123	N/G	kathleen forde	N/G	N/G	N/G	View	Jul 17, 2008
122	Mr.	Dennis Sheehan	Largo	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 17, 2008
121	Mrs.	Michele Sheehan	Largo	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 17, 2008
120	N/G	Laura Walters	St. Petersburg	FL	USA	View	Jul 17, 2008
119	N/G	John Witanowski	Casselberry	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 17, 2008
118	N/G	Rodney Collman	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 17, 2008
117	N/G	JOHN GARRITY	Clearwater	Florida	USA	View	Jul 17, 2008

116	Ms	Lisa Mackey	Anchorage	AK	USA	N/G	Jul 16, 2008
115	Mr,	Tom Falone, III	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 16, 2008
114	N/G	Constance Maynard	Clearwater	FL	USA	View	Jul 16, 2008
113	Ms	Catherine Heming	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 16, 2008
112	Ms	Renee Graham	St.Petersburg	Fl	USA	View	Jul 16, 2008
111	Mrs.	Mary Jo Cloonan	Saint Petersburg	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 16, 2008
110	Mrs.	Susan Harding	N/G	N/G	USA	N/G	Jul 16, 2008
109	Mrs.	Mary Karbowski	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 16, 2008
108	Lord	Benjamin Flynn	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 16, 2008
107	N/G	Brett Waters	Gulfport	FL	N/G	N/G	Jul 16, 2008
106	MR	John Meyer	St. Pete Beach	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
105	Mr	Brian Wampler	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
104	Mr.	John Green	St. Petersburg	FL	N/G	View	Jul 15, 2008
103	Mrs.	Anne Shinder	N/G	N/G	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
102	N/G	www SAILMONSTER com aka Jason Roznos	Venice	FL	USA	View	Jul 15, 2008
101	N/G	DANIEL TURPIN	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
100	Ms	Becky Worthington	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
99	Ms	Carole Whiteleather	Boise	ID	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
98	N/G	John McPherson	N/G	N/G	USA	View	Jul 15, 2008
97	Ms	Judy Allen	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
96	Mr.	Gene Gammon	St. Petersburg	Florida	USA	View	Jul 15, 2008
95	Mr.	Keith Ray	Gulfport	Florida	USA	View	Jul 15, 2008
94	Ms.	Linda Ray	Gulfport	Florida	USA	View	Jul 15, 2008
93	Dr	Robert Brown	N/G	N/G	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
92	Dr.	Carolyn Needleman	Gulfport	FL	USA	View	Jul 15, 2008
91	Dr.	Martin Needleman	Gulfport	FL	USA	View	Jul 15, 2008
90	Mrs	Mary Louise Young	st PETERSBURG	FL	N/G	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
89	Mr	Roy Young	st PETERSBURG	FL	N/G	View	Jul 15, 2008
88	N/G	James Luther	Bradenton	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
87	N/G	RICHARD DRURY	ORLANDO	FLORIDA	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
86	Mr	Sheldon Schwartz	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
85	MrS	Shirley MacVean	St. Petersburg	FL	N/G	View	Jul 15, 2008
84	Mr	Arnold MacVean	St. Petersburg	FL	N/G	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
83	N/G	dianne norris	gulfport	fl	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
82	N/G	Lou Worthington	gulfport	fl	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
81	N/G	Christine Brown	gulfport	fl	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
80	N/G	Judy Stahle	Bradenton	Fl	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
79	N/G	Allan Stahle	N/G	N/G	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
78	N/G	J. D. Nelson, M.D.	Bradenton	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
77	N/G	Doris Brady	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
76	mrs	carolyn obrien	bradenton,	fl	USA	View	Jul 15, 2008
75	N/G	Jeff Reckson	St. Petersburg	Florida	N/G	View	Jul 15, 2008

74	Mr.	Roy Stringfellow	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
73	N/G	Deborah Autery	Melbourne	fl	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
72	N/G	Winfred Autery	Melbourne	fl	USA	N/G	Jul 15, 2008
71	Mrs.	Dianne Gleaton	Lake Panasoffkee	FI	USA	View	Jul 14, 2008
70	Ms	Alina Maynard	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
69	dr	JACK MEOFF	GOOFPORT	FL	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
68	N/G	Thomas Grubb	Bradenton	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
67	Mr	William Rodrigues de Miranda	Homosassa	FL	USA	View	Jul 14, 2008
66	N/G	Jean Proach	Gulfport	Fl.	USA	View	Jul 14, 2008
65	Mr	Lloyd Mason	Gulfport	Florida	USA	View	Jul 14, 2008
64	N/G	Roseanne J. Sarthou	Safety Harbor	FL	N/G	View	Jul 14, 2008
63	mr	paul pittman	St. Petersburg	FI	USA	View	Jul 14, 2008
62	N/G	Jason Esterline	Oldsmar	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
61	N/G	Doug Fuller	Saint Petersburg	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
60	N/G	Harold Frank	Gulfport	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
59	Mr.	Tom Falone IV	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
58	N/G	Jopie Helsen	St Petersburg	FL	N/G	View	Jul 14, 2008
57	Mr	Walter C Busk	Plant City	FL	USA	View	Jul 14, 2008
56	Mr	H. Steven Adams	St Petersburg	FL	N/G	View	Jul 14, 2008
55	N/G	Philip Pratley	Parrish	FI	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
54	N/G	Al Pollak	St Petersburg	FL	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
53	N/G	Elise Ruppert	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
52	N/G	Michael Mogavero	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
51	Mr.	Jose A. (Tito) Sarthou	Safety Harbor	FL	N/G	View	Jul 14, 2008
50	Ms.	Nancy Williams	St. Petersburg,	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
49	N/G	Anonymous	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
48	N/G	Grant Raulerson	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
47	Ms	Lisa Wildenhaus	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
46	N/G	Mike O'Brien	Tampa	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
45	Mr.	William Wiard	Clearwater	FI	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
44	N/G	Enita Berkheiser	St Petersburg	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
43	Mr	David Tarbox	Clearwater	Florida	N/G	View	Jul 14, 2008
42	N/G	Charles Massey	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
41	N/G	Guy OConnor	Gulfport	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
40	N/G	Ann Bemis	Cortez	FL	N/G	View	Jul 14, 2008
39	mr	william napoli	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 14, 2008
38	Mr.	Richard Walters	Saint Petersburg	FL	USA	View	Jul 13, 2008
37	Mr	Peter Robinson	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
36	Capt.	Jim Britt	N/G	N/G	USA	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
35	N/G	James Meyer	St Petersburg	FL	N/G	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
34	Ms	Josiphine Longo	St. Petersburg	FL	USA	View	Jul 13, 2008

32	N/G	Jennifer Rogers	St Ptersburg	FL	USA	View	Jul 13, 2008
31	N/G	Annabell Raulerson	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
30	mr	terry stephens	gulfport	fl	USA	View	Jul 13, 2008
29	N/G	Joyce O'Halloran	N/G	N/G	USA	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
28	mr	William Casey	N/G	N/G	N/G	View	Jul 13, 2008
27	N/G	Catherine Talisman	Gulfport	FL	N/G	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
26	N/G	david prezbindowski	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
25	Mr	Donald Rogers	Saint Petersburg	Florida	USA	View	Jul 13, 2008
24	Mr	Larry Wissing	N/G	N/G	N/G	View	Jul 13, 2008
23	Rev.	David Wyatt	Sarasota	FL	USA	View	Jul 13, 2008
22	Mr.	G Raymond Raulerson	Largo	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
21	N/G	Morgan Stinemetz	Palmetto	FL	USA	View	Jul 13, 2008
20	N/G	Nancy Finzer	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
19	N/G	Fred Verret	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
18	Mrs	Barbara McDougale	St Petersburg	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
17	Mr	Michael Carter	St Petersburg	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
16	Mrs	Bonnie Carter	St Petersburg	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
15	Mr.	Bill Wright	Saint Petersburg	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
14	Mr	Mike Boom	Saint Petersburg	FL	USA	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
13	N/G	Charles E. Morgan, Jr.	N/G	N/G	USA	View	Jul 13, 2008
12	Mr.	John Paul	Gulfport	Florida	USA	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
11	N/G	margo rose	St. Petersburg	Fl	N/G	View	Jul 13, 2008
10	Mr.	Bill Dolan	Placida	FL	N/G	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
9	N/G	Jan Clark	Palmetto	Fl	N/G	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
8	N/G	Ronald Woessner	Palmetto	Fl	N/G	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
7	N/G	Anonymous	N/G	N/G	N/G	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
6	Mrs.	Ina Moody	Englewood	FL	N/G	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
5	N/G	Richard Moody	bradentopn	fl	USA	View	Jul 13, 2008
4	Mr.	William Dixon	Punta Gorda	Fl.	USA	View	Jul 13, 2008
3	N/G	Steve Morrell	Bradenton	Florida	USA	N/G	Jul 13, 2008
2	N/G	Cindy Davis	Gulfport	Florida	USA	N/G	Jul 12, 2008
1	N/G	Alfred J. Davis	Gulfport	Florida	USA	View	Jul 12, 2008

Daniel Crear
1980 Spates Avenue
Wayzata, Minnesota 55931



May 7, 2008

David Walker
Program Manager, Water & Navigation
Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management
512 South Fort Harrison
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Re: Permit Application
Permit No. M36086-05
City of Gulfport Mooring Fields

Dear Mr. Walker:

This letter is to state that I am the owner of record of property located at 3111 53rd Street South Gulfport, Florida with a Legal Description of: LOT(S) 7 and 8, & SUBMERGED LAND 179.79 South of Lot(s) 7 and 8; (LESLIES, JOHN T. Subdivision, S10-T31S-15E).

As the adjoining property owner to the property which is the subject of the referenced permit application, I have been afforded an opportunity to review the plans for the proposed work. I am fully aware that the closest mooring buoy project lays some six hundred and fifty feet (650 feet) seaward of my property including submerged lands riparian to my property. I also agree that the proposed works lie beyond lands to which I hold riparian rights. I am also aware that the applicant is seeking to lease the offshore submerged lands from the State of Florida to construct and maintain this project.

After careful review of the drawings setting forth the proposed work and its relationship to my property, I have no objections to issuance of the requested permits, the construction proposed nor to the State of Florida leasing the submerged lands for its usage by the City of Gulfport.

Sincerely,


Property Owner

William C. Esielionis,
Linda Esielionis
5314 31st Avenue South
Gulfport, Florida 33707

May 7, 2008

David Walker
Program Manager. Water & Navigation
Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management
512 South Fort Harrison
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Re: Permit Application
Permit No. M36086-05
City of Gulfport Mooring Fields

Dear Mr. Walker:

This letter is to state that I am the owner of record of LOT 6, & SUBMERGED LAND 179.80 South of Lot 6, (LESLIES, JOHN T. Subdivision, S10-T31S-R15E).

As the adjoining property owner to the property which is the subject of the referenced permit application, I have been afforded an opportunity to review the plans for the proposed work. I am fully aware that the closest mooring buoy project lays some six hundred and fifty feet (650 feet) seaward of my property including submerged lands riparian to my property. I also agree that the proposed works lie beyond lands to which I hold riparian rights. I am also aware that the applicant is seeking to lease the offshore submerged lands from the State of Florida to construct and maintain this project.

After careful review of the drawings setting forth the proposed work and its relationship to my property, I have no objections to issuance of the requested permits, the construction proposed nor to the State of Florida leasing the submerged lands for its usage by the City of Gulfport.

Sincerely,


Property Owner

Johns, Brian R

From: steve honour [stevehonoursail@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, July 18, 2008 4:14 PM

To: Johns, Brian R

Greetings,

I have personally cruised the entire coast of Florida. Boca Ciega Bay one of very few perfect natural harbors for a mooring field. This will greatly benefit the local and general community. This is our legacy. It is inevitable that the wisdom of realizing such a natural gift is but a matter of time. Let that time be now.

Please approve a mooring field for Gulfport.

Steve Honour

10554 Blossom Lake Dr

Seminole FL

7/18/08

Johns, Brian R

From: pamela & roger sullender [TheSullenders@msn.com]

Sent: Friday, July 18, 2008 10:28 AM

To: Johns, Brian R

Subject: gulfport morring field

we have anchored off Gulfport before and found it a great place to stop.... a mooring field would be great it would be secure in knowing the boat is in a proper place and safe to leave for a time to enjoy a good meal and walk around town without worry for the boats safety ... we have been to fort Meyers mooring field for that same reason and you already have a great dingy dock all set.... It also gives to town control over the water front by putting the moorings in the best locations away from fishing and swim areas...

7/21/08

Johns, Brian R

From: Liza Ferris [lizawferris@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2008 2:51 PM

To: Johns, Brian R

Subject: Please Help Save Gulfport, FL's Proposed Mooring Field

Dear Mr. Johns,

We would like to express our support for the mooring field in Gulfport and public access to Florida's waters.

Sincerely,

Liza and Jason Ferris

1320 Dixie Lane South

South Pasadena, Florida 33707

7/21/08

Zanetos, Speros M

From: LJFiorenza@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2008 9:00 PM
To: Water&Nav
Subject: Mooring Field for Gulport, Florida

At this time, after so many communities have already established mooring fields, the advantages of a well run mooring field to the local community, the expanding Florida boating community and the public safety and environmental departments at every level is beyond question. For the "same" group in Gulport to continuously subvert any and every endeavor to develop and preserve controlled public access and use of the local waterways over the last five years is bewildering.

Get fantasy football with free live scoring. [Sign up for FanHouse Fantasy Football today.](#)

Johns, Brian R

From: Jose A. Sarthou [jsarthou@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2008 9:24 AM
To: Johns, Brian R; Tracy.E.Hurst@saj02.usace.army.mil
Subject: Support for Gulfport Mooring Field
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Johns and Ms. Hurst:

It is my understanding that there will be a hearing on the 5th of August at the Pinellas County Courthouse on above subject proposed mooring field in Gulfport. It is also my understanding that you both are part of the decision making parties on this subject.

It is not my intention to bore you with the same arguments in support of this mooring field as I am certain you are already fully aware as to what they are as much as the arguments presenting opposition to such. I simply want to state to you that, from my own viewpoint, a mooring field would be a fantastic amenity to Gulfport and Boca Ciega Bay.

Before moving to Florida back in 2001, and specifically Pinellas County, we lived in the northeast, specifically the New York/New Jersey area, where mooring fields are the norm. Mooring fields abound all over New Jersey, New York, Long Island, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and all the way up to Maine. I can say the same thing for cities and towns around the shores of the Great Lakes and California. Not to belittle Florida in any way, but I am certain you will agree with me, that some of these states mentioned are far more ecologically conscious, and have tougher environmental laws than Florida has.

When we moved to the Tampa Bay area, we found it strange that, as many boats as there are in the state, there were no mooring fields anywhere to be found (we did eventually find one small private one in Sarasota belonging to the Sarasota Sailing Club). Living in NJ, we had our sailboat moored in the Atlantic Highlands Municipal Marina where the mooring field had a capacity for about 150 boats. I had never seen any reason to show concern that the mooring field was impacting anything, whether this be the environment, the town, local business, local residents, or even property values. On the contrary, the biggest advantage that we saw in being in a mooring field was whenever we were hit by nor'easters. As you are probably aware of, some of these nor'easters can be of hurricane strength. We have experienced nor'easters at the Atlantic Highlands Marina wherein boats in slips and piers alike were damaged or demolished while all boats in the mooring field remained unscathed. If anything, here in Florida, where everyone of us are so sensitive to what hurricanes can do, mooring fields should be likewise the norm.

I hope you decide favorably to approve the Gulfport Mooring Field. And I do hope as well that, with such an approval, the doors will open to allow more cities and towns around the Tampa Bay area, and beyond, to build more mooring fields.

In Gulfport, we have here a great opportunity to create a model mooring field that could set the standard for future ones. We keep our sailboat at the Gulfport Municipal Marina and have done so since moving to Florida almost 8 years ago. The Gulfport Marina, in my unbiased opinion, has got to be the best run marina in the Tampa Bay area. Firstly, it is a designated "Clean Marina" and believe me, it is! The Harbormaster and his staff are one of the most professional and competent I have come across (in their always squeaky white and clean uniforms) in my over 20 years of sailing. If the same team will be

7/17/08

running the Gulfport mooring field (and my understanding is that they will), than I have total confidence that this mooring field indeed will set the standard for future mooring fields in the Tampa Bay area and the West Coast of Florida.

Thank you for the opportunity to write to you.

Very truly yours,

Tito Sarthou

Jose A. (Tito) Sarthou
1103 Huntington Lane
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Tel: (727) 797-9159

Cell: (727) 742-9159

Fax: (727) 797-9166

email: jsarthou@tampabay.rr.com

Johns, Brian R

From: August Trometer [atrometer@nettally.com]
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2008 7:26 PM
To: Johns, Brian R
Subject: Mooring Field

We support the efforts for a mooring field. We have never stopped in Gulfport, but certainly would if there were a mooring field.

August & Susan Trometer
5711 Longleaf Dr.
North Fort Myers, FL
Schucker M/S "The Laughing Turtle"
239-567-7980
239-849-4681 Cell
<http://picasaweb.google.com/atrometer/LaughingTurtle>
atrometer@gmail.com
atrometer1940@yahoo.com

7/15/08

Johns, Brian R

From: pittster2@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2008 11:02 AM
To: Marquis, Fred; Morrioni, John; Stewart, Robert B; Seel, Karen; Latvala, Susan; Welch, Kenneth; Webadmin; Harris, Calvin D; Duncan, Ronnie E
Subject: Gulfport, Fl Mooring Field

This information is the result of an online customer service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.

message_text As a member of Boca Ciega Yacht Club, Gulfport, FL since 1976 I feel that a mooring field and the appropriate enforcement will go a long ways toward solving the derelict boat problem in Boca Ciega. It will also provide safe mooring for both resident and transiet boats plus provide an economic boost to Gulfports Business Community.

my_name paul pittman

my_address 1300 40th ave ne

city st. petersburg

state_country fl

zip_code 33703

email pittster2@verizon.net

The following recipients received this information.

County Administrators Office fmarquis@pinellascounty.org Commissioner John Morrioni jmorrioni@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Robert B Stewart rstewart@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Karen Williams Seel kseel@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Susan Latvala slatvala@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Kenneth T Welch ktwelch@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Calvin D Harris charris@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Ronnie Duncan rduncan@pinellascounty.org

Johns, Brian R

From: garymorgan3@tampabay.rr.com
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2008 8:23 AM
To: Marquis, Fred; Morrone, John; Stewart, Robert B; Seel, Karen; Latvala, Susan; Welch, Kenneth; Webadmin; Harris, Calvin D; Duncan, Ronnie E
Subject: Gulfport Mooring Field

This information is the result of an online customer service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.

message_text I recently relocated to SW Florida attracted by the access to good sailing waters. Continued access is important to me and I believe important to the image of Florida as a friendly place to visit. I support the right of public water access and keeping the boating tradition alive in Florida. Recent articles have reported that Gulfport has improved its boater friendly image - congratulations and keep Florida friendly.

my_name Gary Morgan

my_address 6252 Foal Creek Dr

city Parrish

state_country Florida

zip_code 34219

phone 941 981 9017

email garymorgan3@tampabay.rr.com

The following recipients received this information.

County Administrators Office fmarquis@pinellascounty.org Commissioner John Morrone jmorroni@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Robert B Stewart rstewart@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Karen Williams Seel kseel@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Susan Latvala slatvala@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Kenneth T Welch ktwelch@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Calvin D Harris charris@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Ronnie Duncan rduncan@pinellascounty.org

Johns, Brian R

From: Miles Curry [jmiles.curry@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2008 8:50 AM
To: Johns, Brian R
Subject: Support For Boca Ciega Mooring Field

I am a waterfront property owner in Pinellas County, and fully support the proposed mooring field near Gulfport. I am an active member of Clearwater Yacht Club, a licensed Coast Guard Captain. I'm also a registered voter. Please contact me for additional information.

--

Capt. Miles Curry, USCG Master
210 Dolphin Point Rd,
Clearwater, Fl.
727 804 6221

jmiles.curry@gmail.com

Johns, Brian R

From: Tom Brusini [cycmgr@tampabay.rr.com]

Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2008 11:03 AM

To: Johns, Brian R

Subject: Gulfport Mooring field

Hello! This document is intended to express my support for the proposed mooring field in the Gulfport Harbor. Not only is it a great thing for boaters, but it will bring Gulfport some much needed revenue!

Regards,

Tom Brusini, GM
Clearwater Yacht Club

7/14/08

Johns, Brian R

From: RRob360041@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2008 2:13 PM
To: Johns, Brian R; Tracy.E.Hurst@saj02.usace.army.mil
Subject: Gulfport Mooring Expansion

We would like to strongly endorse retaining and even expanding the mooring field in Gulfport, Florida.

My wife was brought up in Gulfport and I was raised in the Pasadena section of St. Petersburg. We love the area.

The mooring facility is a win, win for downtown Gulfport and the boating community.

We appreciate your consideration,

Dick & Pam

Richard & Pamela Roberts
1643 Sand Key Estates Ct
Clearwater, FL 33767
336.682.4843

Get the scoop on last night's hottest shows and the live music scene in your area - [Check out TourTracker.com!](http://www.TourTracker.com)

Johns, Brian R

From: charlespeck.com [charles@charlespeck.com]

Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 1:58 PM

To: Johns, Brian R

Subject: gulfport mooring field

dear sirs,

please don't allow the selfish, short-sighted people prevent you from utilizing your wonderful natural gift to both assist cruising mariners in enjoying your wonderful town (and spend their money) and enhance the town's budget in these troubled times. The advertising value of happy cruisers and there resultant good press in related boating journals will do much to increase the tourist dollar to your area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yes, I am a long time cruiser who tends to avoid areas unfriendly to boaters. charlespeck.com and charles@charlespeck.com

Johns, Brian R

From: Doug Fuller [dougfuller@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 1:58 PM
To: Johns, Brian R
Subject: Gulfport Mooring Field

Dear Mr. Johns:

This email is to let you know of our full support of the Gulfport Mooring Field. Several quotes from the few people that live near the water and do not want to see this mooring field developed are ridiculous. Statements such as "*City staff estimate that the mooring field will cost \$241,000 to build, and, if it generates revenues of \$250,000 a year, the return on investment would take ten years.*" Using these numbers, it looks to me like it would be paid off and profitable in only one or two years.

The statement "*The mooring field will impede free navigation of the bay for boating and fishing. It will affect the safety of manatees, dolphins, fish, and water fowl that are seen routinely from our public beach. Fuel emissions from 100 vessels would make the bay unswimmable for Gulfport citizens and visitors in addition to having a negative impact on marine life*". This statement makes no sense. Where is the proof that any mooring field (anywhere) has caused any of this to happen?

We are loosing many marinas to condo developers. Because the Real Estate market is currently down, things are at a stand-still, but as soon as this market comes back, we will once again have more boats than places to put them.

Please make you decisions based on the true facts and not the type statements that are coming from these few people. These people seem to have the same attitude as people that buy houses close to an airport and then complain about the airplanes taking off and landings.

Doug & Rhonda Fuller
4384 46th Avenue South.
St. Petersburg, FL 33711
(727) 866-7981

Johns, Brian R

From: jackson [montanajackson@cfl.rr.com]

Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 11:23 AM

To: Johns, Brian R

Subject: Gulfport mooring field

To whom it may concern

I dock my boat at the Gulfport marine and I am in full agreement that a mooring field would greatly benefit the town of gulfport. Pleasego forward withe the plan.

**Thank you
Glenn Williams**

7/11/08

Johns, Brian R

From: William N. Church, Jr. [geodesic2@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 11:22 AM
To: Johns, Brian R
Subject: Gulfport proposed mooring field

Dear Mr. Johns,

I am writing to you to voice support for the Gulfport Mooring Field. I have lived in Florida since 1989 when I came here via sailboat from DE via the ICW. I have moored several winters in the municipal marina at Boot Key Harbour. This is a fine example of the value of a mooring field vs haphazard anchoring. The mooring field has contributed greatly to the restoration of Boot Key Harbour and the adjacent waters. The price was reasonable at \$165 per month plus \$65 dinghy docking fee. Every boater that I met there had high praises for the mooring field and the facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Church
s/v Geodesic2 - docked Coquina Key, FL

7/11/08

Johns, Brian R

From: Charles Husick [cbhusick@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 10:47 AM
To: Johns, Brian R
Subject: Proposed Mooring Field - Boca Ciega Bay - Gulfport, FL

The marine industry, including recreational boating is the second largest economic industry in Florida. The opportunity for year - round boating is one the most important factors in attracting boaters to the state. The reduction in the availability of dockage for boats caused by intense development of waterfront land has significantly impacted the boating industry, creating a loss of jobs and revenue. The proposed mooring field for the Boca Ciega bay waters adjacent to Gulfport is soundly designed and will be a social and economic asset to the state, county and the community of Gulfport. I urge you to support the completion of this needed facility. In my opinion the claims made by those opposing the mooring field are technically incorrect in all respects.

Charles B. Husick
Journalist, former Chairman, Chris Craft Boat Company

Johns, Brian R

From: Linda Ray [lindaray54@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 4:27 PM
To: Johns, Brian R
Subject: Mooring Field

Hello Mr. Johns,

I am just writing a brief letter to express my concern and speak in favor of a mooring field. There is a petition circulating in Gulfport that is not accurate. It gives the impression that "boaters" are not environmentally friendly. We have been boaters for 10 years and I have found that most are very decent, well-meaning, hard working people. Most boaters want to protect and preserve the environment. A mooring field will not only bring an economic benefit, but will help get rid of non-compliant vessels in our waters. A mooring field will pay for itself with the money it gets from the boaters, plus the City will benefit by the money that boaters will spend in restaurants, laundry, groceries, etc. I fully support a mooring field in Gulfport. I have always wondered why people buy houses on the waterfront if they don't want to see water activities.

Thank You,
Linda Ray
Gulfport, FL.

The i'm Talkaton. Can 30-days of conversation change the world? [Find out now.](#)

Johns, Brian R

From: Elaine Miranda [captel@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 3:14 PM
To: Johns, Brian R
Subject: Gulfport Mooring Field

I am distressed to hear, again, the nay-sayers who do not own boats shouting from the housetops about those awful boats on the water. Where else does one use a boat? Boca Ciega Bay has been our sailing waters for almost 40 years. We have anchored on the bay, taught sailing classes on the bay and invited sailors from other sailing clubs to visit us. They are so envious of our beautiful, protected bay to race, teach and enjoy this water.

People who buy houses really have the right to protect their property, the property they paid for. But I do not believe that there is any law that would support the idea that they can control the water, which they did not pay for.. Anchoring is the only way a boat can be secure on the water stops. Anchoring does not destroy the beauty of the bay. The waters of our coastline have historically been open to anchoring for centuries. Why should a few people dictate to the boating world that passes through our Florida waters, that boats are not welcome here. It really sounds stupid when you try to explain it to others.

Our waterways are the modern trading routes for boats of every kind. The historical right to anchor should not be abrogated by the selfish and misinformed few who do not boat.

Elaine Rodrigues de Miranda
Homosassa, Florida
Still Sailing in Boca Ciega Bay since 1972.

Johns, Brian R

From: Cathy Talisman [ctalisman@tampabay.rr.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 3:11 PM

To: Johns, Brian R

Subject: Mooring Field

As a boater, I am in strong favor a mooring field.

Thank you for supporting mooring fields.

Cathy Talisman
2133 Premier Dr S
Gulfport, FL 33707

7/10/08



June 21, 2008

Brian Johns
Environmental Specialist II
510 Bay Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Dear Mr. Johns

I am the Dock Master at Isla Del Sol Yacht Club and know that the mooring field is not only a good idea but a necessity. On the approach of a storm we recommend the members remove their vessels from the Yacht Basin. Since securing the boat on shore is very limited, the only other alternative is to anchor it in the bay. For a lot of reasons this is NOT a good thing. These boats could very well become a hazard themselves and possibly end up in someone's home. A mooring field is certainly a better option.

Thank you

Captain Tom D'angelo

Oppose Mooring Field in Gulfport Florida

We, the undersigned residents and visitors of Pinellas County, oppose the City of Gulfport's proposed 100-slip mooring field in the vicinity of the city's only public beach as outlined in the following applications and the Harbor Master's plan: Pinellas County Board of Commissioners #CC38505-07/Revised; Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers # SAJ-2007-4697; Florida Department of Environmental Protection #52-0153995-003.

Signatures 201

#	Name	Town/City	S/C/P	Zip/PC	Date
201	GAIL GILCHRIST	GULFPORT	FLORIDA	33707	Jul 20, 2008
200	Bob Jacobs	South Pasadena	Florida	33707	Jul 20, 2008
199	Debbie Jacobs	South Pasadena	Florida	33707	Jul 20, 2008
198	Graham Smith	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 20, 2008
197	Edna Sumner	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 20, 2008
196	John Sprankle	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 20, 2008
195	Gail Seal	Treasure Island	Florida	33706	Jul 20, 2008
194	Paul Seal	Treasure Island	Florida	33706	Jul 20, 2008
193	Sam Acosta	St. Pete	Florida	33713	Jul 20, 2008
192	Steve Fernald	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 20, 2008
191	Keith Carter	Tampa	Fl	33608	Jul 20, 2008
190	Will Engleby	St. Pete	Fl	33701	Jul 20, 2008
189	Todd Baker	St. Pete	Florida	33710	Jul 20, 2008
188	Cali Hilman	St. Pete Bch	Florida	33706	Jul 20, 2008
187	Tally Figuereno	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 20, 2008
186	Ernest Figuereno	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 20, 2008
185	Clare Barrett	Lambertville	New Jersey	08531	Jul 20, 2008
184	Karen Berry	Lambertville	New Jersey	08531	Jul 20, 2008
183	Gertrud Poulos	Seffner	Florida	33584	Jul 19, 2008
182	louis fierro	gulfport	fl	33707?	Jul 19, 2008
181	john goude	saint petersburg	fl	33705	Jul 19, 2008
180	Louise Charles	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 19, 2008
179	Hal Mayer	Gulfport	Florida	33711	Jul 19, 2008
178	Lynne Mayer	Gulfport	Florida	33711	Jul 19, 2008
177	Diane Williams	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 17, 2008
176	susan hutchinson	gulfport	fl	33707	Jul 17, 2008
175	rosiland miller	gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 16, 2008
174	Cloyce Riddle	Gulfport	Florida	33711	Jul 16, 2008
173	Stacia Wood	St. Petersburg	Florida	33709	Jul 16, 2008
172	Jeff Watson	St. Petersburg	Florida	33709	Jul 16, 2008
171	Greg Watson	Tampa	Florida	33647	Jul 16, 2008
170	Tara Holmes	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 16, 2008
169	Malverna Kilroy	South Pasadena	Florida	33707	Jul 15, 2008
168	Gary Kilroy	South Pasadena	Florida	33707	Jul 15, 2008
167	Robin Bean	St Petersburg	FL	33711	Jul 15, 2008
166	Keith Boehme	Treasure Island	Florida	33706	Jul 15, 2008
165	Dorothy Joan Samuel	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 15, 2008
164	betty giddio	gulfport	florida	33707	Jul 15, 2008
163	Cheryl Mogul	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 14, 2008
162	Coleman Vail	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 14, 2008

161	Clayton Vail	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 14, 2008
160	Tara Vail	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 14, 2008
159	Diane Vail	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 14, 2008
158	Constance Dritsos	Gulfport	Florida	33711	Jul 14, 2008
157	Steve Drenth	Tampa	Florida	33616	Jul 14, 2008
156	Dan Helman	St. Pete Bch	Florida	33706	Jul 14, 2008
155	Alexandra Hollander	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 14, 2008
154	donald Rimel	St. Petersburg	Florida	33709-171	Jul 14, 2008
153	Bonnie Hall	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 13, 2008
152	VICKY NORBERT	LARGO	FLORIDA	33771	Jul 13, 2008
151	Gordan Metzger	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 13, 2008
150	Ken Tatarow	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 13, 2008
149	Richard Comstock	St. Pete	fl	33702	Jul 13, 2008
148	Ruthie Frost	St. Pete	fl	33702	Jul 13, 2008
147	Jack Frost	St. Pete	fl	33702	Jul 13, 2008
146	Kathy Wiggins	St. Pete	fl	33702	Jul 13, 2008
145	Chris Wiggins	St. Pete	fl	33702	Jul 13, 2008
144	Toni Walsh	Tierra Verde	fl	33715	Jul 13, 2008
143	Pat Walsh	Tierra Verde	fl	33715	Jul 13, 2008
142	John Freiberger,III	Unincorp. Pinellas County	FL	33707	Jul 13, 2008
141	Mr Kelly Allen	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 13, 2008
140	Kelley Allen	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 13, 2008
139	Janice Freiberger	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 13, 2008
138	Maria Agosto	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 13, 2008
137	Jackie Ballard	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 13, 2008
136	Kimberly Keyes	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 13, 2008
135	Phyllis Rosenblum	Gulfport	Florida	33711	Jul 13, 2008
134	Merrienne Thurston	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 13, 2008
133	Linda Brassell	Gulfport	FLorida	33711	Jul 13, 2008
132	susan hatton	gulfport	fl	33707	Jul 12, 2008
131	Peter Salmon	Henryville	PA	18332	Jul 12, 2008
130	Donna Fay	St. Petersburg	Florida	33710	Jul 12, 2008
129	Rick Gale	St. Petersburg	Florida	33710	Jul 12, 2008
128	Kevin Gallagher	Seminole	Florida	33777	Jul 12, 2008
127	Tim Kiernan	St. Petersburg	Florida	33703	Jul 12, 2008
126	Lydia Horan	St. Petersburg	Florida	33707	Jul 12, 2008
125	Roxanne Anderson	St. Petersburg	Florida	33710	Jul 12, 2008
124	Larry Anderson	St. Petersburg	Florida	33710	Jul 12, 2008
123	Bobby Green	St. Petersburg	Florida	33707	Jul 12, 2008
122	Jamie Mahl	St Pete Bch	Florida	33706	Jul 12, 2008
121	Duane Woodard	St Pete Bch	Florida	33706	Jul 12, 2008
120	Pat Horan	St. Petersburg	Florida	33707	Jul 12, 2008
119	Kevin Smith	St. Petersburg	Florida	33707	Jul 12, 2008
118	Lorie Hawkshead	St. Petersburg	Florida	33710	Jul 12, 2008
117	Tim Woodard	Pasadena	Florida	33707	Jul 12, 2008
116	Debra Galpin	St. Petersburg	Florida	33707	Jul 12, 2008
115	Matt Galpin	St. Petersburg	Florida	33707	Jul 12, 2008
114	Steve Smith	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 12, 2008
113	Greta Villere	gulfport	fl	33707	Jul 12, 2008
112	Suzanne Tate	gulfport	fl	33707	Jul 12, 2008
111	Karen Ekert	gulfport	fl	33707	Jul 12, 2008

110	Renee Koutsouradis	gulfport	fl	33707	Jul 12, 2008
109	Alan Mcdougall	gulfport	fl	33707	Jul 12, 2008
108	David Nordone	gulfport	fl	33707	Jul 12, 2008
107	Bets Wright	gulfport	fl	33707	Jul 12, 2008
106	Kelly Wright	gulfport	fl	33707	Jul 12, 2008
105	Victor Scherley	Gulfport	FL, Pinellas	33707	Jul 12, 2008
104	Thomas Glesow	Gulfport	FL, Pinellas	33707	Jul 12, 2008
103	Robert Hughes	Gulfport	Fl	33707	Jul 12, 2008
102	Betty McCoy	Gulfport	Florida	33711	Jul 12, 2008
101	Carrye Newman	st pete	fl	33713	Jul 12, 2008
100	Jennifer Becher	Treasure Island	FL	33706	Jul 12, 2008
99	Rankin Becher	Treasure Island	FL	33706	Jul 12, 2008
98	Ann Allen	Gulfport	Fl	33707	Jul 11, 2008
97	Michele King	Gulfport	Fl	33707	Jul 11, 2008
96	Steve Smith	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 11, 2008
95	Faith Hoogs	Gulfport	Fl	33707	Jul 11, 2008
94	Edith Daly	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 11, 2008
93	Susan Stanczyk	St. Petersburg	FL	33714	Jul 11, 2008
92	Hugo Porcaro	gulfport	fla	33707	Jul 10, 2008
91	MILLIE FANT	Treasure Island	FL	33706	Jul 10, 2008
90	JULIAN FANT	Treasure Island	FL	33706	Jul 10, 2008
89	Lincoln Farnum	St. Petersburg	FL	33715	Jul 10, 2008
88	Marie Louise Morandi Long Zwicker	Lake Worth	Florida	33461	Jul 10, 2008
87	Myron Rosenblum	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 10, 2008
86	Joan Newman	ST. PETERSBURG	FL	33713	Jul 10, 2008
85	Kirk Vail	Gulfport	Florida	33711	Jul 10, 2008
84	Emmett Walsh	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 10, 2008
83	George Coleman	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 10, 2008
82	Sybille Ruschmeler	Gulfport	Florida	33711	Jul 10, 2008
81	Martin Pokol	Gulfport	Florida	33711	Jul 10, 2008
80	Mark Epstein	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 10, 2008
79	WILLIAM F KING	GULFPORT	FLORIDA	33707	Jul 10, 2008
78	Dottie Butler	St. Petersburg	FL	33705	Jul 10, 2008
77	John Freiberger	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 10, 2008
76	Jennifer Smith	Gulfport	Florida	33711	Jul 10, 2008
75	Scott East	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 09, 2008
74	Lorraine East	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 09, 2008
73	marjorie grudzinski	gulfport	florida	33707	Jul 09, 2008
72	linda harwitt	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 09, 2008
71	Patti Davis	St.Pete Bch.	Fl	33706	Jul 09, 2008
70	Ryan Hussemann	St.Pete Bch.	Fl	33706	Jul 09, 2008
69	Christopher Ross	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 09, 2008
68	Terence Koen	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 09, 2008
67	Robert Elkins	St.Pete	Fl	33707	Jul 09, 2008
66	Shawn Judd	Gulfport	Fl	33707	Jul 09, 2008
65	FAY KINGDON	ST. PETERSBURG	FL	33710	Jul 09, 2008
64	Fran McLaughlin	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 09, 2008
63	Lissa McLaughlin	Gulfport	FL	33711	Jul 09, 2008
62	Lynn Johnson	Gulfport	Fl.	33707	Jul 09, 2008
61	George Bouwman	St. Petersburg	Florida Pinellas	33711	Jul 09, 2008
60	Rebecca McCoy	GULFPORT	FL	33711	Jul 08, 2008

59	JAMES NEWMAN	GULFPORT	FL	33711	Jul 08, 2008
58	stephen rye	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 08, 2008
57	Bill Holmes Jr.	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 08, 2008
56	Ketan Kapadia	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 08, 2008
55	Cindy Shuck	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 08, 2008
54	Randy Shuck	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 08, 2008
53	Patricia Keshish	St. Pete Bch.	FLORIDA	33706	Jul 08, 2008
52	Fancy Berry	PINELLAS PARK	FLORIDA	33782	Jul 08, 2008
51	MINDY TONDREAU	PINELLAS PARK	FLORIDA	33781	Jul 08, 2008
50	MICHAEL TONDREAU	PINELLAS PARK	FLORIDA	33781	Jul 08, 2008
49	Louise Charles	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 08, 2008
48	Linda Hubner	St. Petersburg	FL	33712	Jul 08, 2008
47	Judith Roberts	St. Petersburg	FL	33710	Jul 08, 2008
46	David Hastings	St. Petersburg	FL	33711	Jul 08, 2008
45	Jim Thaler	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 08, 2008
44	Ralph Bassett	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 08, 2008
43	MJ Michaels	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 08, 2008
42	Karen Earl	St. Pete	FL	33701	Jul 08, 2008
41	Kerry Earl	St. Pete	FL	33716	Jul 08, 2008
40	Kelly Earl	St. Pete	FL	33703	Jul 08, 2008
39	Jim Earl	St. Pete	FL	33703	Jul 08, 2008
38	Tim Earl	St. Pete	FL	33703	Jul 08, 2008
37	Liz Radcliffe	St. Petersburg	FL	33710	Jul 08, 2008
36	Ozzie Jedlovic	St. Petersburg	FL	33710	Jul 08, 2008
35	David Jedlovic	St. Petersburg	FL	33710	Jul 08, 2008
34	Jennifer Beckner	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 08, 2008
33	Rodger Beckner	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 08, 2008
32	William Davison	St. Pete Bch.	FL	33706	Jul 08, 2008
31	Mark Gildauskas	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 08, 2008
30	Nancy Adams	Pinellas Park	Florida	33781	Jul 08, 2008
29	Ronda Litman	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 08, 2008
28	Thomas Powers	Seminole	FL	33772	Jul 08, 2008
27	Rick McCormick	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 08, 2008
26	Courtland Yarborough	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 08, 2008
25	William Holmes	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 08, 2008
24	ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG	GULFPORT	FLORIDA	33707	Jul 08, 2008
23	Linda Palm	Gulfport	Florida	33707	Jul 08, 2008
22	Tim Huff	St. Petersburg	FL	33713-812	Jul 08, 2008
21	Anne Shuri	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 08, 2008
20	Robert Hodgen	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 07, 2008
19	Jacqueline Mirkin	Gulfport	FL	33707-591	Jul 07, 2008
18	Carol Farmer	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 07, 2008
17	Don Latshaw	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 07, 2008
16	John Poulos	Seffner	Florida	33584	Jul 07, 2008
15	Kore MacKenzie	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 07, 2008
14	Nikki Benoit	St. Petersburg	FL	33716	Jul 07, 2008
13	Enid Mirkin	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 07, 2008
12	Richard DelGreco	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 07, 2008
11	Michelle McIntosh	St. Petersburg	FL	33710	Jul 07, 2008
10	Greg Stemm	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 07, 2008
9	Jeanette Reid	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 07, 2008
8	JANELL CORY	GULFPORT	FLORIDA	33707	Jul 07, 2008

7	JAMES STEINKE	GULFPORT	FLORIDA	33707	Jul 07, 2008
6	DIANE STEINKE	GULFPORT	FLORIDA	33707	Jul 07, 2008
5	DAVID STEINKE	GULFPORT	FLORIDA	33707	Jul 07, 2008
4	Sandra Hollander	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 07, 2008
3	Bryan Hilbert	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 07, 2008
2	Karen Hodgen	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 07, 2008
1	Jennifer Salmon	Gulfport	FL	33707	Jul 07, 2008

- * N/C - field not collected by the author
- * N/G - not given by the signer
- * S/C/P - State, County or Province
- * PC - Post Code
- * View - view comment
- * Name - anonymous

Walker, David

From: Julian Fant [j.fant@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2008 10:05 PM
To: Stewart, Robert B
Subject: Re: Public hearing, August 5th.

Honorable Chairman & Commissioners, Pinellas County
Commission 7/18/2008
County Administrator
County Attorney

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen:

As much as I would like to express my views to you personally at the Public Hearing of August 5th., I will be unable to do so. Therefore, I hope that my written comments will be entered into the record at that time.

As a native Floridian who has lived on or near the beautiful salt waters of our state all of my life, I am very much concerned with their protection. During those years, I have witnessed many taxpayer's dollars expended in the improvement of these tidal waters, and have voted (during 25 years in local government) for projects to improve them even more. We have phased out local treatment plants, instituted better storm water runoff measures, planted sea grasses, etc.

Now, we stand a very good chance of undoing such improvement, plus creating a long list of additional problems and potential major damage to our bays and uplands if approval is granted for the placing of so- called "mooring fields" for boats in our prime waterways.

I implore you to consider the ramifications of having scores of vessels of all types (including live aboards) which will contain all manner of fuels, and which stand an excellent chance of being sunk or driven ashore during tropical storms or hurricanes. There will also be limited access in the event of an emergency, fire, or illegal activity. The granting of this initial permit, in my opinion, will open to door to applications from many of the other waterfront communities of Pinellas County, and would magnify these potential problems by a great degree.

Please consider these factors carefully, and vote to reject this unwise permit request.

Sincerely,

JULIAN W. FANT
Retired, Mayor and City Commissioner, Treasure Island.
Retired, Chairman, Pinellas County Council of Mayors

Johns, Brian R

From: Jennifer R. Salmon [jsalmon2@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2008 7:15 AM
To: Johns, Brian R
Cc: jfreiberger@tampabay.rr.com; dps001@aol.com
Subject: Oppose Gulfport Mooring Field--please forward to County Commissioners
Attachments: Oppose Mooring Field in Gulfport Florida Petition Signatures 072108.pdf

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,

The attached petition has been signed by 201 Pinellas County residents or visitors who oppose the City of Gulfport's application for a permit for two mooring fields that would accommodate 100 boats off our only public beach. Specifically, we oppose application #CC38505-07/Revised.

We oppose this for economic and environmental reasons. I emailed you the background information on June 26th or you can read it at:
<http://www.gopetition.com/online/20360.html>

I am the circulator of this petition but unfortunately will be out of town on August 5th and will miss the hearing. My representative will submit a hard copy at that time. As of July 21, 2008, the petition in opposition of the mooring field was signed by 192 Pinellas County residents including 115 Gulfport residents. Just nine people outside of Pinellas County signed the petition. This is a local issue and local voters oppose it.

Please deny the City of Gulfport's request for a permit to build a mooring field for 100 boats off our only public beach.

Sincerely,
Jennifer R. Salmon
1207 60th St. S.
Gulfport, FL 33707
727-344-0175

Johns, Brian R

From: seansullivanjobs@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, July 13, 2008 3:01 PM
To: Marquis, Fred; Morrone, John; Stewart, Robert B; Seel, Karen; Latvala, Susan; Welch, Kenneth; Webadmin; Harris, Calvin D; Duncan, Ronnie E
Subject: OPPOSED to the Gulf Port Mooring Field

This information is the result of an online customer service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.
message_text Hello,

I would like to make it known that I am opposed to the Gulfport mooring field. It should be left un-developed.

Thank you,

Sean
email seansullivanjobs@yahoo.com
The following recipients received this information.

County Administrators Office fmarquis@pinellascounty.org Commissioner John Morrone jmorrone@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Robert B Stewart rstewart@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Karen Williams Seel kseel@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Susan Latvala slatvala@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Kenneth T Welch ktwelch@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Calvin D Harris charris@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Ronnie Duncan rduncan@pinellascounty.org

Johns, Brian R

From: Capt. Jim Newman [GYC@TAMPABAY.RR.COM]
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2008 9:46 PM
To: Johns, Brian R
Subject: GULFPORT MOORING FIELD

To All Concerned Regarding the Gulfport Mooring Field Proposal 6/26/08

First, let's visit why the Mooring Field (MF) was purposed by Gulfport:

1. Fecal matter on public beach.
2. Derelict vessels were an eyesore, washed up on residential property, under public piers, and boats had to be moved for City fireworks. Gulfport proposed the MF could regulate boats by dyeing toilets, requiring valid registration sticker, and a secure mooring that would not drag onto residential property. The original cost was only \$250K. I should say here that since Gulfport Police starting enforcing valid registration the derelict vessel problem has all but vanished.

Second, the original and highly controversial proposal was shot down by city council.

All city meetings concerning the MF had standing room only attendance. Why?

1. MF would promote more boats behind private residential property (MF originally intended to extend from city piers south all the way to Marina entrance behind residential properties). Popular vote was to keep MF behind commercial property only.
2. More boats meant more problems environmentally in Boca Ciega Aquatic Preserve. Beach water would need to be monitored more closely for swimmers (e.g., Davis Island MF, which had closed the beach to swimmers {Bay News 9}).
3. Boca Ciega Bay is an open body of water exposed to more severe weather conditions and too close to residential property than the ideal location of Davis Island (only close working MF). Moderate weather would cause mooring lines to break free by chaffing due to the wave action due to the short lines.
4. Services for boats in the MF could not be supported. Originally, the USCG Aux. 7-

6/27/08

16 building was to be the new public restrooms, showers, laundry, etc. This was unacceptable to remove the Aux. 7-16 boating safety classes at their present location and too, too far from the transient boaters wanting to access downtown Gulfport.

Also, where are the permanent (storage) MF boaters going to park their cars?

Gulfport waterfront already has a severe parking problem for its businesses. Where are all the dinghy's going to dock to access the 100 MF boats. We have only a very small floating dock Downtown for boats under 17' that is usually already occupied by one 17' boat and 1-2 dinghy's.

5. **Navigation:** The MF is not going to be a "*special anchorage area*", so it will not be on the charts and will not make boaters aware of the navigational hazard. It will not be marked by 4 lighted buoys on each corner of the MF. According to USCG inland rules a "*special anchorage area*" is an area marked on navigational charts where boats at anchor need not display their anchor lights as it will not impede the safety of navigation due to the lighted markers and chart info.

6. Several years ago, marinas were disappearing during the real estate boom and Pinellas County was considering MF's for boat storage. They were unable to find a suitable location in Pinellas County. Now marinas are vacant; Maximo is less than 50% occupied, Tierra Verde is vacant, Skyway area built a new marina instead of condos.

7. Most important, Florida passed a bill that cities could not impede the free anchoring outside a regulated MF. Originally, Gulfport wanted to regulate ALL Gulfport waters outside the MF as No Anchoring. USCG Port Authority of Tampa Bay said this would not happen in his jurisdiction, which includes Gulfport waters. Council voted against the MF in 2006. Councilman Bob Worthington brought the issue *back to the table illegally*. According to Gulfport bylaws if a councilman votes FOR an issue and the issue is not passed, that only a councilman that voted AGAINST the issue may bring it back to the table. Since Councilman Worthington voted For, we

shouldn't even be dealing with this issue today. But no one knew to challenge it at the time. Why was the MF brought back up? I don't know, but with it came the same plethora of information we dredged through in 2005 and 2006.

1. Cities now have to make huge budget cuts. The proposed MF will probably cost close to \$1Mill, all said and done. Also, taxpayers have already spent \$200K and have received nothing.

2. There are plentiful slips available throughout Pinellas County.

3. Location still can't provide shelter from storms, provide vehicle and dinghy parking, protect our Aquatic preserve and protect swimmers at our public beach.

This should be shot down as a bad idea or put forth as a referendum and allow voters to decide if it is to move forward.

The best solution (compromise) would be to install a small lighted "*Special Anchorage Area*", free for transient boaters to visit downtown Gulfport. This would provide a safe area for boats to anchor freely, not be a hazard to navigation, not be required to provide any services, not be occupied during storms so boats will not wash ashore, put to use the tax payers money already spent on surveys, and be marked on marine nav charts as a free welcome area for boaters. Feel free to pass this letter on to anyone.

Thanks for listening,

Capt. Jim Newman

Gulfport Yacht Charters

Gulfport Waterfront Resident

727-742-5140

GYC@TAMPABAY.RR.COM

6/27/08

Johns, Brian R

From: Jennifer R. Salmon [jsalmon2@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2008 7:37 PM
To: Johns, Brian R
Subject: Please Deny Mooring Field Application in Gulfport

Mr. Johns,

Thank you for emailing me the photo of the site for the proposed mooring field in Gulfport. Please forward this email to the members of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners under its Water and Navigation Control Authority.

In July 2005, the City of Gulfport was asked by some citizens to address the chronic problem of derelict boats anchored in view of the city's only public beach. Although described in several instances as "a few" boats, city staff determined that a 100-slip mooring field was the best solution to this problem. It was opposed 3-2. In June 2006, Florida HB 7175 was passed to address the problem of derelict boats by authorizing county or municipal law enforcement to enforce the law. Even so, the mooring field proposal was re-introduced and passed 3-2 on April 22, 2007. City staff applied to Pinellas County Water & Navigation Authority, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Environmental Protection for permits. We have learned of upcoming public meetings, and are voicing our concerns about these proposals now.

The proposed mooring field would violate Florida Aquatic Preserves Act as it relates to 1) the right of the public to enjoy the traditional recreational uses of waterways for swimming, boating, and fishing; 2) the need to discourage activities which would degrade the aesthetic, biological, or scientific values, or the quality, or utility of a preserve and 3) the need to preserve submerged grasses, mud flats, estuarine, aquatic and marine reptiles, game and non-game fish species, invertebrates, mammals, birds, shellfish and mollusks. [2]

With up to 100 vessels, the mooring field would impede free navigation of the bay for boating and fishing. It would affect the safety of manatees, dolphins, fish, and water fowl that are seen routinely from our public beach. Although the federal EPA recently passed marine fuel emission standards, not all boats will meet the new standards and fuel emissions from 100 vessels would make the bay unswimmable for Gulfport citizens and visitors in addition to having a negative impact on marine life.

The Florida Aquatic Preserves Act also requires a minimum clearance of three feet at mean low tide for any revenue generating docking or anchorage facilities in Pinellas County.[3] Navigational charts of the area show mean low tide at six feet [4] so vessels that need more than three feet of water should not be permitted in the proposed mooring field. Manufacturers report [5] many 35-45 foot yachts that require deeper water, yet the proposed size limit is 45 feet.

Although proponents of the mooring field expect it to increase visitors to local businesses, the Harbor Master's plan includes sample agreements for 72 hours and 30 days (renewable).[1] All the slips could be designated for permanent storage. There would be ten times the number of boats off our public beach than there were in 2005 when derelict boats were a problem and a mooring field was proposed as a solution. The problem was resolved the next year with the passage of H.B. 7175.[6]

City staff estimate that the mooring field will cost \$241,000 to build, and, if it generates revenues of \$250,000 a year, the return on investment would take ten years. The full costs of the mooring field are under-estimated and the returns are over-estimated. Since these applications were made, tax revenues have declined due to Amendment 1 and recent downturns in the economy that have led to lower property values. Gulfport has reduced library hours and transportation for seniors and has increased user fees. The rising cost of fuel will likely impact recreational boating. Pinellas County and St. Petersburg have put on hold plans for mooring fields for economic and environmental concerns.[7] Gulfport would be taking an enormous risk for an uncertain pay-off.

The detriments in terms of economics, aesthetics, environment, navigation, recreation, water quality, and safety outweigh any benefits of the proposed mooring field. For these reasons, I am asking the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners under its Water and Navigation Control Authority to deny #CC38505-07/Revised

6/27/08

application for the proposed mooring field in Gulfport.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jennifer R. Salmon
1207 60th St. S.
Gulfport, FL 33707
727-344-0175

References

- [1] Managed Mooring Facility. http://www.ci.gulfport.fl.us/Special_Documents/Gulfport_Proposed_Harbor_Management_Plan_Updated2.pdf
- [2] Florida Administrative Code 18-20.001. <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=18-20>
- [3] Florida Administrative Code 18-20.019. <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=18-20>
- [4] Nautical Chart Viewer. <http://www.oceangrafix.com/o.g/Charts/chartViewer.html?viewRegion=Gulf&viewChart=Tampa-Bay-Entrance--Manatee-River-Extension>
- [5] Boat Manufacturers. <http://www.boatmanufacturers.us/>
- [6] <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=33974>
- [7] St. Petersburg Times. http://www.sptimes.com/2007/04/22/Neighborhoodtimes/Mooring_field_gets_a_.shml

Zanetos, Speros M

From: jfreiberger@tampabay.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2008 4:29 PM
To: Webadmin; public, af; Marquis, Fred; Morrioni, John; Stewart, Robert B; Seel, Karen; Latvala, Susan; Welch, Kenneth; Webadmin; Harris, Calvin D; Duncan, Ronnie E
Subject: Commercial Dock Application CC38505-07 REvised / Gulfport Mooring Field

This information is the result of an online customer service form submission from the Pinellas County web site. general_information is the nature of this e mail message_text My name is John Freiberger, a 21 year resident of Gulfport and I am opposed to CC38505-07 Revised - Commercial Dock Application - Gulfport Mooring Field ("field"). My Opinions on this issue: The "field" is not in the public interest and will benefit no one in Gulfport, except for the enhancement of the City Manager's resume and a Clam Bayou resident who hoped to have a channel dredged to his benefit. Because of this "quid pro quo" arrangement, the City Manager allowed and encouraged this issue to be brought up again, illegally, after it's previous defeat before City Council by a council member who had previously voted in favor of the issue, therefore rendering the most recent vote to proceed illegal and non-binding.

Several years ago I was one of more than 60 Gulfport residents who attended the Commission meeting, acting as the Water and Navigation Control Authority, in opposition to the permitting of a docking facility on our beach. This approval by the W&NCA was done in the face of overwhelming numbers of Gulfport residents who attended this meeting and spoke out against this permitting.

This docking facility on our beach was also not in the public interest of Gulfport residents. It did not matter to the W&NCA then and I do not believe it will matter this time concerning CC38505-07, as it is my understanding that Pinellas County wants to use Gulfport as a stepping stone to place mooring fields in other Boca Ciega Bay locations. In other words, it's a "DONE DEAL", business as usual. Looking forward to attending the Administrative Hearing, Monday, June 30 @ 2PM.

Sincerely, John Freiberger
my_name John Freiberger
city Gulfport
state_country FL
email jfreiberger@tampabay.rr.com
The following recipients received this information.

webmaster webadmin@pinellascounty.org
County Administrators Office fmarquis@pinellascounty.org Commissioner John Morrioni
jmorrioni@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Robert B Stewart rstewart@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Karen Williams Seel kseel@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Susan Latvala slatvala@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Kenneth T Welch ktwelch@pinellascounty.org Commissioner Calvin D Harris charris@pinellascounty.org
Commissioner Ronnie Duncan rduncan@pinellascounty.org

June 26, 2008

Dear Sirs:

We wish to oppose the
Queffort Mooring Field.

We live in a condo (all
winter) near the proposed site.
We are in the radius of 500 feet.

Our main objection is
100 slips mooring field. Slips
will be used by non-residents
and many will be full time
residences for mariners.

The near-by 18 building condo
complex has its own slips.

If the slips were for local use
only and less of them - 25 at most -
it would be less objectionable.

Snowbirds - Benward and Carol Lee
(over) ETON - Town Shores - Queffort

P.S. Why do you sneak this
in in the summer when all
snowbird owners are away? We
plan to be full time soon and pay
full taxes now. We've seen the debris
left by cruiser people on our summer
home lake (Cayuga, a finger lake). Slips for
runabouts would be less offensive as
would kayak and canoe slips.

June 25, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I have lived on the Gulfport waterfront for the past eight years, and already several derelicts have been left in the water out in front of our home. One was there for 13 months until a storm blew it up on the rocks and the state government took it away. The Gulfport government refused to do anything about it. With a mooring field I am sure that we would have many more derelicts.

We also believe that our waterfront water would soon become polluted from all the boats.

Consequently, my wife and I strongly oppose any mooring field being set up in our harbor.

Respectfully,

William R. Heffernan

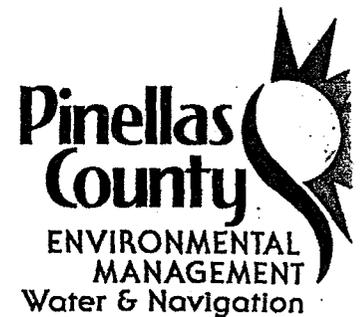
Mariane H. Heffernan

OUR ADDRESS:

4743 BAYWOOD PT. DR. S.
GULFPORT, FL. 33711

**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

Robert B. Stewart - Chairman
Calvin D. Harris - Vice Chairman
Ronnie E. Duncan
Susan Latvala
John Morrone
Karen Williams Seel
Kenneth T. Welch



June 18, 2008

RE: Commercial Dock Application CC38505-07 Revised
Gulfport Mooring Field
City of Gulfport
5500 Shore Boulevard, Gulfport, Florida
Boca Ciega Bay

Dear Sir/Ms:

This is official notice to you as a property owner within a radius of 500 feet of the above referenced proposed project or as an interested party that the above referenced applicant has made application for permit to the Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority. Additional information concerning this project can be found in the attached legal notice.

An Administrative Hearing will be held on **MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2008 at 2:00 P.M.** in the **CLERK'S CONFERENCE ROOM, 4TH FLOOR, COURTHOUSE, 315 COURT STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA.**

A Public Hearing before the Board of County Commissioners acting as the Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority will be held on **TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008 at 9:30 A.M.** in the **COUNTY COMMISSION ASSEMBLY ROOM, 5TH FLOOR, COURTHOUSE, 315 COURT STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA.**

If you wish to comment on this project, either in support or opposition, you are encouraged to attend both hearings. Written correspondence may also be sent to my attention at the address listed on the letterhead and should be submitted as early as possible so that it can be fully considered by staff during the review of the project. In order to be included in the record reviewed by the Board, any written materials must be submitted no later than one week before the public hearing.

If you have any questions about the proposed projects or the hearing process, or if you would like to review the file prior to the hearings, please call me at (727) 453-3385.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian R. Johns".

Brian Johns
Environmental Specialist II

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
510 Bay Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33756
Phone: (727) 464-4761
FAX: (727) 453-3371
SUNCOM: 570-4761
SUNCOMFAX: 570-3371
Website: www.pinellascounty.org

