

# WEEK 3 REPORT

// 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

+ MARINE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

MARCH 15-19, 2020



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Anchoring Limitation Areas

The 2021 Legislative Session is moving along. As reported earlier the pandemic has changed how we do business and the everyday interaction between clients, constituent, legislators and lobbyists. We are all trying to make the most of the situation, but some issues are easier than others.

We have completed three weeks and have six weeks left until the official end of the sixty day event. We will start the budget process this week. Remember, the budget is the only constitutionally mandated requirement of the Florida Legislature. Florida's budget is required to be a balanced budget. We will be watching closely as there could be new funding sources and federal money. MIAF watches several boating budget issues. We are strong advocates for more boating infrastructure monies, boating safety and derelict vessels.

There are numerous boating bills this Session. We are constantly negotiating language on several key pieces of legislation. Below are some of the many boating bills filed this Session. Again, many of these bills are controversial and we have been actively engaged trying to amend and provide information on these important issues. The FWC, Anchoring and Racketeering bills all continue to be works in progress. The FWC and Anchoring bill are amended or being amended this week as originally filed. The Racketeering bill needs an amendment before it passes. We will highlight that below.

### Anchoring

Senate Bill 1946 sponsored by Senator Polsky. The bill has three committees of reference. The bill is being heard March 22 with a delete all amendment. The amendment is included in your packet for review. We believe the amendment is an improvement from the original bill as filed including a few of our suggestions. We appreciate the sponsors meeting with us and listening to our concerns. We have asked to continue to work with them as the bill continues thru the next two committees.

The House companion, HB 1515 by Representative Duggan is scheduled to be heard this week as well. The bill is scheduled to be heard in the House Environment Agriculture and Flooding Subcommittee on March 23rd. As of the writing of this report,

we do not have copies of any amendments as the deadline is March 22. We anticipate the House bill to have an amendment identical to the Senate amendment.

Senator Polsky and Representative Duggan are working very closely together. The Boating Caucus is split on this bill. Boat US went on record supporting the anchoring bill and apparently was negotiating with the House sponsor during the interim period.

### **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission/Boating Bill**

FWC refers to this bill as a "Boating Bill". In my opinion, this is a law enforcement bill and not a boating bill. The entire stakeholders process and hours of conference calls and suggested amendments to FWC were all denied. Unfortunately, we were left with no option, but to meet with the sponsors and legislators to discuss our major concerns with the bill.

Happy to report Senator Hutson amended his bill in the first committee of reference. His amendments were very favorable to marine industries. We appreciate his willingness to work with the industry. Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1066 has two more committee stops before it hits the Senate floor.

Representative Sirois is the House sponsor. House Bill 639 is being heard in its second committee of reference March 22. There are amendments are filed and we expect more amendments as it moves through the last two committees as it has four committee references. We expect changes to boating education as it moves forward. Derelict vessels seem to be the main driver of this bill.

We will keep you posted as these bills move forward.

### **Racketeering**

Senate Bill 776 by Senator Gainer and House Bill 783 by Overdorf. The Senate bill is ready for the Senate floor. We have met with Senate need this change as we do not want anyone who has an incidental take of a species being charged with the same law used to charge mob bosses. The House bill has two more committee stops. Please, if you feel inclined call your legislator and and them to change "take" to "collect, harvest or capture".

### **Marina Evacuations**

Marina Evacuations bills are moving through the process. The Senate bill, SB 578, has passed all three committees with no amendments. The bill is ready for the Senate floor. The House bill has been amended several times and is now a CS/CS. This House bill is also ready to be heard on the House floor. The language is attached for your review.

### **Vessel Collision**

House Bill 1275 is up this week by Representative Grieco. The Senate Bill has three committees left.

Again, budgets will start taking shape this week. We will keep you posted as this is a long process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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