

MOORING FIELDS

Overall Impression: It appears that each city is merging mooring fields with existing marina locations, so as to more easily provide upland support and patrolling of the mooring fields. It also seems clear that location is very critical in decisions being made about prospective mooring fields.

Ft. Myers

- In the process of transferring their mooring field slips into hard slips within the municipal marinas
- Set-up mooring fields in a basin, between two bridges, a poor location
 - Any strong storms may break the boats loose, causing them to be a potential threat to the bridges and the safety of the public
 - The city does, however, still allow light sailboats to moor, as they do not pose as great of a threat as larger boats may.

Key West

- Currently have a 149 mooring, mooring field
 - Funded by grant money from the State and County
- Have a grant-funded pump out boat from 'Pump out USA'
- Have a mooring field Dockmaster to ensure the fees are paid
- Monthly/Daily fees include vehicle parking, dinghy dock, showers and laundry facilities
- One free pump-out per week also included in fee
- Field is a no-anchor zone, controlled by the local police
- If a vessel should sink, the County has a program to remove it
- If boats are behind on payments, there is a lien company to a title for the city
- Tenants sign a form agreeing to comply with the rules or they will be told to leave

Miami

- Do not yet have mooring fields, but have approved a plan to install them
- It is illegal to moor in the waterways and along the land of any city owned property
- Vessels anchored in the waters of Miami will be given the first opportunity to rent a mooring
- These vessels will be given a six-month time period to repair boats so as to comply with federal, state and local requirements
 - This is to be monitored by City staff and vessel operators to ensure compliance
- Have identified certain needs of the boaters who will use the mooring fields:
 - Adequate hot showers and restroom facilities
 - Secure dinghy dock with dock carts, dinghy racks and courtesy dock
 - Pump-out stations or a pump-out boat
 - Provisions for drinking water and electricity
 - Adequate parking and bicycle racks
 - Laundry facilities (folding tables; soap machine; change machine etc.)
 - Community or day room including
 - Telephones and CATV access with weather and news reports
 - General mail delivery
 - Library with book exchange

- Ship's store or a commissary with necessities and vending machines
 - Trash pickup and recycling bins for paper, plastic, etc.
- Mooring field should be supervised by nearby marina
 - Harbormaster and staff will inspect area daily to ensure compliance
 - Professional should be called in not less than once per year to inspect mooring hardware
- Also have ideas for regulations on types of moorings to be used, how a vessel must moor and with how many ties, and distances vessels should have from each other while moored.

Sarasota

- No vessel may moor on navigable waters for more than 72 hours within any 30 day period unless within an approved mooring field
- Any vessel, disabled for more than 72 hours, will be removed at the County's discretion, at the expense of the owner.
- Any sunken vessel will be removed by the County, at the expense of the owner
- Commercial vessels (engaged in commercial fishing or marine construction) have the right to moor their vessel in County waters
- Violations of the ordinance can be observed by officers, employees or agents of the County or private citizens, who must bring violation to the attention of the County
 - Do not yet have any sanctioned mooring fields, but there are talks about creating some in the near future

Gulfport

- City has budgeted \$150,000 for the creation of a mooring field, and has hired an engineer firm to permit and engineer fifty moorings off of the Gulfport waterfront in Boca Ciega Bay
 - Includes upland support with a dinghy dock, restrooms with shower and laundry facilities, and a
 - A Harbor Management Mooring Plan has been completed and will be presented to the Gulfport City Council for the 05/06 budget
- City has budgeted \$20,000 for the permitting and engineering of a 300' floating transient dock, capable of handling vessels up to 50'.
- Last year, completed a \$2.5 million renovation, including a two-lane boat ramp, 66 parking spaces, 247 new wet slips for vessels up to 45', individual sewage pump out at each slip, new fueling system with a 140' floating fuel dock, free wireless Internet connection, a marina web cam and restroom renovation.
- In the process of developing a second marina Master Plan, which looks at all the surrounding properties bordering the municipal marina, all of which are currently under lease from the City of Gulfport.