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Boaters and Anglers' Pledge Meeting

LOAN COPY ONLY *Proceedings — December 1992*

Marion L. Clarke



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*Florida Sea Grant College Program —
research, extension, and education for a better coastal environment.*

Boaters and Anglers' Pledge Meeting Proceedings

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**Boaters and Anglers' Pledge Program
List of Participants in Coordinator's Workshop**

December, 1992 Tarpon Springs, FL

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Acronym Index

AFS - American Fisheries Society
CAC - Citizen Advisory Committee (GMP)
CG - Coast Guard
CMC - Center for Marine Conservation
CZM - Coastal Zone Management
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
GCCA- Gulf Coast Conservation Association
GMP - Gulf of Mexico Program
MARPOL - International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MD - Marine Debris
MMC - Marine Mammal Commission
MMS - Minerals Management Service
MERP - Marine Entanglement Research Program
PRB - Policy Review Board (GMP)
SFI - Sports Fishing Institute
TX GLO - Texas General Land Office
TPGWTF - Take Pride Gulf Wide Task Force
TPGWP - Take Pride Gulf Wide Program
TSC - Technical Steering Committee (GMP)

Introduction

Laura Radde and Bill Holland

The Gulf of Mexico Boaters' Pledge Program is designed to gain volunteer cooperation and support for ending the debris problem in the Gulf; especially that portion of the problem that can be attributed to recreational boaters and anglers.

Created from the ground up, the project was directed at a Gulf user group that is not easily reached due to its lack of institutionalization. The Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP) participants felt that other groups had been adequately addressed regarding the marine debris problem through their existing industry networks or via regulatory requirements. The GMP listened to its state, industry, and other partners, and agreed to pursue this worthwhile effort by acting as the central coordinating point for the Gulf of Mexico Boaters' Pledge Program.

The 1992 Boaters' Pledge Coordinators meeting focused not only on lessons learned and accomplish-

ments to date, but also included discussions on evaluating the success of current methods, so we can more effectively address the marine debris problem. The program is designed to build on each success, so that it is not limited only to its original focus, but may change as the need arises. Already, individual states are beginning to incorporate subjects such as living resource protection and boating safety into their pledge programs.

New spin-off programs, successful methodologies and even failures are being shared across state boundaries through this regional program. The goal of personal stewardship is being realized in the Gulf of Mexico through the Boaters' Pledge Program. To date, over 10,000 boaters and anglers have signed a pledge to take pride in the Gulf of Mexico.

Gulf of Mexico Program Perspective

by
Laura Radde

December 9, 1992

EPA and the Gulf of Mexico Program (GMP) have been supporting and coordinating the Gulf of Mexico Boater's Pledge Program for several years. Until recently, however, there had been no federal money to support a Gulf-Wide Program. Because the States were so enthusiastic about the program, they agreed to take on lead responsibility for Boater's Pledge Pilot Programs in their respective states, with materials and guidance being provided through the GMP.

Late in 1991, the Gulf of Mexico Program was able to contribute \$220,000 to support the creation and implementation of a Gulf-Wide Boater's Pledge Program. While the States continue to take the lead for implementation, the GMP provides the communication network across the Gulf states and the guidance which retains the "regional solution to a regional problem" theme of the Program. It is important that the individual Programs do not lose sight of the original purpose of helping boaters to treat the Gulf

as a system. The notion that trash deposited in one state may easily end up on the coast of another lends to the cooperative nature of the Gulf-Wide Program. Individual States can not solve the problem alone.

The Gulf Program can not thank the state leaders and their volunteers enough for their patience and hard work during the pilot phase of the program. The Gulf of Mexico Program is proud to present a special certificate to each of these individuals for their dedication and support for the program. They include: Villere Reggio, Barbara Coltharp, Angela Farias, Nancy Holland, Dave Ruple, Phillip Hinesley, Marion Clarke, Barbara Sheen Todd, John Adams, Gerrie McMullin, and Ann Neyrey. The certificate reads:

Take Pride Gulf Wide

In appreciation for your efforts to develop and implement the first Gulf-Wide Fishermens and Boaters' Pledge for the Gulf of Mexico.

Boater's Pledge for a Clean Gulf — A Chronology

by
Villere Reggio

"Before there was a Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Program there was a Marine Debris Issue." The garbage barge, concern for dirty Texas beaches, and identified oil and gas trash on Texas' beaches brought this issue to the Gulf and the MMS.

National and International Focus on "Marine Debris"

MERP - James Coe, Seattle with emphasis on pacific coast entanglement problems.

MARPOL Annex V - International plastics prohibition

Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act - Encouraged federal leadership of voluntary actions to control marine pollution from solid waste, as well as research & education.

Persistent Marine Debris - Challenge and Response - a report further encouraging federal leadership and support in educational programs and stimulating voluntary actions to stem the tide of marine litter from all user groups.

Take Pride In America Campaign and Program (1987)

Initiated by Secretary Department of the Interior as a national campaign to focus public attention on abuse and misuse of public lands and waters while encouraging voluntary participation by individuals and organizations in communities to care for America's public resources. Looking to recognize innovative initiatives accomplishing these objectives.

MMS was invited to work with the Louisiana Sea Grant on a fishermen/ boater specific "Trash Bash" Fishing tournament litter education and control project. We were impressed enough to seek and get national recognition through TPLA awards program. MMS has since used this project in association with promotion of the boater's pledge project at Louisiana fishing tournaments and highly recommends it as an effective strategy.

Take Pride Gulf Wide Task Force (1987/88)

Finger pointing at the oil industry and MMS, the

overseer of the offshore oil and gas operations, led to director's task force on marine debris in the GOM. Besides rallying action, support and cooperation from oil industry, the task force attempted to expand and promote gulfwide, excellent voluntary initiatives such as statewide beach cleanups and adoption programs started in Texas by CMC & TX GLO.

Like many national fads the "boaters' pledge" concept got its start on the west coast. As an advisor to the Director seeking ideas to implement on his TPGW Task Force I sought and found an idea promoted by Natural Resources consultants working on solutions to the marine debris problem with a pacific coast commercial fishing organization called the Highliner Association. It was called *Fishermen's Pledge For A Clean Ocean* which encouraged commercial fishermen to take the pledge and purchase for \$25 a plaque for their wheelhouse commemorating the deed. We ordered the plaque under task force name but before the director responded to the idea the Gulf of Mexico program was created along with the Marine Debris (MD) Subcommittee.

Gulf of Mexico Program (1988)

GMP invited MMS to participate and be Federal co-chair of the MD Subcommittee. Accepted and brought initiatives already started under the TPGW Task Force including "Boater's Pledge" idea to the EPA sponsored program.

Marine Debris Subcommittee Proposal (1989)

Subcommittee revised wording with a strong focus on recreational boaters, especially boating fishermen.

TSC, PRB, & CAC Endorsement, Approval and Encouragement (1989)

The subcommittee budgeted funds for support materials (programmatic decals, brochure, and fact sheets) and applied for an EPA pollution prevention set aside grant proposal (\$337,500) - Not funded but exposed project concept to many important officials and generated discussion, encouragement and documented support for the idea (SFI, AFS, MMC, GCCA,

CG, NOAA, Gulf States).

Pilot Projects (1990)

Pinellas County (Clearwater and Tampa Bay Florida)

Rockport Texas (TLO & CAC - include fishermen without boats- developed wallet sized pledge cards and fish rulers)

Coastal Alabama (tested project in selected coastal locations with county cooperation)

State Leadership and Initiative emerges (1991)

Alabama CZM grant - published brochure & promoted project throughout coastal counties

Mississippi BMR three year commitment - hired a part time employee with single purpose, dynamic project coordinator

Louisiana Statewide leap - published brochure and implemented project statewide through key group and organization sponsors.

Pinellas County seeks state support - finds Sea Grant with established marine extension network

Marine Debris Action Plan (Oct., 1991)

1st Boater's Pledge Workshop (June, 1991)

Presidential Declaration "Year of the Gulf of Mexico" (1992/93)

EPA Invests \$220,000 in Gulf Boater's Pledge Program

2nd Boater's and Angler's Pledge Workshop (Dec., 1992)

Boater's and Fishermen's Pledge Survey for CZM '93
Gulf Boaters and Fishermen Take Pride in the Gulf of Mexico!

* Need programmatic slide show or video

Advice:

Keep focus on the primary target group (boaters & fishermen)

Try to get more proactive participation through the public & private sectors (Other state agencies, FWS, NMFS, COE, etc.) Remind them about national legislation encouraging their leadership in solving the marine debris problem. Make them feel this is as much their project as yours! If MMS can do it, all executive agencies with marine stewardship responsibilities can do it.

Get support from the printed and visual media - focus on special events like earth day, national boating week, national hunting and fishing day, boat shows, fishing tournaments, etc.

Don't just sign them up and forget them - Use your mail list to network the program, build resolve, and spread program visibility and support from committed participants.

We need more bottom up as well as top down leadership in this program. You'll know it's a success when the boaters and fishermen in your state have made this THEIR project.

Boaters Marine Debris Monitoring Programs from the Mid-Atlantic and New Approaches and Topics for Boater Education

Margaret Podlich

Project Director, Pollution Prevention Program

Center for Marine Conservation

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Three topics were covered:

- I. Opportunities for boaters to report violations of marine debris laws.
- II. New federal sewage pump-out bill passed.
- III. Additional environmental education for boaters.

I. Opportunities for Boaters to Report Violations of Marine Debris Laws

Introduction:

In 1990 the Center for Marine Conservation received a grant from EPA to develop and evaluate a program for citizen reporting of violations of the international MARPOL Annex V treaty and the national Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act. This "Citizen Pollution Patrol" program was designed to increase awareness of the marine debris problem among the maritime community and to enlist their participation in a pilot program to report violations. The work was conducted by CMC in the Annapolis, Maryland area, and by New Jersey Sea Grant in the Barnegat Bay, Manasquan Inlet area. Activities took place from December 1990 through December 1991.

How we did it:

To implement the Citizen Pollution Patrol (CPP), the project team conducted several tasks. We identified the roles of federal agencies in enforcing the MPPRCA and the information required from a citizen reporting a violation. At the state and local level, we found out what actions enforcement agencies had taken with regard to disposal of marine debris, and what laws backed them up. Based on this knowledge, we developed appropriate educational materials, including a citizens report form (see page 8). We also created an outreach plan to reach as many boaters and people associated with the water as possible.

Once the strategy was developed, there were three keys to success for the one-year project: cooperation, information dissemination, and motivation. At all

times, the project team fostered cooperation between different groups, and agencies. For example, both the Baltimore Coast Guard and the Maryland Natural Resources Police are able to enforce marine litter laws. We worked with them to develop a system where Coast Guard received the reports for large violations, and Maryland received the reports for smaller violations.

Since the project was so short, we used every means possible to get our information out. Any opportunity for coverage on the radio, or in a newspaper, magazine, or newsletter was seized. When we didn't feel we were reaching enough people, we chose other paths, including sending an educational postcard out to all registered boat owners (33,000) in the project area! The project team sought out and fulfilled as many speaking engagements as possible. Donated space at area boat shows was also used as a way to achieve direct contact with others.

Along with this communication with area boaters, we encouraged the "domino effect." We asked our audiences and other supporters to share our information with others, in any way possible. Some passed information to boaters across the dock, or with a marina operator. Others posted posters at their club, or inserted information into a newsletter. Through the domino effect, we were able to significantly multiply the effects of a small, one year project.

Finally, we sought to motivate boaters by giving them the ability to make a difference in their marine environment. We enabled them to make a citizen report if they witnessed suspected marine debris violations. There was a range of reactions to the citizen reporting information. Some boaters eagerly accepted this information, and looked at it as a responsibility they had to the marine environment. Others were not so eager to "fink" on fellow boaters. Despite the range of reactions, the project successfully equipped those who want to know how to report a violation with the information they need to do it.

Accomplishments:

There were five major accomplishments of the program. First, the New Jersey and Maryland teams raised the awareness of tens of thousands of boaters and educated them to help increase voluntary compliance with the law. Second, we alerted boaters how to identify a marine debris violation. Third, we enabled them to make strong violation reports to the proper authorities. Fourth, we alerted boaters that others are watching out for violations, and finally, we brought them into helping solve the problem of marine debris at a personal level.

Conclusions:

The one year pilot program did not result in a large number of citizen reports in New Jersey and Maryland. However, it did illustrate opportunities and impediments to productive citizen reporting for marine debris violations. It also showed the benefits of a concentrated education project. As a result of this knowledge, a national form for citizens reporting has been made, and is now distributed by the Center for Marine Conservation.

The information gained in the pilot is being used to implement a citizen reporting campaign for cruise line ships. Future passengers are being educated about the problems of marine debris and the laws that restrict overboard disposal, and are equipped with a report form and knowledge on how to document violations at sea. As a result of this work, two very large cases have been documented in the last few months and are now in the hands of enforcement authorities.

Citizen reporting is a topic that can easily be incorporated into the great education work being done in the Gulf of Mexico area on the topic of marine debris. It has many advantages, and can help increase voluntary compliance with the law. For more information, or help in establishing a program in your state, please contact me.

II. New Federal Sewage Pumpout Bill Passed

Introduction:

On November 4th, 1992, President Bush signed a new federal boat sewage pump-out bill into law. This bill, HR 5617 from the 102nd Congress, will help address the lack of available onshore facilities for disposing of boat sewage.

It is against federal law to pump raw sewage over-

board within three miles of the shore. However, in many boating areas, there are not adequate onshore pumping facilities and it is extremely difficult for most boaters to comply with this federal regulation. This new law should help remedy this problem.

Steps:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now developing guidance for the law. This guidance will include information such as what number of facilities is considered adequate, and the appropriate types of stations onshore. These are due out for public comment by February 4th, and should be final in six months.

After the guidance is final, the states will get notification of the program, and its requirements, and the availability of federal funds to provide 75% of costs for new pumpout facilities. The law creates a five-year program to increase awareness about pumpout, and increase its availability to the recreational boaters.

Conclusion:

There will be opportunities in the next few years for states to gain federal assistance for boat sewage pumpout facilities. This is an environmental topic that your program may be able to address through expanded education efforts to area boaters. Distributing information on the need to use onshore facilities, and publicizing their locations, could be a natural extension of the Boaters' Pledge work.

III. Additional Environmental Education for Boaters.

Introduction:

CMC is currently conducting a pilot program in the Santa Monica Bay, California area that is exploring education and outreach to boaters on a range of environmental topics. The program is designed to address local boaters' concerns about the environment, educate them about their impact on the Bay, and get them involved in Bay issues.

Steps:

Through the development of a steering committee made up of representatives from the marine community, the program will be developed around several environmental issues of local concern. At this time, it appears these topics will include marine debris/solid waste/recycling, as well as sewage.

An environmental workshop for boaters will be developed for the late spring, and used as a gathering point for interested marine community members. At the workshop, boaters will be educated about these issues, but will work together to develop a local action agenda for the issues. The project will help boaters get involved in local environmental issues, and the action items are designed to increase that participation.

Conclusion:

The pilot program schedule is September 1992 through September 1993. CMC hopes to use it as a pilot to develop a national program for recreational boaters on a wide range of environmental topics.

Citizens Report Form for Observed Marine Pollution Sighting

If you witness a vessel dumping garbage or other pollutants overboard, please fill out this form and submit the information to the proper authority listed on the back. With your help, both federal and state officials can better enforce marine pollution laws. In addition, educational materials can be sent to suspected violators, to help them learn about MARPOL Annex V and other environmental protection laws.

Identification of Observer:

Name: _____

Affiliation Agency or Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone number: (H) _____ (W) _____

Observation Information:

Observation made from: (circle one) shore boat other (describe) _____

(Optional) if from boat, name or identity of boat you are on: _____

Specific location of boat (use loran coordinates, waterway name, etc.), or place on shore (use street and town name), where observation was made:

Date and local time of observation: _____

Vessel Suspected of Violation:

Name of vessel: _____

Type of vessel: (circle one) tanker / cargo / passenger carrier / fishing / sailboat / motorboat / other

(describe) _____

Registration state and number or flag of ship if foreign:

Approximate length and other descriptive information about vessel:

Draft condition (circle one): loaded / light

Approximate course and speed: _____

Position of vessel discharging, if different from your position: _____

If offshore, approximate distance from land: _____ nautical miles _____

Particulars of discharge you saw:

Reason for suspecting the ship: _____

Any other vessels in immediate vicinity of suspected ship: yes no

Where was discharge coming from? bow / midships / stern / port / starboard / other (describe)

Type of discharge: garbage / oil / drums / construction material / other (describe) _____

Describe the discharge materials: (i.e. number of bags) _____

Approximate dimensions of discharge: _____

Percentage of area covered by discharge: _____

Observer's name and signature: _____

Witness' name and signature: _____

Date: _____

This information has been reported to: Coast Guard Headquarters / Coast Guard Marine Safety Office /
Other (who?) _____

Via: VHF radio / telephone / FAX / mail / other (how?) _____

What should you do with this information:

Please use the following guidelines to determine which enforcement agency or citizens group can best use your information. Even if the agencies can not respond immediately to your report, it is important that they know of these suspected violations. If possible, take a photo or video of the incident.

If you witness a large oil slick, try to document the slick with a VCR or camera. Then contact the U.S. Coast Guard headquarters in Washington DC, and ask for a contact at the USCG Marine Safety Office nearest you. Call (202) 267-6714.

If you see a large oil slick, try to document the slick with a VCR or camera. Then contact the U.S. Coast Guard by way of the National Response Center at: 1-800-424-8802. This toll-free number is operated 24 hours a day.

If you see a smaller dumping incident (i.e. repeated overboard dumping in a specific area or by a specific boater, attempt to determine if your state has a natural resource police office. If so, report the violation to them. If not, contact your nearest USCG Marine Safety Office.

If you have only a little information on an incident, or if you have seen a very small violation (i.e., one item thrown overboard), fill out this form and send it to: Center for Marine Conservation, 1725 DeSales St. NW, Washington, DC 20036; 202-429-5609 or FAX 202-872-0619. Please try to include the boat's registration number and state, so we can send the owner educational materials about marine debris and overboard dumping restrictions.

Alabama Boater's Pledge Program

by Phillip Hinesly

The Alabama Boater's Pledge Program seeks to reduce the effects of marine debris on living marine resources, coastal amenities, and navigation in the coastal area.

During the 1992 Alabama Coastal Cleanup, 3,500 volunteers picked up over 20 tons of debris. The majority of the debris can be traced to off-shore sources and is attributable to recreational fishing and boating activities.

The international agreement (Marpol 73/78, Annex V), and U. S. implementation legislation (Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act 1987) prohibits the disposal of all plastics in any public waters. Disposal of other waste has been restricted to greater than 12 miles offshore. The State of Alabama has several acts under the Criminal Code which prohibit deposit of litter on public or private waters. These laws and regulations should have an effect on the marine debris problem.

However, the intent of these laws and regulations may only regulate larger maritime shipping vessels. Smaller commercial fishing and recreational vessels contribute to the marine debris, but are not easily pressured by institutional controls, and are less likely to change age-old disposal habits due to legal mandates stemming from state houses and international forums.

The best approach to the problem will be to develop public educational programs, and volunteer support and commitment of individual boat captains and fishermen.

The Coastal Programs Section of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrative and support from the Gulf of Mexico Program started a pilot Boater's Pledge Program. The GMP, Marine Debris Subcommittee provided generic material, and program guidelines for the program. Today nearly 650 boaters in Alabama have signed the pledge. However, there are currently 35,000 boats registered in the two coastal counties. Although the exact cumulative impact from private boats and fisherman on solid waste loads in the Gulf of Mexico is unknown, the type debris generated, monofilament fishing line and plastics, is the most dangerous to marine life. With this in mind Alabama has submit-

ted a grant to the GMP for funding a comprehensive two county-wide Boater's Pledge Program. With 35,000 boats registered in Mobile and Baldwin counties, it is believed that the majority of these boaters use coastal bays and the Gulf of Mexico. This campaign will be aimed at private boat owners and fishermen who register their boats or buy fishing licenses in coastal counties and/or use coastal bays and offshore waters. This particular project will involve existing boat registration license sale programs and ask boaters to voluntarily pledge, in writing, to a no-dumping ethic in coastal waters. The purpose is two-fold: (1) reduce the amount of marine debris originating from pleasure crafts and small commercial fishing boats, and (2) educate boaters and fishermen of the marine debris problem, cultivating an awareness of our precious resources. Other generators of trash will be educated by direct contact with marinas, schools, trade organizations, and civic organizations.

The specifics of the program area as follows: The lead agency shall be the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division (ADCNR-MRD) and Marine Police Division, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Minerals Management Service (MMS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Gulf of Mexico Program, and numerous private groups.

The 35,000 boats registered in Mobile and Baldwin Counties will be targeted for the boater's pledge project. The project will target all boaters as they renew or acquire new registration licenses on a monthly basis. The Mobile County License Commissioner Office and the Baldwin County Probate Judges Office will assist in pledge commitments as part of normal registration procedures. The ADCNR-MRD will distribute pledges through normal license and sales procedures. Boaters and fishermen will be given or mailed a pledge brochure or postcard with the pledge commitment and a self-addressed return envelope. The pledge will consist of a one-page statement in which the boater agrees to responsibly dispose of all trash generated by the boater. The pledge will be returned to the lead agency. We estimate that 20% of the pledges will be returned. This part of the

project will involve coordination between the respective county agencies, ADCNR and the lead agency.

Once the pledges are returned to the lead agency, we will issue a boater's pledge certificate for a clean Gulf which will be signed by the Governor and other state department heads. Pledge participants will receive a decal display for boats, a bumper sticker, a ruler, and a wallet size pledge card. In addition, a boater's brochure will be developed to educate boaters to the benefits of using marine sanitation devices.

The lead agency will administer, process pledges, log and track all pledges during the one year life of the program. This information is needed to determine the impact of the program on reducing debris and trash in the marine environment.

Public information through contacts with the media, boating trade associations, marinas, private conservation, and civic organizations, and coordination with other state agencies are needed so that the project and its objectives will be widely advertised and accepted.

In summary, our strategy is to build on a national, regional, and state concern for solid waste pollution in our coastal and marine waters by seeking positive support from private boat owners. Working with the public sector, our approach is to challenge mariners to become stewards of resources important to their leisure and livelihood. Tangible evidence of project's success can be measured in the number of pledges received, and the reduction in boating trash collected during annual beach cleanups.

Florida Boaters and Fishermen's Pledge Program Makes Progress

by Marion Clarke
Program Leader and Dean
Florida Sea Grant

A Pilot Boaters and Fishermen's Pledge Program for Florida started in 1991. The project received over twenty-eight hundred boaters and fishermen pledges in 1991-1992. Commissioner Barbara Sheen Todd of Pinellas County and two volunteers, Anne Neyrey and Gerrie McMullin, have provided the major work effort during the first year of the program. Four formal presentations helped explain the program. The Boaters and Fishermen's Pledge Program was planned and promoted through more than fifteen meetings on Florida's Gulf Coast. Volunteers set up a boaters and fishermen's pledge booth at three festivals to solicit pledges. Although the program targeted all Florida Gulf Coast Boaters, most pledges received were from the Tampa Bay Area.

The Boaters and Fishermen's Pledge Program brochure touted a slogan "Take Pride Gulf-Wide" and provided information on the scope and impact of boater pollution. The brochure also included a pledge card to register the concerned boaters pledge to "take pride and keep the Gulf clean." Upon submitting their pledge, boaters received a sticker for their boat that identifies the boaters commitment.

This was a very successful program in the initial phase. Commissioner Todd and the volunteers worked hard to complete phase one. Realizing the size of the job and the need to broaden the scope to boaters statewide, they sought assistance. With the encouragement of the Gulf of Mexico Program and EPA the leaders of the pilot program began the search for cooperators.

The University of Florida's Sea Grant College Program and the Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences are logical candidates to provide the network to expand the program. The IFAS Cooperative Extension Service has offices in every county and Sea Grant faculty working in every coastal county. Keep Florida Beautiful, Inc., the Florida Department of Natural Resources and the Center for Marine Conservation became key cooperating organizations in planning for the new program. The new program was titled: "Boaters and Anglers' Pledge Program to include a more generic population.

Dr. Marion Clarke, Sea Grant Extension Leader, has taken the lead role as state coordinator for the statewide Boater and Anglers Pledge Program. Don Sweat, Sea Grant Extension Agent in Pinellas County, will provide liaison between the Pinellas County effort and the new statewide program. The new Boaters and Anglers Pledge Program thrust will rely heavily on the

foundation and volunteers established in Pinellas County.

Three planning meetings and numerous telephone calls set the stage for writing a proposal to EPA and the Gulf of Mexico Program for support to carry out the new pledge program.

Dr. Clarke has attended one Boaters and Anglers' Pledge Coordinators Meeting in New Orleans. The proposal for the Florida Boaters and Anglers' Pledge Program was sent to the Gulf of Mexico Program June 29, 1992. Laura Radde of The Gulf of Mexico Program advised us that we should know the fate of the project by early October.

Keep Florida Beautiful has contacted private sources for match funding. Upon awarding of the grant they will proceed with donor obligations. They have identified corporate sponsors for the program that are eager to participate.

The Florida Boaters and Anglers Pledge program has developed the following objectives and scope of work for the project.

Objectives of the Florida Boaters and Anglers' Pledge Program:

To establish a statewide boaters pledge program for Florida that will commit the boating and fishing public to promote:

Stewardship of the natural environments in which they operate their boats;

The MARPOL Legislation that protects our boating environments;

"The Rules of the Road" for ethical and safe boat operation;

Vessel passengers compliance with the Florida Boaters Pledge.

To plan, develop and implement the "1992 Workshop For Boater's Pledge Program Coordinators."

Scope of Work:

The Florida Sea Grant Extension Program will carry out the Florida Boaters and Anglers Pledge Program (FBAPP). The Program will be expedited in cooperation

with the Gulf of Mexico Program, the Center for Marine Conservation and Keep Florida Beautiful, Inc. A board of advisors, made up of representation from these groups, will guide the development and implementation of the program.

The FBAPP will strive to promote stewardship of Florida's aquatic environments. The program will be voluntary. It will solicit the cooperation and participation of volunteers to promote and encourage the program. It will reward participants with appropriate certificates, educational information, and decals which will serve to promote the objectives of the program. When appropriate, boater premiums, will be given to participants. The program will rely on private industry to provide and develop these premiums. These premiums will encourage participation and publicize the program.

The Florida Sea Grant Extension Program (FSGEP) will work with federal, state, and local agencies to promote and expedite the program. Private and public special interest groups and private industry will be encouraged to participate in the program. The primary costs of the program will be salaries, postage, promotion and travel. Some printing expense may be incurred by the grant. Private industry will support the bulk of printing and publicity costs. Printed materials will include a promotional brochure, a decal for boaters, certificates of participation and exceptional accomplishment and pledge cards. Audio/visual materials will include public service announcement videos and audio for radio, the development of slide sets for use with group promotion. Participation premiums are being evaluated and may be provided by industry. (i.e. floating key chains, stick-on rulers for the side of the boat, waterproof rules of the road, etc.)

Promotion of the program will be through media, radio, television, newspapers and magazines. Trade shows and special events will also promote the program. Presentations by the FSGEP faculty to special interest groups will promote the program.

FSGEP will work with the Department of Natural Resources to include information on the FBAPP with boater registration information. FBAPP brochures will be available at the tax collector's office in each county.

FSGEP, in cooperation with the EPA Project Director, will plan, develop and conduct a Workshop for Coordinators of Boater/Fisher Pledge Programs. This workshop will be Wednesday, December 9, 1992 prior to the 1992 Gulf of Mexico Symposium. The workshop and symposium will be at the Innisbrook Resort in Tarpon Springs, Florida.

As the program develops and matures, participants will have the opportunity to participate in educational programs developed around identified needs.

Every state on the Gulf of Mexico now has a Boaters and Fishermens' Pledge Program. The advisory committee for Florida's Program anxiously awaits notifica-

tion of the awarding of the grant from EPA. The committee is eager to initiate the new phase of the program. Volunteers, individuals and organizations, will be needed to help carry out the program. Interested individuals or organizations should contact:

Dr. Marion L. Clarke, Asst. Dean Marine & Coastal Programs
Sea Grant Extension Program
P.O. Box 110405, Building 803
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-0405

Phone: 904-392-1837
FAX 904-392-5113

The Gulf of Mexico Program/EPA Boaters' Pledge Program Grant was received in Florida in mid-November. It arrived just in time to facilitate the Boaters Pledge Coordinators Workshop in Innisbrook, Florida. Since notification of the grant award, the FBAPP Advisory Committee has met once. The immediate challenges at hand are being addressed:

- o Getting arrangements, program and materials ready for the Boaters and Anglers' Pledge Coordinators Workshop.
- o Setting a time-line for the project and establishing project road markers.
- o Refining plans and working relationships with the project corporate sponsor.
- o Printing a temporary brochure for the Florida Boaters Pledge Program. (To cover the period until a corporate sponsor is announced.)
- o Developing instructional materials for extension agents and volunteers to use in promoting the program.
- o Planning strategies for developing volunteer networks in each of the extension agent areas.

The program is planned to have its major kick off during boating safety week in 1993. An educational effort and media blitz will be take place during this first week of June. The program goal is to get pledges from 25% of Florida boaters during the first year of the project.

Getting the Job Done: Organizing, Motivating, and Rewarding Boaters In Marine Debris Cleanups

A Presentation at the Boaters and Anglers' Pledge Program
Year of the Gulf Symposium
Tarpon Springs, Florida
December 9, 1992

*Sonya Wood
Sea Grant/Marine Extension Agent
Florida Sea Grant*

Marine debris, particularly plastics, is a tremendous problem for wildlife, boaters and divers, and beachgoers. We know from our ongoing beach cleanups that there is more debris in the north Gulf of Mexico each year. This is disheartening, considering the fact that we have more volunteers, more stretches of beach adopted, and more beach cleanups each year. It is also discouraging to see that MARPOL Annex V, the marine pollution legislation that went into effect in 1989, has not significantly reduced ocean dumping or the amount of debris on our beaches. More efforts will have to be made Gulfwide and worldwide before we see improvement.

Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, like the rest of Florida, are experiencing a tremendous growth rate. Escambia County's population rose from 234,000 in 1980 to 263,000 in 1990, a 12.4% increase. Santa Rosa county's population was 56,000 in 1980. It rose to 82,000 in 1990, a 45.8% increase. We also have an ever-increasing tourist influx - 40 million people visit Florida for her water. Seventy-five percent (75%) of our population lives within five miles of a coast. Visitors are attracted to our sugar-white beaches and varied water recreation.

One out of every seven Florida families has a boat. There are 19,000 registered boats in Escambia County, 14,000 registered boats in Santa Rosa County. Within our area, there are 12 marine facilities for boaters. This includes two marine recreational facilities on the Naval Air Station and two yacht clubs.

Working with Beckie Breeding, interpreter at Gulf Islands National Seashore, and John Tonkin, director of Santa Rosa Clean Community System, I formed the Santa Rosa/Escambia Marine Task Force. This task force is made up of county commissioners and county staff, civic leaders, representatives of environmental organizations, educators, those involved in marine industries, fishermen, divers, and boaters.

The role of the Santa Rosa/Escambia Marine Task Force is to give us guidance on a number of specific marine and coastal programs - the Coastal Cleanup, Estuary Cleanup, Underwater Cleanup, Rivers Cleanup, Adopt-A-Shore, Turtle Watch, Marine Mammal Stranding Network, and Water Quality Monitoring

Program. The task force has emerged as a dynamic, powerful voice for these programs, and as a group that can continue to address additional marine issues. They are committed to meeting regularly, to raising outside funds, and to making a difference.

Through our local Adopt-A-Shore program, funded by a grant from Keep Florida Beautiful, Inc., we have begun to concentrate more of our efforts and energy on boaters and fishermen. To reach those in our two-county involved in boating, diving, and fishing, we have exhibits on Adopt-A-Shore at the annual boat show of the Northwest Florida Marine Industries Association. We also mailed out a boaters survey to our mailing lists and distributed the survey to boaters at public and private boat ramps.

During our 5th annual Coastal Cleanup in September of 1992, we solicited the help of the Northwest Florida Marine Industries Association, the Bream Fishermens' Association, the Speckled Trout Fishing Club, and others to assist in the cleanup. We also had increased involvement from the Navy. In our two-county area, 660 volunteers collected 12,380 pounds of marine and coastal trash from 73 miles of shoreline. We also involve boaters in our annual Estuary Cleanup in April and our annual Rivers Cleanup in June.

Through five years of cleanups and the monitoring that is being done monthly by Gulf Islands National Seashore, it has become obvious that fishing line is our most serious problem along the north Gulf coast. We used Adopt-A-Shore grant funds to have more "Don't Splash Your Trash" signs made. The yellow "Don't Splash Your Trash" signs with the logos of Keep Florida Beautiful, Florida Sea Grant, and Santa/Escambia Adopt-A-Shore are extremely popular. Agencies and businesses are willing to post these in areas where there are a lot of fishermen and boaters. The signs give the Adopt-A-Shore program high visibility, as well as sharing an important message.

We worked with the science clubs and shop classes of two local high schools to design and construct wooden fishing line recycling boxes. These blue boxes have been placed at marinas, boat ramps, and bait and tackle stores throughout our area. Fishermen are encouraged to put used monofilament fishing line in the

boxes. Young people, mostly 4-Hers' and high school students, collect the line from the boxes as they fill. We then ship it by U.P.S. to Berkley Recycling to be recycled into reels, toys, etc.

We have expanded our Coastal Cleanups to include Underwater Marine Debris Cleanups. Certified SCUBA divers collect armloads of fishing line, seine, gill, and cast nets from below fishing piers and bridges.

We have begun a series of sailing trips for young boaters, most of whom are youth-at-risk, students in alternative high school programs. On these sailing trips, students have the opportunity to see the marine environment up close. We take water samples and plankton samples in the bays, bayous, and the Gulf. During the day, we do a survey of marine mammals, learn navigation and sailing techniques. At night, we study astronomy. We sail to barrier islands where we explore forts, observe ospreys, foxes, and other wildlife. As always, we do a beach cleanup on the islands. We discuss the importance of boaters in caring for the marine environment.

We take young people on Marsh Walks and on Estuary Canoe Trips, giving them a chance to develop

an appreciation for local wetland areas. On the Mermaids and Manatees dive trips, 4-Hers and other youth as well as adult educators go skin diving at Crystal River and Rainbow River, Florida. Participants have the rare opportunity to see, swim with, and photograph the endangered manatees. The young people also have chance to "adopt" a manatee. About 400 people have been involved in the Mermaids and Manatees program. Through this dive trip, they can see how boaters directly affect manatee populations and how the very existence of natural areas like Rainbow River are threatened by overuse by boaters, divers, and fishermen.

Throughout all of these marine education programs, our overall goals are to help people develop a greater self esteem, interact well with others, accept risks and challenges, see a connection between their lives and the natural world, and feel a sense of ownership and responsibility for our marine and coastal environment. This is a tall order, but in our five years of working with these programs we have seen exciting results.

Involving Louisiana Boaters in Marine Debris Clean up Programs

by

*Michael Liffmann, Assistant Director
Louisiana Sea Grant College Program*

Since 1986, the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant or LSG) has been involved in programs designed to educate coastal residents on the effects of litter and debris on tourism. It is common knowledge that coastal Louisiana is visibly affected. The deplorable litter and man-made debris on the beaches, in the marshes and along the roadways, not only affects wildlife, but also significantly impresses visitors. At a time when the state is actively seeking to diversify its economy and attract tourists, it is imperative that we work at curtailing and cleaning up the mess we've made. Sea Grant has been imparting the message, "...after all, would you have guests over to your house, if it was filthy?" To convey this and related messages, Sea Grant has been working closely with state and local agencies, as well as private organizations, most notably fishing tournaments and local environmental advocacy groups.

At the state level, we work closely with the Office of Litter Reduction and Public Action, an agency that has taken charge of the very successful annual beach clean-up projects that Sea Grant helped organize in 1987 and 1988. We have also agreed to cooperate with the Office in its EPA-sponsored Boaters and Anglers' Pledge Program.

In 1988, LSG undertook a campaign to incorporate a marine pollution awareness program in fishing tournaments along the coast. Upon registration, participating anglers receive a plastic bag (donated by a local or regional sponsor) to collect trash accumulated in the boat. The filled bags are then collected upon the boat's return to the weigh station by a

youth organization such as the Boys/Girl Scouts or 4-H Club. All those aboard the vessel are eligible for prizes provided by local sponsors. In addition, each person receives a button and sticker with the slogan, "Cast Your Line, Not Your Litter". Five tournaments, or rodeos as they are called in Louisiana, have instituted such a campaign.

Sea Grant has also been working with the Lower Amite River Protection Association (LARPA) and the Sabine River Authority (SRA). Both groups are interested in promoting their areas to visitors, and in 1990 added a Sea Grant-generated idea to their tourism promotion campaigns. Attachment 1 includes the instructions furnished by Sea Grant to the individuals designated as "captains" during LARPA's Spring Litter Lift in 1990. A wildlife poster with the message, "Litter is not Bayou-Degradable" was prepared for the occasion. Sea Grant and LARPA cost-shared in its preparation.

Both the fishing rodeos and LARPA project were described in a video that was prepared under the partial auspices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The video also includes scenes from a marina awareness project developed by the New Hampshire Sea Grant Program that is closely modeled after Louisiana's projects. The video has received widespread distribution and is available from Louisiana Sea Grant for a nominal charge.

Our program's "Cast Your Line, Not Your Litter" project was also recognized as a semi-finalist in the 1988 Take Pride in America campaign.

Attachment 1

Launch Site Captains

*Lower Amite River Protection Association's
1990 Sprint Litter Lift
April 22, 1990*

1. Role of the Captain:

- to distribute garbage bags to launch sites and boaters
- to collect filled sacks and dispose of them at designated dumpsters
- to distribute and collect the prize forms
- to distribute materials and talk about L.A.R.P.A. and its objectives

2. Participating Launch Sites/Marinas:

- Bayou Barbary at Highway 44
- Clio's
- Bayview
- Fred's
- Bear Island/Black Lake
- Hill Top
- Bordelon's
- Riverview
- Carthage Bluff
- St. James Boat Club
- Chinquapin Landing
- Scivique's
- Val's Marina

3. Designated Dumpsters:

- Port Vincent- Fred's
- French Settlement- Power Station

4. Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21:

- In order to cover boating activities that take place on these two days prior to the Litter Lift, you should deliver 25% of the bags to your designated marina or the location where the boaters will pay for the launch from that site.

- Boaters who head for their camps on Friday or Saturday are eligible for the prizes, **IF** they return the bags and fill out the forms on Sunday.
- Bags returned on Friday or Saturday are **NOT** eligible for prizes. The persons returning the bags should, however, be relieved of their bag(s), thanked for helping in the cleanup, and encouraged to return to help some more on Sunday. The number of bag(s) should be counted and disposed of at the nearest available dumpster.

5. Sunday, April 22:

- Do not forget to wear your L.A.R.P.A. Captain's cap
- 7:00 a.m. to 12 Noon-- Distribute sacks and information at your designated launch site. Explain the project to the boaters, urge caution, and explain bag collection and prizes.
- Make sure that your launch is covered in the event people return early. All bags returned on Sunday are eligible for the prizes.
- When the boaters **RETURN** with the filled bags:
- Have them fill out an entry form that will make them eligible for prizes. Use one form for every person on board. Completed forms are to be placed in the boxes. No forms are accepted after 5:00 p.m. Drawings will be held after 6:00 p.m. at Hill Top. Individuals do not have to be present to win. They will be notified by phone or mailed their prizes.
- You must have a pick-up truck to haul the sacks to the designated dumpsters. Do not forget to count how many sacks, and log this figure on the enclosed Litter Lift Data Sheet. Turn this form in to Stefan or Mike Liffmann of LSU.
- You and your key assistants are invited to eat some Jambalaya at Hill Top after 6:00 p.m. Do not forget to bring the boxes with the entry forms. You are going to help in the drawing!

Lower Amite River Protection Association

Launch/Marina Captain's Litter Log 1990 Spring Litter Lift April 22, 1990

1. Name of launch/marina site: _____
2. Name of captain: _____
3. Name of key assistants: _____

4. Number of boats contacted: _____
5. Number of bags DISTRIBUTED: _____
6. Number of bags RETURNED: _____
7. Estimated number of persons per boat: _____

Return to:
Stefan Guitrau
c/o Hill Top
698-9690
or
Mike Liffmann
LSU Louisiana Sea Grant College Program
388-6290

Louisiana Boaters & Fishermen's Pledge Program - A Chronology

by

*Barbara Coltharp Kalivoda, Director
Louisiana Boater's & Fishermen's Pledge Program*

Member of Marine Debris Subcommittee "Boater's Pledge"

Wrote plans for State Leadership and Initiative in 1991; printed brochure, introduced program at Toledo Dam Chamber of Commerce Fishing Rodeo August, 1991

Participated in draft of Marine Debris Action Plan in 1991

Attended First Boater's Pledge Workshop in 1991

Promoted Presidential Declaration "Year of the Gulf of Mexico" (1992-93)

Attended Second Boater's and Angler's Pledge Workshop in 1992

Attended Innisbrook, Florida Gulf of Mexico Symposium in December, 1992

The Louisiana Boater's and Fishermen's Pledge Program, launched in 1991, is a campaign to educate commercial and recreational land and waterway users to bring trash and debris generated from and outing back home or dock for proper disposal. The program is

publicized and supported through sports associations, marina locations, recreational supervisory offices and agents, and other state government agencies. The Office of Litter Reduction and Public Action coordinates publicization efforts, issues a decal for boat/vehicle, and plans to produce a bi-annual newsletter for pledge signers to reinforce their commitment for clean recreational areas and waterways while enlisting further pledges. This program is a part of the Department of Interior's Gulf of Mexico program and while other states concentrate on coastal areas, the Louisiana programs is promoted statewide.

Gulf of Mexico decals have been distributed to those who have signed pledges. Names have been forwarded to our office for input into labels. A newsletter is in production for 1993 publication that will define, promote, and inform others about the program.

We presently have printed pledges for distribution statewide.

In 1992, we began work with a public relations firm to develop masthead for newsletter, certificate and ruler. The final copy and design has been approved and is to be delivered today.

We presently have 1800 pledges to date.

**State of Mississippi Boaters and Fishermen
Pledge Report**

Nancy L. Holland
Marine Debris Coordinator
Boater's and Fisherman's Pledge
116 Beach View Drive, Pass Christian, MS 39571
(601) 452-4635

Program Began: January 1992

Activities and Presentations:

Boaters Registration
Local/State Presentations/Booths
Chamber of Commerce
Boat Shows
Fishing Tournaments/Clubs/Camps
Civic Organizations
Schools/College Environmental Classes
Federal/State Organizations/Departments
State Waterway Districts
Environmental Groups
Harbor Masters
Hotel/Motel Association
Tourism Association
Gulf Coast Yacht Clubs/Newsletter

Restaurant Association
Coast Guard Auxiliary/Squadron/Flotilla
Local Business Distribution
Festivals
T.V./Radio/Newspaper
State/County Welcome Centers
Homeowners/Boaters Associations
Keep America Clean
Mississippi Soil/Water Conservation
Boaters/Hunters Education Classes
Local Marinas

Pledges to Date December, 1992: 5500

Goals: State-Wide Program
Adopt-a-Ramp

Sample Monthly Report - October 1992

1. Activities Completed:

- Mailing list prepared for mailing List #5
- Distribution to local businesses for Gulfport
- Follow-up on Pledges and presentations
- Meeting for Gulf of Mexico Program
- Conference call with Gulf of Mexico Program; Texas Boater's Pledge Chairman; Region 6, Dallas, Texas; and Florida Boater's Pledge Chairman
- Minerals Management Meeting on Public Approach with presentation on Boater's Pledge to Public Education and Outreach Subcommittee
- Adopt-A-Ramp material developed and given to Dave Ruple for approval
- Drafter revision of brochure for Boater's Pledge and was given to Dave Ruple for approval to reprint

2. Outreach:

- Cathy Cashio - GMP Public Relations
- Ocean Springs Lions - Jerry Quave
- Gulfport Hunter's/Boater's Safety Class - Jim Reese
- Ocean Springs Garden Club - Ms. Edward Wilson
- Biloxi Hunter's/Boater's Safety Class - Eves Vincent
- Pride of the South Bass Club - Larry Rond, District Sec.
- Gulfport Exchange Club - Steve Burke
- Harrison County Hunter's/Boater's Safety Class - Scott Gordon
- Gulf Coast Motel/Hotel Association - Linda Hornsby
- Sierra Club - Martin Eddy
- Celebrate the Gulf - Martha Murphy
- Stone County Hunter's/Boater's Safety Class - Richard Cain
- Jackson County Hunter's/Boater's Safety Class - Frank Evans
- Bay St. Louis Rotary Club - Pat Harvill
- Disabled Fishing Rodeo - Rep. Bob Short

3. Meetings/Presentations:

- GMP Public Education - presentation
- Coast Disabled Fishing Rodeo - booth
- Pride of the South Bass Club - presentation
- Hancock County Hunter's/Boater's Safety - presentation
- Ocean Springs Lions - presentation

- Long Beach Boater's/Hunter's Safety - presentation
- Ocean Springs Garden Club - presentation
- Biloxi Hunter's/Boater's Safety - presentation
- Gulfport Exchange Club - presentation
- Gulfport Hunter's/Boater's Safety - presentation
- Sierra Club - presentation
- Celebration of the Gulf - booth
- Jackson County Hunter's/Boater's Safety - presentation
- Stone County Hunter's/Boater's Safety - presentation
- Bay St. Louis Rotary - presentation

4. Activities Planned:

- Set-up presentations/slides
- Harbor follow-ups on Pledges
- Yacht Clubs follow-ups
- Mail out mailing List #5
- Orange Grove Civitan Club - presentation
- Hancock County Hunter's/Boater's Safety - presentation
- Civitan Club - presentation
- Gulf Coast Hotel/Motel Association presentation
- Harrison County Hunter's/Boater's Safety - presentation
- Picayune Lions Club - presentation
- GMP Symposium - Tarpon Springs, Florida
- Rotary Club - presentation
- Local distribution of brochures to Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties

5. Problems:

Need materials reprinted for future presentations and distribution for state-wide program.

Texas Boater's Pledge Update

by Angela Farias

The Texas General Land Office is expanding a pilot study conducted in Rockport, Texas to a state wide Boater's Pledge Program for recreational boaters, fishermen, and marinas. A Gulfwide program has grown from this pilot project, encompassing the five Gulf states.

Creation of a state wide task force to communicate concerns and create legislation regarding the Boater's Pledge program from all over the state involving groups such as: Gulf Coast Conservation Association; Boating Trades Association; marinas; corporations; waste management; Coast Guard Auxiliary; state and federal agencies.

Due to the diversity of boaters/anglers within Texas, a study is planned to determine what problems exist regarding availability of disposal facilities and to communicate any suggestions or needs boaters/anglers have.

Littering will be reviewed regarding what boaters/anglers are currently doing regarding littering.

Boaters/anglers demands will be addressed regarding what they would like to have included in an educational program.

Plans are underway to expand and revise existing educational brochures and decals to include other environmental aspects which relate to boating and fishing activities.

The Texas General Land Office anticipates expanding the Boater's Pledge Program to a National level in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard.

The Boater's Pledge Program is currently expanding to include Commercial Fishermen.

Educational materials will be directed toward hunters, who were previously overlooked as Gulf users, regarding habitat degradation due to their activities of their sport.

Educational materials to be prepared for marinas and piers regarding marine debris. Efforts are underway to resolve waste disposal problems and to implement aggressive recycling programs.

Adopt-A-Beach programs to be expanded to Adopt-A-Pier and Adopt-A-Marina Programs.

Educational materials to be prepared for people not in boats, such as people fishing from piers and other bay activities which effect the environment.

Create and assist in implementing legislation to formulate state MARPOL regulations in accord with federal legislation.

Work with the Boating Trades Association to relate new ideas to boat manufacturers for incorporation of trash receptacles on recreational boats and creation of retrofits for older model boats.

**FLORIDA
SEA
GRANT** 
COLLEGE PROGRAM

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