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Helpful Resources

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
myfwc.com**

Report a wildlife violation 1-888-404-3922
Report catches of tagged fish 1-800-367-4461
Fish Kill Hotline 1-800-636-0511
Reporting oil/hazardous spills 1-800-320-0519
Report a dead or injured sea turtle or manatee 1-800-404-FWCC
To report by most cellular phones #FCC or *FCC

Florida Marine Patrol 1-800-DIAL-FMP

To report oil spills, marine violations, boating accidents, and marine mammal injuries or strandings. Information on saltwater fishing and shellfish harvesting.

Fishing Licenses 1-800-FISH-FLORIDA

www.wildlifelicense.com/fl

**Florida Marine Research Institute
727-896-8626**

For information on Florida's marine resources and research

U.S. Coast Guard 813-824-7638

www.uscg.mil

www.adamputnam.house.gov

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Fellow Sportsman,

As you know, the ability to engage in outdoor sporting activities depends on the great efforts of sportsmen and conservation organizations, the government, boaters and anglers like you to keep fish and wildlife habitats healthy as well as maintain the proper infrastructure for outdoor activities.

As a boater and sportsman myself, I see the important role these groups play in the continuation of our outdoor recreational opportunities. As a legislator, I will continue to work hard to ensure proper coordination between the government and user groups to most efficiently and effectively care for and maintain our beautiful waters and outdoor sporting activities.

It is only by taking a proactive interest in these activities that the great state of Florida will continue to boast some of the most desirable outdoor recreational spots in the country, and as your congressman, I will continue to support legislation and programs that do just that.

Thank you for your dedication to our outdoors, conservation, and contributing to the important Florida tradition of boating and fishing. I hope you will contact me should you have any questions or concerns regarding these issues or others.

May God Bless America.

Sincerely,



Adam H. Putnam
Member of Congress

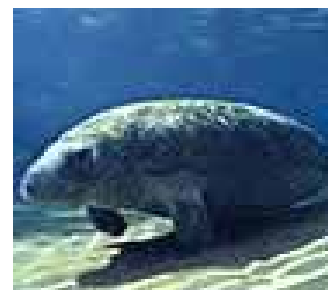
Boating & Fishing Update

for Florida's 12th Congressional District
Summer, 2004

Protecting Boaters Rights and Manatees

A major issue facing Florida is the conservation of the Florida Manatee, a mammal federally protected by both the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). In an effort to protect the manatee, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and local jurisdictions have taken considerable steps to safeguard them, and much evidence suggests that their plans are working well. According to the Florida Marine Institute, the manatee population has increased in recent years, while manatee deaths have decreased. Unfortunately, the laws guiding manatee protection have resulted in confusing and, in many cases, excessive restrictions for boaters.

Many of the boating restrictions currently in effect for Florida boaters rest on litigation and conflicting federal rulemakings that are driving the manatee protection effort. Because boating is technically considered harmful to manatees, judges have imposed boating restrictions. For example, sweeping new speed zones across large areas of Southwest Florida and the banning of future development of docks have been proposed to prevent manatee deaths. While there will undoubtedly be some restrictions for boaters in an effort to protect the manatee, the prospect of a complete moratorium on docks is unacceptable.



Conflicting or duplicative manatee protections have caused confusion among boaters and anglers.

To help ease restrictions, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) allowed "incidental take authorization," or accidental manatee deaths. The actions were stopped because this change in definition would violate the strict MMPA requirement that authorized activities should "have no impact on manatee populations whatsoever."

There is a way to simplify manatee protection laws while allowing boating and angling. Rather than having the courts interpret the conflicting laws and direct the course of manatee protection, legislation clearly defining the regulations and direction of manatee protection would help these efforts while boating and angling.

In October of 2003 I organized a meeting between 10 members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, the South East Regional Director of the FWS, and the Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC), where we reviewed the current problems facing the ongoing effort to protect and conserve manatees, and find out how the FWS is handling the problems facing manatee protection. The consensus of this meeting was that the different rules set forth under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act conflict and result in confusion over the efforts to protect and preserve manatees. The effect of these rulings have resulted in boating restrictions in many areas of Florida.

To address this problem, I am currently working with the Chairman of the House Resources Committee to clarify current legislation reauthorizing the ESA and the MMPA. I believe that with clearer laws, manatee protection can be effective and have common sense. Currently, H.R. 2693, the **Marine Mammal Protection Act** was reported out of the House Resources Committee on April 20, 2004 and is awaiting Floor consideration. Specifically, Section 13 of this bill redefines "harassment" of marine mammal and makes the definition much stricter. As noted before, because boating was considered harmful to manatees, extremely strict regulations were placed on the activity itself. This stricter standard for 'harrassment' is important because it means boating is not an activity deemed to be inherently destructive to the manatee population unless a vessel strikes one.

Simplifying manatee protection laws is an important consideration to make manatee protection more effective and ensure that boaters may pursue boating activities. I will continue to work to simplify these laws, help conserve the manatee population, and protect the rights and needs of Florida boaters and anglers.



If you see a dead or injured manatee, please call the FWC at 1-888-404-FWCC.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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Chairman, Subcommittee on
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and the Census

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BUDGET

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This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.



M.C.

Presorted Standard

In This Issue	
Red Tide Research	2
Invasive Aquatic Species	2
Fishing Destinations	3
Resources for Boaters & Anglers	4

The Dollars and Cents of Outdoor Sporting

Outdoor sporting is important to millions of Americans and Floridians, and the positive impact these sportsmen have on our nation and state is tremendous.

While fishing and hunting are often overlooked as a substantial economic force, they have a huge impact on the economy. In fact, when sportsmen's spending is thought of in business terms and compared to other sectors of the economy, it is quite remarkable how much revenue is generated. Hunting and fishing are the equivalent of a multi-billion dollar corporation.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) sponsors a survey every five years examining the number of people who engage in outdoor recreational activities and their economic impact on each state. The most recent survey, conducted in 2001, shows just how powerful outdoor recreation is in the United States and Florida.



Image by Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Dollars and Cents, cont. from page 1

Highlights of the 2001 national survey include:

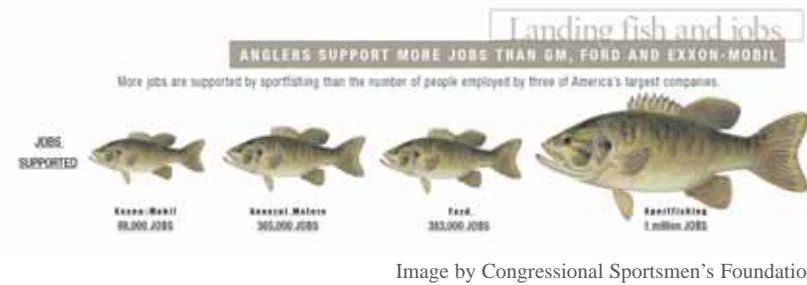
- Over 82 million U.S. residents 16 years and older fished, hunted, or wildlife-watched.
- 34.1 million fished, 13.0 million hunted, and 66.1 million participated in at least one type of wildlife-watching activity, including observing, feeding, or photographing wildlife.
- Sportsmen and others participating in wildlife recreation spent \$108 billion, (\$28 billion was for travel, \$64 billion for equipment, and \$16 billion for miscellaneous expenses).

Hunters and anglers spent a total of \$70 billion—\$36.5 billion on fishing, \$21 billion on hunting, and \$14.5 billion for equipment, — that would rank hunters and anglers #11 on the Fortune 500 if they were a corporation.

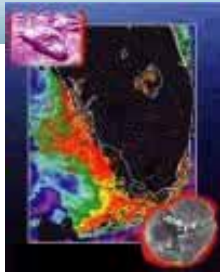
In the state of Florida:

- Nearly 4.9 million Florida residents and nonresidents aged 16 or older fished, hunted, or wildlife-watched. Of these, 3.1 million fished, 226,000 hunted, and 3.2 million participated in wildlife-watching activities.
- Of the 3.1 million anglers in Florida that year, they spent 48.4 million days fishing.
- Florida residents and nonresidents spent \$6.2 billion on wildlife recreation in the state. \$2.9 billion was in the form of trip-related expenses, \$2.9 billion in equipment, and the remaining \$383 million on licenses, contributions, land ownership and leasing, and other items and services.

By any measure, American sportsmen are a huge economic force in Florida and the nation. When you add it up, for items and activities big and little, direct and indirect, the total comes to a staggering **\$70 billion annually**. Anglers account for \$36 billion of this total and support a million jobs nationwide, as well as small businesses and communities across Florida and the nation. Outdoor sporting is a vital part of Florida's way of life and economy, and I will continue to support legislation that promotes and protects these activities.



Increasing Red Tide Research



Infrared satellite image of Red Tide Algae Bloom.

The impact of Florida Red Tide is far reaching and can be devastating to marine mammals, fisheries, and shellfish beds. To help combat this problem, I have co-sponsored H.R. 1856, the **Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research Amendments Act of 2003**. This bill would reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to ensure that continued Harmful Algal Bloom research funds are available to predict, and mitigate Florida Red Tide. Much progress has been made as a result of a federal funding program under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and new technologies are allowing scientists to better predict, track and measure red tide.

I am committed to helping secure federal support for this research so that fisheries managers can prepare and manage the ecological and economic impact.

Combatting Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are a large problem in Florida, the nation, and around the globe. AIS harm freshwater and coastal ecosystems by damaging the natural balance within these areas, often causing death to naturally occurring plants and species. AIS also causes increased costs to companies who depend on these waterways for commerce. In fact, according to NOAA, annual costs to the U.S. economy due to AIS have reached hundreds of millions of dollars and are increasing.

Congress has passed legislation to help the efforts to understand, prevent, respond to and manage AIS, including the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Executive Order 13112 (1999) Invasive Species, the Lacey Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Invasive Species Act of 1996, and the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Most recently, H.R. 1080, **National Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2003**, was introduced on March 5, 2003. The bill would establish aquatic invasive species prevention requirements for all vessels operating in U.S. waters, and directs the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to create a priority waterway management program that identifies those waterways that pose the highest risk for the introduction of aquatic invasive species unless further managed. This bill also requires the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works with the concurrence of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to construct and maintain a national program to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in U.S. waterways. The coordination of the Invasive Species Council with the Task Force to combat aquatic invasive species and to recommend to appropriate Federal agencies additions to the list of aquatic invasive species is an important component of this bill. I support this legislation and will be sure to support other bills helping to combat aquatic invasive species.



Invasive species, including Giant Salvinia (shown above) are a major problem for coastal waterways. This species found in Florida dominates freshwaters, and has the potential to overgrow and replace native plants, resulting in dense surface cover that prevents light and oxygen from entering the water.

Major Saltwater & Freshwater Fishing Destinations in Central Florida

Saltwater

- 1 Old Tampa Bay
- 2 McKay Bay
- 3 Tampa Bay
- 4 Cockroach Bay
- 5 Bishop Harbor
- 6 Terra Ceia Bay
- 7 Sarasota Bay
- 8 Little Sarasota Bay
- 9 Charlotte Harbor
- 10 Boca Grande

Freshwater

- 1 Lake Kissimmee
- 2 Lake Hatchineha
- 3 Lake Tohepekaliga
- 4 Lake Marion
- 5 Lake Hamilton
- 6 Lake Hancock
- 7 Lake Buffum
- 8 Lake Arbuckle
- 9 Lake Istokpoga
- 10 Peace River
- 11 Crooked Lake
- 12 Lake Weohyakapka
- 13 Hillsborough River State Park
- 14 Lake Thonotosassa
- 15 Little Manatee River
- 16 Alafia River State Park



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Congressman Adam H. Putnam
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