



MIAPBC is a not-for-profit organization created to promote and protect the sound growth of the marine industry in Palm Beach County for the benefit and education of its members, the community, and the environment

April 22, 2020

Ms. Verdenia Baker, County Administrator
Palm Beach County

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Gentile,
President
Gentile Glas Holloway
O'Mahoney & Associates

Austin Burkett,
Vice President
E. J Schrader Mattress
Company, Inc.

Michael Kennedy,
Vice President
Ranger Construction
Industries, Inc.

Raymond Graziotto,
Secretary
Seven Kings Holdings

Mike Samuels,
Treasurer
Viking Yachts Service
Center

Everett Butler
Equiy Lifestyle Properties

Lach Cheatham
Palmdale Oil Company

Tamra Fitzgerald
Venue Marketing Group

Tino Garcia
Ferreira Construction
Company, Inc.

Janet Zimmerman
Florida Inland Navigation
District

STAFF

Alyssa Freeman
Executive Director

Stephanie Brown
Operations Director

Aubrey Fleming
Administrative Manager

Dear Ms Baker:

First and foremost, again we would like to thank you, the entire County Administration, and all of your hard-working associates at the county for your unwavering and dedicated effort to keep Palm Beach County residents safe and to keep the essential governmental functions operating. We also truly appreciate your including the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County (MIAPBC) as a participant in the Phased Restart Working Group to provide industry and constituent comments on boating issues.

In review of the proposed guidelines sent to our organization and discussed on today's phone conference we offer the following comments:

1. We agree with the first six bullet points however we suggest that a ban on beaching, landings, anchoring or mooring on sandbars, islands, and open shorelines except private property.
2. We agree with comments made by the FWC, PBSO, and other Municipal Law Enforcement Officers that other than the item above and the first six bullets, all other items in your draft would be suggested guidelines that also should meet the CDC guidelines.
3. Boating Capacity should not exceed maximum capacity as established by the manufacture's capacity plate or US Coast Guard Standards with no more than 10 individuals maximum on any vessel. The exception would be fishing or diving-for-hire vessels, which would carry up to their vessel's capacity.
4. We recommend that no matter how many ramps are located at a launching site that each bay can be used by one boat at a time with all users following CDC recommended guidelines.
5. We agree with opening the ramps on a weekday and to indicate they are to remain open thereafter, unless closed by subsequent order from the County.
6. We also recommend defining in the order that "commercial boats" include licensed commercial anglers, marine construction, vessel/engine repairs and maintenance, rental boat clubs, guides and fishing charter vessels and other boat rental businesses.
7. We suggest all commercial and private marinas be allowed to open for regular marina services.
8. If there is a concern for crowding in the initial opening days or on weekends, we suggest public ramp access be limited based upon the last numerical digit of the trailer registration numbers; alternating between odd and even numbers to reduce a surge that was experienced in Martin County.

The MIAPBC, stands ready to assist the County in this phased opening of boating on our waterways. Our organization will continue to participate in these discussions and will be ready to use our avenues of communication to the Marine Industry and boating public to convey the final guidelines that are formulated. We will use our social media, newsletters, and general correspondence as the basis of that communication. The MIAPBC believes this phased opening will provide the needed recreational relief to the residents of the County and assist the County's economic recovery.

Sincerely

George G. Gentile
President