

Economic Benefits of the District Waterways



PALM BEACH COUNTY

Resident Boaters
Waterway Tourists
Elite Yacht Services
and Dredging

**TOTAL ANNUAL
Economic Output
\$874 Million**



**Boater Annual Spending Impacts
\$612 Million**

TAX IMPACTS



State & Local Tax Impacts
\$57.7 Million
Federal Tax Impacts
\$77.2 Million

**OVERALL
\$135 Million
TAX IMPACTS**

By Boaters,
Waterway Tourists,
Elite Yacht Services
& Dredging

TOTAL

Estimated Benefits from Tourists:
\$254 Million



**COMMERCIAL FISHING
TOTAL SPENDING
\$3,921,590**



\$1.2M King Mackerel

Top Species Landed by Value



536k lbs Spanish Mackerel

Top Species Landed by Pounds

**FOR LESS THAN
\$1M SPENT
On Maintenance
Yearly**

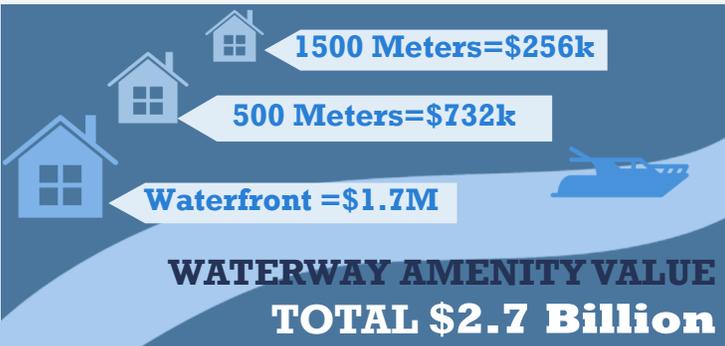
**\$300M
Annual
Benefit**

**ELITE YACHT SERVICES & DREDGING
TOTAL SPENDING \$55.5M**

That would be lost without waterway maintenance as well as a loss of over 4,200 jobs

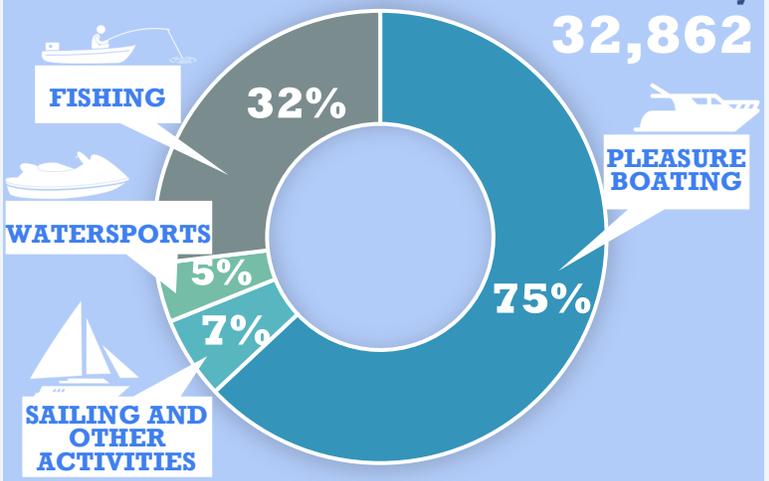
684,000 Out-of-State Waterway Users

50,000 In-State Waterway Users



**TOTAL
Number of Jobs
8,229**

**TOTAL
Recreational Boaters in Palm Beach County
32,862**



Economic Benefits of the District Waterways

PALM BEACH COUNTY



Within Palm Beach County, The Florida Inland Navigation District (District) is the state sponsor for Federal navigation projects along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and the Okeechobee Waterway (collectively, the Waterways). Nearly \$7 million has been invested in Palm Beach Waterways in the past 12 years, and another \$12 million is anticipated in the next five years. These investments and the Waterways themselves generate significant economic impact throughout the twelve-county region and beyond. The District's Waterways are defined as all navigable waterways within the District's boundaries including the Intracoastal Waterway and all waterways that are physically connected to it.

The continued investments and ongoing operations benefit the public, marine businesses and recreational users, the twelve member counties, and other government agencies. To estimate total benefits, a series of impacts were evaluated:

1. Direct spending by recreational boaters and their effects on local businesses and wage creation
2. Direct spending by tourists, both Floridians and out-of-state visitors
3. Proximity effects of the Waterways on real estate
4. Direct spending in "hidden sectors" which are generated by specialty service providers and not captured through recreational boaters or property impacts, and
5. Commercial Fishing.

The indirect and induced economic impacts generated from each of the direct spending effects were estimated using IMPLAN, an econometric modelling application that generates regional economic impact multipliers. The estimates find that value added impacts exceed \$576 million annually, and labor income impacts exceed \$300 million annually. **Table 1** provides a breakdown. In addition to annual impacts, property values enjoy an estimated \$2.7 billion in premium due to the waterways.

Table 1. Estimated Economic Impacts of District Waterways in Palm Beach County

Impact Type	Employment	Output (millions \$)	Labor Income (millions \$)	Value Added (millions \$)
Local recreational boaters	5,530	\$594.5	\$200.9	\$394.4
Local registered boaters, non-Florida residents	156	\$17.6	\$5.6	\$11.7
Floridian Tourists	324	\$32.7	\$11.9	\$21.6
Out-of-state Tourists	1,966	\$193.0	\$73.1	\$127.3
Specialized Sectors: Elite Yacht Services, Dredging	253	\$35.8	\$16.5	\$21.7
Total Annual Impacts	8,229	\$873.7	\$308.1	\$576.7

The economic impact of The District's navigation projects in Palm Beach County has been estimated as of December 2016. Benefits of the District's ongoing maintenance programs, as well as two alternative scenarios, were prepared.

Under the first maintenance scheme, reduced maintenance, the economic impacts of the District's investments are substantially smaller. Analysis finds that reducing the maintenance regime to a three foot draft would cost \$466 million in total impacts annually. This compares to annual maintenance costs of less than \$1 million annually.

Under the second maintenance scheme, increased maintenance, improving the maintenance through full implementation of the District's Dredge Material Management Plan is estimated to result in an increase of about 14% in spending for the small but important number of very large boats. This category of boats generate more than \$300,000 daily in local revenues, translating to a \$25 million in higher annual impacts under the full maintenance scenario.