

January 17, 2002

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Honorable Truman Scarborough, Chairperson, Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Your Brevard County Marine Advisory Council

**SUBJECT:** Calendar Year 2001 Report

Your Brevard County Marine Advisory Council was established by the Board of County Commissioners on November 9, 1999. At that time the Board directed the members of the council to review and evaluate existing marine advisory programs in Florida for efficacy and application to Brevard County.

Many of the programs we evaluated were, for the most part, either economic or environmental in nature. The members of our Council decided to take a hybrid approach and meld the two seemingly exclusive topics. The Council has adopted a Mission Statement and Scope of Work reflecting this objective. Both the Statement and Scope were approved by the Board on May 8, 2001.

To demonstrate our commitment to this approach, our initial efforts have been to study how we could facilitate increasing the number of marine pump out stations in Brevard County. There are few existing pump out stations. Additional stations are needed for both transient and local boaters use, and are a paramount component in our efforts to promote a clean lagoon system. We decided that a pilot program such as pump out stations could be used to establish our methodology and at the same time temper our enthusiasm so as to not bite off more than we can chew. We have developed a survey form that will be provided to the marine industry, and the success of the pump out station project is heavily dependent on their willing participation. Chris Combs from the University of Florida Sea Grant has been a regular attendee at our meetings and will be a valuable project partner. We expect to complete the survey in the first half of 2002 and establish an action plan shortly thereafter to aggressively promote pump out stations at targeted locations throughout the county.

Your Council has established a marine resource library, which includes maps, literature on a variety of topics, videos, and marine database information, in the Parks and Recreation Department office, and their staff has taken the initiative to set up a Marine Advisory Council website as an sub set of their larger web site. We expect to greatly expand and enhance that web site making it attractive and useable to all marine interests including tourists who visit our waterways by boats.

In the interest of coordination with other agencies, we invited David Roach of Florida Inland Navigation District (F.I.N.D.) regarding that agency's responsibility and how we could jointly benefit through future activities. Another topic of general interest involved coordination regarding the State of Florida's Clean Marina Program. Such programs not only promote marinas to be non-polluters, but greatly enhance the properties they occupy from an aesthetic stand point.

We would like to make note of the able assistance of Marsha Cantrell and Cathy Lively, our staff liaison people. We are indebted to them for their very positive attitude and help in keeping us on track in the initial phase of our work.

The past year has been a busy and productive one for your Council, and we look forward to further accomplishments in 2002.

Tom McGill  
Chairman

Cc: Commissioner Randy O'Brien, District II  
Commissioner Nancy Higgs, District III  
Commissioner Sue Carlson, District IV  
Commissioner Jackie Colon, District V  
Tom Jenkins, County Manager  
Chuck Nelson, Parks and Recreation Director  
Marsha Cantrell, Parks Support Services Manager